



GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 15-December-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production in 2021 continues to be affected by conflicts and COVID-19 restrictive measures
- Prices of locally produced maize and imported rice at high levels
- Over 2.4 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in late 2021

Crop production in 2021 continues to be affected by conflicts and COVID-19 restrictive measures

In the unimodal rainfall northern areas, harvesting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops was completed in November. In Far North Region, localized dry weather conditions at the beginning of the season in May and June delayed sowing activities, resulting in a reduction of the area planted. In central and southern areas, the 2021 secondary season maize crop was planted in October under overall favourable weather conditions and will be harvested in January 2022. According to satellite-based imagery, as of mid-November, vegetation conditions were near the average levels in these areas (ASI image).

Persistent insecurity in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions, coupled with restrictive measures implemented across the country to control the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to affect agricultural activities and limiting farmers' access to inputs and fields, with a negative impact on 2021 crop production.

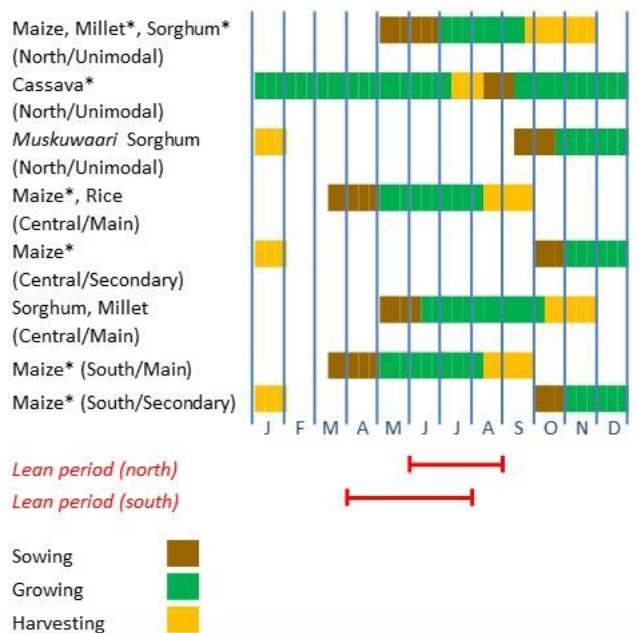
Prices of locally produced maize and imported rice at high levels

Prices of locally produced maize increased between May and August 2021, and remained stable or decreased slightly since September. However, in November, prices were slightly above the levels of a year before, mainly due to the reduced domestic production. Similarly, prices of imported rice remained at high levels in recent months due to the impact of constraints related to COVID-19 on the global supply chain, which resulted in low imports.

Cameroon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



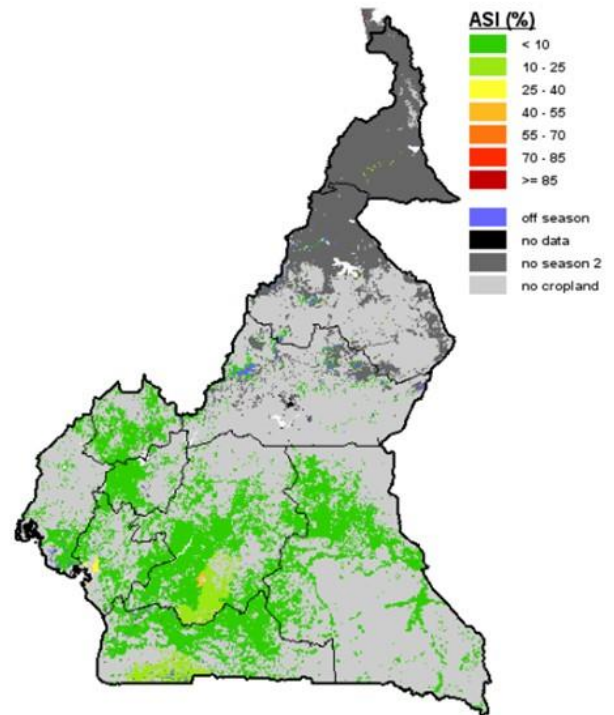
Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Over 2.4 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in late 2021

According to the latest *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, conducted in October 2021, about 2.43 million people (9 percent of the total population) were estimated to be severely food insecure (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) between September and December 2021. This mainly results from the impacts of Boko Haram incursions in Far North Region, the socio-political unrest in Northwest and Southwest regions and COVID-19-related economic shocks, which disrupted trade flows and agricultural practices, deteriorated livelihoods and displaced people.

Cameroon - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

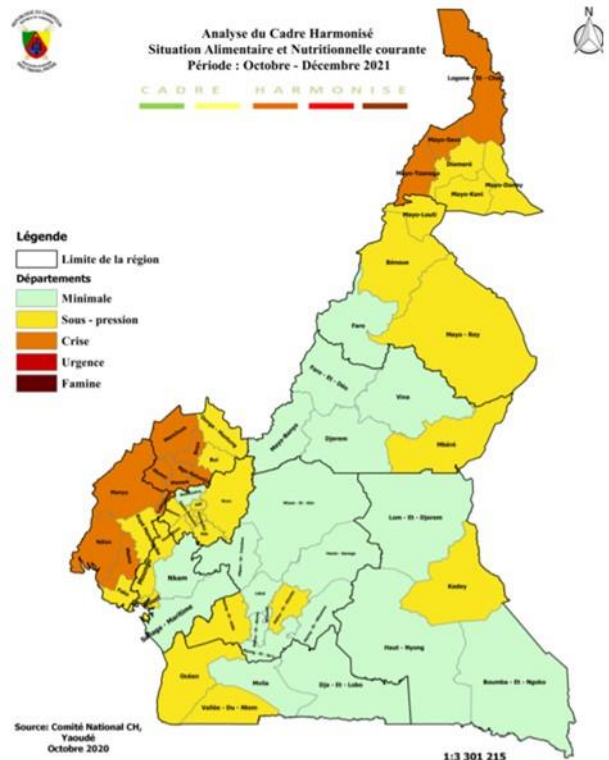
from start of season 2 to dekad 3, November 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Cameroon - Cadre Harmonisé

Food insecurity situation (October – December 2021)



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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 02-July-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Food production in 2021 likely to be affected by conflicts and COVID-19 restrictive measures
- Slow trade activity and strong consumer demand contribute to keeping food prices high
- About 1.9 million people projected to be severely food insecure in June-August 2021

Food production in 2021 likely to be affected by conflicts and COVID-19 restrictive measures

In the uni-modal rainfall northern areas, planting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops is ongoing and harvesting is expected to begin in late September. Latest weather forecasts point to average precipitation amounts between July and September 2021, with likely positive effects on yields. In bi-modal central and southern areas, harvesting of the 2021 early planted main maize crop will begin in mid-August. In these areas, heavy rains are forecast in July and August, increasing the risk of flooding, with consequent possible damage to standing maize crops.

Ongoing conflicts in Northwest and Southwest regions, and the restrictive measures implemented across the country to control the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limiting farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with an overall negative impact on the 2021 crop production.

Slow trade activity and strong consumer demand contribute to keeping food prices high

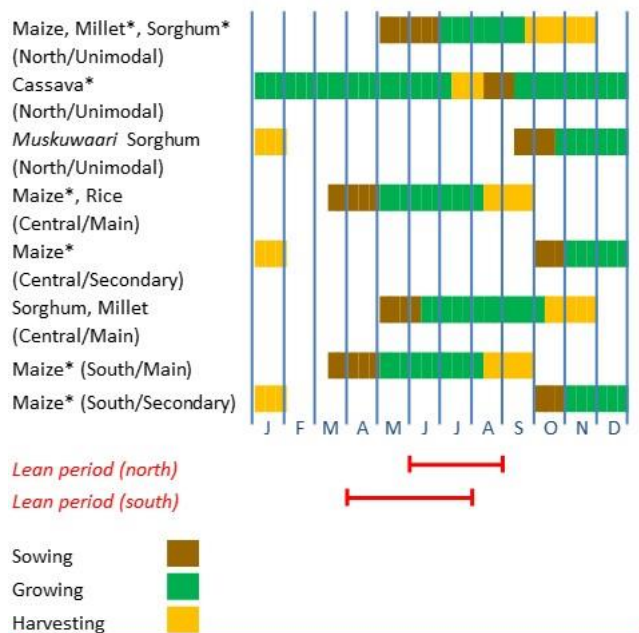
Prices of imported food commodities, such as wheat and rice, increased slightly between March and May 2021, in line with seasonal trends. Prices in May were at high levels as movement restrictions used to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus disrupted transport at regional level and slowed down trade. For instance, rice imports in the first quarter of 2021 were about 30 percent lower than at the same period in 2020, when COVID-19 preventive measures were not yet in place.

In the northern regions, prices of locally produced sorghum and onions, increased in line with seasonal trends in March-May 2021, reaching slightly above-average levels, due to strong demand from Nigeria and the Central African Republic,

Cameroon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

after the reopening of the borders restored formal and informal trade flows.

In the Northwest and Southwest regions, staple food prices also seasonally increased to above-average levels due to low market supplies and strong consumer demand following the reduced harvests. In addition, due to the high level of prices for imported rice, increased household demand for locally produced cassava, plantain and maize provided further upward pressure on local prices, especially in urban areas as COVID-19 containment measures increased transportation costs.

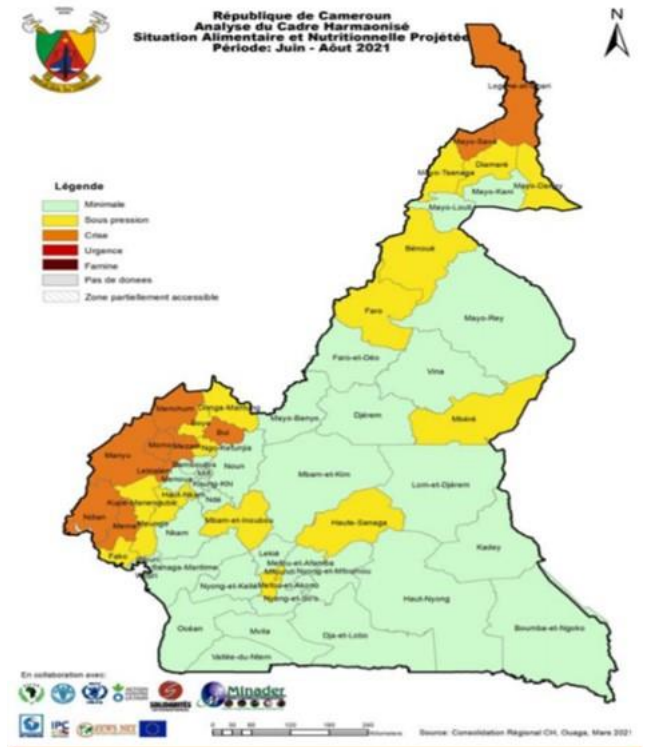
About 1.9 million people projected to be severely food insecure in June-August 2021

According to the March 2021 *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, about 1.9 million people (7 percent of the total population) were projected to be severely food insecure (CH Phase 3: “Crisis” or above) in the June-August 2021 period. This mainly results from the impacts of Boko Haram incursions in the Far North Region, the socio-political unrest in the Northwest and Southwest regions and COVID-19 related economic shocks, which disrupted trade flows and agricultural practices, deteriorated livelihoods and displaced people. About 42 percent of the severely food insecure people are located in Northwest and Southwest regions.

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Cameroon - Cadre Harmonisé

Food Insecurity situation (June-August 2021 projection)





GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 09-December-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2020 forecast at below-average levels
- Prices of staple food higher than year before
- Nearly 5 million people estimated severely food insecure in second semester of 2020

Cereal production in 2020 forecast at below-average levels

In the uni-modal rainfall northern areas, harvesting of the 2020 millet and sorghum crops was completed in November and the output is estimated at below-average levels. This is mostly due to persisting civil insecurity, which continues to affect the livelihoods and agricultural practices, and excessive cumulative precipitation amounts between August and October 2020 which triggered floods and damaged standing crops.

In central and southern areas, the 2020 secondary season maize crops, planted in October, will be harvested in January 2021 and, based on recent remote sensing imagery, crop conditions are overall favourable (see ASI map). In Northwest and Southwest regions, a reduced crop production is expected for the fourth consecutive year due to insecurity and displacements that continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to fields.

The 2020 total cereal production is forecast slightly below the average of the last five years as a result of the impacts of conflicts, floods and restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic which hampered farmers' access to crop growing areas and agricultural inputs across the country.

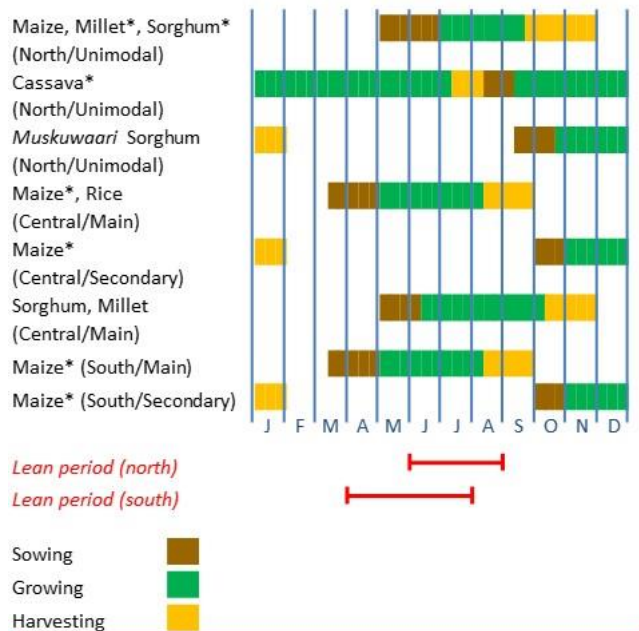
Prices of staple food higher than year before

In urban areas, prices of staple food in the second semester of 2020 have been higher than the previous year due to low market supplies amid a slowdown in domestic trade. In addition, the ongoing conflicts and the closure of borders to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus disrupted international trade flows, causing a drop in imports of products such as rice and vegetable oil, resulting in increases of domestic prices. Prices of locally produced food, such as maize and sorghum, also increased. Prices of maize increased between May and October 2020, reaching levels well above the seasonal values in most urban centres mainly due to strong consumer demand. Prices of

Cameroon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

sorghum increased between May and August, and despite declining in the following two months, in October, prices were still well above their levels a year earlier, amid a reduced domestic output obtained in 2020.

Nearly 5 million people estimated severely food insecure in second semester of 2020

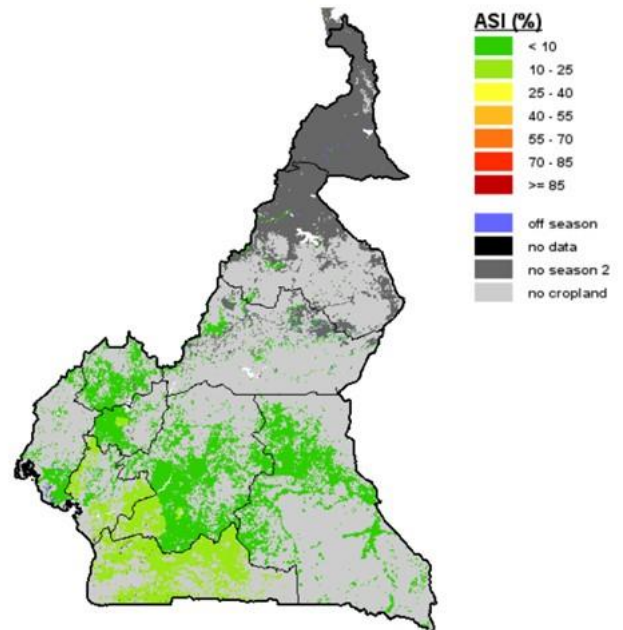
According to an analysis conducted by FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, about [4.9 million people](#) were estimated to be in severe acute food insecurity in the second semester of 2020, well above the previous year's level as a result of the restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. These slowed down trade flows and triggered price increases, thus limiting access to food for the most vulnerable households.

About 1.5 million food insecure people are located in Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, where fighting is still ongoing between anti-Government and pro-independence armed groups. The security situation remains precarious also in Far North Region, where incursions of Boko Haram significantly increased in 2020 compared to 2019 and triggered massive population displacements. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 322 000 people were estimated to be internally displaced in Far North Region in October 2020, almost 20 percent more than a year earlier.

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Cameroon - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 2 to dekad 2, November 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



GLEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 16-July-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Reduced 2020 harvests expected in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity**
- **Prices of staple foods at high levels amid low supplies and high consumer demand**
- **Nearly 5 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in second quarter of 2020**

Reduced 2020 harvests expected in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity

In the northern uni-modal rainfall areas, planting of the 2020 millet and sorghum crops was complete by June and harvesting is expected to begin in late September, while harvesting of the 2020 main maize crops will start in mid-August in central and southern areas. Abundant rains between March and early May, particularly in the central regions, with cumulative amounts reaching levels more than twice the long-term average, raised concerns for standing maize crops due to an excessive soil moisture and possible localized damage.

Insecurity and displacements in the Northwest and Southwest regions are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to fields, resulting in reduced harvests for the fourth consecutive year.

Prices of staple foods at high levels amid low supplies and high consumer demand

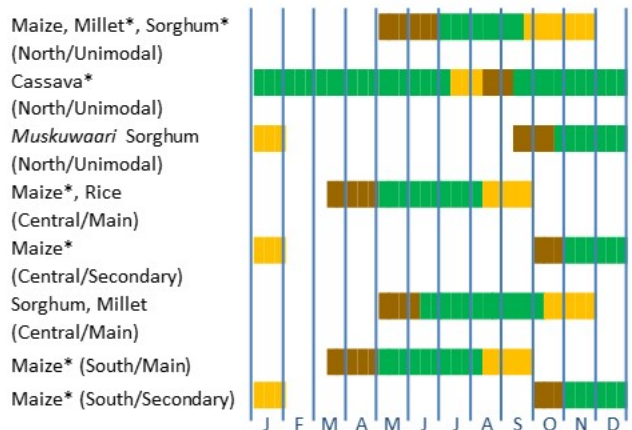
Prices of staple foods, such as rice, beans, potatoes, fish, plantains, cocoyams and meat, generally increased during the second quarter of 2020. Prices increased particularly in April and were above the levels of a year before due to a high consumer demand and low supplies. This reflects trade disruptions due to tight border controls and movement restrictions implemented to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Price hikes were registered particularly in the cities of Yaoundé and Douala.

In the Northwest and Southwest regions, the persisting conflict, coupled with increased demand and low supply, has led to a sharp rise in prices of yellow maize in April 2020, compared to a year before. Price increases, up to 30 percent year on year, were reported in the cities of Bamenda, Nkambe and Kumbo.

Cameroon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



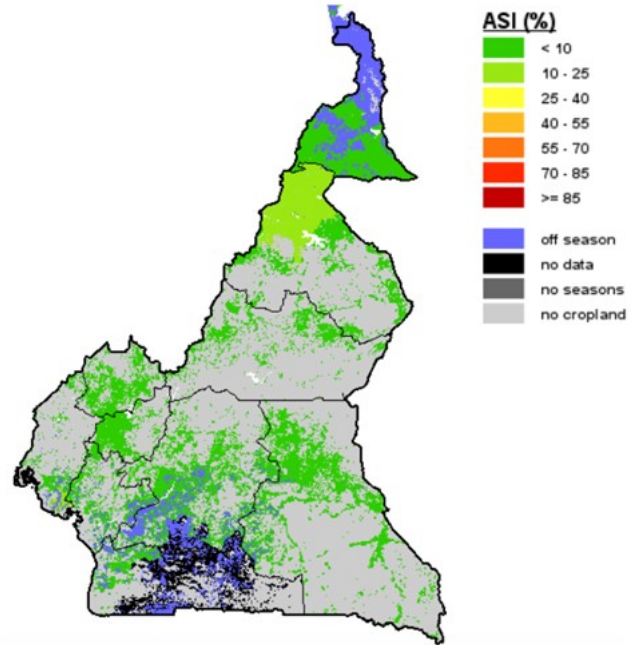
Lean period (north)

Lean period (south)

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, June 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Nearly 5 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in the second quarter of 2020

Conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity as it affects households' livelihoods and access to food, significantly disrupting agricultural activities and triggering the increase in staple food prices, particularly in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, where fighting is still ongoing between the security forces and separatist armed groups. The security situation is also precarious in the Far North Region, where incursions of Boko Haram increased in March and April 2020, and triggered new population displacements. In addition, in March and April 2020, the Government introduced a range of restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, with a negative impact on households' income, slowing down trade flows and triggering price increases, thus limiting access to food for the most vulnerable households.

The latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis (March 2020) projected that [2.1 million people](#) were to face severe acute food insecurity during the June-August 2020 period. However, according to the more recent analysis conducted by FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, about [4.9 million people](#) are currently estimated to be in severe acute food insecurity, more than double the projected figure, as a result of the additional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 03-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over upcoming 2020 cropping season in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity
- Near-average crop production obtained in 2019
- Staple food prices at low levels in Far North Region
- About 2.6 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

Concerns over upcoming 2020 cropping season in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity

Seasonal rains started on time at the beginning of March in southern parts of the country, allowing the beginning of planting activities of the 2020 main season maize crop, to be harvested from July. In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May.

Insecurity and displacements in the Northwest and Southwest regions are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to fields.

Near-average crop production obtained in 2019

In the bi-modal Centre and South regions, harvesting of the 2019 secondary season maize crop was completed in January 2020, while the main season maize harvest was concluded in September 2019. In the uni-modal North and Far North regions, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, harvesting of the 2019 crops finalized last November. Adequate and well-distributed rains during the season, coupled with a slight increase in plantings, resulted in a near-average national cereal output in 2019, estimated at about 3.4 million tonnes.

