



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Mali

Reference Date: 28-November-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2024 forecast at slightly below-average level
- Prices of local rice at record levels
- Widespread flooding exacerbates acute food insecurity

Cereal production in 2024 forecast at slightly below-average level

Harvesting operations of the 2024 cereal crops are underway, with the gathering of the coarse grain crops concluding by the end of the year, while harvesting of the main season rice crop is expected to finalize in February 2025. The rainy season, which normally extends from May to October, generally had a late and unfavourable start. Below-average rainfall amounts between May and June constrained planting operations and affected crop establishment in parts of southern producing areas, with a negative impact on yields. Heavy rains between July and October disrupted agricultural activities and triggered widespread flooding, resulting in crop losses in several areas, especially in parts of the regions of Ségou, Mopti and Koulikoro, with the main season rice crop being particularly affected. Furthermore, conflict continued to undermine farmers' productive capacity in central and northern regions as well as in northern parts of the regions of Ségou and Koulikoro. Across the country, pest attacks and farmers' limited access to agricultural inputs had a negative impact on yields.

The 2024 aggregate cereal production is forecast at 9.6 million tonnes, about 3 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Prices of local rice at record levels

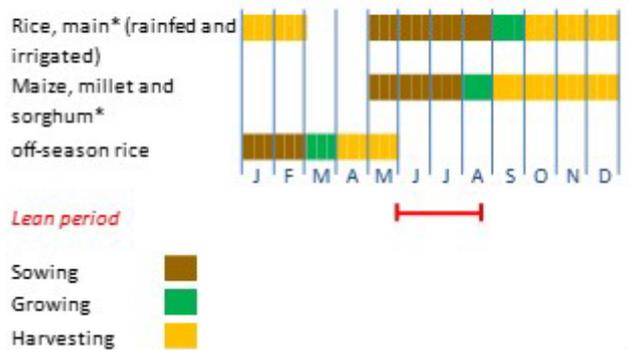
Wholesale prices of locally produced rice increased sharply between January and October 2024, rising by 25 to 55 percent in most markets. In October 2024, prices of local rice reached record highs, and they were up to 25 percent higher on a yearly basis. Similar year-on-year price increases were registered for imported rice, which rose by up to 20 percent between January and October 2024.

Wholesale prices of locally produced sorghum increased by 40 to 55 percent between January and August 2024 in most markets, while prices of local millet rose by 50 to 75 percent during the same period. Prices of both sorghum and millet followed mixed trends in September and October 2024, when

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Mali

Cereal Production

	2019-2023	2023	2024	change
	average		forecast	2024/2023
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	3 611	3 387	3 271	-3.4
Rice (paddy)	2 906	3 024	2 800	-7.4
Millet	1 813	1 943	1 927	-0.8
Others	1 610	1 626	1 618	-0.4
Total	9 940	9 979	9 616	-3.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

they were between 40 and 80 percent above their year-earlier levels.

The high domestic prices of cereals mainly reflect market disruptions due to conflict and damage to road infrastructure caused by heavy rainfall. Furthermore, concerns about the performance of the 2024 cropping season, particularly the main season rice crop, along with strong local demand, exerted upward pressure on prices.

Widespread flooding exacerbates acute food insecurity

According to the March 2024 *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, about 1.37 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the June to August 2024 lean season period, including nearly 121 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) and about 2 600 people in CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe). This represents a slight deterioration compared to the same period in 2023, when about 1.26 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Acute food insecurity is mainly driven by the ongoing conflict, which has escalated after the full withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in December 2023, with violence spreading to southern and western parts of the country. Northern and central regions remain the most affected, where civil insecurity has severely disrupted livelihoods and markets, and triggered large-scale population displacement. In July 2024, about 331 000 people were estimated to be internally displaced. There is high concern for the food security situation of households located in areas besieged by non-state armed groups, where humanitarian access remains severely constrained. In Ménaka Region, CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe) levels of acute food insecurity were projected for the 2024 lean season.

Macroeconomic challenges persist, including elevated inflation and increasing unemployment due to the energy supply crisis, which has affected the country since 2022 and continues to cause frequent power cuts, severely constraining economic activities.

Concerns also exist for the food security situation of about 370 000 people that were affected by recent floods, whose livelihoods have been significantly disrupted, prompting the government to declare a state of national disaster on 23 August 2024.

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

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This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:

FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS)

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

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

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

FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring

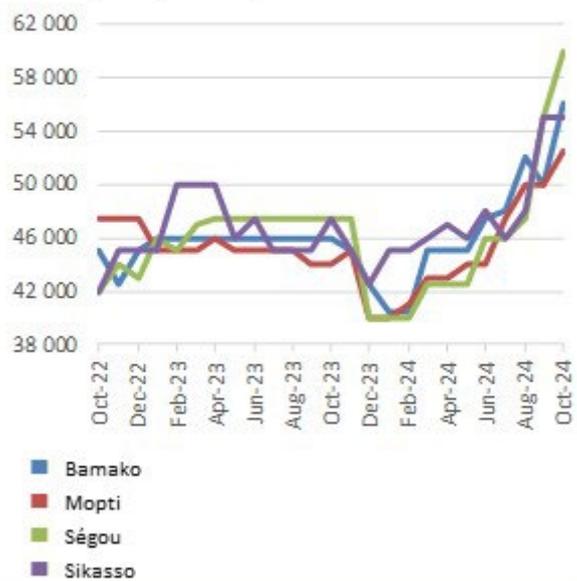
<https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

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

Mali

Wholesale prices of local rice

CFA franc (BCEAO) per 100 kg





GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Mali

Reference Date: 07-May-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dire food security situation in Ménaka Region due to conflict
- Land preparation for 2024 cereal crops underway
- Cereal production in 2023 estimated at near-average level
- Prices of cereals near or below year-earlier levels in most markets

Dire food security situation in Ménaka Region due to conflict

According to the March 2024 *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, about 1.37 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) between June and August 2024, including nearly 121 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) and about 2 600 people in CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe). This represents a slight deterioration compared to the same period in 2023, when about 1.26 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Conflict remains the key driver of acute food insecurity, with the first quarter of 2024 witnessing an intensification of violence against civilians compared to the same period in 2023. Civil insecurity has worsened particularly in northern areas, after the full withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in December 2023, continuing to cause population displacements and disruption of livelihoods and markets. There is high concern for the food insecurity situation in the regions of Tombouctou, Ménaka, Gao and Kidal, where blockades by armed groups severely limit the movement of goods and people. In Ménaka Region, where about 65 percent of the population has been displaced and several localities remain inaccessible to humanitarian organizations, CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe) levels of acute food insecurity are projected for the upcoming lean season.

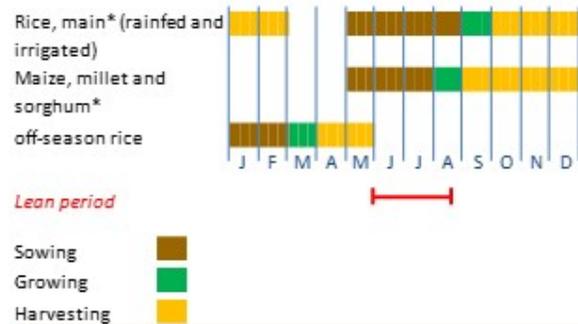
Land preparation for 2024 cereal crops underway

Land preparation for 2024 cereal crops is ongoing. Planting operations of coarse grains (maize, millet and sorghum), and the main season rice crop are expected to start in the weeks ahead. Weather forecasts for the May to July period indicate a high probability of average to above-average rainfall amounts,

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Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Mali

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 estimate	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 659	3 733	3 387	-9.3
Rice (paddy)	2 935	2 881	3 024	5.0
Millet	1 792	1 833	1 943	6.0
Others	1 590	1 652	1 626	-1.6
Total	9 976	10 098	9 979	-1.2

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

which are expected to benefit germination and early development of crops.

Cereal production in 2023 estimated at near-average level

Harvesting operations of 2023 coarse grain crops concluded last December, while harvesting of the 2023 main season rice crop was completed in February 2024. Aggregate cereal production in 2023 is estimated at an average level of about 10 million tonnes. Cereal production was constrained by an erratic rainfall distribution, which affected yields, and by a reduction in the area planted due to insecurity in central and northern areas.

Prices of cereals near or below year-earlier levels in most markets

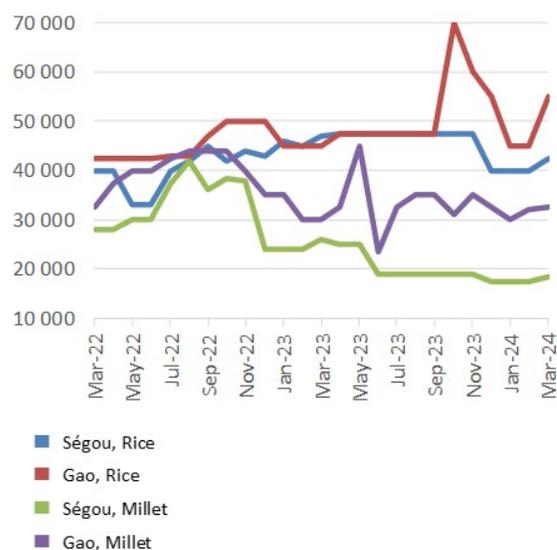
Wholesale prices of locally produced millet decreased seasonally by 5 to 25 percent between September 2023 and February 2024 in monitored markets, while prices of sorghum registered declines of 15 to 35 percent during the same period. In March 2024, prices of millet and sorghum recorded month-on-month increases of up to 10 and 40 percent, respectively, but they remained near or below their year-earlier levels.

Wholesale prices of local rice registered seasonal decreases of up to 35 percent between October 2023 and February 2024, while prices of imported rice remained stable or rose by about 15 percent. In March 2024, prices of locally produced rice rose by up to 20 percent month-on-month, while prices of imported rice remained stable. Prices of both local and imported rice were near their values a year earlier, apart from the market in Gao, where they were 20 and 35 percent, respectively, higher on a yearly basis, mainly reflecting localized production shortfalls and conflict-related market disruptions.

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Wholesale prices of selected cereals

CFA franc (BCEAO) per 100 kg



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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/>.



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Mali

Reference Date: 05-June-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dire food security situation in Ménaka Region due to conflict
- Timely start of cereal planting in central and southern areas
- Cereal production in 2022 estimated at slightly above-average level
- Prices of rice at high levels

Dire food security situation in Ménaka Region due to conflict

According to the latest “Cadre Harmonisé” (CH) analysis, about 1.26 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) between June and August 2023, including over 76 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) and 2 500 people in CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe). This would be an overall decline in the number of acutely food insecure people compared to the same period in 2022, when 1.84 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. However, it marks the first time that the country is expected to have a number of people in CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe) level.

Deteriorating conflict, mainly in central and northern areas, is the key driver of acute food insecurity. Between January and April 2023, 515 violent incidents were recorded across the country, a 30 percent increase compared to the same period in 2022, mostly due to the rising number of attacks by non-state armed groups against civilians. In Ménaka Region, the besiegement of civilians by non-state armed groups is expected to lead to CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe) food security outcomes during the upcoming lean season.

Worsening insecurity continued to disrupt agricultural activities, mostly in parts of Mopti and Ségou regions, where a decrease in cultivated areas during the 2022 cropping season was reported. Furthermore, while persistent high food prices affect vulnerable households across the country, they limit in particular the food access of people in the conflict-affected areas due to market disruptions as well as constrained access to sources of income and humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian needs are also high for the 375 000 Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country and for 64 000 refugees, mostly from Burkina Faso, the Niger and Mauritania.

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Mali

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 632	3 602	3 733	3.6
Rice (paddy)	2 900	2 419	2 881	19.1
Millet	1 724	1 488	1 833	23.2
Others	1 559	1 309	1 652	26.2
Total	9 815	8 817	10 098	14.5

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Timely start of cereal planting in central and southern areas

Planting of the 2023 maize, millet and sorghum crops started on time in May in central and southern areas. Adequate rainfall amounts since early May resulted in favourable moisture conditions for crop establishment. In northern cropping areas, activities are limited to land preparation and early planting of rice.

Weather forecasts point to average to above-average rainfall amounts in central and southern areas between June and September, which could benefit crop development, but also heighten the risk of flooding.

Cereal production in 2022 estimated at slightly above-average level

The 2022 aggregate cereal production is estimated at a near-average level of 10.1 million tonnes, about 15 percent above the reduced previous year's level, reflecting generally conducive weather conditions and an adequate provision of agricultural inputs by the government and its partners. Localized production shortfalls were caused by floods and insecurity.

Prices of rice at high levels

Wholesale prices of locally produced sorghum were generally stable in recent months, except in markets located in the conflict-affected areas, including Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou, where a significant volatility was recorded in April and May. Wholesale prices of millet followed mixed trends in May. Overall, prices of coarse grains in May were generally between 20 and 35 percent below their very high year-earlier levels.

Wholesale prices of locally produced rice showed mixed trends in May. Despite the near-average domestic rice output in 2022, prices were up to 45 percent above their elevated year-earlier levels, mainly due to high costs of agricultural inputs, including fuel. Prices of imported rice remained stable in May 2023, when they were up to 35 percent higher than a year earlier, mainly due to high prices on the international market.

In order to mitigate the price increases and improve market availability, a ban on cereal exports was introduced in December 2021 and it is still in place ([FPMA Food Policies](#)).

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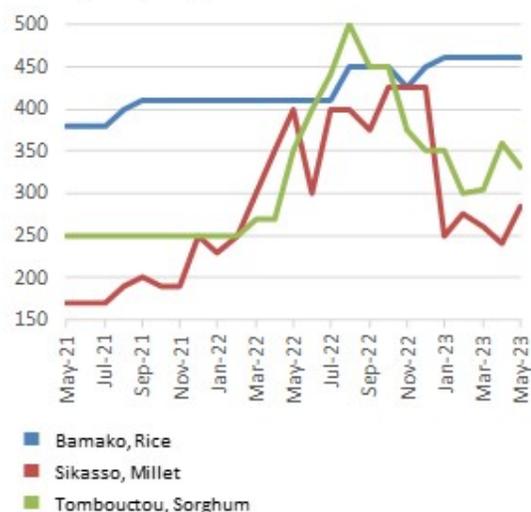
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

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

Mali

Wholesale prices of selected cereals

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg





GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 17-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Acute food insecurity at unprecedented levels for 1.84 million people in 2022
- Conflicts, constrained access to fertilizers and floods affected cereal production in 2022
- Cereal imports in 2021/22 marketing year forecast above average
- Prices of cereals followed mixed trends and were higher year-on-year

Acute food insecurity at unprecedented levels for 1.84 million people in 2022

According to the March 2022 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, about 1.84 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the June-August 2022 period, including about 156 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This is the highest number on record and well above the 1.3 million people estimated to be acute food insecure during the same period in 2021.

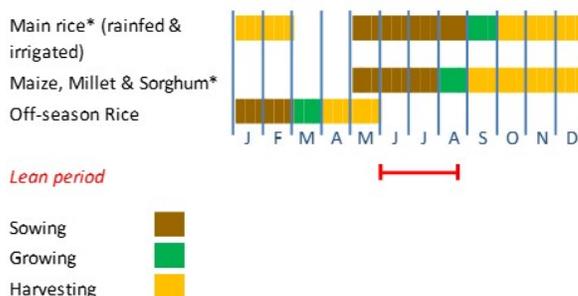
The sharp increase in acute food insecurity levels mainly reflects weather shocks, reduced cereal production in 2021, high food prices and worsening security conditions in central and northern parts of the country. The increasing number of violent incidents has highly constrained the delivery of humanitarian assistance and has resulted in large population displacements. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of July 2022, nearly 400 000 people were internally displaced. In addition, the country hosts approximately 56 000 refugees, mostly from the Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

Despite the ongoing cereal harvests, high levels of acute food insecurity are likely to persist in the remainder of 2022. Food availability and access are likely to remain limited by poor security conditions and high food and energy prices. Regional sanctions on the country imposed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which were enforced during the first half of 2022, are expected to have an impact on the national economy, resulting in a negative Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2022. This is likely to erode the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households, further constraining their access to food. According the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), floods have affected, as of late September 2022, over 40 000 people, mostly in southern and central regions, increasing the risk of a deterioration of food security conditions. Forecasts indicate above-average rainfall

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWS NET.

Mali

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 629	3 588	3 500	-2.4
Rice (paddy)	2 900	2 419	2 700	11.6
Millet	1 724	1 487	1 700	14.3
Others	1 559	1 308	1 566	19.8
Total	9 812	8 801	9 466	7.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

amounts in southwestern parts of the country until the end of October, increasing the likelihood of additional floods. An ongoing Assessment on the Food Security and Nutrition Situation (ENSAN) will support the CH estimation on the number of people facing acute food insecurity during the last quarter of 2022. The results of the assessment are expected to be released next November by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

Conflicts, constrained access to fertilizers and floods affected cereal production in 2022

Harvesting of the 2022 main season coarse grains and paddy crops is underway and is due to conclude in the first months of 2023. Adequate rains at the start of the rainy season in late May and June supported land preparation and sowing of early planted crops. In parts of southern, central and western regions, below-average rainfall amounts between July and early August caused some delays to planting of late crops. Abundant rains through September mitigated rainfall deficits and supported crop development across most of the country, but also resulted in localized flooding that caused some crop losses, the disruption of agricultural livelihoods and destruction of productive assets.

Worsening conflicts in 2022, mostly concentrated in central and northern parts, hampered agricultural activities, caused population displacements and restricted farmers' access to fields, limiting the extent of planted area with cereal crops. In addition, according to a recent subregional assessment conducted by FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), ECOWAS and CILSS, the availability of fertilizers during the early stages of the cropping season was extremely low in the country. The reduced availability and high prices of fertilizers led to severe access constraints, curbing yield expectations of coarse grains and paddy crops.

Production of coarse grains, mostly maize and millet, and paddy is expected at average to below-average levels in 2022, reflecting the adverse impact on yields of the low application of fertilizers and floods as well as a reduction of the planted area caused by poor security conditions.