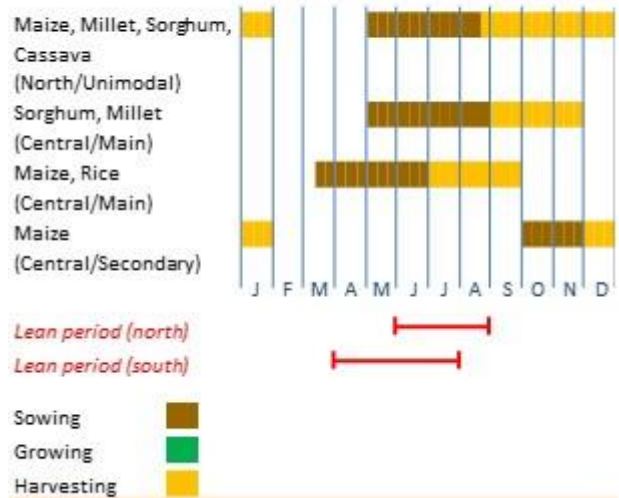
In Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, persisting civil unrest disrupted agricultural practices and hampered farmers' access to land. In these regions, production of crops in 2019 is estimated well below the five-year average level.

In the Far North Region, despite the civil unrest that spread from neighbouring Nigeria since late 2014, the 2019 cereal output is estimated at near-average levels due to overall favourable weather conditions and a slight increase in planted area. However, below-average outputs were obtained in the districts of Zina, Maga, Gobo and Kai Kai, along the Lagone river, where

Cameroon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

excessive cumulative precipitation amounts in September and October 2019 caused flooding with damage to standing crops and harvested grains.

Staple food prices at low levels in Far North Region

In the Far North Region, food prices followed a decreasing trend in the last quarter of 2019 as demand for marketed supplies seasonally declined during the harvest period. In January 2020, prices for maize and sorghum were about 10 percent and 20 percent, respectively, lower than the average levels reached in the same month over the last five years, amid the favourable outputs obtained. By contrast, in Northwest and Southwest regions, between November 2019 and January 2020, prices of maize rose by about 20 percent in urban centres, due to low supply and high demand following reduced harvests.

About 2.6 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

Conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity as it affects households' livelihoods and access to food, significantly disrupting agricultural activities and triggering the increase in staple food prices. In Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, fighting between security forces and separatist armed groups persists since its eruption in October 2016.

The security situation remains precarious also in Far North Region, where incursions of Boko Haram increased between November 2019 and January 2020 resulting in new population displacements. As of end-January, about 680 000 people were estimated to be internally displaced in Northwest and Southwest regions and 297 000 in Far North Region, about 25 percent and 10 percent, respectively, above the number estimated in October 2019.

According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 2.6 million people (11 percent of the population) were estimated to be severely food insecure ("Cadre Harmonisé" Phase 3 or higher) in the first quarter of 2020. About 45 percent of severely food insecure people is located in Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

On 17 March 2020, the Government [announced](#) the immediate adoption of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, including the closure of borders, with the exception of cargo ships and flights bringing food and essential items. Although access to food seems not to be affected by these measures, further restrictions on population movements could hamper access to land and negatively impact 2020 agricultural production.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 03-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over upcoming 2020 cropping season in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity
- Near-average crop production obtained in 2019
- Staple food prices at low levels in Far North Region
- About 2.6 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

Concerns over upcoming 2020 cropping season in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity

Seasonal rains started on time at the beginning of March in southern parts of the country, allowing the beginning of planting activities of the 2020 main season maize crop, to be harvested from July. In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May.

Insecurity and displacements in the Northwest and Southwest regions are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to fields.

Near-average crop production obtained in 2019

In the bi-modal Centre and South regions, harvesting of the 2019 secondary season maize crop was completed in January 2020, while the main season maize harvest was concluded in September 2019. In the uni-modal North and Far North regions, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, harvesting of the 2019 crops finalized last November. Adequate and well-distributed rains during the season, coupled with a slight increase in plantings, resulted in a near-average national cereal output in 2019, estimated at about 3.4 million tonnes.

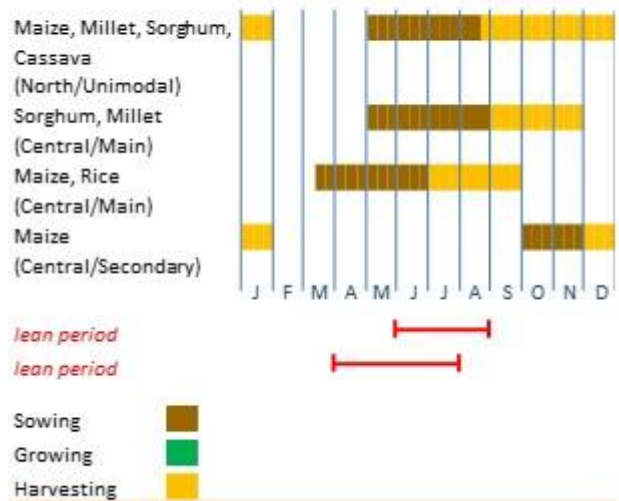
In Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, persisting civil unrest disrupted agricultural practices and hampered farmers' access to land. In these regions, production of crops in 2019 is estimated well below the five-year average level.

In the Far North Region, despite the civil unrest that spread from neighbouring Nigeria since late 2014, the 2019 cereal output is estimated at near-average levels due to overall favourable weather conditions and a slight increase in planted area. However, below-average outputs were obtained in the districts of Zina, Mago, Gobo and Kai Kai, along the Lagone river, where

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Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

excessive cumulative precipitation amounts in September and October 2019 caused flooding with damage to standing crops and harvested grains.

Staple food prices at low levels in Far North Region

In the Far North Region, food prices followed a decreasing trend in the last quarter of 2019 as demand for marketed supplies seasonally declined during the harvest period. In January 2020, prices for maize and sorghum were about 10 percent and 20 percent, respectively, lower than the average levels reached in the same month over the last five years, amid the favourable outputs obtained. By contrast, in Northwest and Southwest regions, between November 2019 and January 2020, prices of maize rose by about 20 percent in urban centres, due to low supply and high demand following reduced harvests.

About 2.6 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

Conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity as it affects households' livelihoods and access to food, significantly disrupting agricultural activities and triggering the increase in staple food prices. In Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, fighting between security forces and separatist armed groups persists since its eruption in October 2016.

The security situation remains precarious also in Far North Region, where incursions of Boko Haram increased between November 2019 and January 2020 resulting in new population displacements. As of end-January, about 680 000 people were estimated to be internally displaced in Northwest and Southwest regions and 297 000 in Far North Region, about 25 percent and 10 percent, respectively, above the number estimated in October 2019.

According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 2.6 million people (11 percent of the population) were estimated to be severely food insecure ("Cadre Harmonisé" Phase 3 or higher) in the first quarter of 2020. About 45 percent of severely food insecure people is located in Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

On 17 March 2020, the Government [announced](#) the immediate adoption of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, including the closure of borders, with the exception of cargo ships and flights bringing food and essential items. Although access to food seems not to be affected by these measures, further restrictions on population movements could hamper access to land and negatively impact 2020 agricultural production.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 29-March-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over upcoming 2019 cropping season in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions due to conflict
- Cereal production in 2018 estimated at below average levels due to decline in production in Anglophone Northwest and Southwest regions
- Prices of maize in Far North stabilized due to recent harvests and overall decline in cross border trade
- Alarming food insecurity conditions persist in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

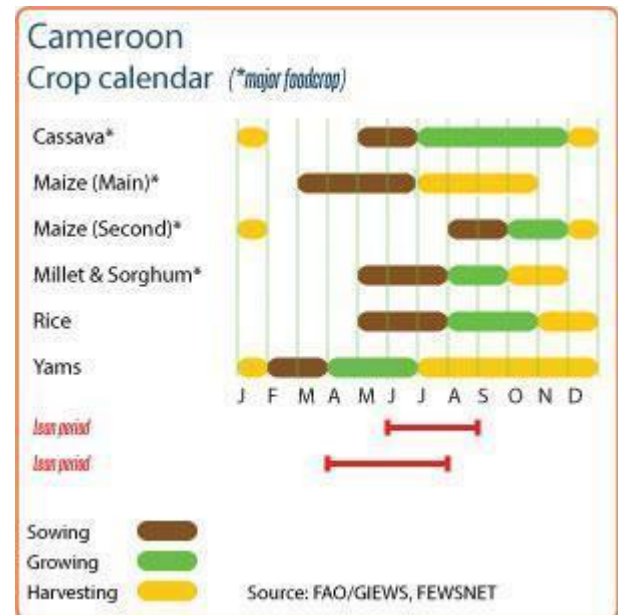
Concerns over upcoming 2019 cropping season in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity

According to satellite based imagery, seasonal rains started at the beginning of March in southern parts of the country, allowing the timely sowing of the main 2019 maize crop. In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May.

In the Far North Region, land preparation continues to be affected by civil unrest, which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014. Similarly, in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the persisting civil unrest that erupted in October 2016.

Below average crop production obtained in 2018

In the bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South, harvesting of the second season crops was completed in January 2019, while the main season harvest was concluded in October 2018. In northern uni-modal areas in North and Far North regions, where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting of the 2018 crops was concluded last November. Despite overall favourable weather conditions, there was a significant decline in production in the English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions, which was caused by intensified conflict at planting time. Consequently, the total cereal production for 2018 is estimated to be at about 3 million tonnes, about 4 percent below the five-year average.



Staple food prices remain stable in Far North

According to the International Monetary Fund, inflation in 2019 is forecast to remain around 1 percent, similar to the previous three years. The low inflation rates are due, to some extent, to the implementation of a tighter monetary policy (raising interest rates to slow down economic growth) as well as the adoption of the CFA Franc currency, which leads to less expensive and increased imports from neighbouring countries and consequent significant upward pressure on domestic food supplies and prices. In addition, in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, due to poor supplies following below average harvests, market prices have risen significantly since January last year. By contrast, in the Far North Region, reduced seasonal demand for market supplies, as households consume their recently harvested 2018 crops as well as the overall decline in cross border demand from neighbouring Nigeria (northeastern parts of the country), has further contributed to generally subdued price levels.

Escalation of conflict in North and Southwest regions is expected to aggravate an already alarming food security situation

The deterioration of civil security due to the Boko Haram armed forces has resulted in the displacement of about 254 000 people in the Far North Region and an influx of more than 138 000 refugees from Nigeria as of end-January 2019. In the Northwest and Southwest regions, the ongoing crisis erupted in October 2016 due to perceived marginalization and resistance to the assimilation of the English-speaking minority to the French-speaking majority. The violence has since escalated leading to the loss of livelihoods and, as of January 2019, about 444 000 people have been displaced. The overall deterioration of the food security situation has caused a substantial and increasing number of households to resort to negative coping strategies. According to UN-OCHA, as of February 2019, about 4.3 million people in the country are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 09-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average crop prospects for 2018 cropping season in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions due to conflict**
- **Prices of maize stabilized due to recent harvests, inflows from Nigeria and ongoing food assistance**
- **Alarming food insecurity conditions persist in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements**

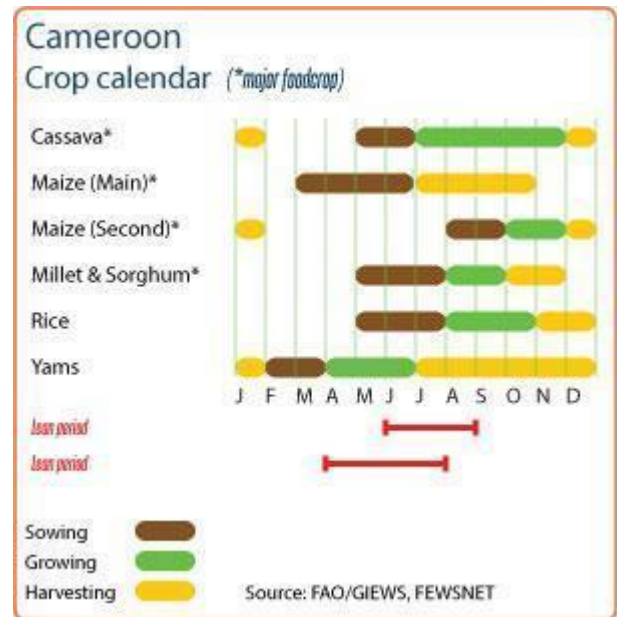
Below-average crop prospects for 2018 cropping season in Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions

Harvesting of the main 2018 season maize crop has just been finalized in bi-modal rainfall areas of the centre and south. According to satellite imagery, rainfall amounts have been adequate since the onset of the season in March benefitting crop development and yields. In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, where harvesting of the sorghum and millet crops is still underway, despite favourable weather conditions, the production prospects are uncertain due to civil insecurity. Planting of the second season maize crops was concluded in late September in the southern part of the country and crops are currently developing normally.

In the Far North Region, agricultural operations continue to be affected by civil unrest, which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014. Moreover, in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions, the civil unrest that erupted in October 2016 has since deteriorated significantly resulting in input shortages and depleted households' productive assets, including livestock. As a result, the 2018 aggregate output is preliminarily estimated at below average levels.

Prices of maize stabilized in recent months

According to the International Monetary Fund, inflation is forecast to remain around 1 percent in 2018, similar to the previous two years. The low inflation rates are due, to some extent, to the implementation of a tighter monetary policy (raising interest rates to slow down economic growth) as well as the adoption of the CFA Franc currency, which leads to less expensive and increased imports from neighbouring countries and consequent significant downward pressure on domestic food supplies and prices. As a result of significant inflows of maize from Nigeria in the Far North



Region via the Bourha and Mogodé corridors, supplies from the recent harvests as well as the ongoing delivery of food assistance, maize prices are relatively stable compared to last year.

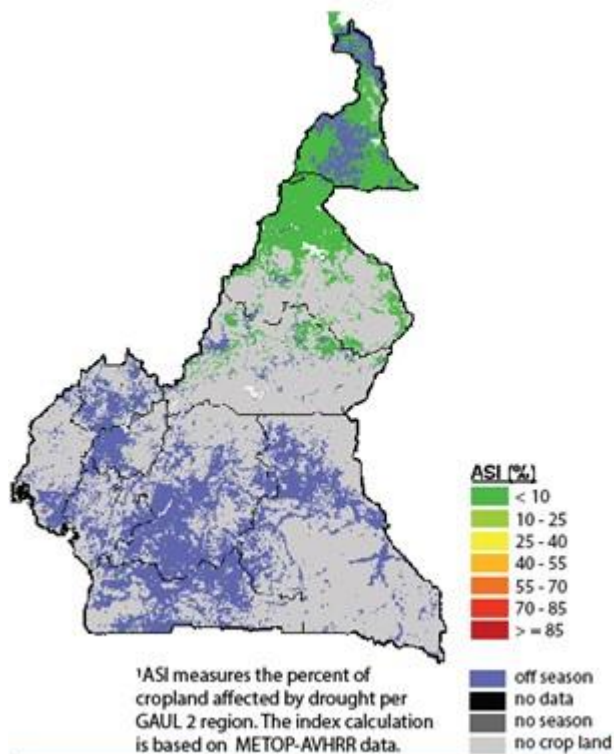
Escalation of conflict in North and Southwest regions is expected to aggravate an already alarming food security situation

In the Northwest and Southwest regions, the ongoing crisis erupted in October 2016 due to perceived marginalization and resistance to the assimilation of the English-speaking minority to the French-speaking majority. The country's election process was finalized at the end of October. Following the election, the conflict situation is likely to significantly worsen in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions. The potential escalation of violence is expected to have a severe negative impact on food security. The crisis has led to the displacement of about 450 000 people. The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated with a substantial and increasing number of households resorting to negative coping strategies.

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Cameroon - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, October 2018



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 07-August-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over performance of 2018 cropping season in Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity
- Maize prices stabilized due to inflows from Nigeria and ongoing food assistance
- Alarming food insecurity conditions persist in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

Concerns over 2018 cropping season in the Northwest and Southwest regions due to insecurity

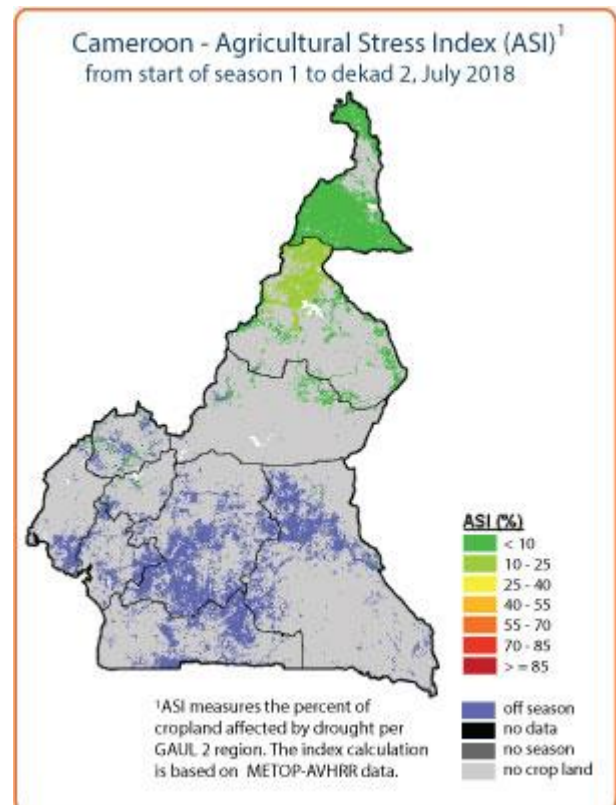
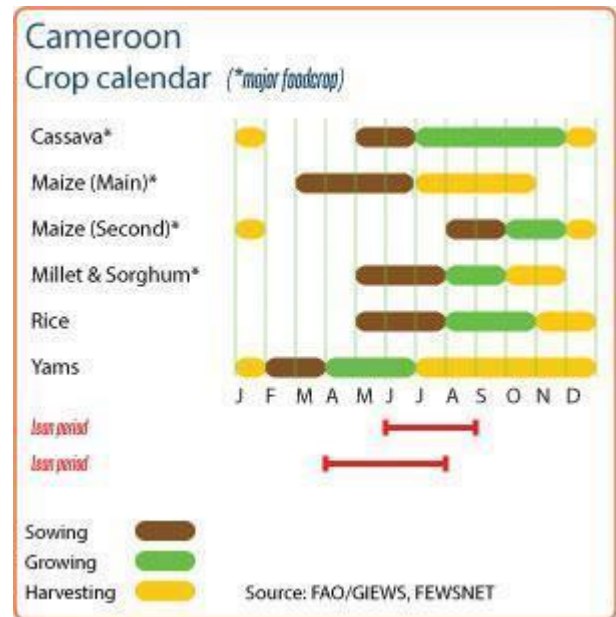
Harvesting of the main 2018 season maize crop started in July in the bi-modal centre and south. According to satellite imagery, rainfall amounts have been adequate since the onset of the season in March benefitting crop development and yields. However, rainfall amounts and distribution in the coming weeks will be crucial for the development and performance of long cycle main season crops and early planted second season crops.

In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, production prospects for sorghum and millet, expected to be harvested from October, are uncertain. In the Northwest and Southwest regions, despite favourable weather conditions, agricultural operations have been severely affected by the civil unrest that erupted in October 2016 with consequent input shortages and depleted households' productive assets, including livestock.

Maize prices stabilized due to inflows from Nigeria and ongoing food assistance

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average annual inflation rate fell from an estimated 2.7 percent in 2015 to a low 0.9 percent in 2016 and continued to decline further in 2017 to 0.7 percent. In 2018, the inflation is forecast to remain around 1 percent. The low inflation rates are in part due to the implementation of a tighter monetary policy (raising interest rates to slow down economic growth) as well as the adoption of the CFA Franc currency, which helps to anchor prices.

Maize inflows from Nigeria and the ongoing food assistance helped to stabilize maize prices relative to last year. By contrast, in June, overall sorghum prices were about 30 percent higher than their year-earlier levels. The increased households' dependence on



markets following the depletion of their stocks is putting upward pressure on sorghum prices.

Civil unrest continues to aggravate food insecurity situation

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in recent years due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The majority of the vulnerable groups are located in the four regions of Adamaoua, East, North and Far North. In these regions, a substantial and increasing number of households are resorting to negative coping strategies.

In the Far North Region, the impact of the Boko Haram armed forces on civil insecurity has resulted in the displacement of about 238 000 Cameroonians and an influx of more than 94 000 refugees from Nigeria. In the Northwest and Southwest regions, an ongoing crisis erupted in October 2016 due to perceived marginalization and resistance to the assimilation of the English-speaking minority to the French-speaking majority. The crisis has led to an additional displacement of 160 000 people and 21 000 others to seek refuge in neighbouring Nigeria. Furthermore, the resurgence of violence in the Central African Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country since early 2017. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamaoua regions, increasing the local needs for humanitarian assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 26-March-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over performance of upcoming 2018 cropping season in Far North Region due to insecurity
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at below average levels due to continuing insecurity in Far North Region
- Alarming food insecurity conditions persist in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

Concerns over upcoming 2018 cropping season in Far North Region due to insecurity

According to satellite imagery, seasonal rains started in March in southern parts of the country, allowing the sowing of the first 2018 maize crop. Planting of coarse grains will progress northwards following the onset of the rains.

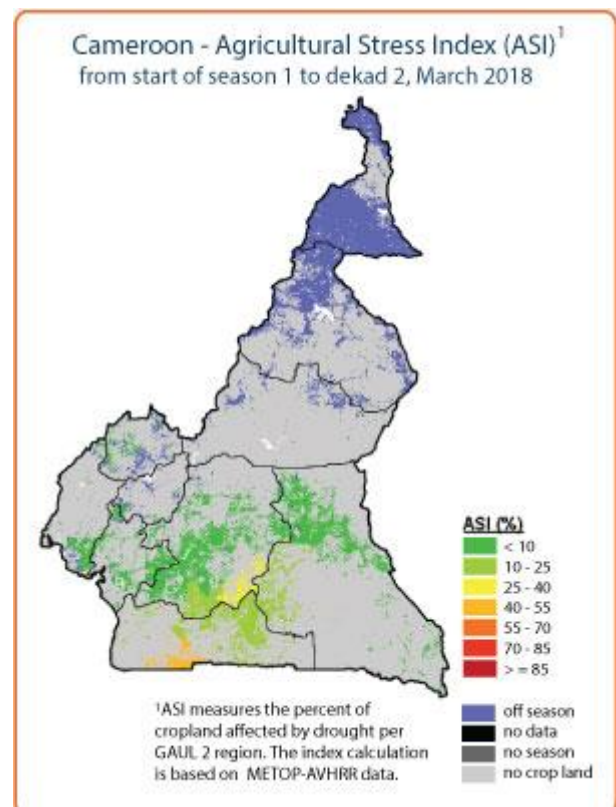
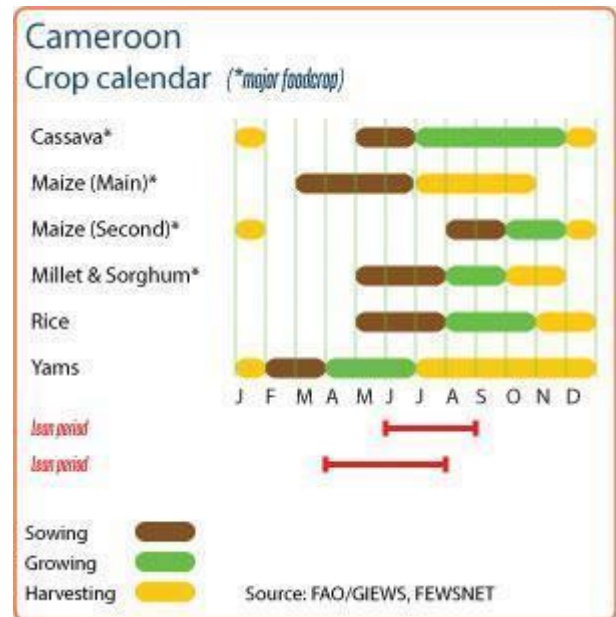
In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May. In the Far North Region, operations of land preparation continue to be severely affected by the civil unrest that spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014.

Below average crop production obtained in 2017

In the bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South, harvesting of the second season crops was completed in January 2018, while the main season harvest was concluded in October 2017. According to satellite-based analysis, rainfall was generally adequate and well-distributed from March to September 2017, benefitting vegetation conditions for both main and second season crops. In northern uni-modal areas in North and Far North regions, where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting of the 2017 crops was concluded last November. Despite favourable weather conditions, the ongoing conflict resulted in displacement of people, causing input shortages and depleting the already inadequate households' productive assets. As a result, the overall, total cereal production for 2017 is estimated to be below average.

Staple food prices rising in recent months

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average annual inflation rate fell from an estimated 2.7 percent in 2015 to a low



0.9 percent in 2016 and continued to decline further in 2017 to 0.7 percent. In 2018, the inflation is forecast to slightly increase but remaining at low levels (around 1 percent). The low inflation rates are in part due to the implementation of a tighter monetary policy (raising interest rates to slow down economic growth) as well as the country's CFA Franc currency, which helps to anchor prices.

In the Far North Region, staple prices have been on the rise in recent months. As of March 2018, sorghum and maize prices are about 50 and 30 percent, respectively, above March 2017 levels.

Acute food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions mainly due to civil insecurity

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in recent years due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The majority of the vulnerable groups are located in the four regions of Adamaoua, East, North and Far North. In these regions, a substantial and increasing number of households are resorting to negative coping strategies.

In the Far North Region, the impact of the Boko Haram armed forces on civil insecurity has resulted in the displacement of about 236 000 Cameroonians and an influx of about 89 000 refugees from Nigeria. Furthermore, the resurgence of violence in the Central Africa Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country since early 2017. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamaoua regions, increasing the local needs for humanitarian assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 13-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over performance of upcoming 2017 cropping season in Far North Region
- Main maize season crop estimated average or above average due to adequate and well-distributed rainfall during cropping season
- Alarming food insecurity conditions persist in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

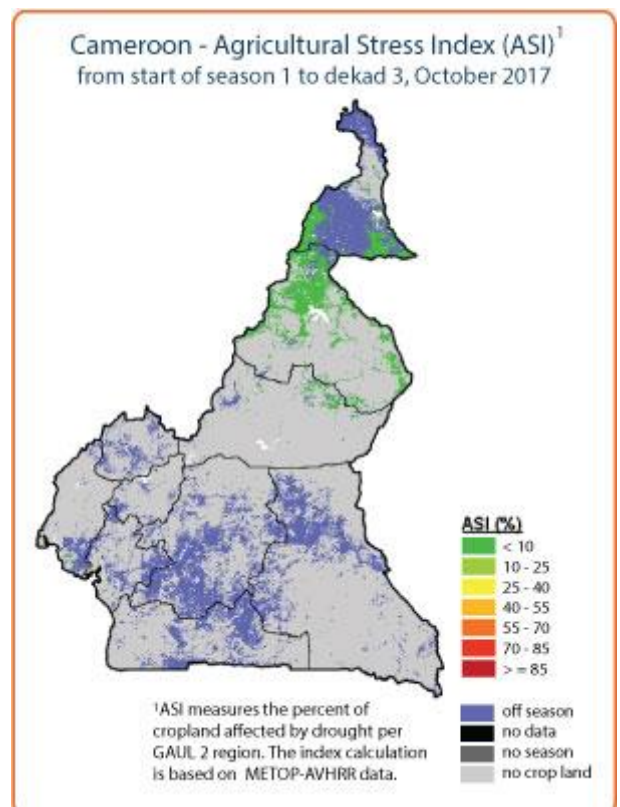
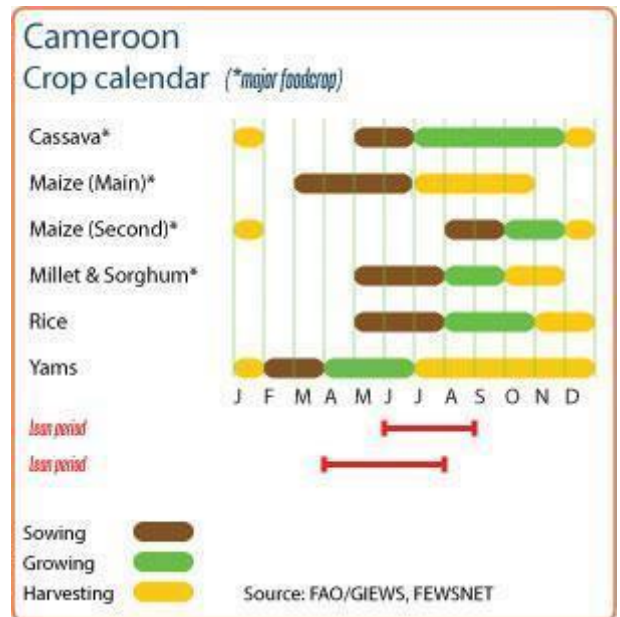
Uncertain prospects for 2017 cropping season in Far North Region

In the bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South, harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop is complete. Planting of the second season maize crops was concluded in late September and crops are currently developing normally. According to satellite-based analysis, rainfall has been adequate and well-distributed during the main cropping season and production prospects for the 2017 maize crop are expected to be average or above average. By contrast, in the uni-modal north where harvesting of the sorghum and millet crops is underway, despite favourable weather conditions (see map), the production prospects are uncertain due to civil insecurity. Agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the civil unrest, which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014. The widespread insecurity continues to result in displacement of people, causing input shortages and depleting the already inadequate households' productive assets. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the third consecutive year is likely.

To help avert a full scale food security and nutrition crisis, in the framework of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO appealed for USD 4.6 million to respond to the needs of 100 000 crisis-hit farmers. FAO has been supporting crop and vegetable production through the distribution of cowpea, maize and sorghum seeds, fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Moreover, FAO has been supporting livestock production through livestock infrastructure and construction of water points and vaccination parks, small ruminants re-stocking and animal vaccination.

Inflation rates remain low

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average annual inflation rate, which was estimated at a low 2.7 percent in 2015 and 2.2 percent in 2016, is forecast to remain stable at 2.2 percent in 2017. In the last several years, rates of inflation



were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent in 2009 and to 1 percent in 2010. The rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, before progressively declining to 1.9 percent in 2014.

Acute food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions due to civil insecurity and climatic shocks

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in recent years due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The number of food insecure people was estimated at 2.5 million in March 2017 with the majority of the vulnerable groups located in the four regions of Adamaoua, East, North and Far North. In these regions, a substantial and increasing number of households are resorting to negative coping strategies.

In the Far North Region, the impact of the Boko Haram armed forces on civil insecurity has resulted in the displacement of about 236 000 Cameroonians and an influx of about 89 000 refugees from Nigeria. Furthermore, the resurgence of violence in the Central Africa Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country during recent months. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamaoua regions, increasing the local needs for humanitarian assistance. The total number of refugees from the Central African Republic residing in the country is estimated at about 216 000.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 22-September-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over performance of upcoming 2017 cropping season in Far North Region
- Main maize season crop expected to be average or above average due to adequate and well-distributed rainfall during cropping season
- Alarming food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

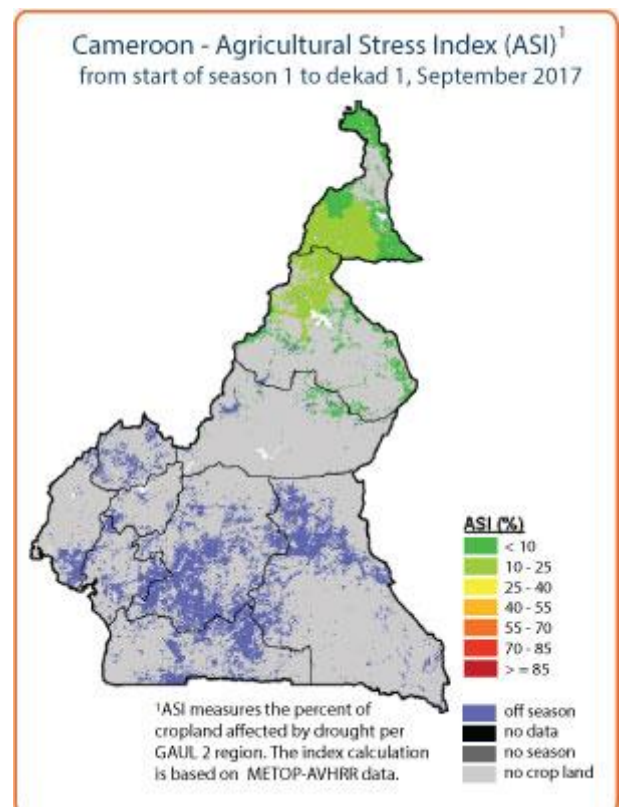
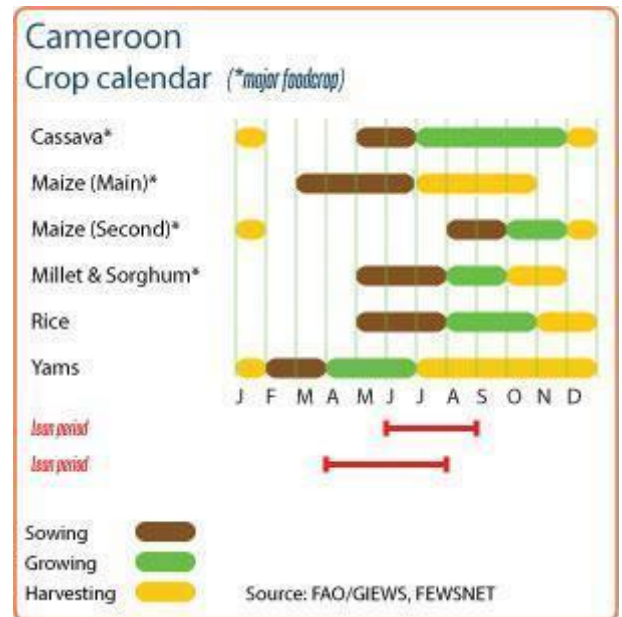
Mixed prospects for 2017 crop production

Harvesting of the main 2017 season maize crop started in July in the bi-modal centre and south. Rainfall has been adequate and well-distributed during the cropping season and production prospects for the 2017 maize crop are expected to be average or above average. By contrast, in the uni-modal north, despite favourable weather conditions (see map), the production prospects for sorghum and millet crops, expected to be harvested from October, are uncertain due to civil insecurity. Agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the civil unrest which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014. The widespread insecurity continues to result in displacement of people, causing input shortages and depleting the already inadequate households' productive assets. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the third consecutive year is likely and timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required.

To help avert a full scale food security and nutrition crisis, in the framework of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO appealed for USD 4.6 million to respond to the needs of 100 000 crisis-hit farmers. FAO has been supporting crop and vegetable production through the distribution of cowpea, maize, sorghum and vegetable seeds, fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Moreover, it has been supporting livestock production through livestock infrastructure and construction of water points and vaccination parks, small ruminants and poultry re-stocking and animal vaccination.

Low inflation rates in recent years

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at a low of 2 percent in 2015 and 2016, is forecast to remain stable in 2017. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent in 2009 and to 1 percent in 2010. The rates rose again



in 2011 to 3 percent, before progressively declining to 1.9 percent in 2014.

Acute food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in recent years due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The number of food insecure people was estimated at 2.6 million in March 2017 with the majority of the vulnerable groups located in Makari, Fotokol and Kousseri in the Logone and Chari departments. In these regions, a substantial and increasing number of households are resorting to negative coping strategies. According to a survey carried out in December 2016, 22 percent of the interviewed households had reduced the number of meals, 51 percent had switched to less nutritious types of food, 10 percent had sold productive assets including female livestock and 8 percent had cut essential non-food expenses including health, sanitation and education.

In the Far North Region, the impact of the Boko Haram armed forces on civil insecurity has resulted in the displacement of about 228 000 Cameroonians and an influx of about 91 000 refugees from Nigeria. Furthermore, the resurgence of violence in the Central Africa Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country during recent months. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamaoua regions, increasing the local needs for humanitarian assistance. The total number of refugees from the Central African Republic residing in the country is estimated at about 276 000.

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GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 14-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

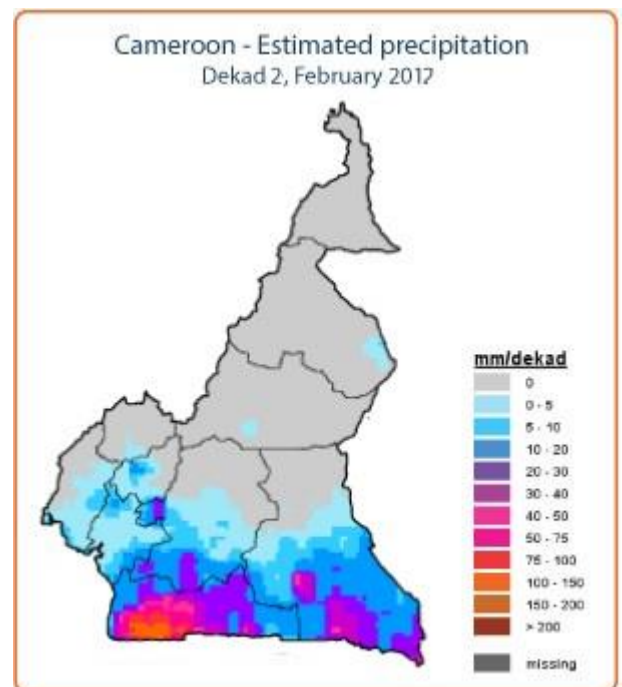
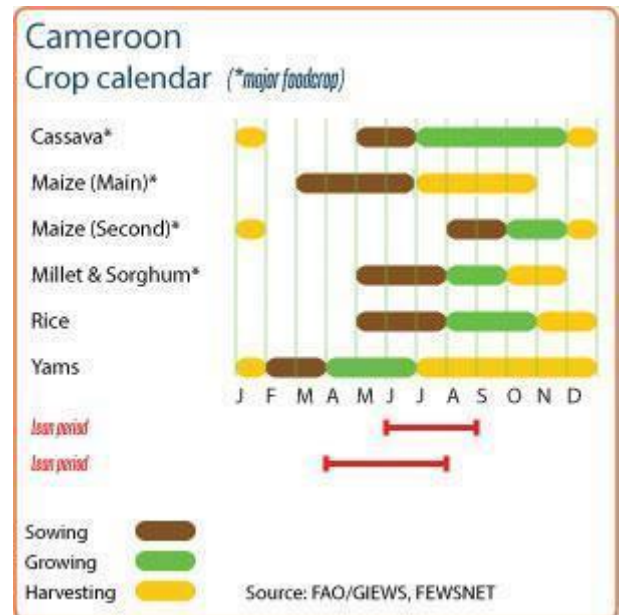
- **Concerns over performance of upcoming 2017 cropping season in the Far North Region**
- **Reduced 2016 crop production due to erratic rainfall and civil insecurity in northern areas**
- **Low inflation rates in recent years**
- **Alarming food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements**

Concerns over the upcoming 2017 cropping season in Far North Region, strong livelihood support required

In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and the South, planting of the 2017 maize crop started recently. According to remote sensing analysis, the onset of the rainy season was timely, with southern areas beginning to receive rains in the second dekad of February (see estimated precipitation map).

In the uni-modal rainfall areas of the North, planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May. Agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by civil unrest which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014. The widespread insecurity resulted in displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate, due to recurrent climatic shocks which have eroded the resilience capacity of a large number of households. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the third consecutive year is likely and a timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale food security and nutrition crisis, in the framework of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO is appealing for USD 4.6 million to respond to the needs of 100 000 crisis-hit farmers, by supporting crop and vegetable production through the distribution of cowpea, maize, sorghum and vegetable seeds, fertilizers and bio-pesticides and supporting livestock production through livestock infrastructure and water points rehabilitation, small ruminants and poultry restocking and animal vaccination.



Reduced 2016 crop production due to erratic rainfall and civil insecurity in northern areas

In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and the South, harvesting of the 2016 second season maize crops was completed last January, while the main season harvest was concluded in October 2016. According to satellite-based analysis, abundant rains from March to May were followed in parts by erratic and below-average rainfall from June to September, with a negative impact on long-cycle main season crops and early-planted second season crops. Subsequently, adequate precipitation in October was followed by an early cessation of rains in mid-November. As a result, the 2016 maize production was reportedly below the last five-year average level.

Low inflation rates in recent years

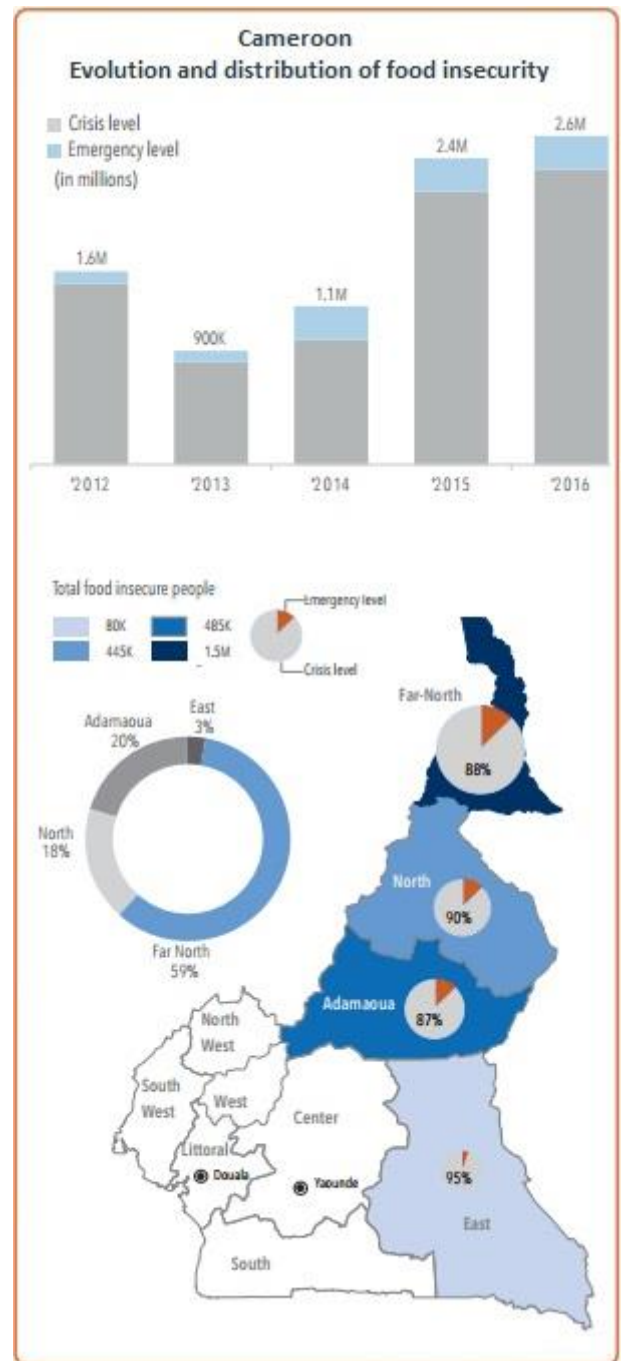
According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at a low of 2 percent in 2015 and 2016, is forecast to remain stable in 2017. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent in 2009 and to 1 percent in 2010. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, before progressively declining to 1.9 percent in 2014.