Cereal imports in 2021/22 marketing year forecast above average

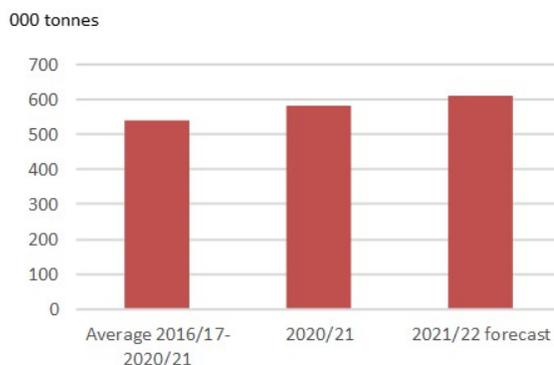
The country relies on imports, mostly of rice and wheat, to meet its domestic cereal requirements. In the previous five years, cereal imports, mostly rice and wheat, were estimated on average at 540 000 tonnes. In the 2021/22 marketing year (November/October), cereal import requirements are estimated at about 610 000 tonnes, slightly above the previous year's level and over 10 percent above the previous five-year average. This increase mostly reflects significantly higher year-on-year imports of rice, forecast at 400 000 tonnes, underpinned by the country's need to bolster availabilities following the sharp decline in rice production in the 2021 cropping season.

Prices of cereals followed mixed trends and were higher year-on-year

Prices of locally produced sorghum and millet followed mixed trends in August and September, reflecting the downward pressure of the ongoing harvests on markets in southern and western parts, while they continued to increase in markets in central and northern areas that are severely affected by conflicts. However, prices of coarse grains were up to 120 percent higher than one year before, mostly supported by conflict-related market

Mali

Cereals Imports

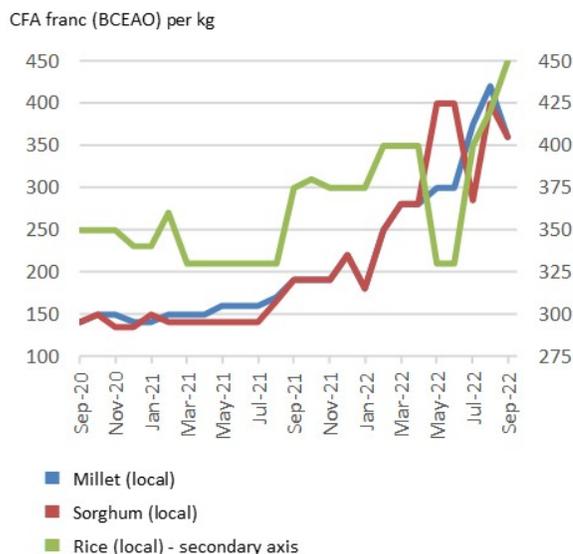


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Segou



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

disruptions and below-average supplies. Prices of rice generally increased in 2022, with strong gains between June and September, reflecting low market supplies. As of September 2022, prices of rice were up to 25 percent above their year-earlier levels. Below-average cereal production prospects in 2022, disrupted trade flows and increasing prices of energy and food associated to the war in Ukraine also weighed on coarse grains and rice prices.

In order to mitigate the price increases and secure market availabilities, a ban on cereal exports was introduced in December 2021 ([FPMA Food Policies](#)).

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GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 02-November-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production of coarse grains in 2021 forecast above average, while production of rice anticipated at reduced level
- Cereal imports in 2020/21 estimated slightly above average
- Prices of cereals in October 2021 were well above year-earlier levels
- Severe prevalence of food insecurity in 2021 due to upsurge of violence

Production of coarse grains in 2021 forecast above average, while production of rice anticipated at reduced level

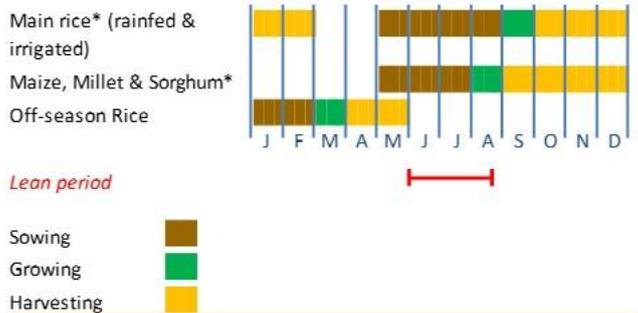
Harvesting of the 2021 main season coarse grains crops is underway and it is due to conclude in December. Rainfall amounts between June and August were conducive for crop development in the major growing regions in southern and western parts. Reflecting beneficial rains, remote sensing data indicated favourable crop conditions as of early October. Crop yields of coarse grains are expected to be at above-average levels due to favourable weather conditions and enhanced access to subsidized agricultural inputs. The planted area to maize crops increased significantly on a yearly basis, driven by government programmes that distributed large amounts of subsidized maize seeds. Production of maize in 2021 is officially forecast at 4.7 million tonnes, about 35 percent above the five-year average. Plantings of millet and sorghum contracted year on year as farmers switched to more profitable crops, mainly cotton, the country's main agricultural export earner. However, production of millet and sorghum is expected to be at 1.9 and 1.6 million tonnes, about 8 and 5 percent above the five-year average, respectively.

Harvesting of main season rice crops is underway and it is expected to conclude in January 2022. The area planted to rice crops contracted significantly in 2021 compared to the previous year, due to adverse weather, reduced access to inputs and a deterioration of the security situation in parts of important rice producing regions, notably Mopti and Segou, and also in Gao and Tombouctou. Increased violent events perpetuated by non-State armed groups (NSGAs) limited farmers' access to fields and constrained availability of inputs and labour. In addition, several rural households have been displaced and were forced to abandon their crops. Erratic rainfall in parts of central and northern regions also hampered planting operations,

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Mali

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 474	3 517	4 725	34.4
Rice (paddy)	2 972	3 010	2 550	-15.3
Millet	1 788	1 921	1 932	0.6
Sorghum	1 524	1 823	1 605	-12.0
Others	64	81	51	-37.4
Total	9 822	10 352	10 863	4.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

contributing to the contraction of the sown area. As a result, production of paddy rice is anticipated at 2.55 million tonnes, 14 percent below the previous five-year average.

Livestock body conditions and milk production are estimated at average levels across southern, western and central parts. Constrained access to pastures and limited fodder availability in northern areas caused by insecurity and localized dry spells, disrupted pastoralist activities and curbed local production prospects.

Cereal imports in 2020/21 estimated slightly above average

Cereal imports, mostly wheat and rice, are estimated at 575 000 tonnes in the 2020/21 marketing year (November/October), near the previous year's level and 5 percent above the average, reflecting population growth.

Prices of cereals in October were well above year-earlier levels

Following an increasing trend since early 2021, prices of locally produced coarse grains levelled off or decreased in October, with the arrival to the markets of recently harvested grains. Prices of rice, by contrast, continued to increase, reflecting lingering below-average market supplies, amid unfavourable production prospects of the 2021 paddy crops. As of October, prices of coarse grains and rice were generally well above their year-earlier values, supported by conflict-related market disruptions throughout 2021, which added significant pressure to cereal prices and exacerbated seasonal upward trends.

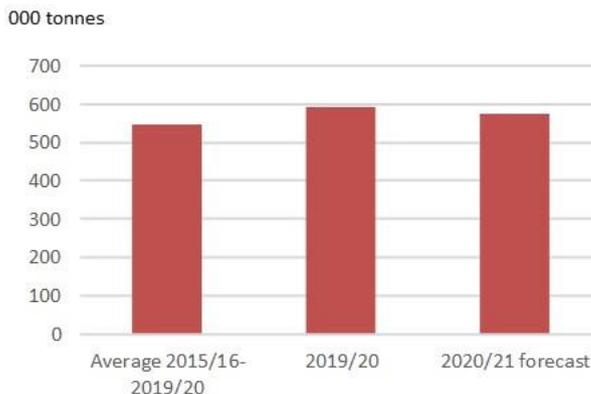
Severe prevalence of food insecurity in 2021 due to upsurge of violence

The food security situation has deteriorated in 2021, particularly in conflict-affected central and northern areas. In addition to increased violent events by NSAGs, banditry and inter-communal clashes, which affected northern and central parts in past years, has spread to southern areas, causing new displacements. According to the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of September 2021, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at about 400 000 people, well above the estimated 290 000 a year earlier. The upsurge of violence has disrupted agricultural livelihoods and limited labour migration, constraining availability of and access to food especially for IDPs and poor households in most affected regions of Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou and in northern parts of the Segou region. Moreover, the COVID-19 containment measures curbed income-generating activities and reduced remittances, further constraining households' purchasing power and increasing their dependence on food assistance. According to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 1.3 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the June and August 2021 period, well above the 870 000 people assessed to be food insecure in the March to May 2021 period. Of particular concern, the number of people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) was estimated at about 60 000, up from a previous estimate of 30 000 people.

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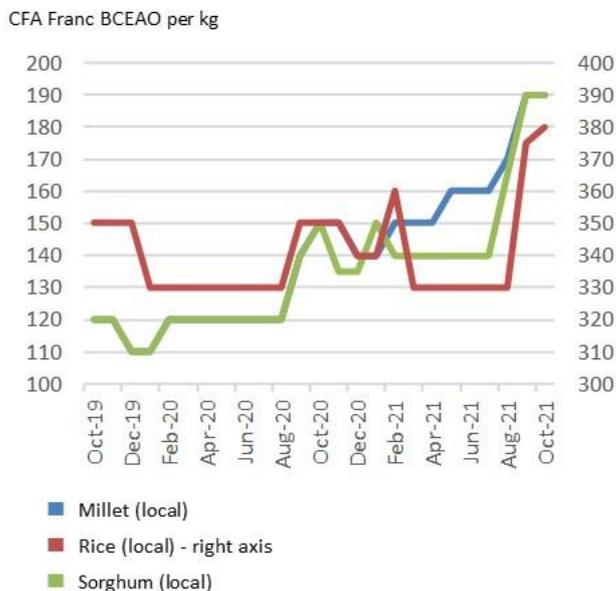
Cereals Imports



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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Ségou



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



GIEWS Country Brief Mali

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Production of coarse grains in 2021 forecast above average, while production of rice anticipated at reduced level

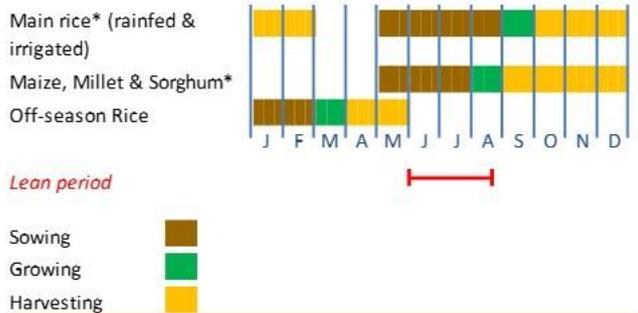
Harvesting of the 2021 main season coarse grains crops is underway and it is due to conclude in December. Rainfall amounts between June and August were conducive for crop development in the major growing regions in southern and western parts. Reflecting beneficial rains, remote sensing data indicated favourable crop conditions as of early October. Crop yields of coarse grains are expected to be at above-average levels due to favourable weather conditions and enhanced access to subsidized agricultural inputs. The planted area to maize crops increased significantly on a yearly basis, driven by government programmes that distributed large amounts of subsidized maize seeds. Production of maize in 2021 is officially forecast at 4.7 million tonnes, about 35 percent above the five-year average. Plantings of millet and sorghum contracted year on year as farmers switched to more profitable crops, mainly cotton, the country's main agricultural export earner. However, production of millet and sorghum is expected to be at 1.9 and 1.6 million tonnes, about 8 and 5 percent above the five-year average, respectively.

Harvesting of main season rice crops is underway and it is expected to conclude in January 2022. The area planted to rice crops contracted significantly in 2021 compared to the previous year, due to adverse weather, reduced access to inputs and a deterioration of the security situation in parts of important rice producing regions, notably Mopti and Segou, and also in Gao and Tombouctou. Increased violent events perpetuated by non-State armed groups (NSGAs) limited farmers' access to fields and constrained availability of inputs and labour. In addition, several rural households have been displaced and were forced to abandon their crops. Erratic rainfall in parts of central and northern regions also hampered planting operations,

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Mali

Cereal Production

	2016-2020	2020	2021	change
	average			2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 474	3 517	4 725	34.4
Rice (paddy)	2 972	3 010	2 550	-15.3
Millet	1 788	1 921	1 932	0.6
Sorghum	1 524	1 823	1 605	-12.0
Others	64	81	51	-37.4
Total	9 822	10 352	10 863	4.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

contributing to the contraction of the sown area. As a result, production of paddy rice is anticipated at 2.55 million tonnes, 14 percent below the previous five-year average.

Livestock body conditions and milk production are estimated at average levels across southern, western and central parts. Constrained access to pastures and limited fodder availability in northern areas caused by insecurity and localized dry spells, disrupted pastoralist activities and curbed local production prospects.

Cereal imports in 2020/21 estimated slightly above average

Cereal imports, mostly wheat and rice, are estimated at 575 000 tonnes in the 2020/21 marketing year (November/October), near the previous year's level and 5 percent above the average, reflecting population growth.

Prices of cereals in October were well above year-earlier levels

Following an increasing trend since early 2021, prices of locally produced coarse grains levelled off or decreased in October, with the arrival to the markets of recently harvested grains. Prices of rice, by contrast, continued to increase, reflecting lingering below-average market supplies, amid unfavourable production prospects of the 2021 paddy crops. As of October, prices of coarse grains and rice were generally well above their year-earlier values, supported by conflict-related market disruptions throughout 2021, which added significant pressure to cereal prices and exacerbated seasonal upward trends.

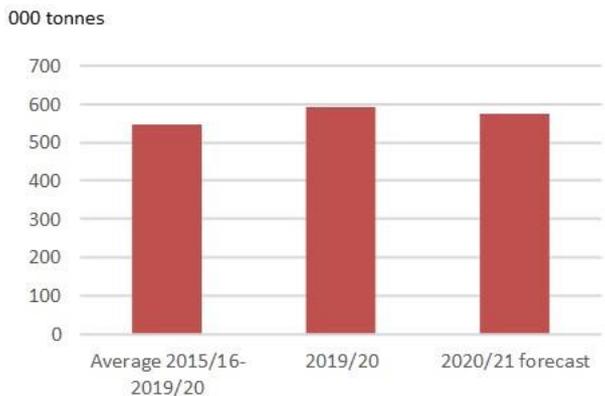
Severe prevalence of food insecurity in 2021 due to upsurge of violence

The food security situation has deteriorated in 2021, particularly in conflict-affected central and northern areas. In addition to increased violent events by NSAGs, banditry and inter-communal clashes, which affected northern and central parts in past years, has spread to southern areas, causing new displacements. According to the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of September 2021, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at about 400 000 people, well above the estimated 290 000 a year earlier. The upsurge of violence has disrupted agricultural livelihoods and limited labour migration, constraining availability of and access to food especially for IDPs and poor households in most affected regions of Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou and in northern parts of the Segou region. Moreover, the COVID-19 containment measures curbed income-generating activities and reduced remittances, further constraining households' purchasing power and increasing their dependence on food assistance. According to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 1.3 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the June and August 2021 period, well above the 870 000 people assessed to be food insecure in the March to May 2021 period. Of particular concern, the number of people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) was estimated at about 60 000, up from a previous estimate of 30 000 people.

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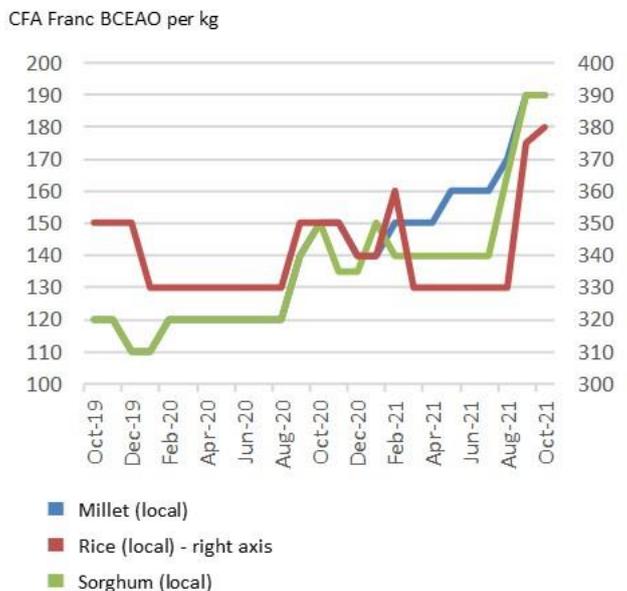
Cereals Imports



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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Ségou



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



GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 27-July-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of 2020 crops
- Above-average cereal output gathered in 2019
- Prices of coarse grains generally stable, reflecting sufficient supplies
- Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of 2020 crops

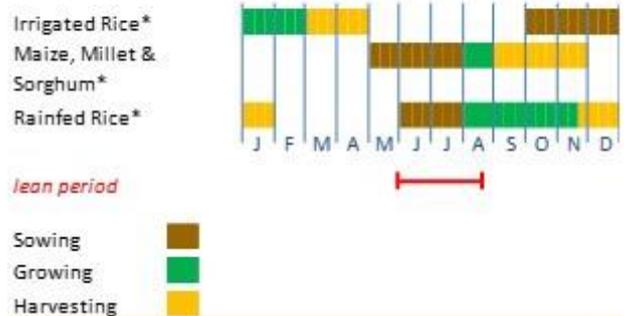
Planting of the 2020 coarse grain crops (maize, millet and sorghum), to be harvested from September, started on time in May in the southern part of the country and is expected to finish in July in the more northern cropping areas. The latest weather forecast by the Forum of the Agro-Hydro-Climatic Seasonal Forecast in Sudano-Sahelian Africa (PRESASS) points to average and above-average precipitation amounts between June and September 2020, with likely positive impacts on yields and availability of pasture and water for livestock. Abundant rains since early May resulted in favourable moisture conditions for the germination and establishment of the crops, which are currently at sprouting, seedling and tillering stages across the planted areas. Weeding activities are regularly underway. Despite the favourable weather conditions expected during the season, some localized production shortfalls are likely to occur in the North and Central regions due to the persisting conflict that limits agricultural activities as well in the areas bordering the Niger valley due to flooding.