Alarming food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2015 and 2016 due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The number of food insecure people is currently estimated at 2.6 million, more than twice the level in 2014. The area most affected by food insecurity is the Far North Region, where 59 percent of the food insecure caseload is located. In this region, substantial and increasing number of households are resorting to negative coping strategies. According to a survey carried out in December 2016, 22 percent of the interviewed households had reduced the number of meals, 51 percent had switched to less nutritious types of food, 10 percent had sold productive assets including female livestock and 8 percent had cut essential non-food expenses including health, sanitation and education.

As of late January 2016, the number of refugees from the Central African Republic, who sought refuge mainly in East and Adamaoua regions after a surge in violence in December 2013, were estimated at about 143 000 people. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country since 2004, the total number of refugees from the Central African Republic residing in Cameroon is currently put at about 276 000 people.

Refugees from Nigeria, who entered the country following the deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 85 000 in early March 2017 and are located in the Far North Region. In addition, civil unrest spread from Nigeria into the region and displaced about 192 000 Cameroonians.





GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 07-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over performance of 2016 cropping season in Far North Region due to civil insecurity
- Prices of cereals around or slightly above year-earlier levels
- Food security situation sharply deteriorated in 2015 and 2016 due to massive refugee influx and internal displacements

Concerns over 2016 cropping season in Far North Region

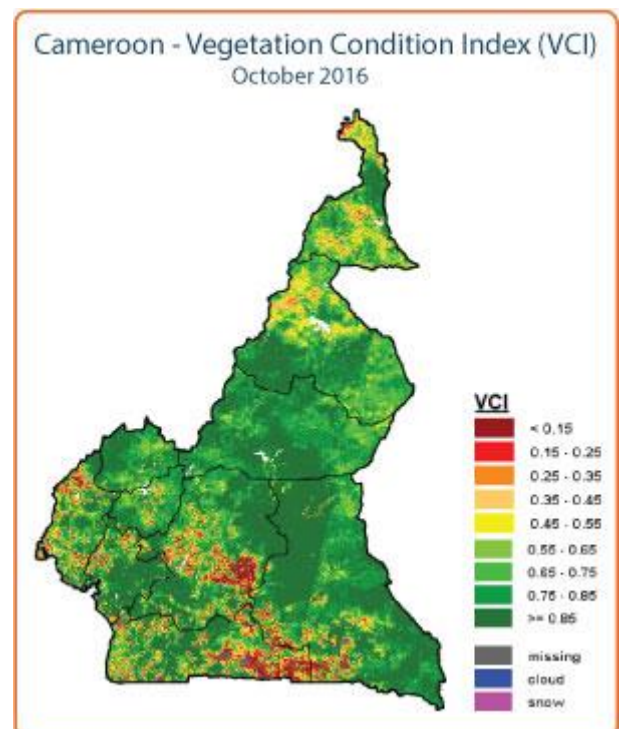
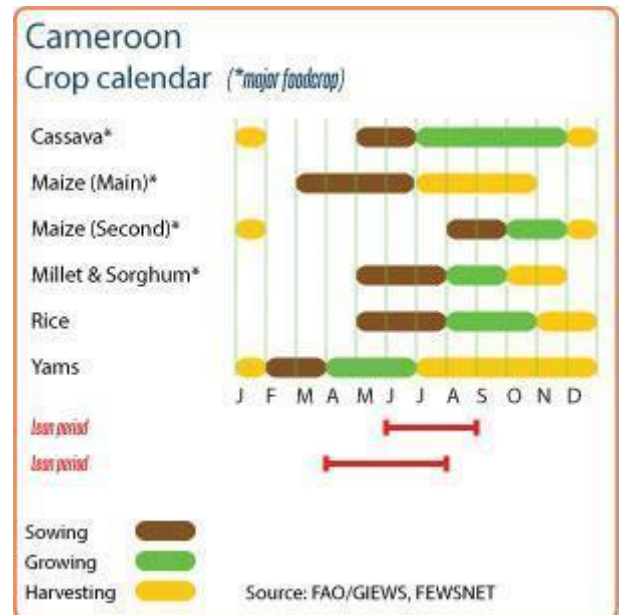
Harvesting of the main 2016 season maize crop was completed in October in the bi-modal rainfall central and southern regions, while the harvest of the secondary season crops is about to start. According to remote sensing analysis, abundant and well-distributed rains from March to June were followed in parts by erratic precipitation from July to September, with negative impacts on long-cycle main season crops and early-planted second season crops. Above-average rainfall in October reduced moisture deficits and improved vegetation conditions in most affected areas.

In uni-modal rainfall northern areas (North and Far North regions), where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting has been recently concluded and prospects are uncertain despite favourable weather conditions. In the Far North Region, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the civil unrest which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014 and resulted in displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate, due to recurrent climatic shocks which have eroded the resilience capacity of a large number of households. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the second consecutive year is likely.

In the Far North Region, livestock rearing activities have also been affected by the crisis, with large numbers of cattle reported to be stolen. Cameroonian authorities have temporarily closed several cattle markets, in an effort to curb illicit livestock trade.

Prices of cereals around or slightly above year-earlier levels

Prices of locally-produced maize, the most consumed cereal, declined by 2-18 percent between June and September as the main season harvest increased supplies. Maize prices in



September were 2-6 percent higher than their levels of a year earlier.

Prices of imported wheat, mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable around their year-earlier levels in recent months in the capital, Yaoundé, and in Douala, the largest urban centre and the main entry port for imports.

Prices of rice, mostly sourced from the international market, were also stable around their levels of 12 months earlier in recent months in Douala, while they declined in Yaoundé by 10 percent between June and September, when they were 9 percent lower than in the same month of the previous year.

Critical food security situation in northern and eastern regions, strong livelihood support required

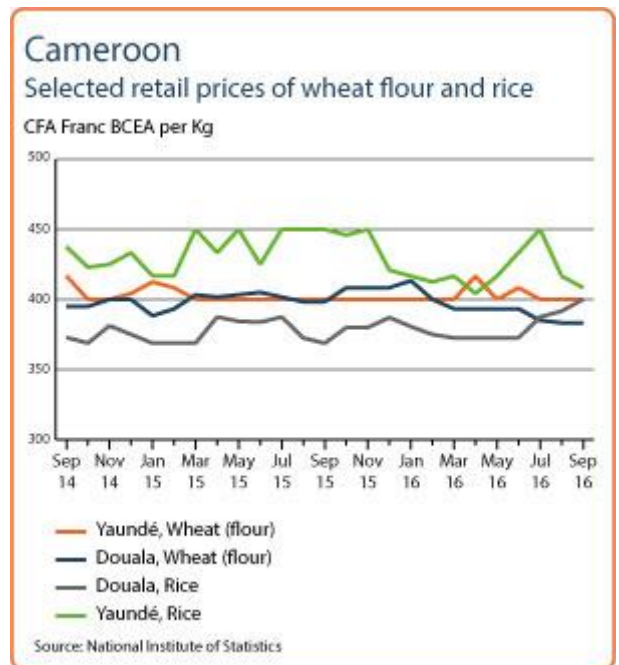
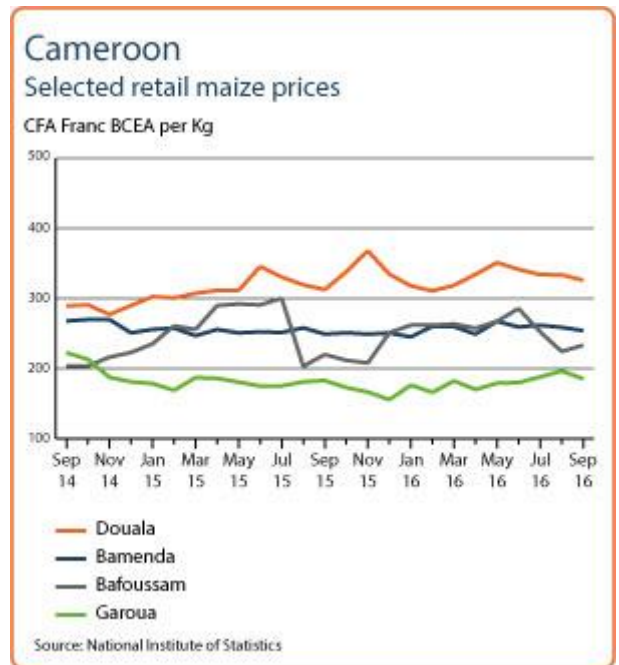
Local resources in northern and eastern regions have been put under added strain by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from neighbouring Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

As of October, about 274 000 refugees from the Central African Republic were residing in North, East and Adamaoua regions, while refugees from Nigeria, who entered the Far North Region following the serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 86 000 in mid-November. In addition, civil unrest spread from Nigeria into the region and caused the displacement of almost 200 000 Cameroonians.

As a result of these multiple shocks and of natural hazards (in northern areas, food production in 2015 was also negatively affected by drought), the overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2015 and 2016. The number of food insecure people was estimated in October 2016 at 2.6 million, more than twice the level of June 2015. The area most affected by food insecurity is the Far North Region, where the caseload is currently estimated at 1.5 million, 100 000 more than the previous estimate in September 2015.

A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers in the Far North Region, FAO has provided crop production support to 33 500 individuals, with a special focus on women and youth, distributing seeds, tools and fertilizers.





GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

Reference Date: 16-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

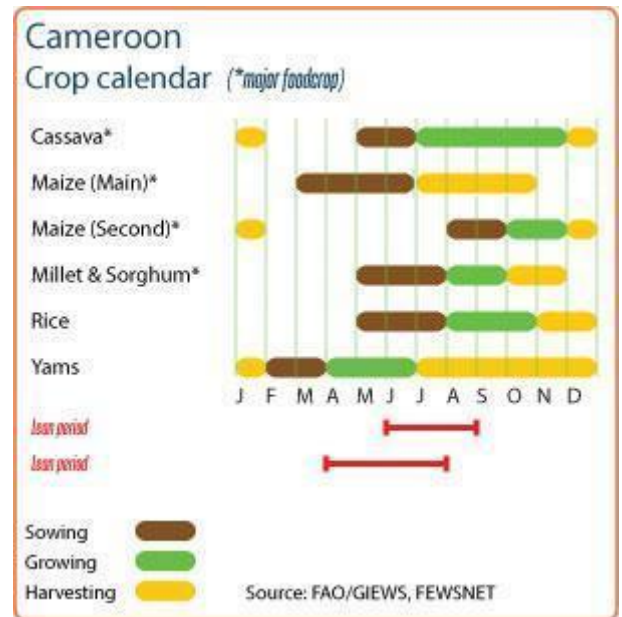
- Concerns over performance of 2016 cropping season in Far North Region due to civil insecurity
- Prices of cereals at low levels except in northern regions
- Food security situation sharply deteriorated in 2015 and 2016 due to massive refugee influx and internal displacements

Concerns over 2016 cropping season in Far North Region, strong livelihood support required

Harvesting of the main 2016 season maize crop started in July in the bi-modal centre and south. Satellite-based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions from March to the third dekad of May 2016 (see Map 1) have been generally favourable in the most regions, following well-distributed rainfall. However, below average rainfall in July in southern parts (see Map 2) had a negative impact on long cycle crops. Rainfall amounts and distribution in the coming weeks will be crucial for long cycle crop development and performance.

By contrast, in the uni-modal north, the outlook for sorghum and millet crops, expected to be harvested from October, is uncertain despite favourable weather conditions (see Map 3). In the Far North Region, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by civil unrest which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014 and resulted in displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate, due to recurrent climatic shocks which have eroded the resilience capacity of a large number of households. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the second consecutive year is likely and a timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

FAO is appealing for USD 3.4 million to support vulnerable households affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and the households affected by natural disasters with improved seeds, tools and fertilizers.



Prices of cereals at low levels except in northern regions

As of June 2016, year-on-year food inflation was 2.1 percent, slightly higher than the general inflation, which stood at 1.6 percent. Food inflation was mostly driven by increasing prices of fruits and vegetables: the year-on-year inflation rate for fruits was 10.5 percent, while that of vegetables was 7 percent. The inflation rate for bread and cereals stood at about zero.

Year-on-year, prices of maize declined by 9 percent; by contrast, prices of millet increased by 11 percent due to a low 2015 output compounded by market disruptions, caused by widespread insecurity in northern regions, where the cereal is predominantly grown. In these areas, reduced cross-border trade flows towards neighbouring countries prevented millet prices to further increase.

Prices of maize (see Chart 1), the most consumed cereal, moderately increased in some markets following seasonal patterns between January and May 2016, subsequently levelling off or slightly declining in June in anticipation of the main season harvest. Prices in June were below or around their levels of a year earlier largely reflecting the adequate availabilities from the average 2015 cereal production.

Prices of wheat and rice (see Chart 2), mostly sourced from the international market and mainly consumed in the urban areas, were stable in the first semester of 2016 in Douala, the largest urban centre and the main entry port for imports. By contrast, in the capital, Yaoundé, prices of wheat and rice recorded some volatility. Overall, prices of wheat and rice in June in both urban centres were around their levels of the same month of the previous year.

Food security situation sharply deteriorated in 2015 and early 2016 due to refugee influx and internal displacements

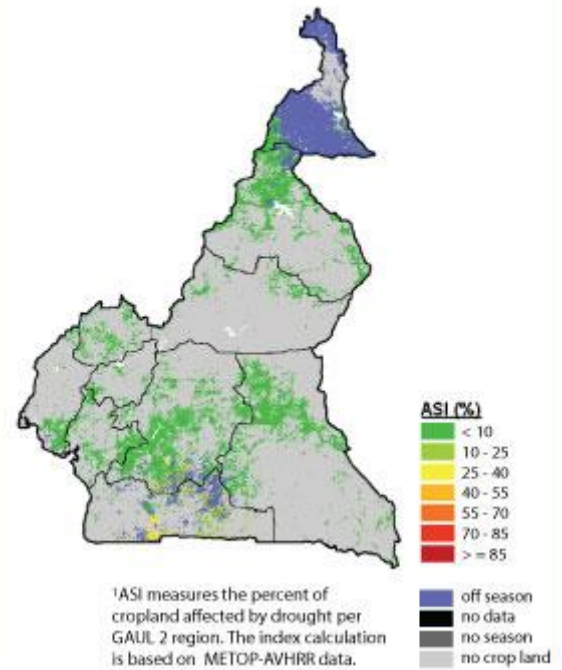
Local resources in northern and eastern regions have been put under added strain by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from neighbouring Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR).

As of June 2016, the number of refugees from CAR who sought refuge in North, East and Adamaoua regions after a surge in sectarian violence in December 2013, was estimated at about 158 000. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently put at about 274 000.

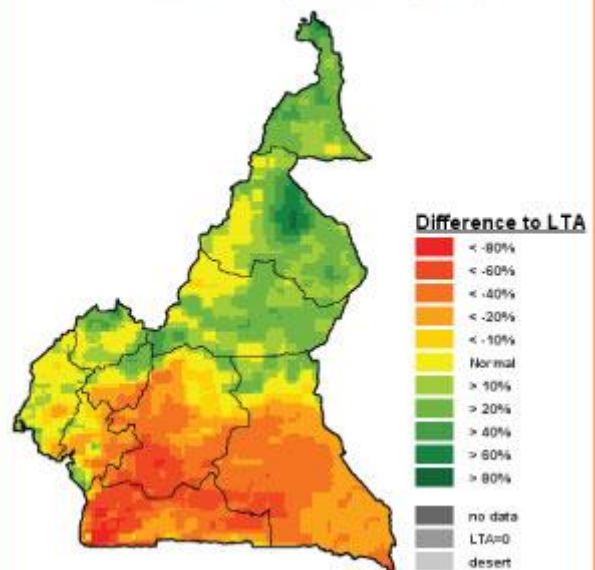
Refugees from Nigeria, who entered the Far North Region following the serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 65 000 in early August 2016. So far 4 063 new arrivals were recorded in 2016. In addition, civil unrest spread from Nigeria into the region and caused the displacement of 157 000 Cameroonians, while 33 000 individuals are currently displaced following floods in recent years.

As a result of these multiple shocks and of natural hazards (in northern areas, food production in 2015 was also negatively affected by drought), the overall food security situation has

Map 1: Cameroon - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹
from start of season 1 to dekad 3 May 2016



Map 2: Cameroon - Precipitation anomaly
Relative difference to Long Term Average, July 2016



sharply deteriorated in 2015 and 2016. The number of food insecure people was estimated in February 2016 at 2.4 million (see Chart 3), more than twice the level of June 2015. Around 203 000 people are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4). Child malnutrition is also concerning: an estimated 61 000 children under the age of five in Cameroon are expected to suffer from life threatening Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in 2016, as a result of the ongoing crisis. The area most affected by food insecurity is the Far North Region, according to an Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in September last year, where 35 percent of the population is food insecure, of which 5 percent is severely food insecure. In this region, the area where the food security situation is most concerning is the northernmost Logone-et-Chari department, where about 58 percent of the total population has been affected by the crisis, and 19 percent has been displaced. Here, due to erratic weather conditions and widespread insecurity which severely constrained access to land, crop production in 2015 was 32.4 percent lower than the previous year, with an estimated uncovered cereal deficit of 75 844 tonnes. Local crop production was estimated to be sufficient for the coverage of just five months of consumption, with an ensuing early start of the lean season. As a result, according to a multi agency Multi Sector Rapid Evaluation conducted in the department in June 2016, one in three people suffers from food insecurity, for a total caseload of 220 000 individuals, and the food consumption score was poor or borderline for 38 percent of the households.

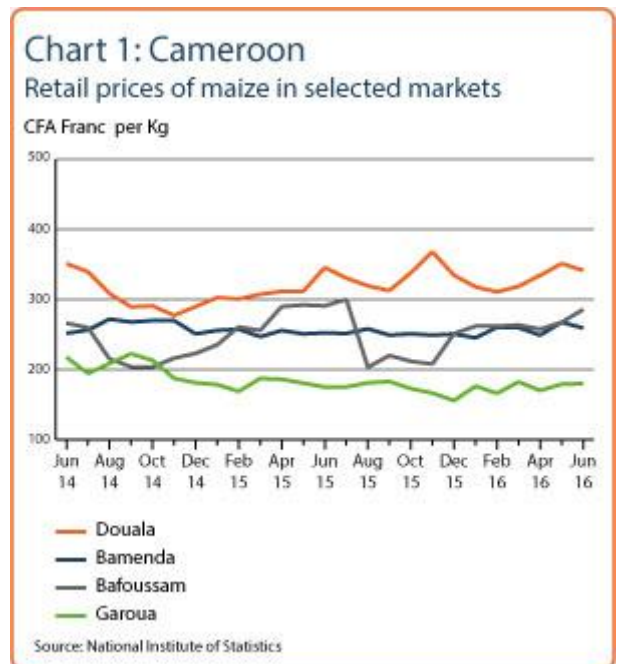
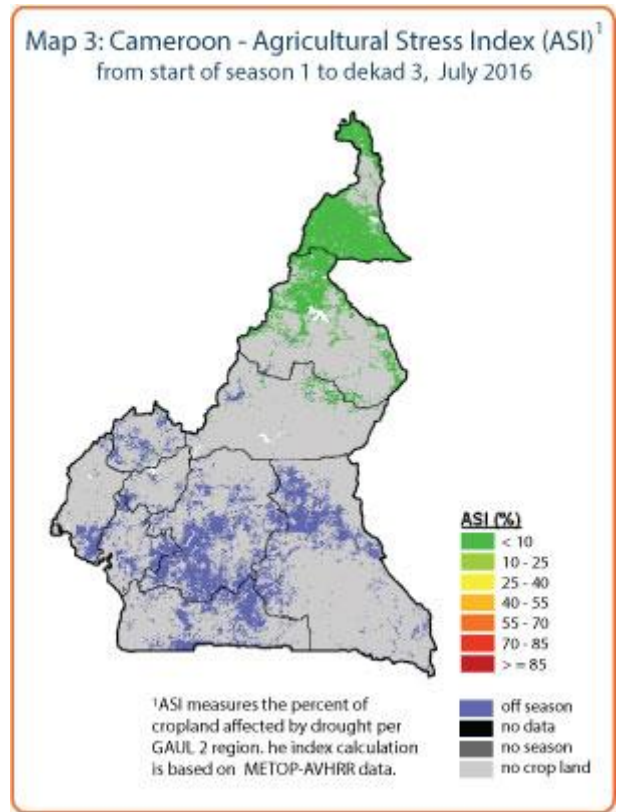
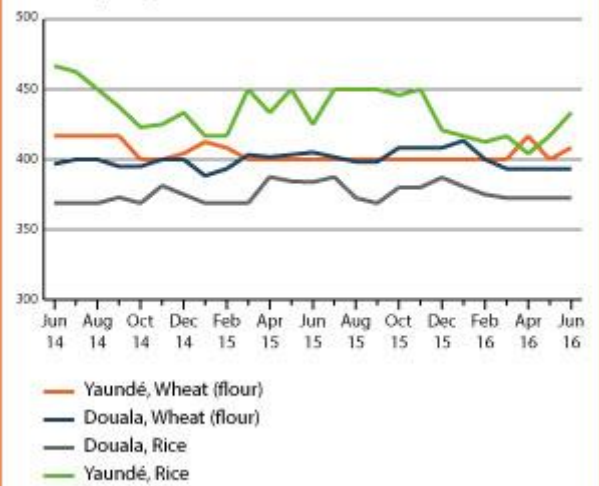


Chart 2: Cameroon

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in selected markets

CFA Franc per Kg



Source: National Institute of Statistics

Chart 3: Cameroon

Evolution of the food insecure caseload 2013 – 2016

millions of individuals



Source: OCHA

Reference Date: 08-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over upcoming 2016 cropping season in Far North Region
- Reduced 2015 crop production in Far North Region due to erratic rainfall and civil insecurity
- Low inflation rates in recent years
- Food security situation sharply deteriorated in 2015 due to massive refugee influx and internal displacements

Concerns over upcoming 2016 cropping season in Far North Region, strong livelihood support required

In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and the South, planting of the 2016 maize crop started recently. According to remote sensing analysis, the onset of the rainy season was timely, with southern areas beginning to receive rains in the third dekad of February (see Estimated precipitation map).

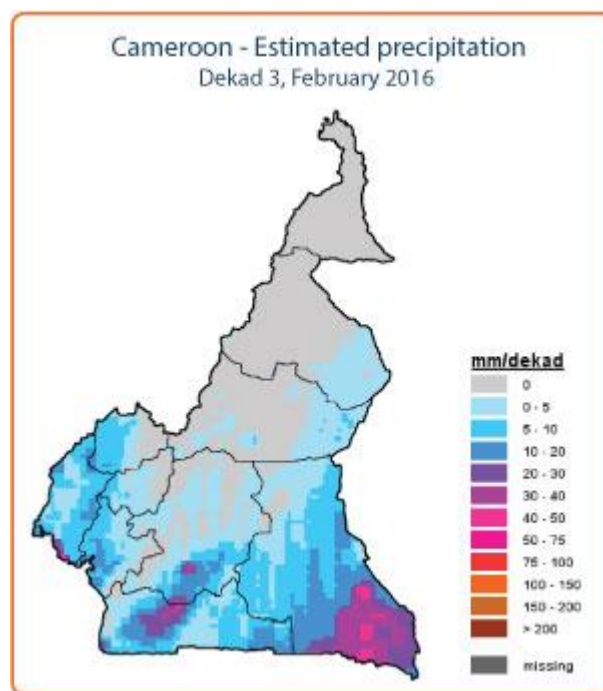
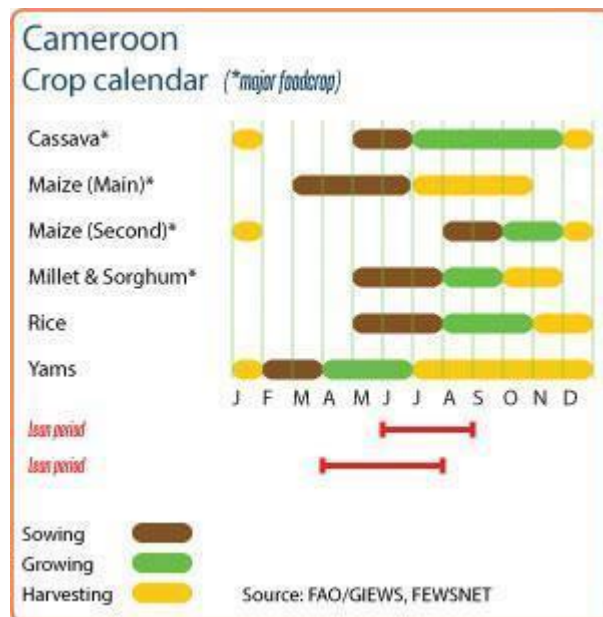
In the uni-modal North, planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May. However, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by civil unrest which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014 and resulted in displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate, due to recurrent climatic shocks which have eroded the resilience capacity of a large number of households. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the second consecutive year is likely and a timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

FAO is appealing for USD 3.4 million to support vulnerable households affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and the households affected by natural disasters with improved seeds, tools and fertilizers.

Reduced 2015 crop production in Far North Region due to erratic rainfall and civil insecurity

In several bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and the South, harvesting of the 2015 second season crops was completed last January, while the main season harvest was concluded in October 2015. According to satellite-based analysis, abundant rains from March to May were followed in parts by erratic and below-average rainfall from June to September, with a negative impact on long-cycle main season crops and early-planted second season crops. Subsequently, adequate precipitation in October and November benefited second season crops. According to remote sensing analysis, vegetation conditions in late November, immediately before the harvest, were good.

In northern uni-modal areas (North and Far North regions), where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting of 2015 crops was concluded in November. Early season dryness in April and May caused a delay in planting operations and negatively affected crop establishment. Average to above-average rainfall in the following



months reduced moisture deficits; however, as of September, remote sensing analysis still indicated below-average vegetation conditions in parts (see ASI map). In addition, in the Far North Region, civil insecurity severely disrupted agricultural activities and caused a reduction in the planted area. According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) carried out by WFP in June 2015, 60 percent of farmers in the region indicated major land access constraints because of civil insecurity. Official production estimates are not yet available.

Low inflation rates in recent years

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at a low of 2 percent in 2015, is forecast to slightly increase to 2.1 percent in 2016.

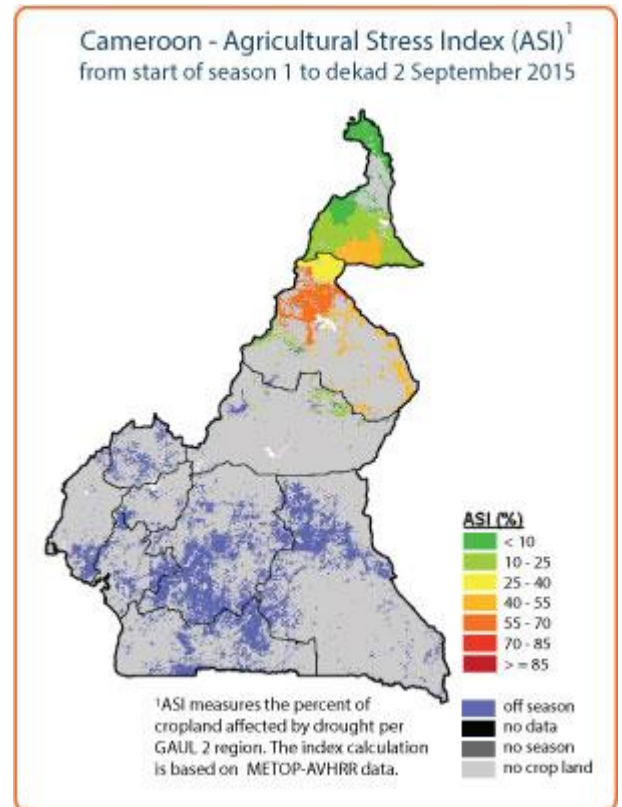
In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent in 2009 and to 1 percent in 2010. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, before progressively declining to 1.9 percent in 2014.

Food security situation sharply deteriorated in 2015 due to refugee influx and internal displacements

Local resources in northern and eastern regions have been put under added strain by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from neighbouring Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR). As of late January 2016, the number of refugees from CAR, who sought refuge mainly in Cameroon's East and Adamaoua regions after a surge in sectarian violence in December 2013, were estimated at about 138 000. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently put at about 267 000.

Refugees from Nigeria, who entered the country following the serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 71 000 in late January 2016 and are located in the Far North Region. In addition, civil unrest spread from Nigeria into the region and caused the displacement of 158 000 Cameroonians.

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2015 due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from CAR and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The number of food insecure people was estimated in February 2016 at 2.4 million, more than twice the level of June 2015. The area most affected by food insecurity is the Far North Region, where according to an EFSA conducted in September last year, 35 percent of the population is food insecure. In this region, 32 percent of IDPs and 22 percent of the local population have exhausted their food stocks and the percentage of households relying on humanitarian assistance increased from 6 percent in 2014 to 33 percent in 2015. IDPs are the most vulnerable group, with an increasing number resorting to negative coping strategies. An estimated 75 percent of IDPs have engaged in "crisis" and "urgency" strategies such as the reduction of non-food essential expenses, sale of productive assets and begging.



Reference Date: 27-October-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Mixed production prospects for 2015 crops**
- **Prices of cereals increased seasonally in first semester of 2015 but remained generally at low levels**
- **Food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2015 due to massive refugee influx and internal displacement**

Mixed prospects for 2015 crops

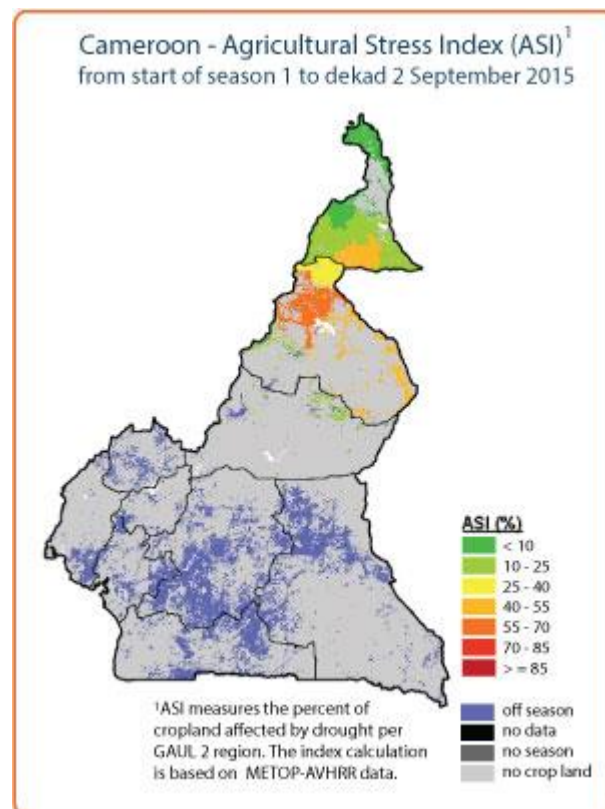
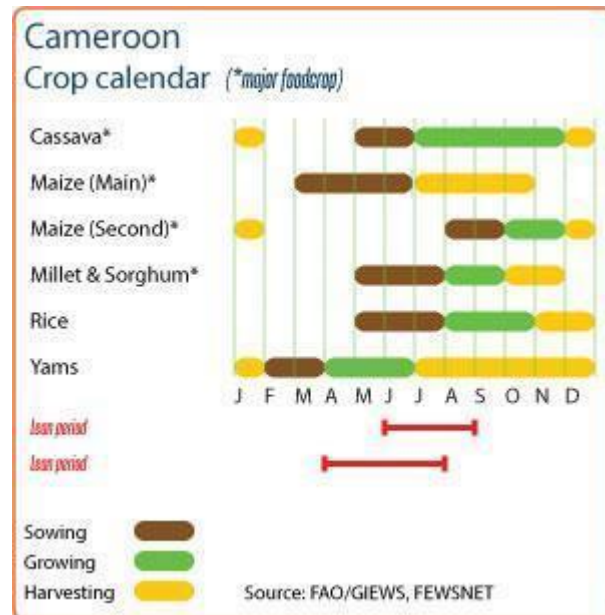
In several bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South, harvesting of the 2015 main season crops is nearly complete, while planting of the second season maize crops has also almost concluded. According to satellite-based analysis, abundant rains from March to May were followed in parts by erratic and below-average rainfall from June to September, with a negative impact on long-cycle main season crops and early-planted second season crops. Rainfall amounts and distribution in the coming weeks will be crucial for crop development and performance.

In northern uni-modal areas (North and Far North regions), where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting is underway. Early season dryness in April and May caused a delay in planting operations and negatively impacted on crop establishment. Average to above-average rainfall in the following months reduced moisture deficits; however, as of September, remote sensing analysis still indicated below-average vegetation conditions in parts (see ASI map). In addition, in the Far North Region, civil insecurity severely disrupted agricultural activities and caused a reduction in the planted area. According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) carried out by WFP in June 2015, 60 percent of farmers in the region indicated major land access constraints on account of civil insecurity.

Prices of cereals increased seasonally but remained at low levels

Prices of maize, the most consumed cereal, rose seasonally in most monitored markets in the first semester of 2015, increasing by up to 24 percent between January and June 2015. Prices in June were around their levels of a year earlier, largely reflecting the adequate availabilities from the average 2014 cereal production.

Prices of wheat and rice, mostly consumed in urban areas, increased slightly in the first semester of 2015 in Douala, the main urban centre. By contrast, in the capital, Yaoundé, wheat prices declined moderately between January and June 2015, while prices of rice recorded a marked volatility in the same period. Overall, prices of wheat and rice in June in both urban centres were around their levels of the same month of the previous year.



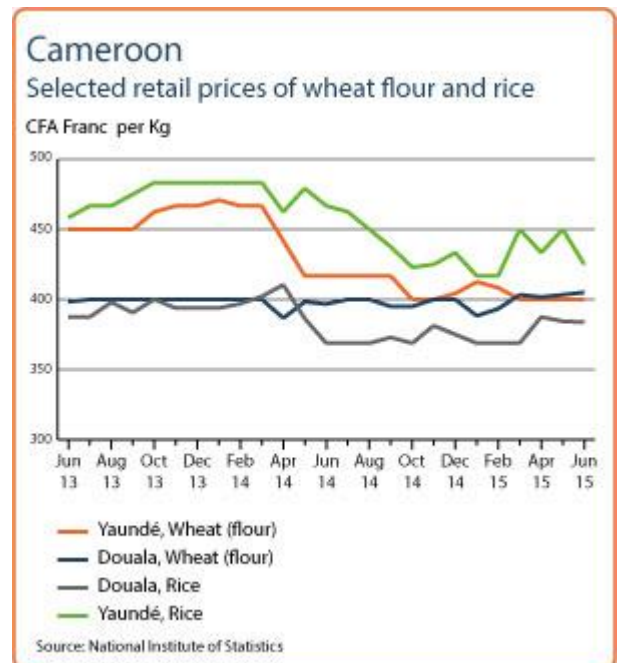
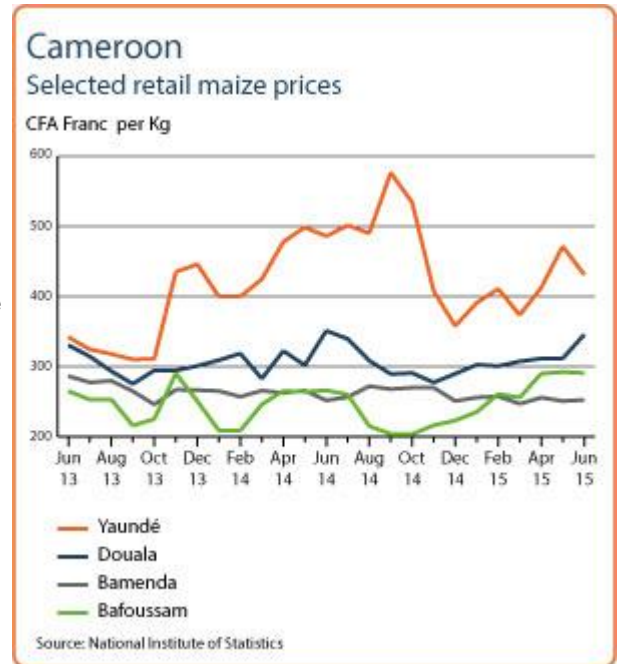
Food security situation sharply deteriorates in 2015 due to refugee influx and internal displacement

Local resources in northern and eastern regions have been put under added strain by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from neighbouring Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR). As of September 2015, the number of refugees from CAR, who sought refuge mainly in Cameroon's East and Adamaoua regions after a surge in sectarian violence in December 2013, were estimated at about 142 000. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently put at about 260 000.

Refugees from Nigeria, who entered the country following the serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 62 400 in early October and are located in the Far North Region. In addition, civil unrest spread from Nigeria into the region and caused the displacement of 81 700 Cameroonians.

In late June, torrential rains in Douala, in the Littoral Region, caused floods which resulted in the displacement of 2 000 individuals and directly affected 30 000 persons.

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2015 due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the CAR and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. In September 2015, the number of food insecure people was estimated at 1.27 million, 18 percent up from January 2015 and more than three times higher than two years earlier. The area most affected by food insecurity is the Far North Region, where one in three people are food insecure. In this region, according to the recently conducted EFSA, 32 percent of IDPs and 22 percent of the local population have exhausted their food stocks and the percentage of households relying on humanitarian assistance increased from 6 percent in 2014 to 33 percent in 2015. IDPs are the most vulnerable group, with an increasing number resorting to negative coping strategies. An estimated 75 percent of IDPs have engaged in "crisis" and "urgency" strategies such as the reduction of non-food essential expenses, sale of productive assets and begging.



Reference Date: 15-May-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Provisional estimates point to reduced cereal production in 2014
- Inflation rates increased in 2014 due to higher fuel prices
- Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria impacting also host communities

Cropping season started in March in southern part of the country

According to satellite imagery, precipitation was adequate in March and April in the southern parts of the country, allowing the sowing of the first maize crop of 2015. The planting of coarse grains will progress northwards following the onset of the rains.

The 2014 aggregate cereal production was estimated at about 3 million tonnes, 3 percent down on the previous year's output and similar to the average of the previous five years. The decline in cereal production was due to erratic and below-average rains in several parts of the country.

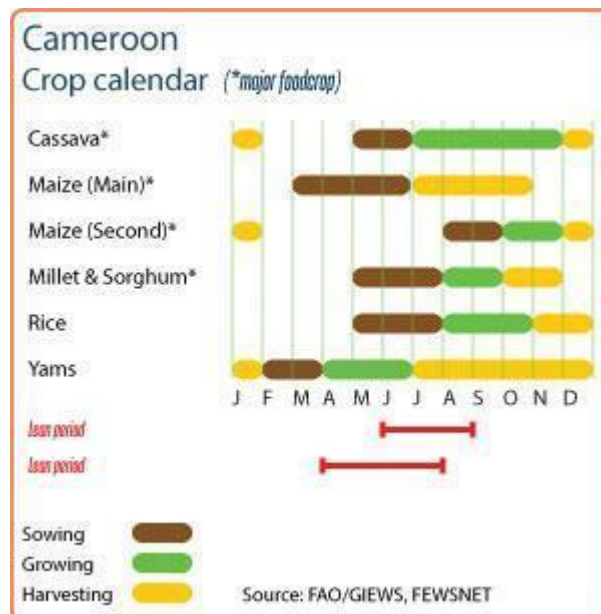
Inflation rates increased in 2014

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at a low of 2 percent in 2013, increased to 3.2 percent in 2014, mainly due to an increase in fuel retail prices.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, declining to 2.4 percent in 2012.

Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from CAR and Nigeria

Cameroon is currently facing a difficult food situation in the Sahelian region of the country where malnutrition, epidemics and food insecurity are a threat to thousands of Cameroonians. In addition, the country is hosting over 300 000 refugees from both CAR and Nigeria, while about 106 000 individuals have been internally-displaced, notably in the areas bordering Nigeria due to civil insecurity. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently estimated at about 247 245. The influx of CAR refugees has dropped significantly (6 952 arrived since January 2015) in recent months, indicating an improved situation in CAR. However, many refugees are reluctant to go home because of concerns about food security and livelihoods. On the other hand, the influx of Nigerian refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. Nearly 74 000 Nigerian refugees are estimated to be living in Cameroon, as of mid-April 2015. In February 2015, about



	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		estimate	2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 638	1 700	1 600	-6
Sorghum	1 112	1 150	1 150	0
Rice (paddy)	167	190	203	7
Others	89	90	90	0
Total	3 006	3 130	3 043	-3

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

16 000 new Nigerian refugees entered the Far North region following clashes in northeast Nigeria between regional military forces and Boko Haram insurgents.

The refugee crisis has exacerbated the already difficult food situation. About 1.1 million people are estimated to be food insecure across the country. The regions most affected by food insecurity are Far North (545 000 individuals) and North (277 000 individuals). About 20 percent of the total number of food insecure individuals has been classified as severely food insecure. Refugees are severely affected by food insecurity: 75 percent of them have been classified as food insecure, of which 20 percent as severely food insecure and totally relying on humanitarian assistance. Incidence of food insecurity among host communities, estimated at 15 percent, is lower but still concerning.

Overall, the humanitarian situation in the areas where refugees from CAR and Nigeria sought refuge is dire, with host communities and refugees competing over the already depleted natural resources.

Humanitarian agencies, in close cooperation with the Government, are providing assistance to refugees and host communities; however, funding constrains and civil insecurity along the borders with Nigeria and CAR has limited the level of interventions to date.

In response to the needs of the increasing numbers of refugees and vulnerable resident households, the Cameroon Strategic Response Plan 2014-2016, launched in January 2014, has been scaled-up in July and currently appeals for USD 126 million.

Reference Date: 19-March-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Provisional estimates point to a reduced cereal production in 2014
- Inflation rates increased in 2014 due to higher fuel prices
- Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria impacting also host communities

March rains help start the cropping season

According to satellite imagery, seasonal rains started in March in southern parts of the country, allowing the sowing of the first maize crop of 2015. The planting of coarse grains will progress northwards following the onset of the rains.

In the absence of official forecasts, the 2014 aggregate cereal production is tentatively put at about 3 million tonnes, 3 percent down on the previous year's output and similar to the average of the previous five years. The decline in cereal production was due to erratic and below-average rains in several parts of the country.