Seasonal rains increased water and pasture availability in July 2020, improving livestock body conditions and enhancing the animal market value in most parts of the country. The animal health situation is overall stable, with only seasonal outbreaks of epizootic diseases as the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats and the Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) in cattle. In the Liptako Gourma and Menaka regions, pasture conditions are affected by the persistence of insecurity, which is disrupting the movement of livestock, the limiting access to pasture and the causing rapid degradation of fodder and water resources in accessible areas.

Mali

Crop Calendar

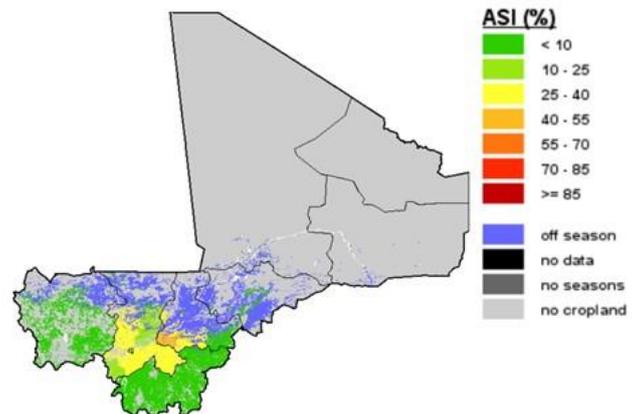
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Mali - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 3, June 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Above-average cereal output estimated in 2019

Favourable rainfall in 2019 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The national cereal production in 2019 is estimated at 10 million tonnes, 17 percent above the average of the last five years. However, several areas experienced production shortfalls due to the late onset of the rains, pockets of drought and localized flooding during July-August 2019.

Despite the above-average 2019 cereal production, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are expected to remain at the average level of about 450 000 tonnes due to the strong demand by traders aiming at replenishing their stocks.

Prices of coarse grain stable in most markets

The supply of cereals in most markets remains adequate despite the seasonal decrease in availability. In addition, the easing of the COVID-19 restrictive measures, coupled with food distribution programmes and Government trade regulations, contributed to keep prices of coarse grains broadly stable in June. Overall, prices remained lower than their year-earlier values, reflecting the good output gathered in 2019. By contrast, in parts of central and northern regions, insecurity continued to disrupt trade flows, affecting market supplies and putting upward pressure on food prices.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

According to the March 2020 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 1.3 million people are estimated to need external food assistance during the June to August 2020 period, well above the 554 000 food insecure people that were estimated for the same period in 2019. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the increase in the number of food insecure population was mainly due to the effects of adverse climate events (late onset of the rains, drought and flooding) in some localized areas and the persisting insecurity in central and northern parts of the country. It is very likely that the food security situation will further deteriorate as livelihood activities have been affected by the expansion of COVID-19 and the containment measures implemented by the Government. These measures have negatively affected households’ incomes, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas, where most people rely on daily work, casual labour, petty trade and food vending activities.

Food security conditions worsened significantly in 2019 particularly due to the escalation of conflict across the Liptako Gourma and Menaka regions. The majority of displaced households is facing a deterioration of livelihoods due to civil insecurity. As May 2020, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) identified over 250 000 people that have been displaced in central and northern parts of the country. In addition, the country hosts approximately 45 000 refugees.

Mali

Cereal Production

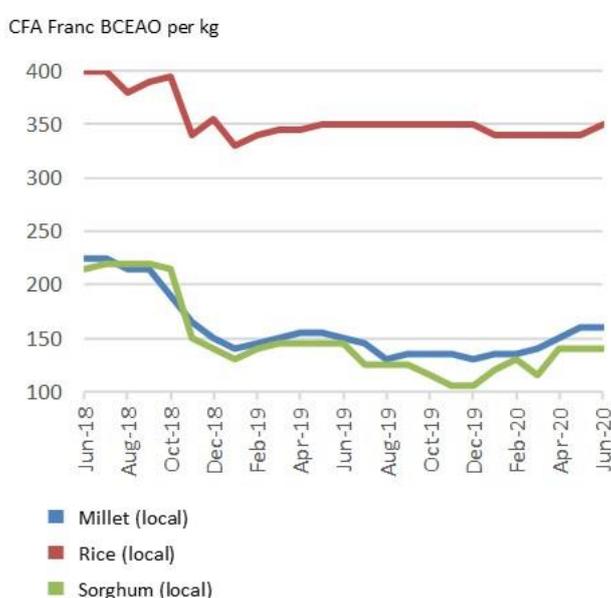
	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 811	3 625	3 600	-0.7
Rice (paddy)	2 631	3 168	3 196	0.9
Millet	1 744	1 840	1 835	-0.3
Others	1 571	1 527	1 651	8.1
Total	8 757	10 160	10 282	1.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako

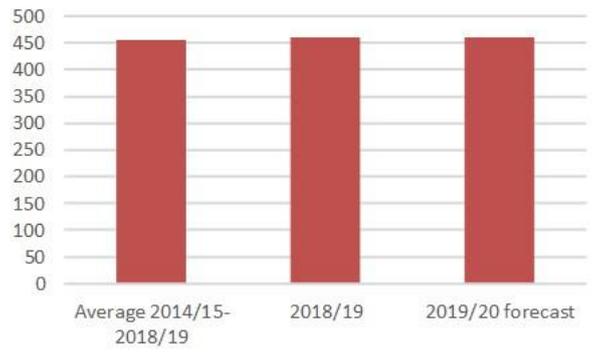


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Mali

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 03-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal output gathered in 2019
- Cereal import requirements forecast at above-average level
- Prices of coarse grains generally stable reflecting adequate availabilities
- Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

Above-average cereal output estimated in 2019

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

Harvesting of the 2019 crops finalized in December 2019, while harvesting of off-season rice and sorghum is underway and will be completed by end-April. The country's aggregate cereal output in 2019 is estimated at 10 million tonnes, similar to 2018 output and 14 percent above the five-year average. Despite the above-average production at the national level, several localities experienced production declines due late onset of the rains, pockets of drought and localized flooding during July-August.

Pastoral conditions are generally satisfactory, but significant bio-mass production deficits were reported in 2019 in many regions including Kayes, Tombouctou, Menaka, Gao, Kidal and Sikasso. In addition, the persistence of insecurity in Liptako Gourma and Menaka regions is disrupting the movement of livestock, limiting access to pasture and causing rapid degradation of fodder in accessible areas. In these areas, with the recent start of the pastoral lean season, livestock body conditions are expected to deteriorate with consequent declines of prices of live animals worsening animal/cereals terms of trade for pastoralists.

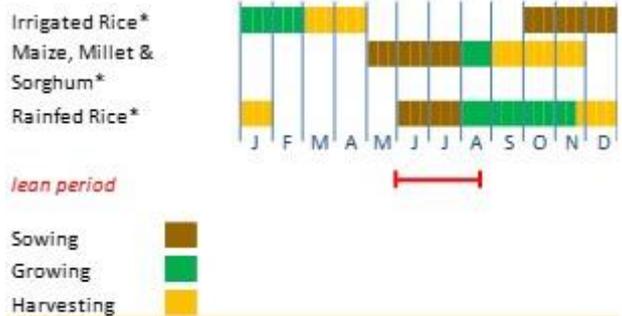
Cereal import requirements forecast above-average level

Despite an above-average 2019 production, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are expected to remain at an average level of about 500 000 tonnes due to the strong demand by traders aiming to replenish their stocks.

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Mali

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 811	3 625	3 600	-0.7
Rice (paddy)	2 631	3 168	2 900	-8.4
Millet	1 744	1 840	1 835	-0.3
Others	1 571	1 527	1 651	8.1
Total	8 757	10 160	9 986	-1.7

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

Prices of coarse grain stable in most markets

Market supplies have improved since October 2019 following the commercialization of newly harvested crops and regular flows of imports. Market demand for staple food is seasonally stable as most households are still relying on their own production to cover their consumption needs. Prices of millet and sorghum held steady or increased in February, but remained lower than their year-earlier values, reflecting the good output this year. Similarly, in parts of central and northern regions, the conflict continued to affect trade flows, limiting market availabilities and putting upward pressure on food prices.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

Food security conditions worsened significantly in 2019 particularly in central and northern parts of the country as a result of the escalation of conflict. The majority of displaced households is facing a deterioration of livelihoods due to civil insecurity. As at February 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identified over 218 000 people that have been displaced in central and northern parts of the country. In addition, the country hosts approximately 27 000 refugees. According to the March 2020 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 757 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance in March-May 2020, well above the estimated 336 000 in the corresponding period in 2019. This figure is expected to increase to 1.3 million during the next lean season from June to August 2020, if no mitigation actions are taken.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

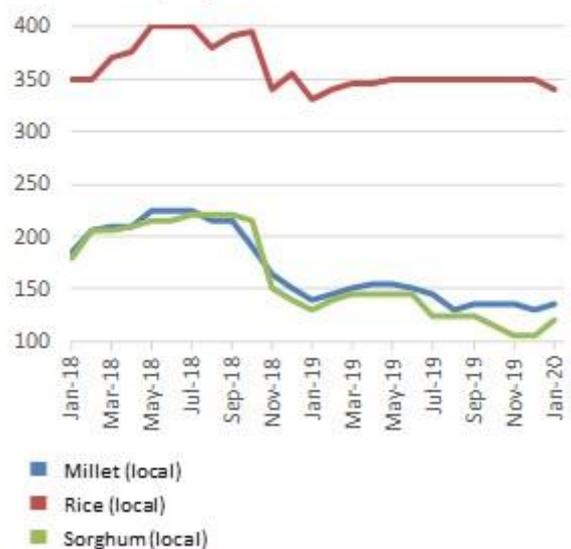
In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Government has decreed a state of health emergency in addition to the state of emergency which is prevailing due to the security context. Official restrictions on population movements, combined with heightened levels of fear, have led to a reduction of income-earning opportunities in some places. Field reports indicate cases of food hoarding in several local markets.

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Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

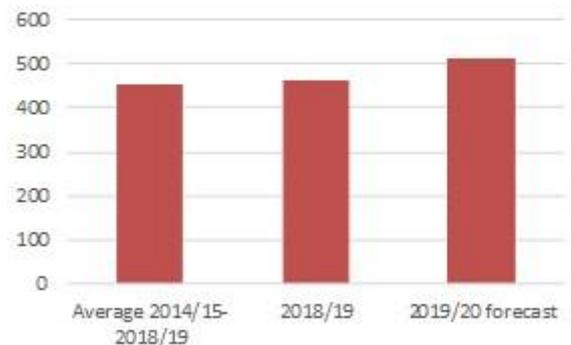


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Mali

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 29-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rainfall conditions are allowing timely start of 2019 cropping season in the south
- Above-average cereal output gathered in 2018
- Prices of coarse grains generally decline as a result of good availabilities
- Strong economic growth and declining food price inflation
- Civil insecurity maintains the need of food assistance for vulnerable people

Timely start of cereal planting in the south

Planting of the 2019 maize, millet and sorghum crops started on time in May in the southern part of the country. Adequate rainfall amounts since early May resulted in favourable moisture conditions for crop development in recently planted areas. In northern cropping areas, the season is yet to start and the activities are limited to land preparation and early planting of rice.

Above-average cereal output estimated in 2018

The continuing support by Government and partners in terms of agricultural inputs and generally adequate rainfall in 2018 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The country's aggregate cereal output in 2018 is estimated at 10.1 million tonnes, about 9 percent higher than the 2017 output and 26 percent above the five-year average. Major year-on-year production increases have been registered for millet 23 percent and rice 17 percent higher than the 2017 harvest.

Despite the above-average 2018 production, import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year are set at average 2 million tonnes due to higher demand from traders to replenish stocks.

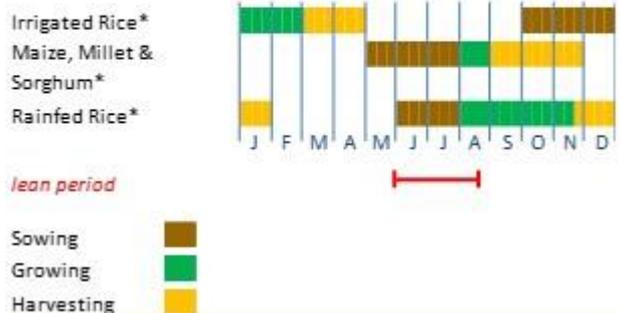
Coarse grain prices remain lower than last year in most markets

Despite the seasonal decrease in food availability and disruptions in some markets due to insecurity, the overall supply of cereals in most markets remains adequate. Prices of local rice, sorghum and millet were stable or began to increase in April due to the seasonal tightening of supplies and stronger household demand for human consumption and seeds. However, good domestic availabilities from the 2018 harvests and imports contributed to maintain prices below their year-earlier levels.

Mali

Crop Calendar

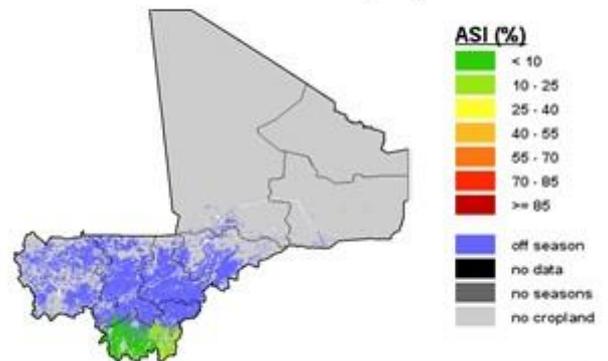
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Mali - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to Dekad 1, May 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Strong economic growth projected, food price inflation decreasing

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is forecast to remain strong at about 4.7 percent in 2019, due to high public expenditures and the rise in the mining and agricultural sectors. Food inflation is minimal, averaging 1.20 percent from 2012 until 2019, reflecting stable domestic food prices. Inflation will overall remain well below the UEMOA (*Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine*) convergence rate of 3 percent.

Civil insecurity maintains the need of food assistance for vulnerable people

Food security conditions are overall satisfactory for the majority of households due to adequate food availability and access. However, some displaced households in central and northern parts of the country are facing a deterioration of their livelihoods due to civil insecurity. As of April 2019, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) identified over 73 000 people that have been displaced in central and northern parts of the country. In addition, the country hosts approximately 26 000 refugees.

According to the March 2018 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 333 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2019, with a decrease from 387 000 food insecure people from March to May 2018. The number is expected to increase to 549 000 people at the peak of the lean season, during the June to August period, if no mitigation actions are taken.

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Cereal Production

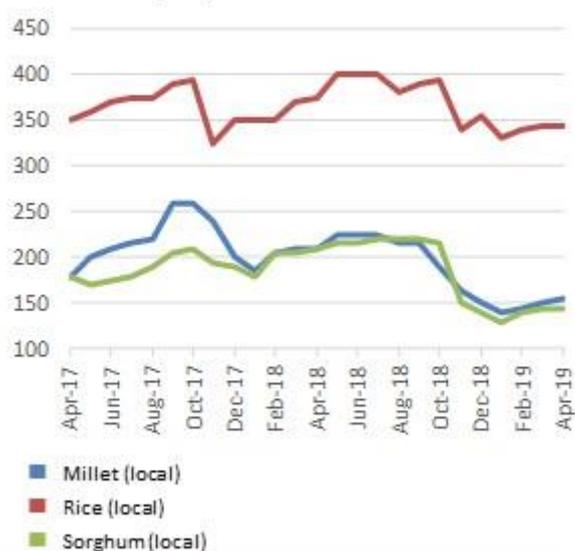
	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 440	2 708	3 168	17.0
Maize	2 413	3 598	3 625	0.7
Millet	1 630	1 493	1 840	23.3
Others	1 569	1 498	1 527	2.0
Total	8 052	9 296	10 160	9.3

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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 13-March-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal production estimated in 2018
- Prices of coarse grains generally decline as a result of good availabilities
- Strong economic growth and declining food price inflation
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable people

Above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2018

The continuing support by the Government and partners in terms of agricultural inputs and generally adequate rainfall in 2018 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. Harvesting of maize, millet, sorghum and rainfed rice crops was completed in November 2018, while harvesting of irrigated rice is ongoing and will be completed by end-April. The country's aggregate cereal output in 2018 is estimated at 10 452 980 tonnes, about 12 percent higher than 2017's output and 30 percent above the five-year average.

Early and extended rainfall improved the availability and quality of pastures in the main grazing areas of the country. Favourable rains have also contributed to replenish main water points, including dams, ponds, streams, rivers and lakes. The animal health situation is generally stable, with no major seasonal disease outbreaks. However, the persistence of insecurity in the centre and north of the country, affecting livelihoods and causing disruptions in herd movements, continues to limit access to grazing land.

Despite the above-average 2018 production, import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year are set at 500 000 tonnes, slightly above average due to higher demand from traders to replenish their stocks.

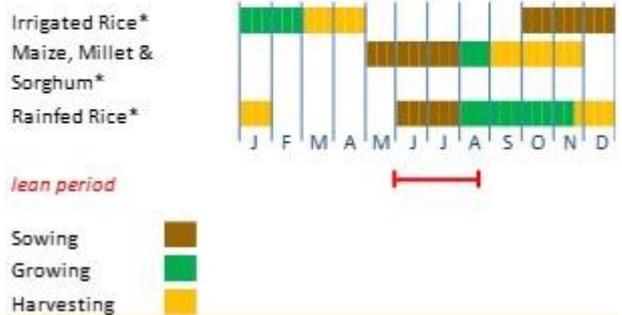
Declining prices of coarse grains as a result of good availabilities

Market supplies have increased since October 2018 due to the new harvest of staples, including millet, rice and sorghum. Market demand for staple food is seasonally stable as most households are still relying on the consumption of their own production. In general, prices of millet were generally stable or declining, while prices of sorghum slightly increased in February due to the high demand from institutional purchases and the rebuilding of stocks by storage agencies. However, prices remained generally below their year-earlier levels.