Inflation rates increased in 2014

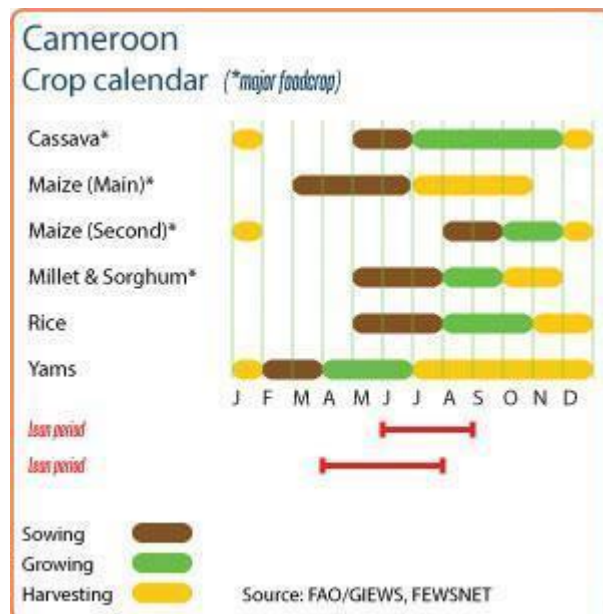
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at a low of 2 percent in 2013, increased to 3.2 percent in 2014, mainly due to an increase in fuel retail prices.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, declining to 2.4 percent in 2012.

Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from CAR and Nigeria

Cameroon is currently facing a difficult food situation in the Sahelian region of the country where malnutrition, epidemics and food insecurity are a threat to thousands of Cameroonians. In addition, the country is hosting over 300 000 refugees from both CAR and Nigeria, while about 117 700 individuals have been internally-displaced, notably in the areas bordering Nigeria due to civil insecurity. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently estimated at about 243 000. Similarly, the influx of Nigerian refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. Nearly 66 000 Nigerian refugees are estimated to be living in Cameroon, as of early March 2015. In February 2015, about 16 000 new Nigerian refugees entered the Far North region following clashes in northeast Nigeria between regional military forces and Boko Haram insurgents.

The refugee crisis has exacerbated the already difficult food situation.



Cameroon Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 638	1 700	1 600	-6
Sorghum	1 112	1 150	1 150	0
Rice (paddy)	167	190	203	7
Others	89	90	90	0
Total	3 006	3 130	3 043	-3

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

About 1.1 million people are estimated to be food insecure across the country. The regions most affected by food insecurity are Far North (545 000 individuals) and North (277 000 individuals). About 20 percent of the total number of food insecure individuals has been classified as severely food insecure. Refugees are severely affected by food insecurity: 75 percent of them have been classified as food insecure, of which 20 percent as severely food insecure and totally relying on humanitarian assistance. Incidence of food insecurity among host communities, estimated at 15 percent, is lower but still concerning.

Overall, the humanitarian situation in the areas where refugees from CAR and Nigeria sought refuge is dire, with host communities and refugees competing over the already depleted natural resources.

Humanitarian agencies, in close cooperation with the Government, are providing assistance to refugees and host communities; however, funding constrains and civil insecurity along the borders with Nigeria and CAR has limited the level of interventions to date.

In response to the needs of the increasing numbers of refugees and vulnerable resident households, the Cameroon Strategic Response Plan 2014-2016, launched in January 2014, has been scaled-up in July and currently appeals for USD 126 million.

Reference Date: 12-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic rainfall in southern and central parts during both main and secondary cropping seasons
- Inflation rates increased in 2014 due to higher fuel prices
- Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria and host communities

Erratic rainfall in southern and central parts

Harvesting of the 2014 second season maize crops, planted in August and September, is underway in bi-modal areas of the Centre and South. A dry spell in the first two dekads of October (see Vegetation Health Index map) may have negatively impacted crop germination and establishment; however, rains resumed to near-average levels in the following weeks. Earlier in the year, the harvest of main season crops, completed in October, was affected by a prolonged dry spell in July, which negatively impacted on yields.

In northern uni-modal areas (North and Far North regions), where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting was completed in November. Early season dryness in July may have delayed planting operations but subsequent adequate rainfall benefited crops.

As a result, in the absence of official forecasts, the 2014 aggregate cereal production is tentatively put at about 3 million tonnes, 3 percent down on last year's output and similar to the average of the previous five years.

Inflation rates increased in 2014

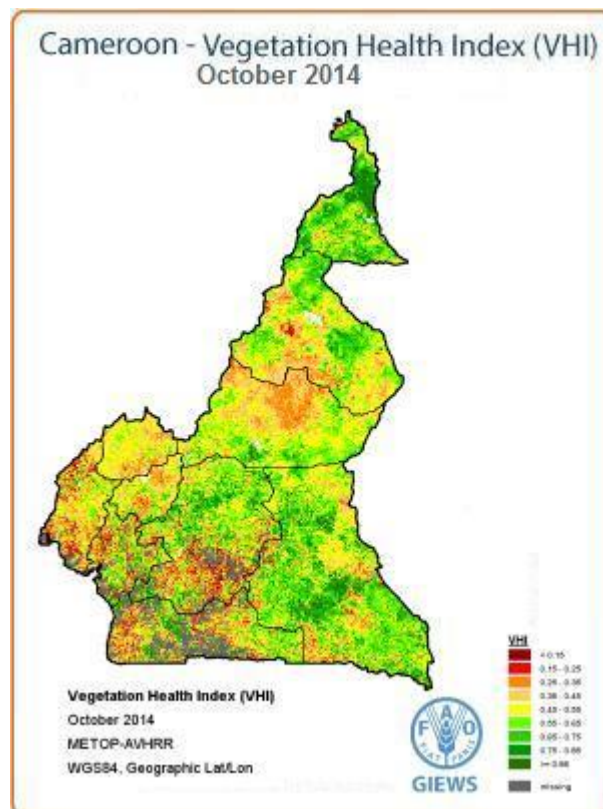
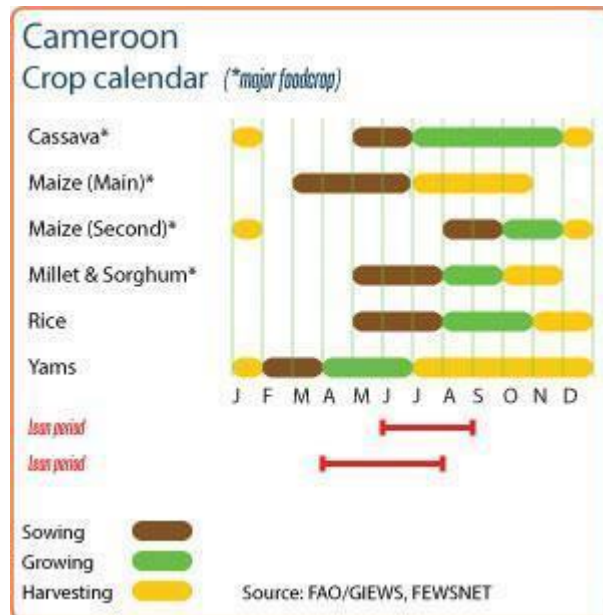
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In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, declining to 2.4 percent in 2012.

Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from CAR and Nigeria and host communities

Cameroon is currently facing a difficult food situation in the Sahelian region of the country where malnutrition, epidemics and food insecurity are a threat to thousands of Cameroonians. In addition, the country is hosting over 300 000 refugees from both CAR and Nigeria, while about 40 000 individuals have been internally-displaced in the areas bordering Nigeria due to civil insecurity.

As of late January 2014, the number of refugees from CAR which sought refuge in Cameroon's East, Adamaoua and North regions was estimated at about 135 000 after a surge in sectarian violence in



December 2013. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently estimated at about 243 000. Similarly, the influx of Nigerian refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. Over 80 000 people are estimated to have left Nigeria for northern Cameroon, as of early February 2015.

The refugee crisis has exacerbated the already difficult food situation. In late December, about 1 100 000 people were estimated to be food insecure, mostly in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions. The regions most affected by food insecurity are Far North (545 000 individuals) and North (277 000 individuals). About 20 percent of the total number of food insecure individuals has been classified as severely food insecure. Refugees are severely affected by food insecurity: 75 percent of them have been classified as food insecure, of which 20 percent as severely food insecure and totally relying on humanitarian assistance. Incidence of food insecurity among host communities, estimated at 15 percent, is lower but still concerning.

Overall, the humanitarian situation in the areas where refugees from CAR and Nigeria sought refuge is dire, with host communities and refugees competing over the already depleted natural resources.

Humanitarian agencies, in close cooperation with the Government, are providing assistance to refugees and host communities; however, funding constrains and civil insecurity along the borders with Nigeria and CAR has limited the level of interventions to date.

In response to the needs of the increasing numbers of refugees and vulnerable resident households, the Cameroon Strategic Response Plan 2014-2016, launched in January 2014, has been scaled-up in July and currently appeals for USD 126 million.

Cameroon				
Cereal production				
	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
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Sorghum	1 112	1 150	1 150	0
Rice (paddy)	167	190	203	7
Others	89	90	90	0
Total	3 006	3 130	3 043	-3

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

Reference Date: 04-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic rainfall in southern parts during 2014 cropping season
- Inflation rates increased in 2014 due to higher fuel prices
- Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from Central African Republic and Nigeria and host communities

Erratic rainfall in southern parts

In several bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South harvesting of the 2014 main season crops has been concluded in October, while planting of the second season maize crops has also been recently concluded.

Satellite-based analyses indicate that a prolonged dry spell in July had a negative impact on vegetation conditions and may have also affected crops. Average to above-average rainfall in August and September reduced moisture deficits but another dry spell in the first two dekads of October may have negatively impacted germination and establishment of second season crops, for harvest in December/January. Rainfall amounts and distribution in the coming weeks will be crucial for crop development and performance.

In northern uni-modal areas (North and Far North regions), where sorghum and millet crops are predominantly grown, harvesting is underway. Early season dryness in July may have delayed planting operations but subsequent adequate rainfall benefited crops and a satisfactory output is expected (see ASI map).

Inflation rates increased in 2014

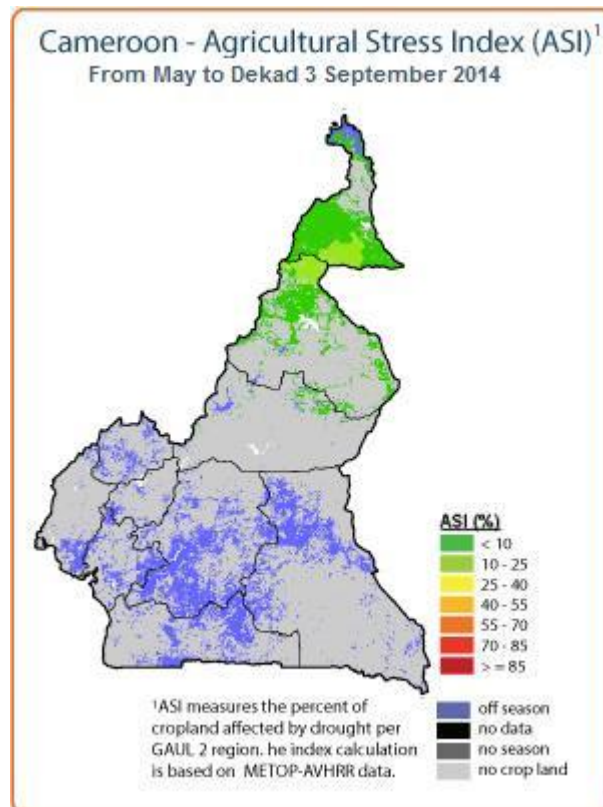
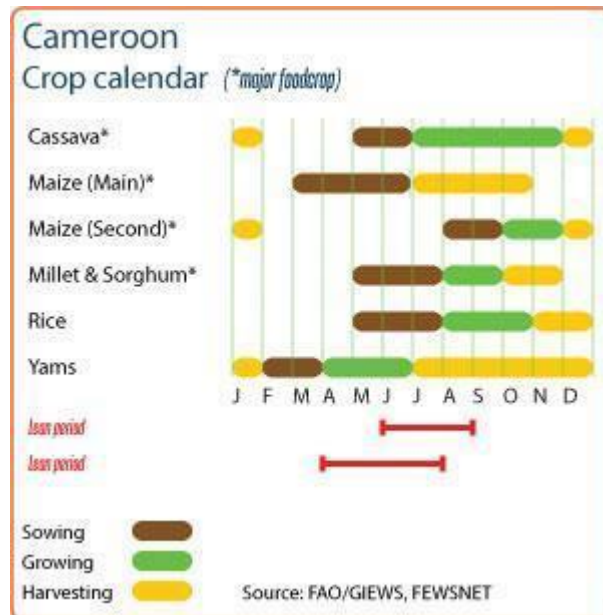
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In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, declining to 2.4 percent in 2012.

Dire humanitarian situation among refugees from Central African Republic and Nigeria and host communities

Cameroon is currently facing several food emergencies from the Sahel belt in the North where malnutrition, epidemics and food insecurity are a threat to thousands of Cameroonians, to the strain of hosting almost 300 000 refugees from both Central African Republic and Nigeria.

As of late October 2014, the number of refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) which sought refuge in Cameroon's East, Adamaoua and North regions was estimated at about 133 000 after a surge in sectarian violence in December 2013. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR



residing in Cameroon is currently estimated at about 241 000.

While the flow of new refugees has declined from its peak of around 5 000 per week in March-May 2014, new arrivals are still being registered on a daily basis. Refugees are arriving in dire conditions: many are suffering from exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition. An estimated 34.4 percent of the refugee households from CAR are food insecure (30.1 percent being moderately food insecure and 4.3 percent severely food insecure). In addition, acute malnutrition rates among children and mothers are above the emergency threshold with up to 30 percent of children under five suffering from acute malnutrition.

Refugees from Nigeria following the serious security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 44 000 in mid-October 2014, and are located in the Far North region. Their situation is precarious as they have mostly settled in villages along the common border, thus remaining exposed to insurgent group incursions into Cameroon. Humanitarian operators have transferred some of the refugees still scattered in the border regions to the Minawao camp, which has already reached its maximum capacity of 15 000 people.

Overall, the humanitarian situation in the areas where refugees from CAR and Nigeria sought refuge is dire, with host communities and refugees competing over already depleted natural resources. The lean season, which has peaked in September in northern parts, has aggravated food insecurity and malnutrition rates in regions, including North and Far North where the food situation was already precarious due to recurrent climatic shocks which have depleted the households' productive assets and eroded their resilience capacity.

Humanitarian agencies, in close cooperation with the Government, are providing assistance to refugees and host communities; however, funding constrains and civil insecurity along the borders with Nigeria and CAR have limited the level of interventions to date.

In response to the needs of the increasing numbers of refugees and vulnerable resident households, the Cameroon Strategic Response Plan 2014-2016, launched in January 2014, has been scaled up in July and currently appeals for USD 126 million.

Reference Date: 28-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2014 cropping season
- Improved 2013 cereal production
- Inflation forecast to remain low in 2014
- A large number of refugees from Central African Republic and Nigeria arrived in northern and eastern regions straining the already limited available resources

Good prospects for current crops

The main season maize crops will be harvested from July in the bimodal centre and south. Satellite-based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions from March to the second dekad of May 2014 have been generally favourable in most regions following well-distributed rainfall. In some areas, early season dryness in March was followed by adequate rains in April and May, which improved moisture conditions.

In the unimodal north, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, crops are being sown under favourable weather conditions, for harvest from October.

Improved 2013 cereal production

Harvesting of the 2013 food crops was concluded late last year into early 2014, under overall favourable conditions. Although official estimates are as yet not available, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is tentatively put at about 3.1 million tonnes, 5 percent up on the 2012 output and about 10 percent above the average of the previous five years.

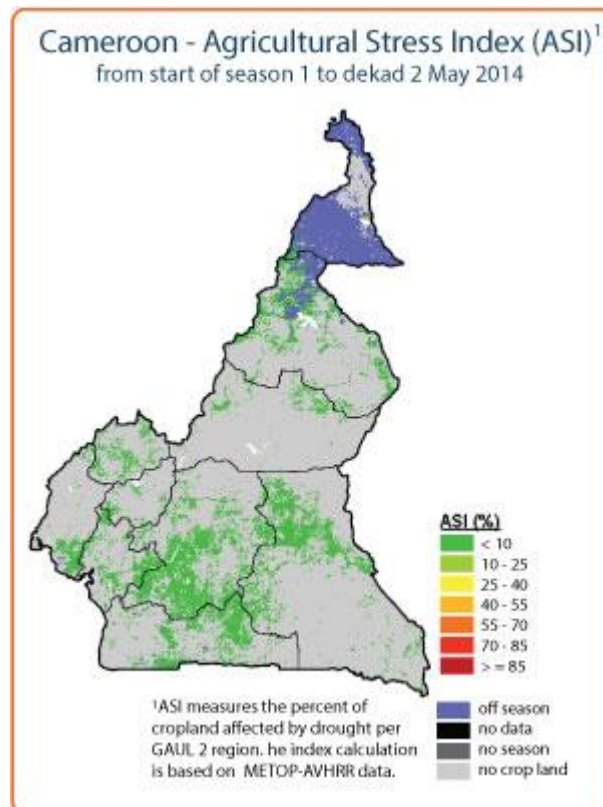
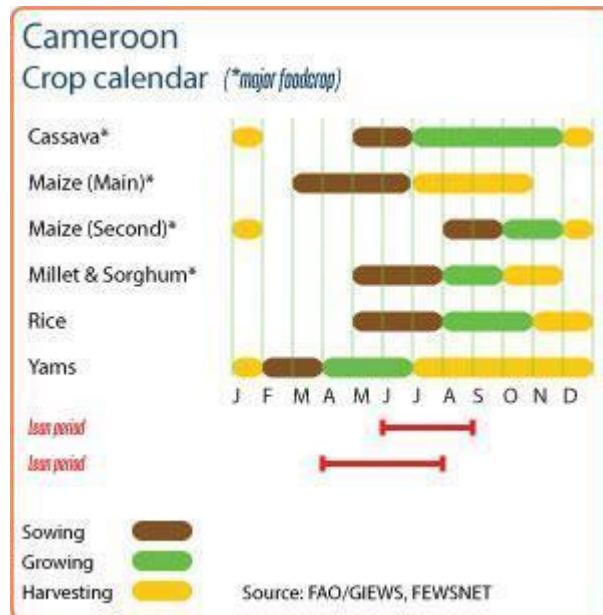
Inflation rates forecast to remain at low levels in 2014

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at a low 2 percent in 2013, is forecast to slightly increase to 2.5 percent in 2014.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, stabilizing in 2012.

Large number of refugees from Central African Republic and Nigeria arrived in northern and eastern regions in recent months

Cameroon's northern and eastern regions have been put under the enormous strain following the arrival of large numbers of refugees fleeing from neighbouring Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR). As of mid-May 2014, the number of refugees from CAR which sought refuge in Cameroon's East, Adamaoua and North regions, after a surge in sectarian violence in December 2013 was estimated at about 84 000. UNHCR estimates that the number refugees could reach up to



100 000 individuals in the next few months. Taking into account the refugees who had entered the country in earlier waves since 2004 to escape rebel groups and bandits, the total number of refugees from CAR residing in Cameroon is currently estimated at about 192 000 and could soon exceed 200 000 if new arrivals continue at their current rates.

Refugees from Nigeria, which entered the country following the serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013, were estimated at about 5 300 in April 2014, and are located in the Far North region.

An Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment Mission conducted in February 2014 showed that refugees have very limited resources; their productive assets have been depleted, cattle, money and other livelihood assets were looted, burned or left behind. After several weeks of travel with hardly anything to eat, their food and nutrition status had worsened dramatically. As a result, they have to rely on the limited resources of the host communities, thus risking of creating tensions with the local population, especially in the Far North and North regions, where food insecurity and malnutrition have the highest incidence.

To tackle the food insecurity situation of the new refugees from CAR which sought refuge in Cameroon from December 2013, an Emergency Operation (EMOP) worth USD 15.5 million has been approved by WFP and FAO on 22 May 2014 to provide 14 000 tonnes of food and nutrition support to 100 000 beneficiaries between 26 May 2014 and 26 January 2015.

Reference Date: 16-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improved 2013 cereal production
- Stable inflation rates in 2013
- Chronic food insecurity in northern parts of the country due to recurrent climatic shocks

Improved 2013 cereal production

Harvesting of the 2013 second season maize crops is underway in bimodal areas of the Centre and South. Early season dryness in August delayed planting operations; however, rains resumed to near average levels in the following months, and a satisfactory harvest is anticipated. Earlier in the year, the main season crops, harvested from June, received abundant precipitation during the planting and the growing period, with positive effects on yields.

In the unimodal North region, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, average to above average rainfall throughout the cropping period benefited crops, harvested in November.

As a result, in the absence of official forecasts, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is tentatively put at about 3.1 million tonnes, 5 percent up on last year's output and about 10 percent above the average of the previous five years.