Mali

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Mali

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 440	2 708	3 185	17.6
Maize	2 413	3 598	3 995	11.0
Millet	1 630	1 493	1 773	18.8
Others	1 569	1 498	1 500	0.2
Total	8 052	9 296	10 453	12.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Moderate economic growth projected, food price inflation decreasing

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is forecast to remain strong at about 4.8 percent in 2019, down from the 5 percent recorded in 2018 due to high public expenditures and growth of production in the mining and agricultural sectors. The year-on-year inflation rate in 2019 is forecast at about 1.7 percent, down from 2.2 percent in 2018 as a result of declining domestic non-oil commodity prices.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

Persistent insecurity undermines the food security and stability in the central and northern parts of the country. According to the November 2018 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 185 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance from October to December 2018, with a significant decrease from the 387 000 food insecure people from March to May 2018. However, the caseload is expected to increase to 416 000 during the June to August 2019 period if no mitigation actions are taken.

As of January 2019, the country was hosting approximately 26 000 refugees. In addition, there were 124 000 Internal Displaced People (IDP) and 71 000 returnees that depend mainly on humanitarian assistance. The number of IDPs has doubled since March 2018 due to insecurity.

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Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

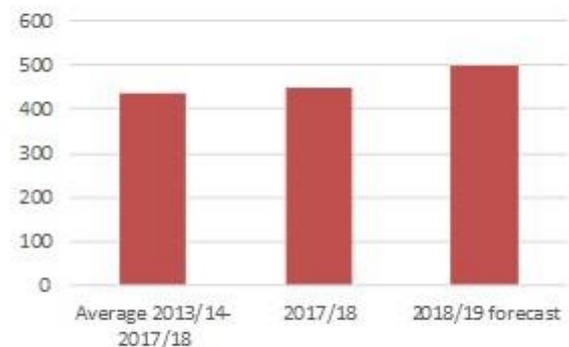


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Mali

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 18-June-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2018 cereal crops started on time in southern parts under favourable conditions
- Slightly above-average harvest gathered in 2017
- Prices of coarse grains remained higher than last year due to strong demand from households and persistent civil insecurity in parts of the country
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable people

Timely start of cereal planting in south

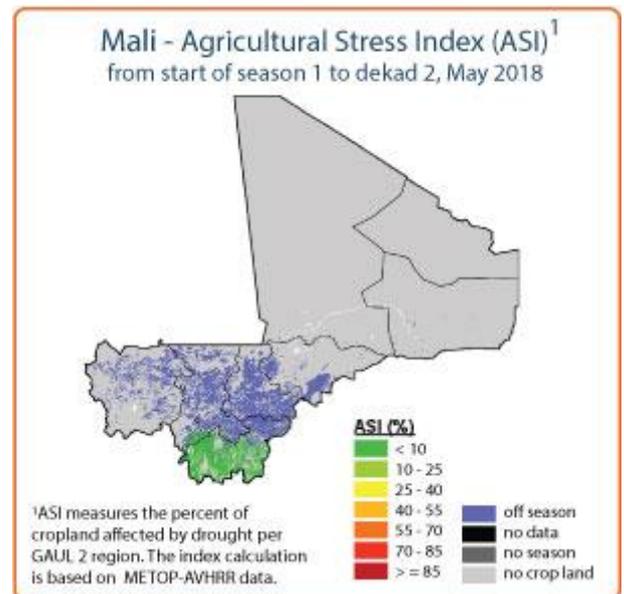
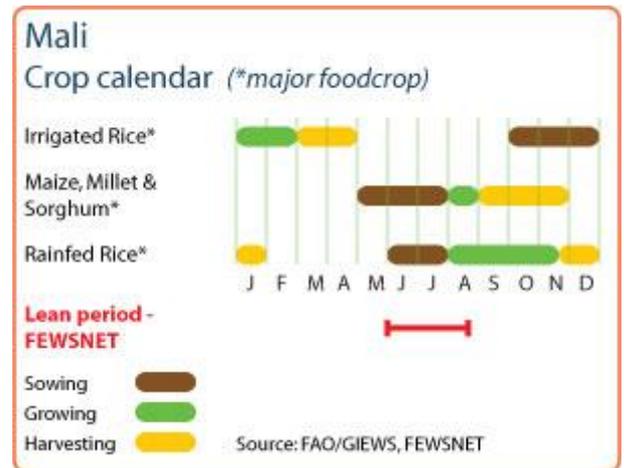
Planting of the 2018 coarse grain crops (maize, millet and sorghum), to be harvested from September, started on time in May in the southern part of the country and is expected to finish in July in the more northern cropping areas. The agricultural season is progressing normally, with steady accumulation of seasonal rainfall since early May 2018, which resulted in favourable moisture conditions for crop development in most recently-planted areas in the southern part of the country. In northern parts of the country, the season is just starting with land preparation and early planting of rice for harvesting from November.

Average harvest gathered in 2017 due to good weather conditions

The 2017 agricultural season was characterized by near-average rainfall. Despite an early stop of the rains at the end of the cropping season in September 2017, the national cereal production was estimated at 9.5 million tonnes, about 7 percent higher than the last season's output and 27 percent above the five-year average. Compared to 2016, production of maize increased by 22 percent, while millet decreased by 11 percent.

The insufficient rainfall and the early cessation of the rains had a negative impact on pasture production and rearing conditions in all of Northern and Central regions including Kayes and Koulikoro. Pastoralists in these areas are highly vulnerable to the lack of pasture and watering opportunities as well as depressed prices for livestock products. The situation is unlikely to improve until the end of July unless steps are taken to alleviate the situation.

Despite the above-average cereal production in 2017 at about 540 000 tonnes, the cereal import requirements for 2017 are expected to remain similar to 2016 and about 10 percent above average.



Prices of coarse grains remain higher than last year in most markets

The supply of cereals in most markets remains regular and sufficient despite the seasonal decrease in availability. Prices of coarse grains in April 2018 were generally stable compared to the previous month following normal seasonal trends. However, compared to last year, prices remained higher due to localized production shortfalls, strong household demand to meet the needs for food consumption and seeds and persistent insecurity, especially in the central and northern parts of the country.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

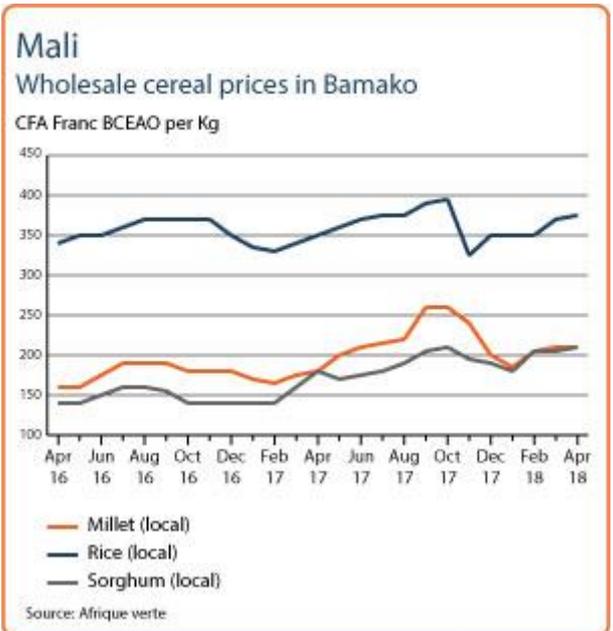
Localized decreases in production, persistent insecurity in parts of the country and inter-community conflicts that lead to population movements continue to affect negatively the food security situation. According to the March 2018 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 387 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2018, with a significant increase from the 290 000 food insecure people from October to December 2017. This number is expected to increase to 933 000 during the June to August period if no mitigation actions are taken.

As of March 2018, the country was also hosting approximately 20 000 refugees, 50 000 internal displaced people (IDP) and 64 000 returnees that depend mainly on humanitarian assistance. The number of IDPs has nearly doubled since December 2017 due to insecurity.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mali				
Cereal production				
	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 281	2 781	2 921	5
Maize	1 977	2 811	3 434	22
Millet	1 784	1 807	1 617	-11
Others	1 435	1 434	1 503	5
Total	7 477	8 833	9 475	7

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





GlEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 30-October-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite late start to the season in some areas, abundant recent rains improved crop yields in most parts of the country
- In 2016, record crop gathered for third consecutive year
- Coarse grain prices increasing in recent months driven mostly by persistent insecurity
- Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

Harvest prospects favourable for 2017 cereal crops

Harvesting of maize, millet and sorghum is underway and will be completed by the end of November. Rainfed rice is at the vegetative stage, whereas sowing of irrigated rice started in early October. The rainy season had a slow start in parts of Sikasso, Kadiolo, Koro, Bankass and Niono, but satisfactory rainfall in ensuing months resulted in cumulative precipitation on par with last year's abundant level. Latest satellite data images show favourable crop conditions in most cropping areas as reported by the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (see ASI map).

Although Fall Armyworm attacks have been reported on maize, sorghum and millet crops in parts of Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso regions, the aggregate 2017 production is estimated at 9 million tonnes, similar to last year's bumper levels.

Coarse grain prices increasing in most markets due to persistent insecurity

Despite the bumper harvest in 2016, prices of millet and sorghum have been on the rise since April/May and remained at levels well above those a year earlier, as persistent insecurity, especially in the central and northern part of the country, continued to disrupt traditional supply routes.

Although some declines in prices were reported in the north of the country due to the free distribution of grains by the Commissary for Food Security in September 2017, prices of sorghum in Kayes were still about 56 percent higher than their year earlier levels. Prices of millet in Bamako were about 37 percent higher than in the previous year.



**Mali
Cereal production**

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 281	2 781	2 918	5
Maize	2 010	2 811	2 900	3
Millet	1 662	1 807	1 890	5
Others	1 314	1 451	1 314	-9
Total	7 267	8 849	9 023	2

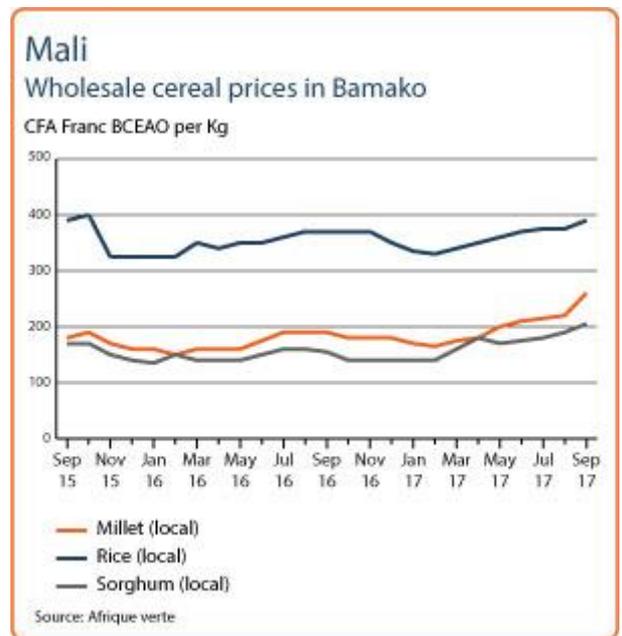
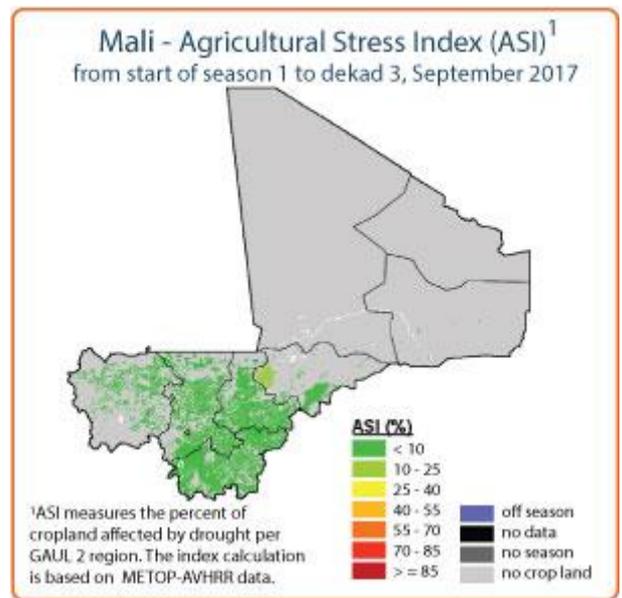
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Rainfall accumulated over the recent months has contributed to the regeneration of pastures in most parts of the country. Although seasonal declines in biomass production due to drying of plants has been observed at the beginning of October, livestock are in fairly good condition and cattle markets are kept in good supply.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

In spite of three consecutive years of bumper harvests and overall favourable prospects for the 2017 output, the recent civil strife has had adverse long-term impact on households. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half of the country, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had a serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets, affecting the most vulnerable population in the country. The latest “Cadre Harmonisé” (Harmonized Framework) analysis conducted in the country estimated that about 601 000 people, located mostly in Timbuktu, Mopti and Bamako regions were in IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and above between June and August 2017. Moreover, UNHCR reported that, at end-August 2017, there were an estimated 55 900 internally-displaced people in Mali.

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GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 02-February-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions during cropping season contributed to record 2016 cereal output
- Coarse grain prices have been stable in recent months and remained close to year-earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance still needed despite improved civil and food security situation

Favourable weather conditions during cropping season contributed to record 2016 cereal output

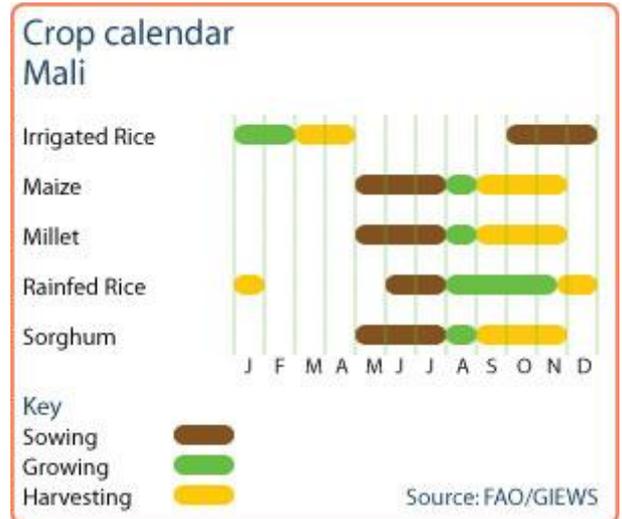
Abundant rains contributed to a bumper 2016 harvest for the third consecutive year. Harvesting of maize, millet and sorghum was completed in November, while harvesting of rice concluded in January 2017. According to preliminary findings, a record cereal output was gathered following beneficial rains from July over the main producing areas of the country. The 2016 aggregate cereal production was estimated at nearly 9 million tonnes, about 11 percent higher than the 2015 bumper crop and 35 percent above the average of the previous five years. The production of millet, the most important staple, increased by 3 percent, while rice production increased by 21 percent to about 2.8 million tonnes. Pastoral conditions were also satisfactory. The filling levels of most water points were adequate and animals remained in good condition.

A bumper crop was gathered in 2014 and 2015 following favourable rains. The 2015 aggregate cereals production was estimated at some 8 million tonnes, about 16 percent higher than the 2014 bumper crop and 28 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grain prices stable in most markets and similar to year-earlier levels

Prices of millet and sorghum have been generally stable and similar to their year-earlier levels in recent months, reflecting good supplies from several consecutive years of above-average harvests. In Bamako, prices of sorghum in January 2017 were close to their levels in January 2016. Prices are expected to remain at low levels in the short term as a result of enhanced supplies from the new bumper harvest.

Livestock markets are well supplied and animals are in good conditions. However, livestock demand has been hampered due



**Mali
Cereal production**

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 073	2 331	2 811	21
Maize	1 707	2 276	2 534	11
Millet	1 593	1 864	1 927	3
Others	1 279	1 598	1 693	6
Total	6 652	8 069	8 965	11

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

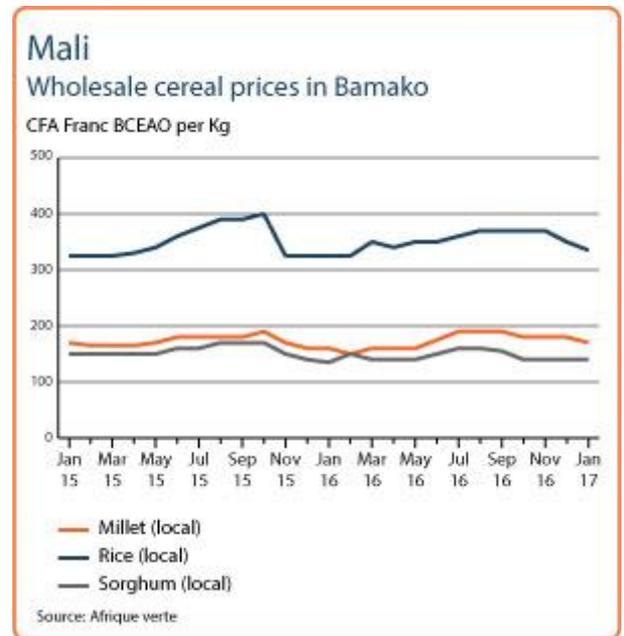
to reduced imports from Algeria and Nigeria. The faltering demand for livestock from Algerian buyers is due to the current outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Niger whereas buyers in Nigeria have been negatively affected by the steep depreciation of their local currency.

Agricultural production hampered by persisting insecurity

Agriculture was seriously damaged during the last civil strife in parts of the country. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had a serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. According to OCHA, as of end-October 2016, there are an estimated 36 690 internally-displaced people in Mali mostly residing in Timbuktu, the most affected region.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had a very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. About 176 500 people, located mostly in Timbuktu, Mopti and Sikasso regions, are estimated to be in Phase: 3 Crisis and above, according to the latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.





GIEWS Country Brief Mali

Reference Date: 21-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rains so far have facilitated crop development in most regions
- Coarse grain prices increased seasonably in June but remain lower than their year-earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance still needed despite improved civil security situation

Early prospects favourable for 2016 cropping season

Precipitation has been generally widespread since the beginning of the cropping season and cumulative rainfall as of early July was above average in most regions, according to satellite images. In the first dekad of June, the northeast of the Sikasso region experienced some short dry spells; however, it has since normalized. Planting of millet, sorghum and rainfed rice is well underway; crops are emerging in the south where pastures have improved significantly.

A record cereal output was gathered in 2015 following beneficial rains from July over the main producing areas of the country. The 2015 aggregate cereals production was estimated at some 8 million tonnes, about 16 percent higher than the 2014 bumper crop and 28 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple, increased by 9 percent, while rice production increased by 8 percent to about 2.3 million tonnes. Pastoral conditions were also satisfactory. The filling levels of most water points were adequate and animals remained in good condition.

A bumper crop was already gathered last year. The 2014 output was officially estimated at some 6.98 million tonnes, about 22 percent higher than the 2012 drought-affected output and 13 percent above the average of the previous five years. The increase in cereal production was driven mostly by good rainfall conditions, the larger planted area (17 percent increase), the use of selected seeds and the exploitation of new rice lands.

Coarse grain prices showed seasonal increases in June in most markets

In recent months, cereal prices were mostly unchanged reflecting good availabilities from the 2015 harvests. However, prices showed seasonal increases in most markets in June. In Bamako,



**Mali
Cereal production**

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 068	2 167	2 331	8
Maize	1 533	1 744	2 276	31
Millet	1 499	1 715	1 864	9
Others	1 222	1 355	1 598	18
Total	6 322	6 981	8 069	16

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

prices of sorghum increased by 7 percent, while millet prices increased by about 9 percent compared to May. However, prices have remained generally lower than their year-earlier levels.

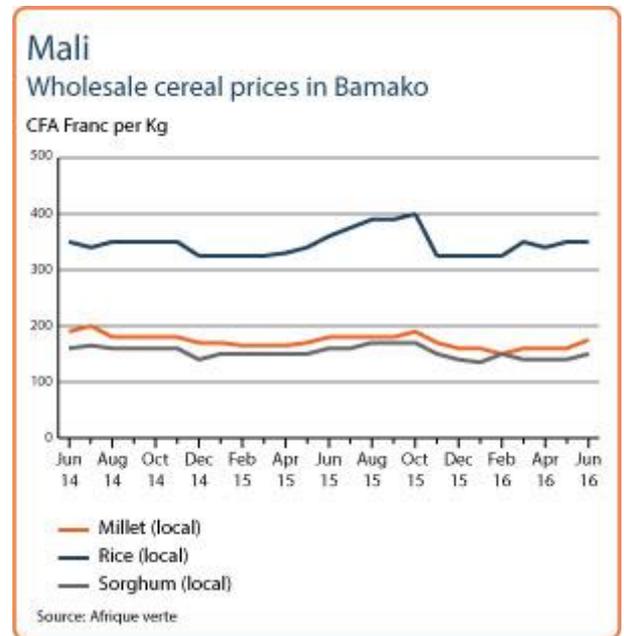
Livestock prices were above average and are expected to remain high due to the good conditions of the livestock as well as the relatively strong demand from neighbouring countries.

Agricultural production hampered by persisting civil strife in recent years

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had a serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. According to OCHA, as of June 2016, there are an estimated 37 000 internally-displaced people in Mali mostly residing in Timbuktu, the most affected region.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of the crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had a very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. About 115 000 people located mostly in Timbuktu, Mopti and Sikasso regions, are estimated to be in Phase: 3 “Crisis” and above, according to the November 2015 Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.



Reference Date: 09-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest point to record cereal production
- Increased supplies from 2015 harvests put downward pressure on coarse grain prices in most regions
- Humanitarian assistance still needed despite improved civil security situation

Abundant rains contribute to bumper 2015 harvest for second consecutive year

Harvesting of maize, millet, sorghum were completed in November, while the harvesting of rice was completed in January 2016. According to preliminary findings, a record cereal output was gathered following beneficial rains from July over the main producing areas of the country. A joint CILSS/FAO/FEWSNet/WFP Crop Assessment Mission, that visited the country in November, estimated the 2015 aggregate cereals production at some 8 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 15 percent higher than the 2014 bumper crop and 27 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple, increased by 17 percent, while rice production increased by 13 percent to about 2.4 million tonnes. Pastoral conditions were also satisfactory. The filling levels of most water points were adequate and animals remained in good condition.

A bumper crop was already gathered last year. The 2014 output was officially estimated at some 6.9 million tonnes, about 22 percent higher than the 2012 drought-affected output and 13 percent above the average of the previous five years. The increase in cereal production was driven mostly by good rainfall conditions, the larger planted area (17 percent increase), the use of selected seeds and the exploitation of new rice lands.

Coarse grain prices generally stable or declining in most parts of the country

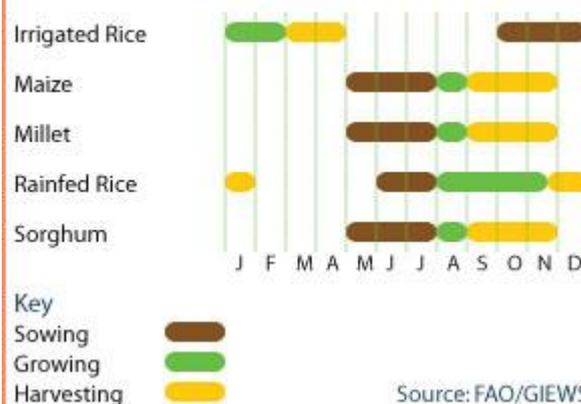
Increased supplies from the 2015 harvests put downward pressure on coarse grain prices in most regions. In Bamako, prices of sorghum have been stable over the last three months, while millet prices declined by 12 percent. Prices were generally lower than their year-earlier levels.

Livestock prices were above average and expected to remain high due to the good conditions of the livestock as well as the relatively strong demand from neighboring countries.

Agricultural production hampered by persisting civil strife in recent years

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had a serious negative impact on agricultural production

Crop calendar Mali

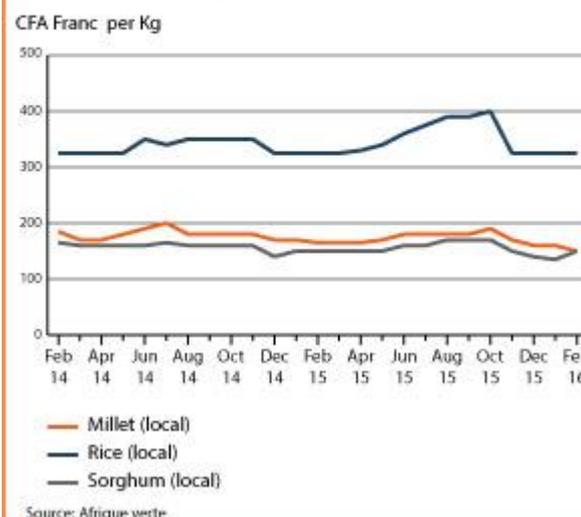


Mali Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 068	2 167	2 451	13
Maize	1 533	1 744	2 092	20
Millet	1 499	1 715	2 000	17
Others	1 222	1 355	1 503	11
Total	6 322	6 981	8 046	15

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

Mali Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako



and food markets. According to the International Organization for Migration, as of September 2015, there are an estimated 52 163 internally-displaced people in Mali with about 25 000 residing in Timbuktu, the most affected region.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of the recent food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had a very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. About 115 000 people located mostly in Timbuktu, Mopti and Sikasso regions, are estimated to be in Phase: 3 “Crisis” and above, according to the November 2015 Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Reference Date: 04-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest point to record cereal production
- Increased supplies from 2015 harvests put downward pressure on coarse grain prices in most regions
- Humanitarian assistance still needed despite improved civil security situation

Abundant rains contribute to bumper 2015 harvest for second consecutive year

Harvesting of maize, millet and sorghum is almost complete, while harvesting of rice will continue until January. According to preliminary findings, a record cereal output is anticipated following beneficial rains since July over the main producing areas of the country. A joint CILSS/FAO/FEWSNET/WFP Crop Assessment Mission that visited the country in November estimated the 2015 aggregate cereals production at some 8 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 15 percent higher than the 2014 bumper crop and 27 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple, is estimated to increase by 17 percent, while rice production increased by 13 percent to about 2.4 million tonnes. Pastoral conditions have also been satisfactory. The filling levels of most water points are adequate and animals are in good condition.

A bumper crop was already gathered last year. The 2014 output was officially estimated at some 6.9 million tonnes, about 22 percent higher than the 2012 drought-affected output and 13 percent above the average of the previous five years. The increase in cereal production was driven mostly by the good rainfall conditions, the larger planted area (17 percent increase), the use of selected seeds and the exploitation of new rice lands.

Coarse grain prices are stable or declining in most parts of the country

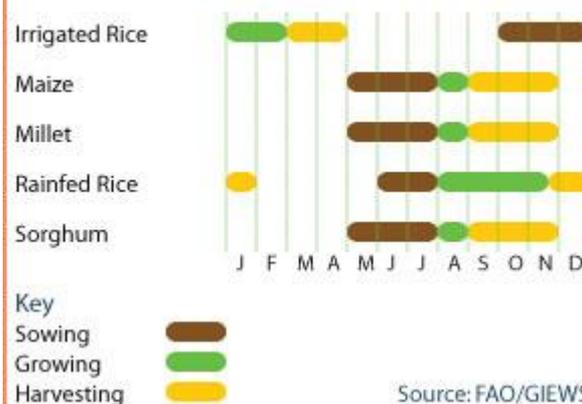
Increased supplies from the 2015 harvests put downward pressure on coarse grain prices in most regions. In Bamako, prices of sorghum and millet declined in November by 12 percent and 10 percent, respectively, and were generally lower than their year-earlier levels.

Livestock prices are above average and expected to remain high due to the good conditions of the livestock as well as relatively strong demand from neighboring countries.

Agricultural production hampered by civil strife in recent years

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. According to International Organization for Migration

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

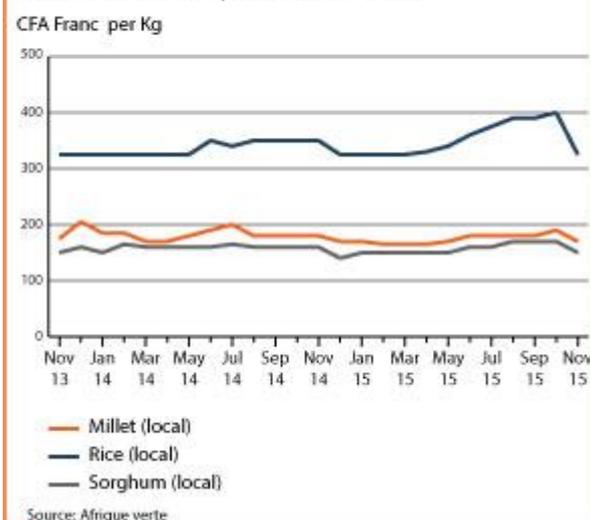
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	2 068	2 167	2 451	13
Maize	1 533	1 744	2 092	20
Millet	1 499	1 715	2 000	17
Others	1 222	1 355	1 503	11
Total	6 322	6 981	8 046	15

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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako



(IOM), as of September 2015, there are an estimated 61 920 internal displaced people (IDPs) in Mali with about 26 526 residing in Timbuktu the most affected region.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of recent food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. About 115 000 people located mostly in Timbuktu, Mopti and Sikasso regions, are estimated to be in Phase: 3 “Crisis” and above, according to the November 2015 Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Reference Date: 26-January-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- In spite of erratic rains at beginning of cropping season, preliminary estimates for 2014 harvest point to an above-average cereal production
- Increased supplies from new 2014 harvest have put downward pressure on cereal prices at the end of 2014
- Humanitarian assistance still needed despite improved civil security situation

Cereal production is estimated to increase in 2014

Harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops is about to conclude. Most parts of the country witnessed erratic and below-average rains until mid-July that resulted in replanting in some areas. However, precipitation improved significantly since the last dekad of July over the main producing areas, thus replenishing water reserves, providing relief to stressed crops and improving crop conditions in most parts of the country. As a result, the National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted an above average harvest for 2014.

Agricultural production hampered by civil strife in recent years

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. These problems have been exacerbated in 2013 by erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season, which caused a reduction in planted area and affected yields.

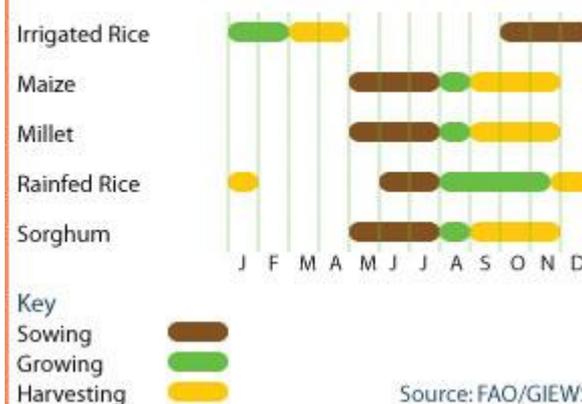
The 2013 aggregate cereal production was officially estimated at some 5.7 million tonnes, about 14 percent lower than the 2012 output but close to the average of the previous five years. The drop in cereal production was driven mostly by a steep contraction in coarse grains output. Production of millet, the most important staple, has declined by 35 percent. By contrast, 2013 rice production was 15 percent higher than the 2012 output.

Cereal prices have remained mostly stable in 2014, in spite of previous year's decline in production. Stable food prices were supported by ample regional supplies following above-average harvests in Mali's neighbouring countries, including Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. Increased supplies from the new 2014 harvest have put downward pressure on cereal prices at the end of the year.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of recent food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

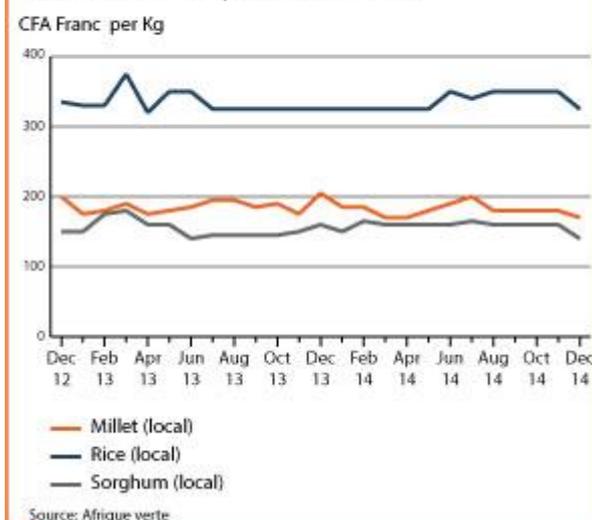
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2,025	2,212	2,300	4
Maize	1,479	1,503	1,600	6
Millet	1,434	1,152	1,600	39
Others	1,252	869	1,279	47
Total	6,190	5,736	6,779	18

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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako



non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. About 270 000 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) and above, according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Reference Date: 04-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production is forecast to increase in 2014 in spite of erratic rains at the beginning of cropping season.
- Cereal prices have remained mostly stable in recent months.
- Humanitarian assistance is still needed despite improved civil security situation

Cereal production is forecast to increase in 2014

Harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops is about to conclude. Most parts of the country witnessed erratic and below-average rains until mid-July that resulted in replanting in some areas. However, precipitation improved significantly since the last decade of July over the main producing areas, thus replenishing water reserves, providing relief to stressed crops and improving crop prospects in most parts of the several countries. Satellite imagery analysis indicated that crops continued to benefit from adequate rains through October. As a result, the National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted an above-average harvest for this year.

Agricultural production hampered by civil strife in recent years

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. These problems have been exacerbated in 2013 by erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season, which caused a reduction in planted area and affected yields.

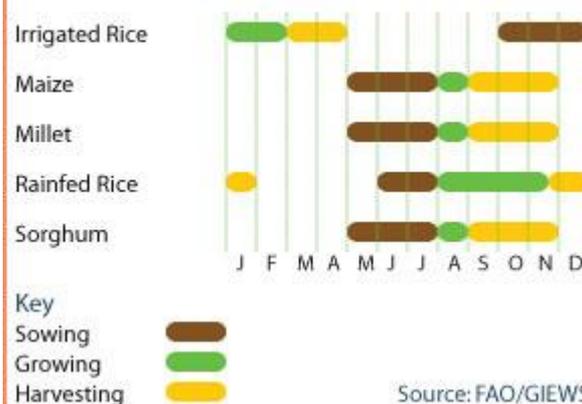
The 2013 aggregate cereal production was officially estimated at some 5.7 million tonnes, about 14 percent lower than the 2012 output but close to the average of the previous five years. The drop in cereal production was driven mostly by a steep contraction in coarse grains output. Production of millet, the most important staple, has declined by 35 percent. By contrast, 2013 rice production was 15 percent higher than the 2012 output.

Cereal prices have remained mostly stable in recent months in spite of last year's decline in production. The stable food prices are supported by ample regional supplies following above-average harvests in Mali's neighbouring countries, including Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of the 2012 food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

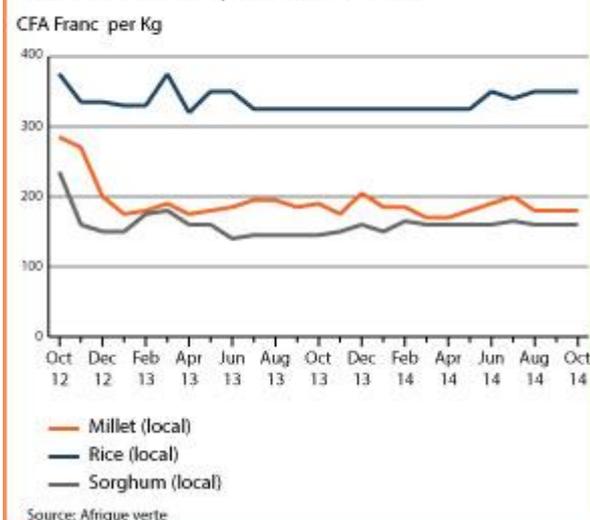
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2,025	2,212	2,300	4
Maize	1,479	1,503	1,600	6
Millet	1,434	1,152	1,600	39
Others	1,252	869	1,279	47
Total	6,190	5,736	6,779	18

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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako



enable them to have better access to food. Over 1.9 million people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) and above during the lean season from June-August, according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in March.

The United Nations and humanitarian partners launched a three-year Regional Strategic Response Plan (RSRP) earlier this year to provide aid to millions of people in nine countries of the Sahel belt. The country plan for Mali is seeking to mobilize USD 569 million to provide food and non-food assistance to over 4 million people located mostly in the northern part of the country.