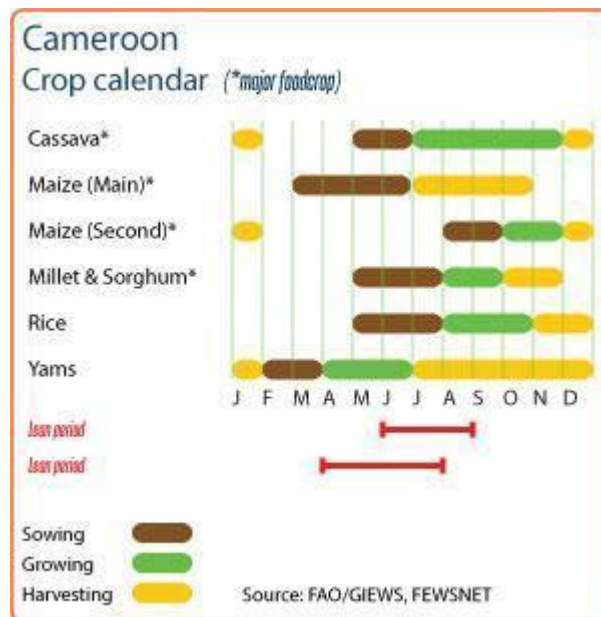
Inflation rates stable in 2013

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate remained stable at about 3 percent in 2013. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, stabilizing in 2012.

Chronic food insecurity in the northern regions due to recurrent climatic shocks

Since 2007, recurrent climate shocks have contributed to increased poverty and food insecurity in the North and Far-North regions. In 2008 and 2009, both regions were affected by drought while in 2009 and 2010 floods and a cholera epidemic resulted in devastation. More recently, the Logone and Chari departments (Far North region) have suffered in 2012 from the lingering effects of a severe cereal production shortfall caused by the drought conditions which prevailed in 2011. In addition, both Far North and North regions bore the brunt of flooding in September 2012, which affected 60 000 persons, caused damage to crops and population displacement. In September 2013, heavy rains caused the rupture of two dams along the Logone river in the Far North region resulting in the evacuation of 9 000 individuals. In addition, since May 2013, northern Cameroon received more than 12 000 Nigerian refugees, while the 16 684 refugees received from early 2013 from Central African Republic are mainly hosted in the Eastern region.

According to the findings of the 2011 comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment (CFSVA), in the North and Far-North food



Cereal	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 577	1 622	1 700	5
Sorghum	1 068	1 102	1 150	4
Rice (paddy)	135	139	170	22
Others	86	89	90	1
Total	2 866	2 952	3 110	5

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

insecurity has the highest incidence, with 15 percent and 18 percent of households, respectively, suffering from a chronic lack of adequate food (compared to a national average of 9.6 percent) affecting approximately 615 000 people. The North and Far-North also have the highest rates of severe food insecurity, 3.7 percent and 4.1 percent respectively. The nutritional situation is also critical in these regions, which have the highest global acute malnutrition rates: 10.2 percent of children in the North and 11.8 percent in the Far North suffer from stunting (compared to a national average of 6 percent). These figures are beyond the critical thresholds, and are comparable to some countries in the Sahel.

In response, the Government launched the “Strategy for Growth and Employment 2010-2020” programme which aims to modernize the productive system, particularly the agricultural sector, and to enhance human development through improved health, training and social protection.

WFP in close cooperation with the Government launched the “Country Programme 2013-2017” in late 2012. The country programme will assist 781 850 beneficiaries through the establishment of community grain stocks and nutritional support for vulnerable groups. The food aid will be provided by the Government, with FAO providing technical assistance on managing cereal stocks. The cost of the operation will amount to about USD 21 million, while the Government will provide additional USD 6 million.

Reference Date: 16-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Abundant precipitation during the main 2013 cropping season
- Stable inflation rates in 2013
- Chronic food insecurity in northern parts of the country due to recurrent climatic shocks

Abundant precipitation during the main 2013 cropping season

Harvesting of the 2013 main season and planting of the second season maize crops are underway concurrently in several bi modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South. Abundant precipitation from March to July, the main season planting and growing period, benefited crops and a good maize harvest is anticipated. The start of the second season maize planting was delayed in southern parts due to a dry spell in August; however, precipitation resumed to average levels in September. Rainfall amounts and distribution in the coming months will be crucial for development and performance of the crop to be harvested in December/January.

In the unimodal North region, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, harvest is underway: crops benefited from abundant rainfall throughout the planting and the growing period (May-September) and a satisfactory output is expected.

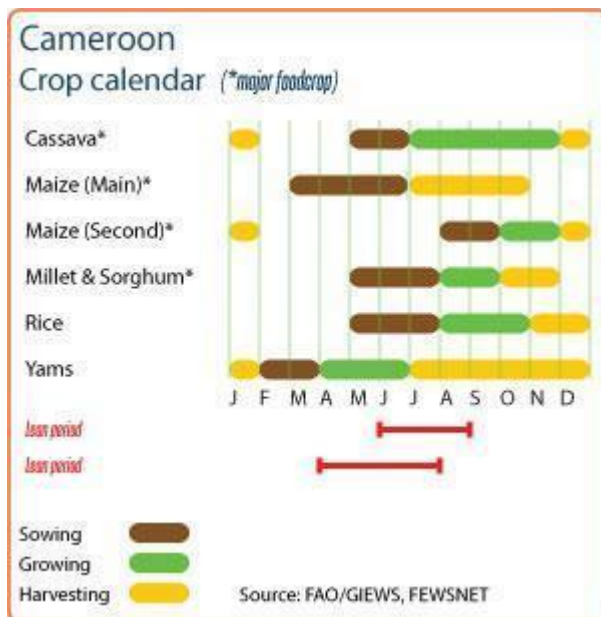
As a result, in the absence of official forecasts, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is tentatively put at about 3.1 million tonnes, 5 percent up on last year's output and about 10 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Inflation rates forecast to remain stable in 2013

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate is forecast to remain stable at about 3 percent in 2013. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, stabilizing in 2012.

Chronic food insecurity in the North region due to recurrent climatic shocks

Since 2007, recurrent climate shocks have contributed to increased poverty and food insecurity in the North and Far-North. In 2008 and 2009, both regions were affected by drought while in 2009 and 2010 floods and a cholera epidemic resulted in devastation. More recently, the Logone and Chari departments (Far North region) have suffered in 2012 from the lingering effects of a severe cereal production shortfall caused by the drought conditions which prevailed in 2011. In addition, both Far North and North regions bore the brunt of flooding in September 2012, which affected 60 000 persons, caused damage to crops and population displacement. In September 2013, heavy rains caused the rupture of two dams along the Logone river in the Far North region resulting in the evacuation of 9 000 individuals. In addition, since May 2013 the region received more than 3 000 refugees from Nigeria,



Cameroon Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 577	1 622	1 700	5
Sorghum	1 068	1 102	1 150	4
Rice (paddy)	135	139	170	22
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Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

while the more than 5 000 refugees received from December 2012 from Central African Republic are mainly hosted in the Eastern region.

According to the findings of the 2011 comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment (CFSVA), in the North and Far-North food insecurity has the highest incidence, with 15 percent and 18 percent of households, respectively, suffering from a chronic lack of adequate food (compared to a national average of 9.6 percent) affecting approximately 615 000 people. The North and Far-North also have the highest rates of severe food insecurity, 3.7 percent and 4.1 percent respectively. The nutritional situation is also critical in these regions, which have the highest global acute malnutrition rates: 10.2 percent of children in the North and 11.8 percent in the Far North suffer from stunting (compared to a national average of 6 percent). These figures are beyond the critical thresholds, and are comparable to some countries in the Sahel.

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Reference Date: 05-June-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Abundant precipitation at the start of the main 2013 cropping season
- Average crop gathered in 2012
- Stable inflation rates forecast for 2013
- Chronic food insecurity in northern parts of the country due to recurrent climatic shocks

Abundant precipitation at the start of the main cropping season

The main season maize crops will be harvested from July in the bi-modal Centre and South, while in the unimodal North, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, planting is underway.

Yams, mainly grown in the Centre, will be harvested from July. According to satellite-based observations, the onset of seasonal rains occurred about a month earlier than normal, with abundant precipitation in February. Rains subsequently continued at well above average levels in March, and at about average levels in April and May.

While the early and abundant rains are not expected to have a significant impact on the maize crop, they are likely to be particularly beneficial for the germination of yams, which have been planted earlier (February-March) and are particularly vulnerable to dry conditions at the start of the season.

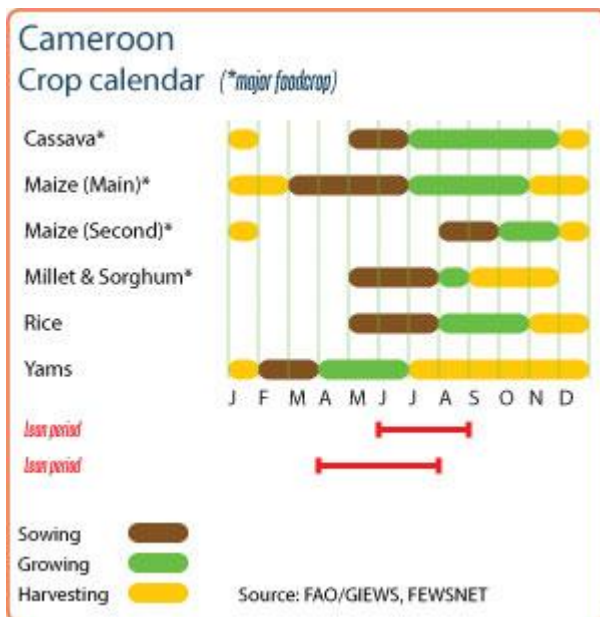
In 2012, mixed rainfall situation resulted in an average crop

Harvesting of the 2012 food crops was concluded late last year into early 2013. The temporal distribution of rains during March to June (the main maize growth period in the bi-modal Centre and South) was erratic although the cumulative levels of rainfall were similar to the long-term average. By contrast, abundant rains benefited crops in the north, despite localized floods which negatively impacted cereal production in some areas. Official production estimates are not yet available, and the cereal output in 2012 is tentatively put at average levels.

According to the preliminary findings of a joint Government/FAO/WFP Food Security Assessment Mission that visited Northern Cameroon in January-February 2013, the 2012 cereal output in the North province, estimated at 509 601 tonnes, was 16 percent lower than the previous year, while in the Far North region, despite an increase in cereal production, localized production shortfalls occurred for the second consecutive year. The Logone and Chari department (Far North region) has suffered in 2012 from the lingering effects of a severe cereal production shortfall caused by the drought conditions which prevailed in 2011; additionally, both Far North and North regions bore the brunt of flooding in September 2012, which affected 60 000 individuals, causing damage to crops and population displacement.

Inflation rates forecast to remain stable in 2013

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate is forecast to remain



Cameroon Cereal production

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stable at about 3 percent in 2013. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, stabilizing in 2012.

Chronic food insecurity in the north due to recurrent climatic shocks

The Food Security Assessment Mission found that cereal stocks were already depleted as early as March 2013 in 21 districts out of a total of 47 in the Far North region, where 1.78 million people (about 46 percent of the region's total population) reside.

In addition, based on preliminary data from the 2012 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, jointly carried out by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, in northern Cameroon the chronic malnutrition rates (44.8 percent in the Far North Region, 43.3 percent in the North region) exceed the "critical" threshold of 40 percent set by the World Health Organization. Similarly, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates of 6.3 percent in the Far North and 5.5 percent in the North are higher than the "precarious" threshold of 5 percent.

Reference Date: 17-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of the main season maize crop is well underway
- Stable inflation rates forecast for 2013
- Chronic food insecurity in northern parts of the country due to recurrent climatic shocks

Abundant precipitation at the start of the main cropping season

Planting of the 2013 main season maize crop is underway both in the bimodal Centre-South and in the unimodal North. According to satellite-based observations, the onset of seasonal rains occurred about a month earlier than normal, with abundant precipitation in February. While this early start is not expected to have a significant impact on the maize crop, it is likely to be particularly beneficial for the germination of yams, which have been planted earlier (February-March) and are particularly vulnerable to dry conditions at the start of the season.

In 2012, mixed rainfall situation resulted in an average crop

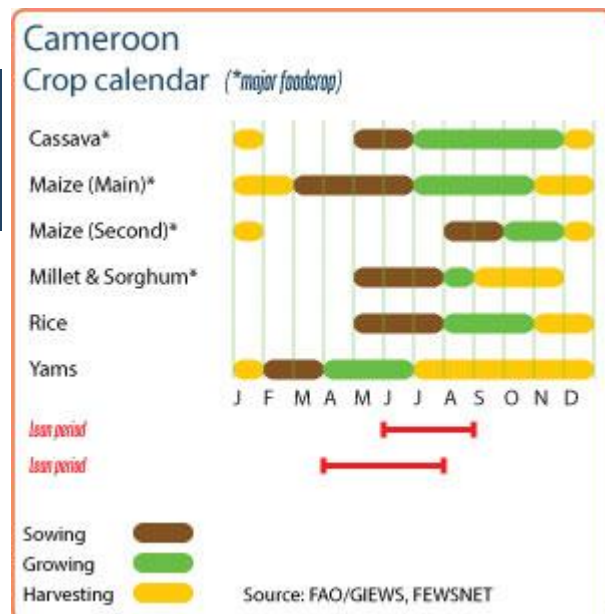
Harvesting of the 2012 food crops was concluded late last year into early 2013. The temporal distribution of rains during March to June (the main maize growth period in the bi-modal Centre and South) was erratic although the cumulative levels of rainfall were similar to the long-term average. By contrast, abundant rains benefited crops in the north, despite localized floods. Official production estimates are not yet available but the cereal output in 2012 is tentatively put at about average levels.

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Inflation rates forecast to remain stable in 2013

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate is forecast to remain stable at about 3 percent in 2013. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, stabilizing in 2012.

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Reference Date: 21-December-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed rainfall situation observed during the 2012 cropping season
- Stable inflation rates registered in 2012
- Chronic food insecurity in northern parts of the country was aggravated by recent floods

Average early crop forecast in 2012 following mixed rainfall

Harvesting of the 2012 second season maize crop is almost complete in the Centre-South, while in the uni-modal North, harvesting of coarse grains was completed last November.

In the Centre-South, erratic and slightly below average rains may have negatively affected crop growth in parts. The temporal distribution of rains during March to June (the main maize growth period in the bi-modal Centre and South) was erratic although the cumulative levels of rainfall were similar to the long term average.

By contrast, abundant rains benefited crops in the north despite some localized floods.

Official production estimates are not yet available but the cereal output in 2012 is tentatively put at about average levels.

Inflation rates remained stable in 2012

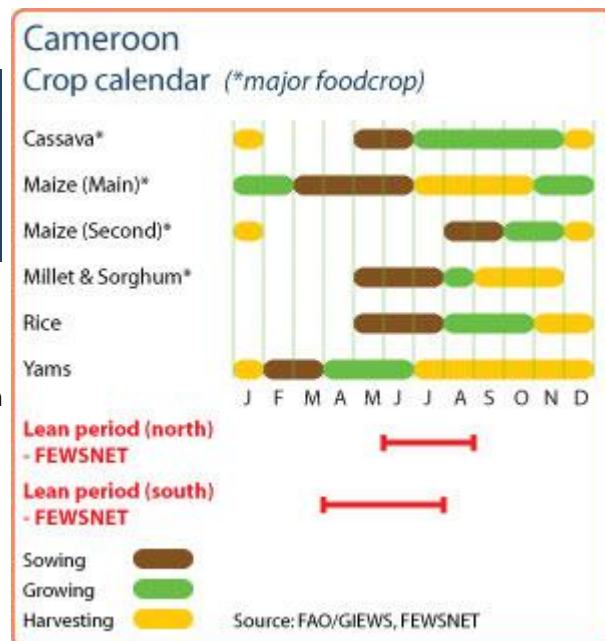
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate remained stable at about 3 percent in 2012. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 then declining to 3 percent and 1 percent in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent.

Government regulations and subsidies on food imports generally tame the impact of international market fluctuations on domestic markets.

Recent floods aggravate food insecurity in the north

Northern Cameroon has experienced drought conditions in 2009 and 2011 and floods in 2010 resulting in severe damages to crop and forage. Consequently, large numbers of people were left with little or no food or assets. According to a joint Government-FAO-WFP survey carried on in May 2011, more than 20 percent of all households in northern Cameroon are food insecure, while more than 60 percent are at risk of food insecurity.

In addition, in 2012, torrential rains caused heavy damage to people, assets and crops in Northern parts of Cameroon. By September 2012, the cumulative rainfall levels in North and Far North regions were 62 and 40 percent above the long term average, respectively. In the Far North the situation was aggravated by the rupture of the Maga dam, which caused the flooding of Dreissou, Begue, Palam Doungui, Pouss and Tekela villages.



The government has allocated about USD 3 million to assist the affected population while the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated about USD 330 000 to support the Cameroon Red Cross. An Emergency Appeal for USD 1.8 million was launched.

GIEWS Country Brief

Cameroon



Reference Date: 27-June-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season
- Chronic food insecurity in the north aggravated by recent localized crop failures

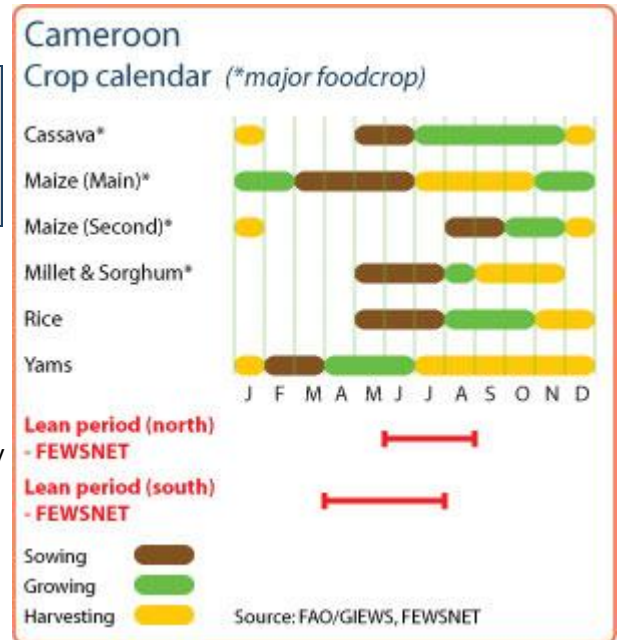
Erratic and insufficient precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season

The main 2012 maize crop, for harvest from July, has been affected by erratic rainfall. Unusually abundant rainfall during February was followed by below average precipitation in the following months of March, April and May. Consequently, crop development and yields may have been compromised.

Chronic food insecurity in the north aggravated by recent localized crop failures

The north of Cameroon, located in the Sahel region, has experienced droughts in the years of 2009 and 2011 and floods in 2010. Each of these years has resulted in a high degree of crop failure, leaving the population with limited or no stocks for the lean season and increasing the gap between food production and food needs. An estimated 5.5 million people are living in the Far North region of Cameroon and the majority are farmers and agro-pastoralists.

According to a joint Government-FAO-WFP survey carried on in May 2011, more than 20 percent of households are food insecure, while more than 60 percent are at risk of food insecurity. In addition, a joint Government/FAO/WFP food security assessment mission carried out in November 2011 in the North and Far North regions estimated the cereal harvest in the Logone and Chari division at less than half of the previous year. High prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition is also reported. An estimated 400 000 people were severely affected by crop failures of which half would require immediate food assistance. An Emergency Operation (EMOP) has been initiated by WFP aiming to deliver 19 000 tonnes to 258 100 most affected people for a nine month period (April-December 2012). In addition, FAO is assisting vulnerable pastoralists in the Logone and Chari division with improved seeds, animal feed and vaccines to support their self-sufficiency.



GIEWS Country Brief

Cameroon



Reference Date: 29-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimated decline in cereal production for 2011/12 season due to unfavourable rains
- Maize prices on the increase across the country.

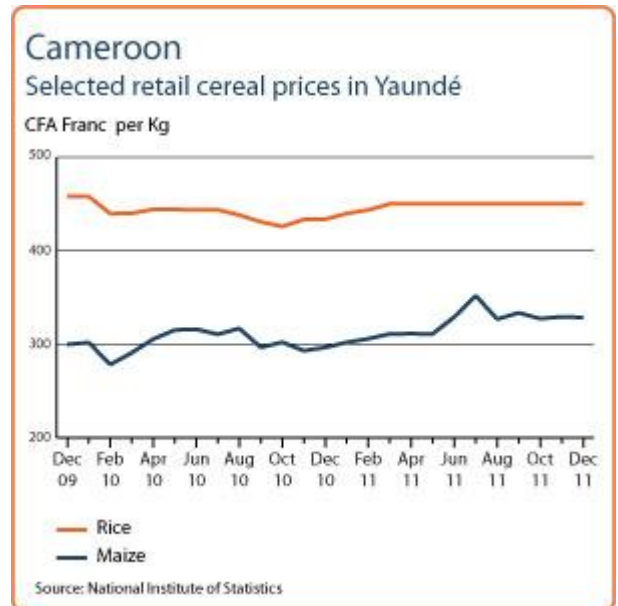
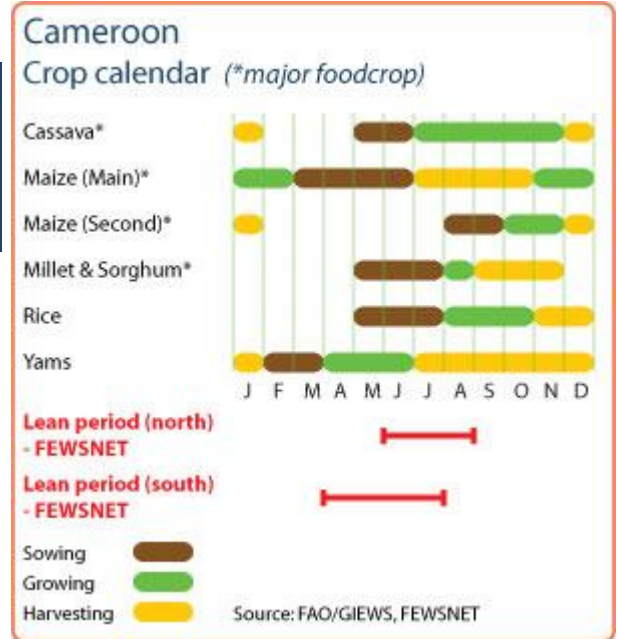
Dry conditions negatively affected crop yield in parts of the country

Harvesting of the 2011 second season maize crop has been completed in January 2012 in the South. While in the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November 2011.