Reference Date: 02-June-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production affected in 2013 by irregular rains and civil insecurity in the northern part of the country
- Humanitarian assistance is still needed despite the improved civil security situation
- Over 1.5 million people are estimated to be in need of food assistance

Seasonably dry conditions prevail in most parts of the country

Although early rains fell in the extreme South in May, allowing land preparation and first plantings to start, dry conditions continue to prevail over most of the country. Farmers are currently preparing their fields in most regions. Planting activities are expected to progressively move northwards with the onset of the rains in June. According to the first 2014 weather forecast carried out by the Agrhymet Centre and ACMAD, the western part of West Africa, including southern Mali, is likely to receive below-average rainfall between July and September this year.

Agricultural production hampered by civil strife

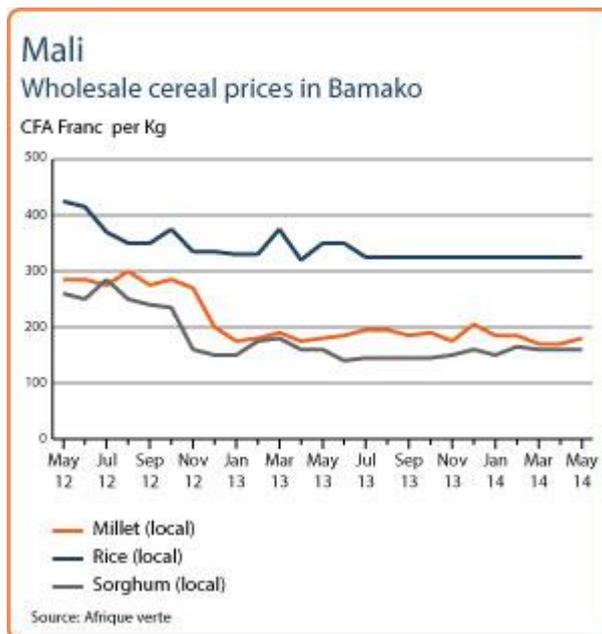
Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. These problems have been exacerbated in 2013 by erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season, which caused a reduction in planted area and affected yields.

The official estimate puts the 2013 aggregate cereal production at some 5.7 million tonnes, about 14 percent lower than the 2012 output but close to the average of the previous five years. The drop in cereal production was driven mostly by a steep contraction in coarse grains output. Production of millet, the most important staple, has declined by 35 percent. By contrast, 2013 rice production was 15 percent higher than the 2012 output.

Cereal prices have remained mostly stable in recent months in spite of last year's decline in production. The stable food prices are supported by ample regional supplies following above-average harvests in Mali's neighbouring countries, including Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina-Faso.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

The lingering effects of the 2012 food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and



enable them to have better access to food. Over 1.5 million people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in March. The number of people in Phase 3 and above is forecast to rise to over 1.9 million during the lean season from June-August.

The United Nations and humanitarian partners launched a three-year Regional Strategic Response Plan (RSRP) earlier this year to provide aid to millions of people in nine countries of the Sahel belt. The country plan for Mali is seeking to mobilize USD 569 million to provide food and non-food assistance to over 4 million people located mostly in the northern part of the country.

GIEWS Country Brief

Mali



Reference Date: 16-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production affected in 2013 by irregular rains and civil insecurity in the northern part of the country.
- Humanitarian assistance is still needed despite the improved civil security situation

Agricultural production hampered by civil strife

Harvesting of millet and sorghum, the major coarse grains produced in the country, was completed in November, while rice harvesting is almost complete.

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent months in parts of the country due to the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. These problems have been exacerbated in 2013 by erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season, which caused a reduction in planted area and affected yields.

A joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission that visited the country recently, estimated 2013 aggregate cereals production at some 5.5 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 18 percent lower than the 2012 output and 8 percent below the average of the previous five years. The drop in cereal production was driven mostly by a steep contraction in coarse grains output. Production of millet, the most important staple, has declined by 30 percent. By contrast, 2013 rice production was similar to previous year's level.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

The recent civil strife has led to a significant population displacement and disruptions in commodity movement and cross-border trade, leading to mixed food price trends. Cereal prices skyrocketed last year in the northern part of the country but remained mostly stable in the South. Rice prices have been following a downward trend for several months, which may affect rice producers' income and food security. Moreover, the lingering effects of the 2012 food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population will still need food and nonfood assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food.

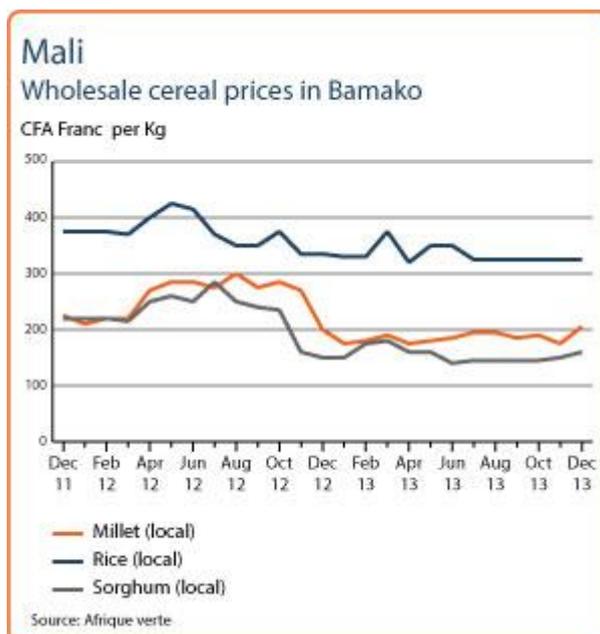
The joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet/WFP Assessment Mission considers it a matter of urgency to improve household purchasing power and access to food by supporting off-season cropping and other income-generating activities. Support also needs to be given to the marketing of rice through local purchases, where possible, and the replenishment of national food security stocks.



Mali Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	1 908	1 915	1 984	4
Millet	1 452	1 772	1 237	-30
Maize	1 318	1 714	1 305	-24
Others	1 273	1 297	939	-28
Total	5 950	6 698	5 465	-18

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



Reference Date: 14-February-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Military interventions led to increased food insecurity in the northern part of the country
- Last year's good cereal harvests pushed prices down in the South

Increased food insecurity in the northern part of the country

The current military operations have aggravated the disruptions to food commodity flows to northern regions leading to increasingly tight market supplies, diminishing food stocks, and dwindling cash resources. For example, supplies coming from Algeria to Kidal and Gao have fallen by 50 percent following the closure of the border with Algeria, according to a recent assessment conducted by WFP. Most salesmen have reportedly left the Kidal area increasing the risk of serious food shortages in that region, according to another rapid evaluation.

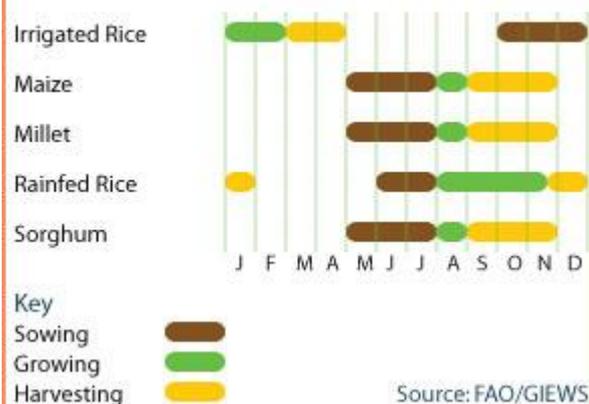
The conflict also dramatically altered the overall security situation, resulting in large population displacements. As of late January 2013, 15 208 new Malian refugees had arrived in Burkina Faso (5 002), Mauritania (8 468) and Niger (1 738). Over 200 000 Malian refugees were already residing in these countries as of late December 2012. There was also massive displacement of herders and livestock to neighboring countries.

A good cereal harvest gathered last year following improved weather

Last year, adequate rainfall during the main cropping season has resulted in a favourable cereal harvest. Government services estimated the 2012 aggregate cereals production at over 6.2 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 9 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 16 percent above the average of the past five years.

Reflecting the good 2012 cereal crops markets are generally well supplied in the southern parts of the country and cereal prices have declined significantly. For example, millet prices in markets in Bamako continued their downward movement through January 2013 and they were 17 and 32 percent, respectively, lower than in January 2013.

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

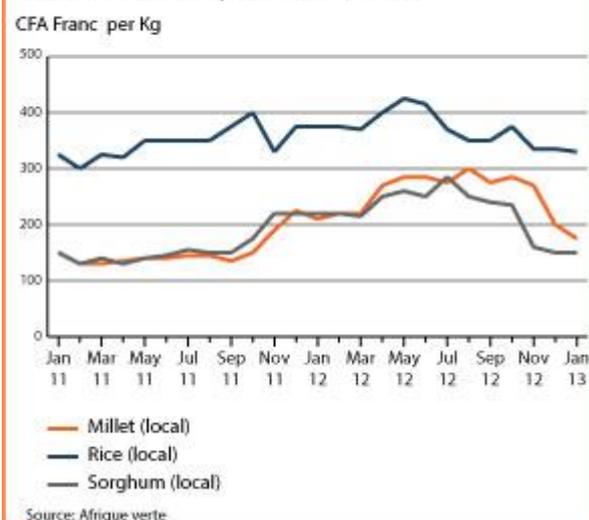
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	1,741	1,742	2,364	36
Millet	1,332	1,462	1,571	7
Sorghum	1,149	1,191	1,117	-6
Others	1,168	1,383	1,233	-11
Total	5,390	5,778	6,285	9

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

Mali

Wholesale cereal prices in Bamako



Reference Date: 26-July-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 cereal crops remain uncertain, in spite of good rains at the beginning of the growing season
- Coarse grains prices at high levels
- Civil strife and high food prices are having a serious impact on food security
- Assistance continues to be needed for large segments of the population

Adequate rains so far have facilitated plantings, but concern remains over Desert Locust threat and insecurity.

Precipitation has been generally widespread since the beginning of the growing season in June and cumulative rainfall as of early July was above average in most meteorological stations. Sowing of millet and sorghum is nearly complete and first plantings of millet are tillering/leafing. Planting of rice in seedbeds is underway in the irrigated areas along the Niger river. Pastures are improving, notably in the south.

In spite of the favourable rainfall conditions, crop prospects remain uncertain due to the possible Desert Locust threats to crops and pasture as well as the impact of insecurity and large scale population displacement. Immature groups of locusts and swarms which formed along the Algerian-Libyan border in May moved south and invaded northern Niger and Mali from late May to mid-June. In northern Mali, there were reports of locusts, including immature and mature swarms and adult groups near Aguelhoc, in Timetrine, and in wadis along the western side of the Adrar des Iforas. However, monitoring and intervention activities are hampered by conflict and insecurity, ground teams being unable to access potentially infested areas in the North. Moreover, insecurity and population displacements are likely to affect access to inputs and planted areas in large parts of the country.

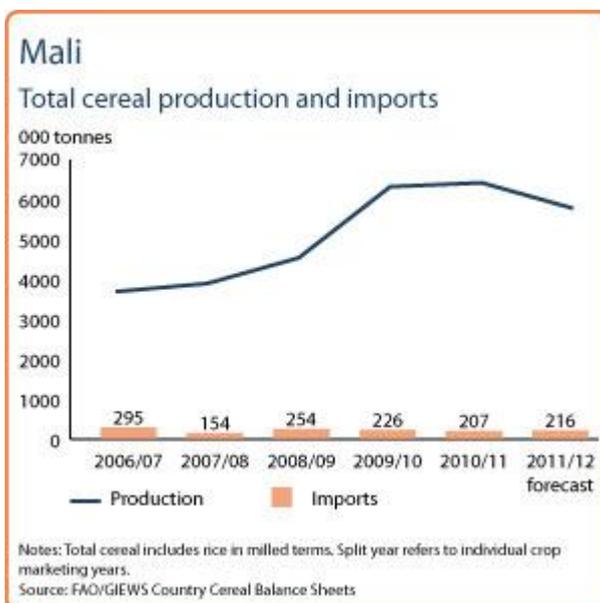
A reduced crop gathered in 2011

Last year, growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country. Irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in May/June delayed plantings and were followed by erratic precipitation in July and August, and an early cessation of rainfall in September. In addition, insect and rodent infestations caused localized damages to crops. The most affected areas are Kayes, Nioro, Yélimané, Diema in the Kayes region; Kolokani and Nara in the Koulikoro region; Niono, Macina and Tominian in the Ségou region as well as parts of Gao, Mopti, Kidal and Tombouctou regions.

Following the release of the final 2011 cereal production figures, aggregate cereal production in 2011 is put at 5.8 million tonnes, 10 percent less than the previous year's record harvest but 16 percent above the average for the previous five years.

Cereal prices remain at very high levels

The impact of the drop in the 2011 cereal production has been

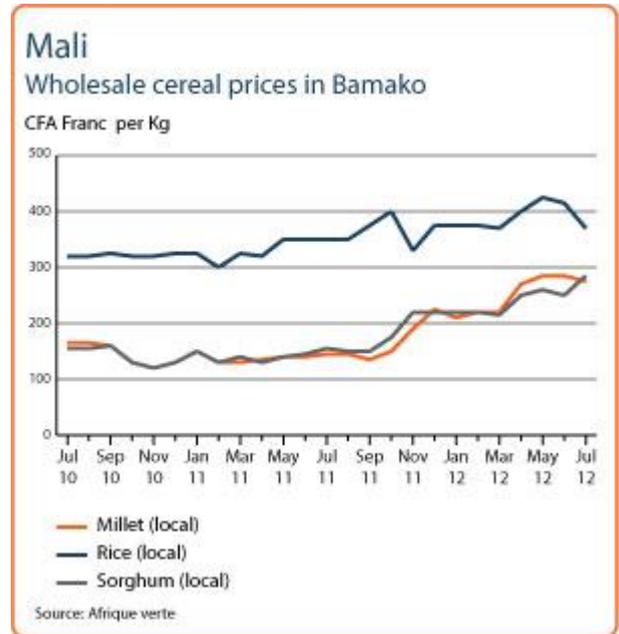


exacerbated by civil strife and insecurity which led to serious disruptions in commodity movements and cross-border trade flows. As a result, prices of locally produced cereals have increased steeply across the country. In Bamako in early July, millet prices were 90 percent higher than the level in the same month last year. Sorghum prices increased by 84 percent over the same period. By contrast, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Civil strife and high food price led to increased food insecurity

The escalation of armed conflict in the northern part of the country in early April 2012 has dramatically altered the overall security situation, resulting in large population displacements. According to the UNHCR, as of mid-July, over 166 000 people have been internally displaced, while an additional 232 000 people have been forced to flee to neighbouring Mauritania (about 91 000), Burkina Faso (about 89 000) and Niger (about 49 000).

The drop in production, combined with high food prices and conflict has led to increasing food insecurity and malnutrition. About 3 million people have been classified “at risk” of food insecurity by the country’s early warning system (SAP, Système d’Alerte Précoce) as of early February 2012. A Cadre Harmonisé analysis (IPC-type analysis) conducted in early June has classified several areas of the country in phase 3 (critical food insecurity) while part of Northern Mali was classified as phase 4 (extreme food insecurity). Emergency humanitarian interventions need to continue to prevent further deterioration of the food security situation.



Reference Date: 20-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production is estimated to decline by 10 percent in 2011
- Coarse grains prices at high levels
- Heavy fighting in the North is having a serious impact on food security
- Assistance is needed for large segments of the population

A reduced crop gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops is almost complete. Growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in May/June which delayed plantings, subsequent erratic precipitation in July and August, and an early cessation of rainfall in September. In addition, insect and rodent infestations caused localized damage to crops. The most affected areas are Kayes, Niolo, Yélimané, Diema in the Kayes region; Kolokani and Nara in the Koulikoro region; Niono, Macina and Tominian in the Ségou region as well as parts of Gao, Mopti, Kidal and Tombouctou regions.

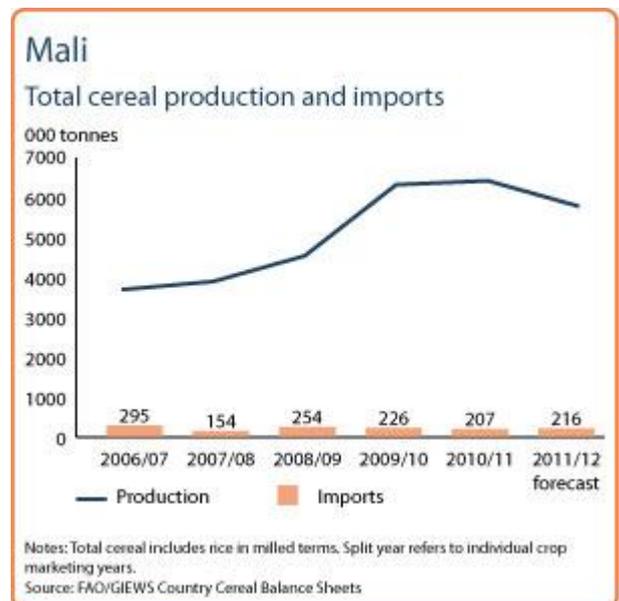
Following release of the final 2011 cereal production figures, 2011 aggregate cereal production was estimated at 5.8 million tonnes, 10 percent less than the previous year's record harvest but 16 percent above the average for the previous five years.

Cereal prices firm at high levels

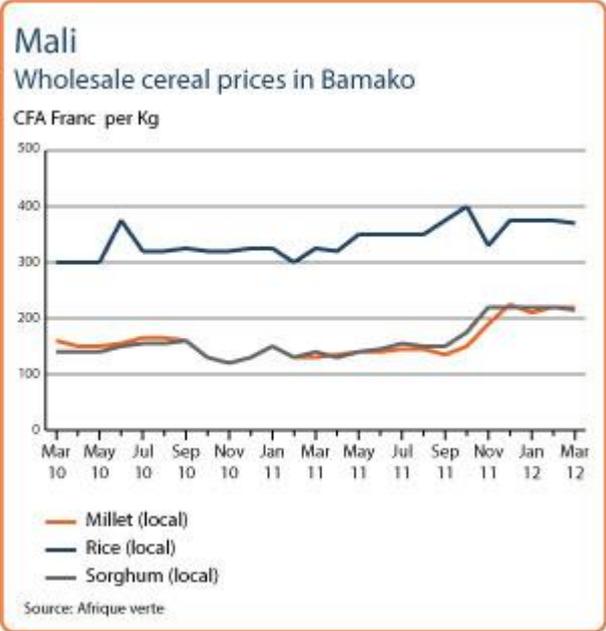
Prices of locally produced cereals, which recorded sharp unseasonal increases from September to December 2011 reaching record levels in some areas, remained relatively stable at high levels in recent months. Sorghum prices in Bamako in March 2012 were 54 percent higher than in March 2011, while millet prices increased by about 69 percent over the same period. Similarly, prices of local rice in March were 14 percent higher than in the same month last year in Bamako and 31 percent above the levels of March 2011 in the Ségou market, located in the main rice producing area.

Food insecurity exacerbated by heavy fighting in the North

About 104 communes out of 703, with a population of about 1.7 million people, have been classified "at risk" of food insecurity by the country's early warning system (SAP, Système d'Alerte Précoce) as of early November. Subsequently, the figure has been revised upward to 111 communes and more than 1.8 million people during February. If the upward trend in food price continues, several parts of the country may experience acute food insecurity in the following months. Moreover, heavy fighting between Tuareg rebels and Malian forces which started in mid-January in the northern regions of Gao, Kidal and Tombouctou, has caused, as of mid-March, the displacement of more than 93 000 people inside the country and about 100 000 individuals across Mali's borders with Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger, depriving them of their livelihoods and greatly exacerbating the food insecurity they were already facing. SAP recommended the adoption of specific measures to tackle the food insecurity situation: among them, targeted free



distributions of cereals (about 50 000 tonnes), subsidized sales of cereals (about 84 000 tonnes sold at 150 CFA per kg), seeds and forage, food for work and cash for work activities, school canteens. Based on the recommendations from SAP, the Government, through the Food Security Commission (CSA, Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire), recently started both the free distribution and the subsidized sales of cereals. Additionally, the Government introduced a VAT exemption and the lift of customs duties on imports for maize and rice from 1 March to 31 May to improve cereal availability, as long as a price ceiling for imported rice (330 CFA per kg for wholesalers and 350 CFA per kg for retailers) to curb food price inflation.



Reference Date: 23-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production is estimated to decline by 20 percent in 2011.
- Coarse grains prices increased steeply, reflecting the reduced harvests.
- Assistance is needed for large segments of the population

A reduced crop gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops is almost complete. Growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in May/June which delayed plantings, and subsequent erratic precipitation in July and August; and an early cessation of rainfall in September. The most affected areas are Kayes, Nioro, Yélimané, Diema in the Kayes region; Kolokani and Nara in the Koulikoro region; Niono, Macina and Tominian in the Ségou region as well as parts of Gao, Mopti, Kidal and Tombouctou regions.

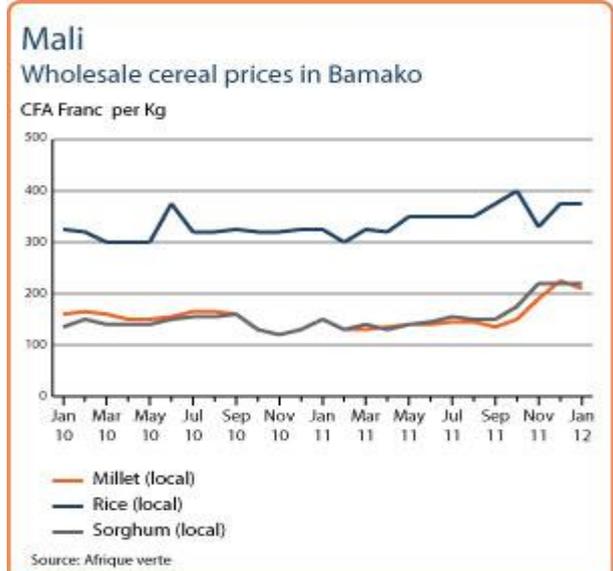
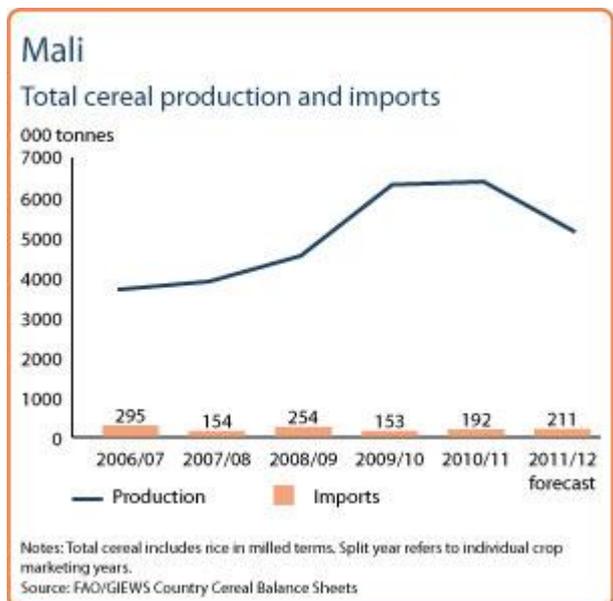
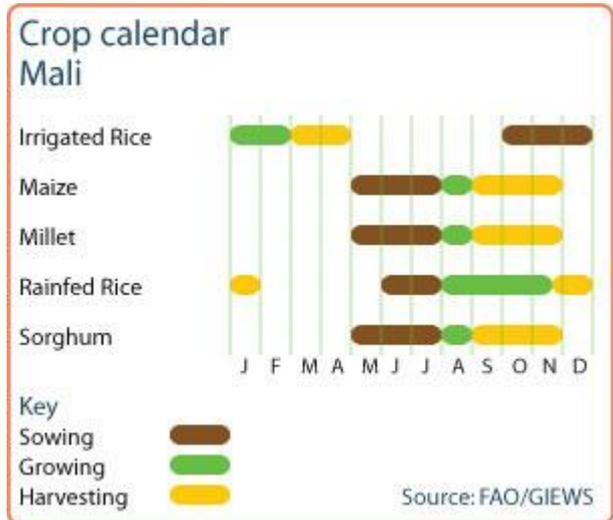
A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP Crop Assessment Mission which visited the country recently estimated 2011 aggregate cereal production at some 5.1 million tonnes, 20 percent less than previous year's record harvest but slightly above the average for the previous five years. Compared to 2010, paddy production is estimated to decrease by 34 percent while coarse grains production is estimated to drop by 11 percent.

Cereal prices on the increase

Reflecting these reduced harvests, prices of locally produced cereals, have increased steeply in recent months in most markets despite the ongoing 2011/12 crop harvests, reaching record levels in some areas. For instance, in spite of a slight decline observed over the past few weeks, sorghum prices in Bamako in January 2011 were 47 percent higher than in January 2010, while millet prices increased by 40 percent. Similarly, prices of local rice, despite having fallen in January in most markets, remain 25 percent higher than in the same month last year. Coarse grains prices are likely to stay high, given that production has decreased and supply will be limited in the whole western Sahel region during marketing year 2011/12.

Food and agricultural assistance is needed

Although livestock prices have remained relatively stable so far, several parts of the country may experience acute food insecurity if the upward trend in food price continues. About 104 communes out of 703 have been classified "at risk" of food insecurity by the country's early warning system (SAP) as of early November. Specific measures, such as, sales at subsidised prices, targeted distribution, distribution of farm inputs, children's access to therapeutic and feeding centres, etc. should be considered as recommended by SAP.



Reference Date: 05-December-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production is estimated to decline by 20 percent in 2011.
- Coarse grains prices increased steeply, reflecting the reduced harvests.
- Assistance is needed for large segments of the population

A reduced crop expected in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops is almost complete. Growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in May/June which delayed plantings, and subsequent erratic precipitation in July and August; and an early cessation of rainfall in September. The most affected areas are Kayes, Nioro, Yélimané, Diema in the Kayes region; Kolokani and Nara in the Koulikoro region; Niono, Macina and Tominian in the Ségou region as well as parts of Gao, Mopti, Kidal and Tombouctou regions.

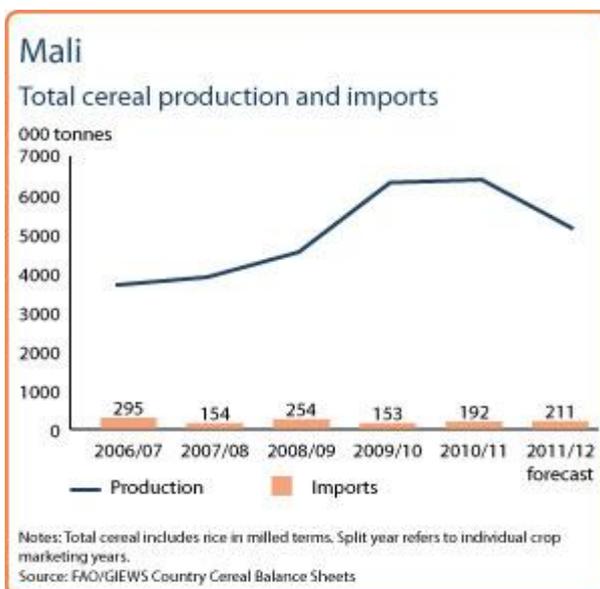
A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP Crop Assessment Mission which visited the country recently estimated 2011 aggregate cereal production at some 5.1 million tonnes, 20 percent less than last year's record harvest but slightly above the average for the previous five years. Compared to last year, paddy production is estimated to decrease by 34 percent while sorghum production is estimated to drop by 37 percent.

Cereal prices on the increase

Reflecting these reduced harvests, prices of locally produced cereals, have increased in recent months in most markets despite the ongoing 2011 crop harvests. For instance, sorghum prices in Bamako in November 2011 were 83 percent higher than in November 2010, while millet prices increased by 58 percent. Coarse grains prices are likely to stay high, given that production has decreased and supply will be limited in the whole western Sahel region during marketing year 2011/12. Although rice price has been mostly stable in recent months, price of imported rice in November 2011 was 13 percent higher than in November 2010.

Food and agricultural assistance is needed

Although livestock prices have remained relatively stable so far, several parts of the country may experience acute food insecurity if the upward trend in food price continues. About 104 communes out of 703 have been classified "at risk" of food insecurity by the country's early warning system (SAP) as of early November. Specific measures, such as, sales at subsidised prices, targeted distribution, distribution of farm inputs, children's access to therapeutic and feeding centres, etc. should be considered as recommended by SAP.



Reference Date: 12-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for the 2011 cereal crop remain uncertain
- Coarse grains prices remain relatively low

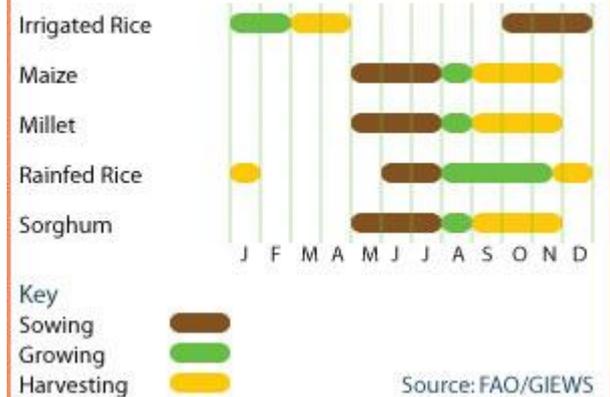
Harvest prospects remain uncertain in spite of improved growing conditions in July and August

Following irregular and below average rains in May and June, precipitation improved in July and remained widespread and regular in most areas until early September. However, in spite of increased precipitation in the past few weeks, important rainfall deficits persist in the western parts of the country. Cumulative rainfall as of late August was below last year's level in most meteorological stations. Stages of development of crops vary significantly, due to the late and erratic start of the rainy season. For coarse grains, stages of development vary from tillering to flowering, while transplanting of irrigated rice is still underway. In the areas affected by earlier dry conditions, yield potential will be reduced and late plantings and replanting will need rains until October to cover their entire growing cycle.

Coarse grain prices remain relatively low following last year's good crop

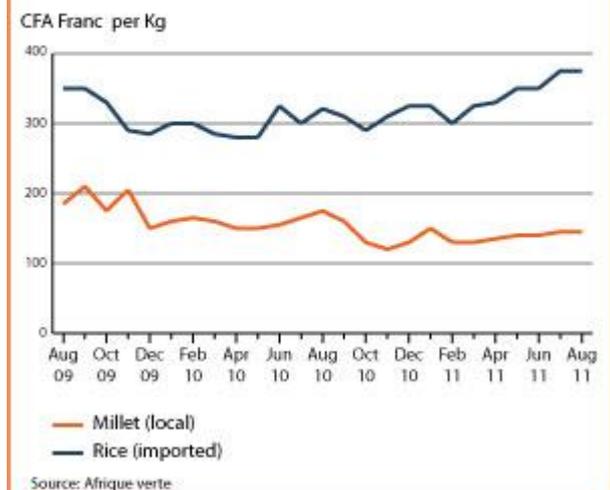
The 2010 bumper crop has resulted in a sharp decline in prices of both millet and sorghum since September 2010. Although prices increased slightly at the beginning of the year following seasonal patterns, they remained significantly below their levels of the previous year. For example, millet prices in Bamako in August 2011 were about 17 percent below their level of a year earlier. However, price of imported rice increased by 17 percent over the same period. The rise in domestic rice prices is driven by higher international prices.

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

Selected wholesale prices of cereals in Bamako



Reference Date: 26-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 cropping season is expected to start with the onset of rains, normally in June
- A record crop was gathered in 2010 and pasture regeneration was satisfactory countrywide
- Coarse grains prices remain relatively low

Seasonably dry conditions prevail

The seasonal rains have not yet started and farmers are currently preparing their fields. Planting of the 2011 cereal crops is scheduled to start in June with the onset of the rains.

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

Harvesting of the millet and sorghum crops, the major grains produced in the country, was completed in November last year, while rice harvesting was completed in April 2011. Favourable weather conditions and continued government support towards the agriculture sector resulted in a favourable cereal harvest. The official estimate puts the 2010 aggregate cereal production at about 6.4 million tonnes, similar to the 2009 bumper crop and 46 percent above average.

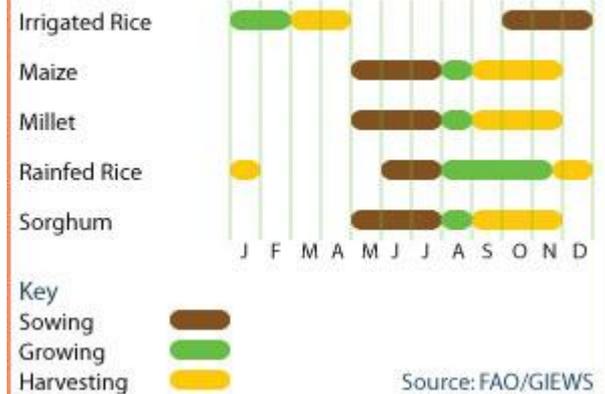
With the exception of a few localised areas, the rangelands have recovered well, including in northern pastoral areas where severe pasture deficit led to high livestock mortality last year.

The high level of cereals production, coupled with favourable harvests in the neighbouring countries, particularly in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Guinea, lead to a generally satisfactory food availability so far in the 2010/11 marketing year (November/October).

Coarse grains prices remain relatively low

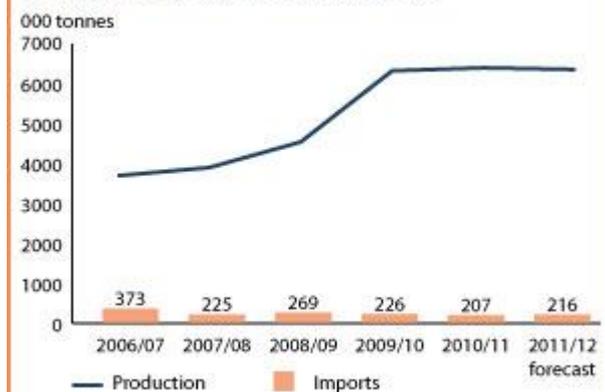
The 2010 bumper crop has resulted in a sharp decline in prices of both millet and sorghum since September 2010. Although prices increased from March following seasonal patterns, they remained significantly below their levels of the previous year. For example, millet prices in Bamako in May 2011 were about 7 percent below their level of a year earlier. However, price of imported rice increased by 11 percent over the same period. This may be partly due to the impact of the political crisis in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire which has adversely affected trade flows between both countries.

Crop calendar Mali



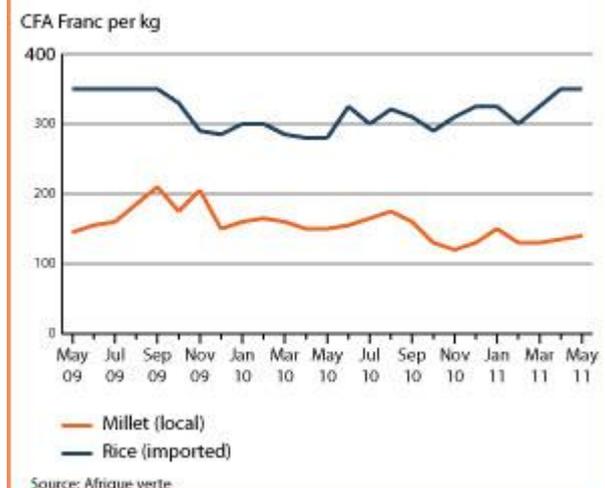
Mali

Total cereal production and imports



Mali

Selected wholesale prices of cereals in Bamako



Reference Date: 1-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

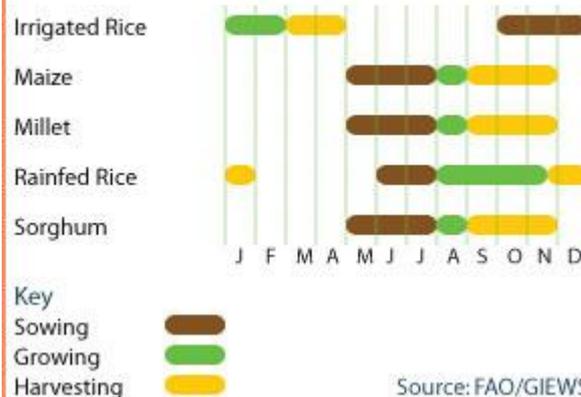
- A much improved and satisfactory food supply situation is expected during the 2010/2011 marketing year
- Pastures and livestock conditions have improved countrywide

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

Harvesting of millet and sorghum, the major grains produced in the country, was completed in November, while rice harvesting is almost complete. Favourable weather conditions and continued government support towards the agriculture sector resulted in a favourable cereal harvest in 2010. With the exception of a few localised areas, the rangelands have recovered well, including in northern pastoral areas where severe pasture deficit led to high livestock mortality last year.

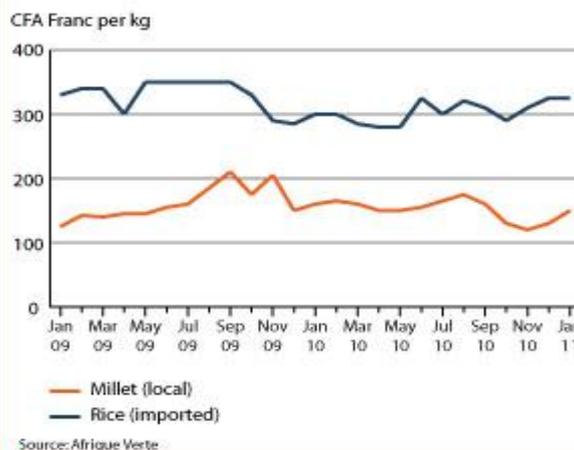
The high level of cereals production, coupled with favourable harvest prospects in the neighbouring countries, particularly in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Guinea, is expected to lead to a much improved and satisfactory food availability during the 2010/2011 marketing year. Coarse grains prices started declining from September, reflecting the arrival of new harvests into the markets. For example, after peaking in July-August, millet prices dropped by over 30 percent in November in Bamako. However, the continuing political crisis in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire is likely to adversely impact trade flows between both countries, which is likely to affect food supply and prices.

Crop calendar Mali



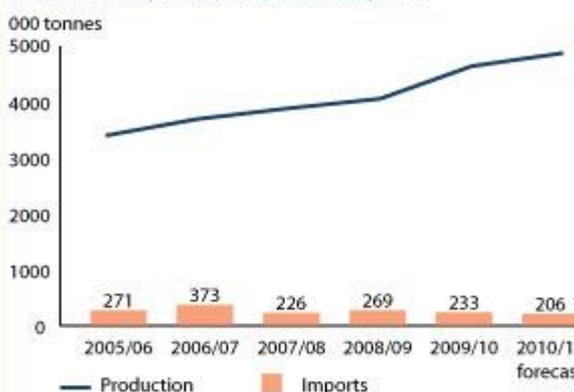
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Selected wholesale prices of cereals in Bamako



Mali

Total cereal production and imports



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

Reference Date: 09-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall harvest prospects are favourable in spite of localised flooding
- Pastures and livestock conditions are improving countrywide
- Food security situation remains difficult in pastoral areas

Adequate rains so far have favoured crop and pasture development in most regions

Widespread rainfall in July and August- boosted soil moisture and allowed for a satisfactory development of crops, although heavy rains have damaged infrastructure and crops in a few areas, notably in Tombouctou. The Millet and sorghum crops are generally in the leafing or heading stages and transplanting of irrigated rice is still underway. There are reports of grain-eating birds and grasshoppers in few regions, but damage to crops was limited. Pastures are improving countrywide, improving livestock conditions including in the northern regions of Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal.

Last year, irregular rains with long dry spells in June and July caused serious damage to pastures in northern pastoral areas. Significant livestock deaths were reported in several areas notably in Tombouctou, Gao, Ségou and Kidal regions.

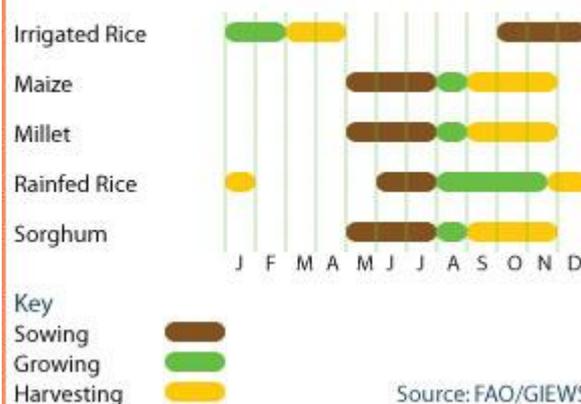
Food access remains difficult because of high prices

Food prices have generally been following an upward trend since 2007. For instance, millet prices in Bamako, in spite of significant decline from their peak in August-September 2008, were still nearly 40 percent higher in August 2010 compared to their levels in August 2007, before the food price crisis. Imported rice prices are 23 percent above the pre-food price crisis levels of 3 years ago, in spite of Government intervention to reduce imports tariffs in 2009.

The food situation requires close monitoring, notably in pastoral areas

The combination of poor rangeland conditions, high livestock mortality, persistently high food prices and low livestock prices, has led to high food insecurity and increased malnutrition in several areas. In the northern regions of Kidal, Gao and Tombouctou. 37 communes were estimated to be at risk of food insecurity in 2010, according to Government sources. In response, several emergency interventions were carried out in these regions including free distribution and sale of cereal at subsidized prices, food for work activities as well as distribution of animal feed, seeds and fertilisers by FAO. However, market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be continuously monitored throughout the lean season in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements.

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

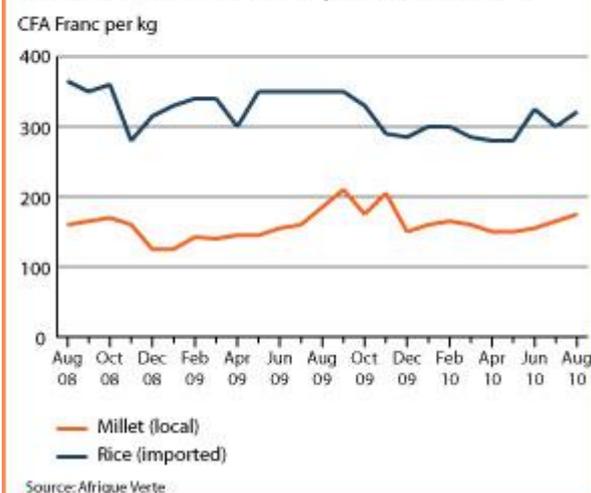
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	1110	1242	1168	-6
Rice (paddy)	1022	1310	1581	21
Sorghum	808	930	978	5
Others	636	575	912	59
Total	3576	4056	4639	14

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

Mali

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Bamako



Reference Date: 16-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Irregular rains affected pastoral areas causing livestock deaths in Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices
- The food and nutritional situation gives cause for serious concern in pastoral areas

Irregular rains affected pasture in 2009;

The 2009 agricultural season was characterised in northern pastoral areas by irregular rains with long dry spells in June and July which caused serious damage to pastures. Significant livestock deaths were reported in several areas notably in Tombouctou, Gao, Ségou and Kidal regions. By contrast, growing conditions were favourable in major cereal producing areas. A joint CILSS/FEWSNet Crop Assessment Mission estimated the 2009 cereal production at a record 4.6 million tonnes, an increase of 14 percent over the previous year's good crop and about 30 percent above the average of the previous five years.

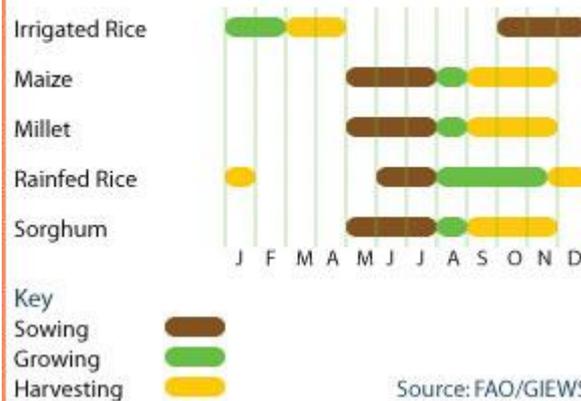
Food access remains difficult because of high prices

Food prices have generally been following an upward trend since 2007. For instance, millet prices in Bamako, in spite of significant decline from their peak in August-September 2009, were still 27 percent higher in April 2010 compared to their levels in April 2008. Rice prices stabilised over the past year after the Government reduced import tariffs from March to May 2009. However, in April 2010 price levels were still 12 percent above the pre-food crisis levels of 2 years ago.

37 communes at risk food insecurity, notably in pastoral areas

Access to food is particularly difficult in pastoral areas of the country, where 37 communes are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity in 2010, according to Government sources. Therefore, market conditions and the plight of vulnerable groups need to be closely monitored in order to provide timely assistance when needed.

Crop calendar Mali



Mali

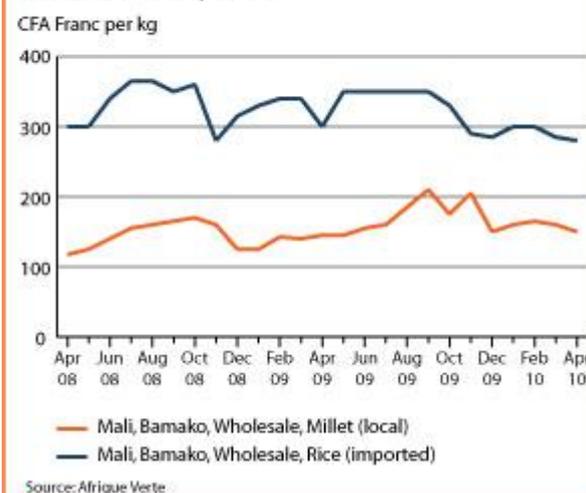
Cereal production

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Millet	1110	1242	1168	-6
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Sorghum	808	930	978	5
Others	636	575	912	59
Total	3576	4056	4639	14

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

Mali

Selected cereal prices



Reference Date: 29-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Irregular rains affected crops.
- Drought caused livestock deaths in Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices

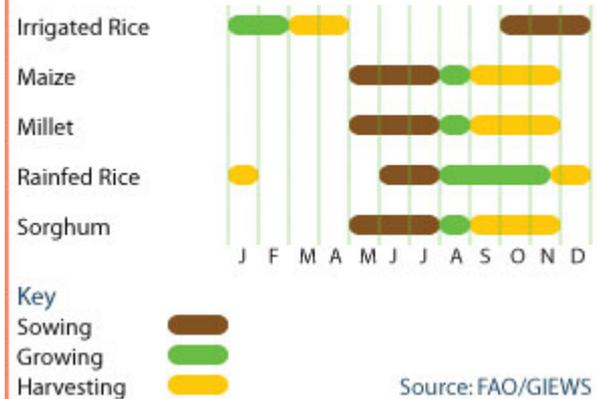
Irregular rains affected crops in 2009; 37 communes at risk food insecurity

Harvesting of coarse grains is complete, while harvesting of rice has just started. The 2008/09 agricultural season was characterised by irregular rains with long dry spells in June and July followed by heavy rains and floods in September. Crops and range lands were damaged and livestock deaths reported in some areas, notably in Tombouctou, Gao, Ségou and Kidal regions. No official harvest estimates are available yet, but 37 communes are forecast to be at risk of food insecurity in these regions in 2010.

Food access remains difficult because of high prices

Despite the good cereals harvest in 2008, food access remained a problem for a substantial section of the population throughout 2009 because of persisting high food prices. In spite of significant decline from their peak of August-September 2009 due to the new harvests, millet prices in Bamako in December 2009 were still 20 percent higher than the levels of December 2008. Rice prices stabilised in recent months after the Government reduced import tariffs in 2009. However, in December price levels were still 10 percent above the pre-food crisis levels of 2 years ago. Therefore, the market conditions and the plight of vulnerable groups should be constantly monitored in order to provide them with whatever assistance may be needed

Crop calendar Mali



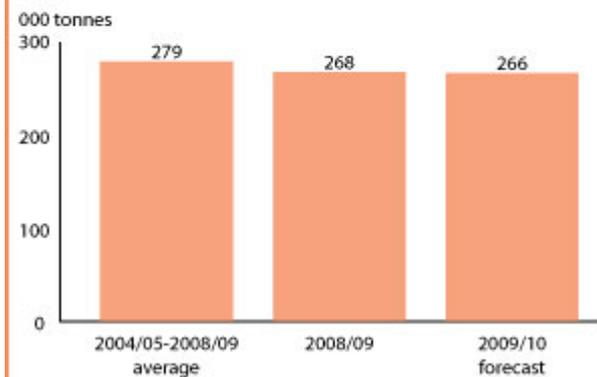
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Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	1110	1242	1200	-3
Rice	1022	1310	1306	0
Sorghum	808	930	950	2
Others	636	575	584	2
Total	3576	4056	4040	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



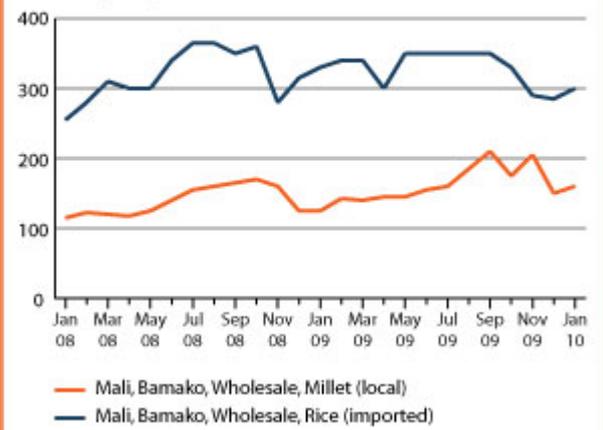
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Mali

Selected cereal prices

CFA Franc per kg



Source: Afrique Verte

Reference Date: 25-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop prospects uncertain following irregular rains at the beginning of the season
- Drought caused livestock deaths in Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices

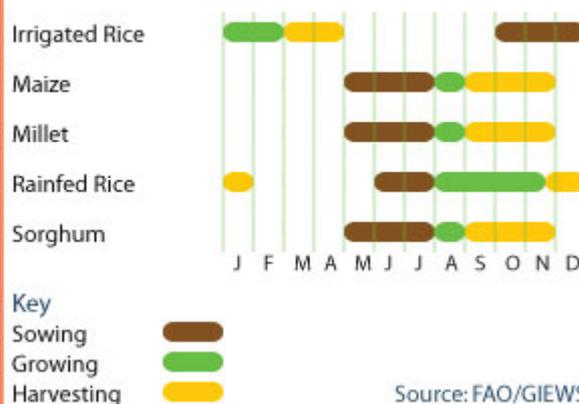
Growing conditions improved in July following the irregular rainfall in May and June, but the shortfall remains in the pastoral areas in the North

Following the irregular rains in May and June, July saw an improvement in rainfall in most regions, which reduced the water shortages and improved harvest prospects, except in the Tombouctou, Gao, Ségou and Kidal regions, where at the end of August the rainfall was still below average. In these regions, crops and range lands had seriously deteriorated and livestock deaths were reported. As a consequence of the irregular start-up of the rainy season development stages vary from one region to another, ranging from the tillage of rice and the tillage-elongation of cereals and the flowering-capsulation of cotton. Because of the late arrival of the rains and the initial drought, it will have to continue raining until the end of October if the crops are to reach full maturity.

Food access remains difficult because of high prices

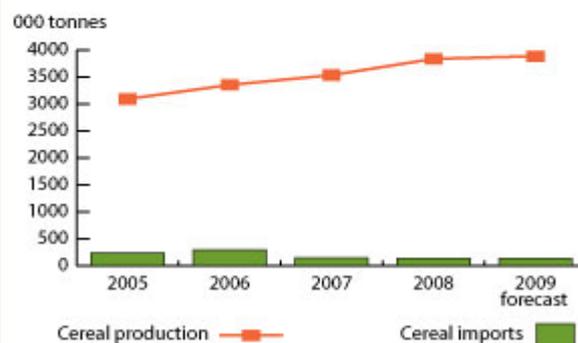
Despite the good cereals harvest in 2008, food access remains a problem for a substantial section of the population because of persisting high food prices. For example, after the lower prices recorded during the harvest season, millet prices began rising again in March this year and were close to peaking in July around the levels of September-October 2008, namely, 36 percent above July 2007. The situation is even worse for rice, whose prices are dependent on world market prices. In Mali, the price of rice has continued to rise, and the price hike over two years at Bamako was 42 percent in July 2009. The market conditions and the plight of vulnerable groups should be constantly monitored in order to provide them with whatever assistance may be needed.

Crop calendar Mali



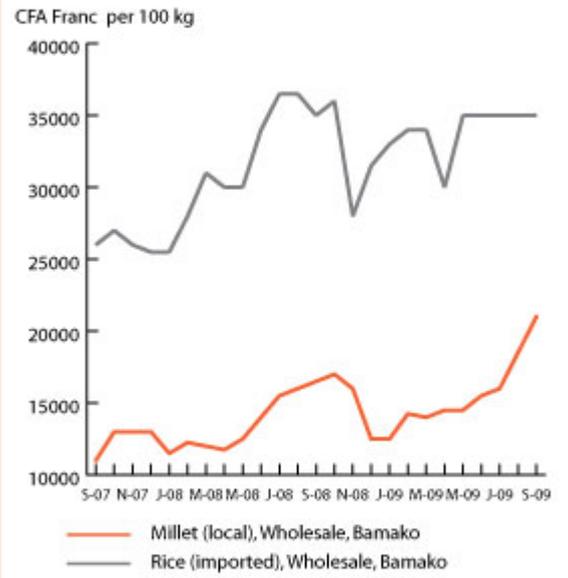
Cereal production and imports Mali

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	1110	1242	1200	-3.4%
Sorghum	808	931	950	2%
Rice (milled)	735	1093	1156	5.8%
Other	628	574	584	1.7%
Total Cereals	3289	3840	3890	1.3%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Mali Selected cereal food prices



Source: Afrique Verte