Production estimates are not yet available but satellite based rainfall estimates indicate below-average rainfall in many parts of the country, notably in North-West, South and South-West regions, which affected crop yield and production in these areas.

Increase in maize prices

Prices of the main staple, maize have been following an upward trend since early 2011. In December 2011, they were up to 42 percent higher than in December 2010. The high prices of local cereal are driven by tight supply in the subregion and high demand from neighbouring countries including Chad and Nigeria. Although rice prices remained mostly stable in recent months, average annual consumer price inflation accelerated to 2.9 percent in 2011 compared to 1.3 percent in 2010, mainly on account of an increase in food inflation (4.6 percent).



GIEWS Country Brief

Cameroon



Reference Date: 13 September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early crop prospects for the 2011 cereal crops are uncertain due to irregular rains in most parts of the country
- Prices of maize increase throughout the country from February 2010

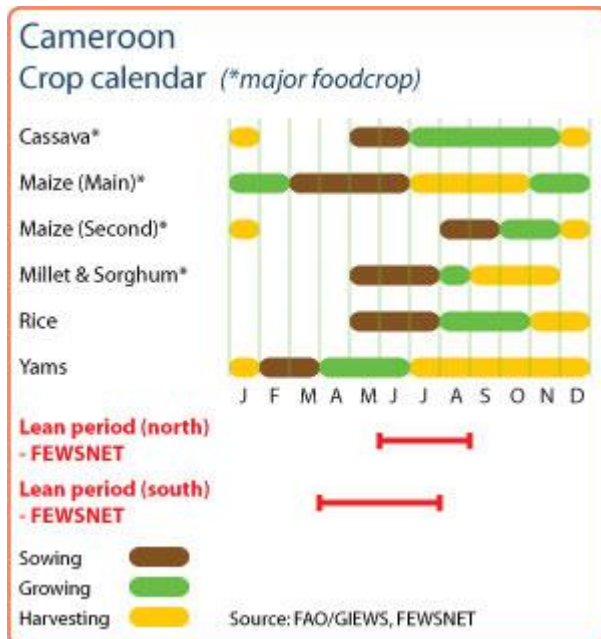
Prospects for the 2011 cereal crop remain uncertain

Harvesting of the main maize crop, planted between March and June, in the South, is underway. In the unimodal North, harvesting of cereals is about to begin. Satellite based rainfall estimates indicate erratic levels of rain in many parts of the country until last July, when most regions (except the North-West and South) received above average rainfalls. The erratic rains are likely to affect cereal production this year.

Increase in maize prices

Maize prices have been increasing since February 2011 across the country. The highest increase was recorded in Bamede, where maize prices in June, at 287 CFA Franc/Kg, were 40 percent higher than one year earlier; In Yaoundé, at 329 CFA Franc/kg, prices were 4 percent higher.

Prices of rice, the second main food staple in the country, have remained largely stable. Rice is imported mainly to satisfy the consumption requirements in the south due to the large distance and high transportation costs of moving rice from the main producing regions in the north.

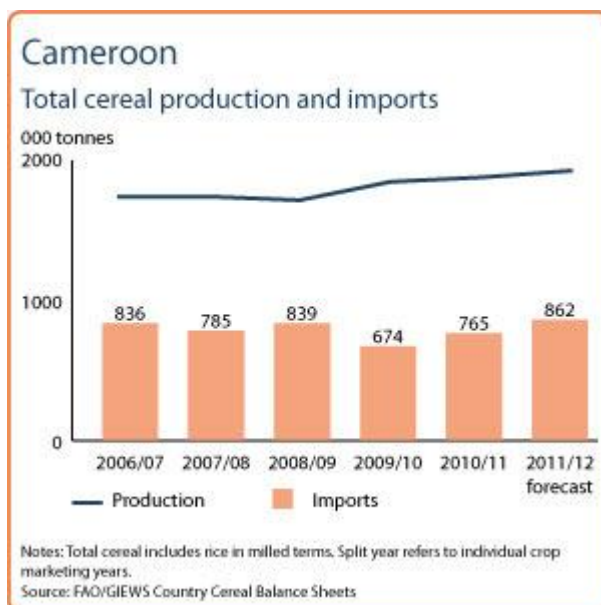


Cameroon

Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 021	1 138	1 175	3
Sorghum	612	582	600	3
Rice (paddy)	98	108	101	-6
Others	53	50	50	0
Total	1 784	1 878	1 926	3

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



Reference Date: 30-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of the 2011 crops has just begun under favourable weather conditions
- Good crop harvest estimated in 2010
- Cereal imports increased in 2010
- Prices of maize decline throughout the country from the beginning of 2010, but high prices persist in Yaoundé
- Food security conditions remain poor for refugees and local population in central regions

Adequate rains allow for good land preparation and sowing of the first 2011 maize crop, due for harvest from July. Planting of coarse grains will progress northwards following the onset of the rains.

Cereal Production increased in 2010

National cereal production is estimated to have increased in 2010 compared to the previous year but is still below the average of the last five years. According to official sources overall cereal production in 2010 is estimated at 1.52 million tonnes, about 4 percent higher than in 2009.

With regard to cash crops, there is a positive outlook for cocoa, coffee and sugar production which are expected to increase by an average of 7 percent.

Increase in cereal imports

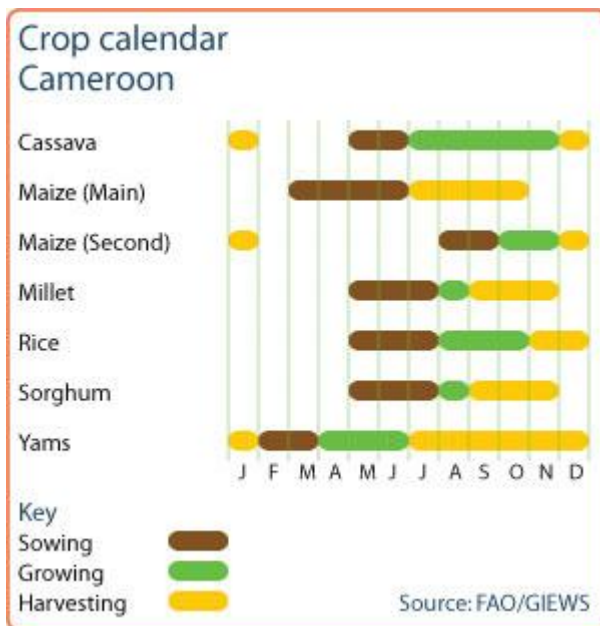
In the 2011 marketing year (January-December) the volume of commercially imported cereals, mainly wheat and rice, is expected to reach about 800 000 tonnes.

Falling maize prices, except in Yaoundé

Maize prices across the country have been declining since the beginning of 2010, with the exception of Yaoundé, where prices have remained steady at high levels. This trend reflects mainly the relatively good 2010 harvest. In February 2011 prices in Yaoundé, at 306 CFA Franc/kg, were slightly above the price recorded one year earlier. In the markets of Garoua and Bafoussam, during February, maize prices were trading respectively at 5 and 32 percent below levels recorded in the corresponding period in the previous year. Prices of rice, the second main food staple in the country, have remained stable. Rice is imported largely to satisfy the consumption requirements in the south due to the large distance and high transportation costs of moving rice from the main producing regions in the north.

Food insecurity conditions persist for refugees and local population

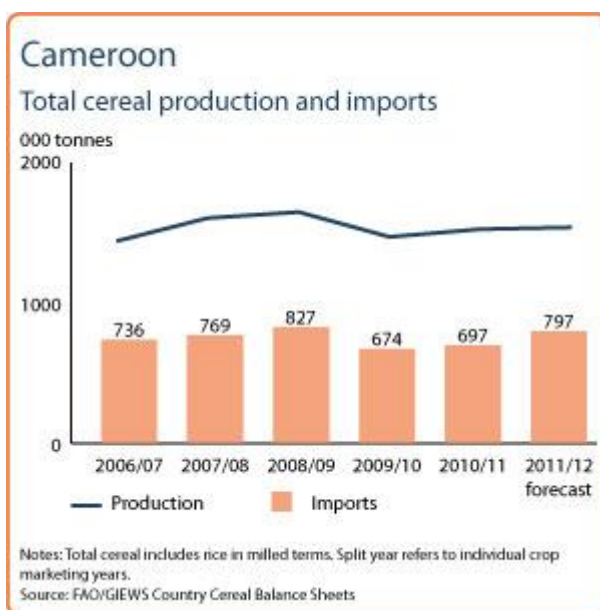
Over 82 000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad are currently located in the regions of Adamawa and East. Despite improvements in the overall food security conditions since their arrival in 2005, a mid-2010 survey in the two regions estimated that approximately one quarter of all households, including the host



Cameroon Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	907	930	950	2
Sorghum	479	437	437	0
Rice (paddy)	98	108	101	-6
Others	532	487	487	0
Total	1 537	1 525	1 538	1

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



population, suffer from poor food consumption patterns, with higher rates of food insecurity in Adamawa. Furthermore, around 9 percent of refugees and 6 percent of local population are categorised as severely food insecure in the regions of Adamawa and East.

Moreover, unusual rainfall in February has triggered floods in Yaoundé, contaminating drinking water from dug wells. This caused cholera outbreak spreading fast through the capital.

Reference Date: 16-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains during the main 2010 cropping season support cereal production growth
- Prices of maize decline throughout the country, but high prices persist in Yaoundé
- Food security conditions remain poor for refugees in central regions

Favourable rainfall supports production gains

The sowing of the first 2011 main maize crop, due for harvest from July, will begin soon in the south.

Harvesting of the 2010 main and secondary maize crop was completed late last year. The 2010 cropping season was characterised by favourable rains in the north and central regions, in contrast to mixed rainfall levels observed across some southern areas. Although, as yet, no official crop production figures are available, tentative estimates point to an expanded 2010 harvest over the previous year.

Falling maize prices, except in Yaoundé

Maize prices across the country have been declining since the beginning of 2010, with the exception of Yaoundé, where prices have remained steady at high levels. In December 2010 prices in Yaoundé, at 296 CFA Franc/kg, were only marginally below the price recorded one year earlier. In the markets of Garoua and Bafoussam, during December, maize prices were trading at 17 and 23 percent below levels recorded in the corresponding period in the previous year. The lower prices reflect the good harvest; however, prices in these two markets increased in December following seasonal patterns. Prices of rice, the second main food staple in the country have remained stable during the last year. Rice is imported largely to satisfy the consumption requirements in the south due to the large distance and high transportation costs of moving rice from the main producing regions in the north.

Food insecurity conditions persist for refugees

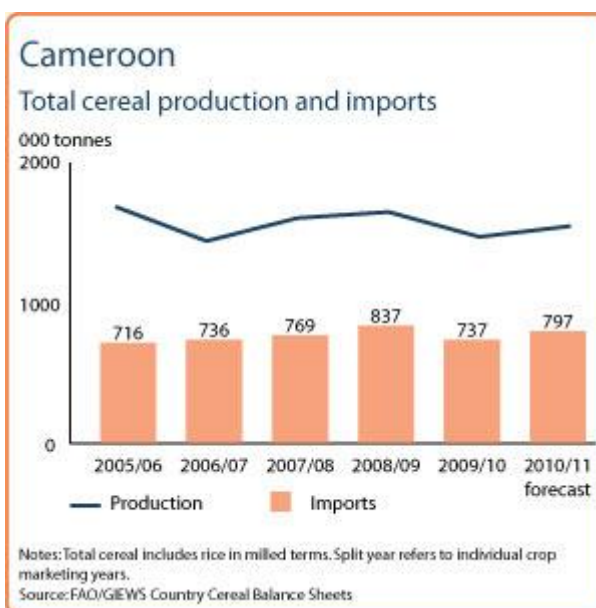
Over 82 000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad are currently located in the regions of Adamawa and East. Despite improvements in food security conditions since their arrival in 2005, a mid-2010 survey in the two regions estimated that approximately one quarter of all households, including the host population, suffer from poor food consumption patterns, with higher rates of food insecurity in Adamawa. Furthermore, nearly 10 percent of refugees are categorised as severely food insecure.



Cameroon Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	926	884	930	5
Sorghum	496	417	437	5
Rice (paddy)	92	123	129	5
Others	56	47	50	6
Total	1570	1471	1547	5

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



Reference Date: 12-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Heavy rainfall during February and March is expected to improve planting conditions for the 2010/11 season
- Cereal production declined in the 2009/10 agricultural season, following unfavourable rains in the northern regions
- Drop in cereal production in the two northern regions is expected to negatively impact on the food security conditions of vulnerable households

Good rains and government support expected to improve agricultural production

Reflecting continued government support, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has planned to assist the expansion of cash crops including coffee and cocoa, as well as rice and maize production in the 2010/11 cropping season. Heavy rainfall recorded in February and the first weeks of March in southern regions, is expected to help land preparations for planting the 2010/11 crops; maize planting is currently underway.

2009 cereal production declines following poor rains in the north of the country

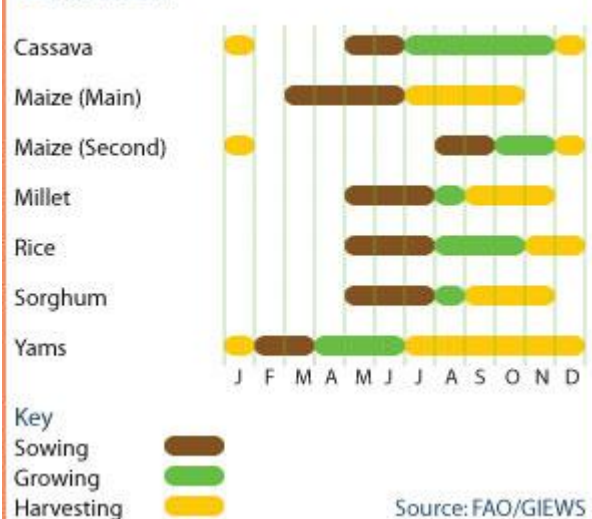
Harvesting of the secondary season maize crop in 2009/10 was completed in January; total cereal production is estimated to have fallen below the output recorded in the previous year. Poor rains in the North, particularly in Logone and Chari, during the beginning of the season (June and July) together with prolonged dry spells negatively impacted initial crop development for millet and sorghum. The two regions produce approximately 90 percent of the total national output of millet and sorghum. A joint government/FAO/WFP food security assessment mission that visited northern Cameroon recently, found that the combined millet and sorghum harvest in the Far North was down by 22 percent compared to the 2008 output. The report also indicates that the maize harvest in the Far North fell compared to the previous season's level, with limited fertiliser use contributing to the decrease. In contrast, rice production in the North and Far North is estimated at an average level for the 2009/10 season. The two northern regions produce approximately two thirds of the total national rice output in a normal year. However, given the distance from the main consumption centres in the south, the majority of the output is exported to Central African Republic, Chad and Nigeria, with imports covering the remaining national consumption requirements.

Lower rainfall levels, in addition, affected water reserves and consequently pasture conditions.

Maize prices decline in northern regions

During 2009 cereal prices in the Far North and North regions were at a lower level compared to prices observed in the previous year. In Kouseri and Maroua markets (Far North), maize prices in January 2010 dropped by 19 and 32 percent, respectively, compared to prices recorded in the same month in 2008. Similarly, in Ngong and Garoua (North), maize prices fell by approximately 16 percent over the same

Crop calendar Cameroon



Cameroon

Cereal production

	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		estimate	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	942	950	884	-7
Sorghum	534	550	417	-24
Millet	58	60	46	-23
Others	52	55	55	0
Total	1587	1615	1402	-13

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

period.

The government's provision of 4 000 tonnes of subsidised maize to the poultry industry may also have contributed to lowering maize prices. Furthermore, the Government reached an agreement with industry groups and wholesalers to freeze prices of basic food items, including rice, frozen fish and cooking oil, until July 2010. This initiative is expected to help limit food inflation.

Drought conditions aggravate food insecurity in the extreme north of the country

Food security conditions in the northern departments are poor following the reduction in cereal production and the situation needs to be closely monitored. Low income households and those affected by drought conditions, especially in Makary, Blangoua, Fotokol, Hile-Alifa Goulfey and Logone-and-Chari will be particularly impacted by the decline in millet and sorghum crops, which cover about 40 percent of households' cereal requirements in the north.

UNHCR has estimated that over 80 000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad are currently located in the regions of Adamawa and East. Despite some improvement in food consumption since their arrival, an estimated 39 percent of the refugees in these regions still remain severely food insecure. An Emergency Operation, currently in progress, is to supply food aid to the refugees until the end of July 2010.

Reference Date: 18-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimated decline in cereal production for 2009/10 season, on account of unfavourable rains
- Cereal prices stabilise in 2009, but remain higher than levels recorded before the price crisis in 2008

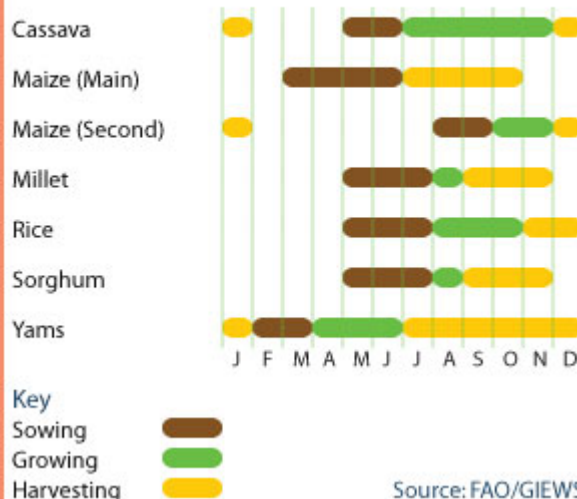
Dry conditions in the north negatively affects crop yield

Harvesting of the secondary maize crop is scheduled to be completed in January 2010. While overall growing conditions were favourable in the southern part of the country, satellite based rainfall-estimates indicate that the northern region, which is a predominantly sorghum and millet growing area, received below average rainfall between May and September, which affected crop yield. The government will continue to support agricultural production growth in 2010, which is expected to start towards the end of February, through the provision of seeds, subsidised inputs and improving access to financial credit for farmers.

Cereal prices remain higher than normal in 2009

The rise in international food prices and strong recovery of the poultry industry, which was hard hit by Avian Influenza in 2006, has contributed to a steady rise of cereal prices since the end of 2007. As of December cereal prices still remain above levels recorded two years earlier, prior to the food price crisis. In the capital, Yaoundé, maize prices have exhibited a steady increasing trend over the past 24 months, but fell by 10 percent between May (peak price) and December 2009. By contrast, rice prices have remained comparatively stable in 2009, increasing marginally between January and December. This pattern strongly reflects international market prices, demonstrating the relatively high degree of integration between the international and domestic market, with Cameroon importing approximately a quarter of the national cereal consumption requirements. The government is expected to continue to control the price of basic food staples and maintain the import tariff exemption for food commodities. These two policy initiatives should assist in restraining food inflation.

Crop calendar Cameroon



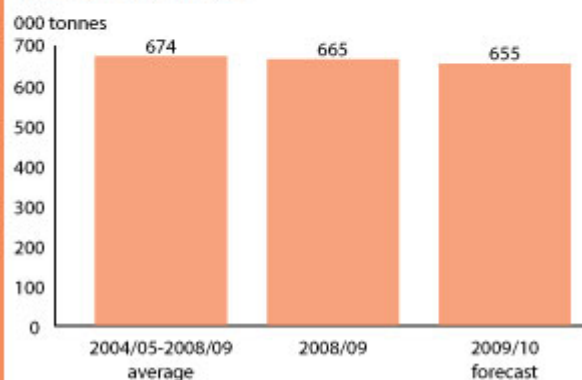
Cameroon

Cereal production

	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	942	950	874	-8
Sorghum	534	550	495	-10
Millet	58	60	48	-20
Others	1	0	0	0
Total	1587	1615	1472	-9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports

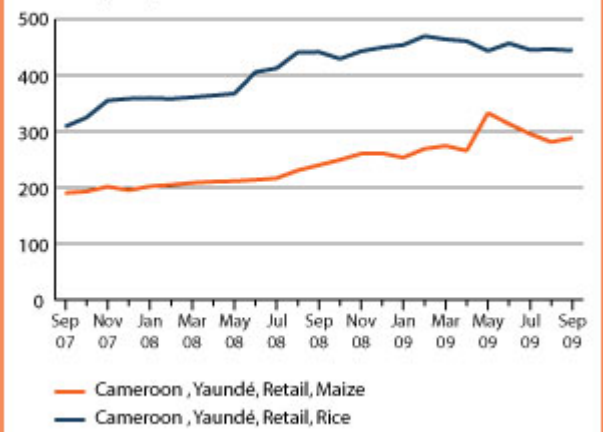


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Cameroon Selected cereal prices

CFA Franc per kg



Source: National Institute of Statistics

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mix crop prospects for 2009
- Food prices continue to increase
- The Government continues to control the price of basic food staples

Prospects for the 2009 food crops are mixed

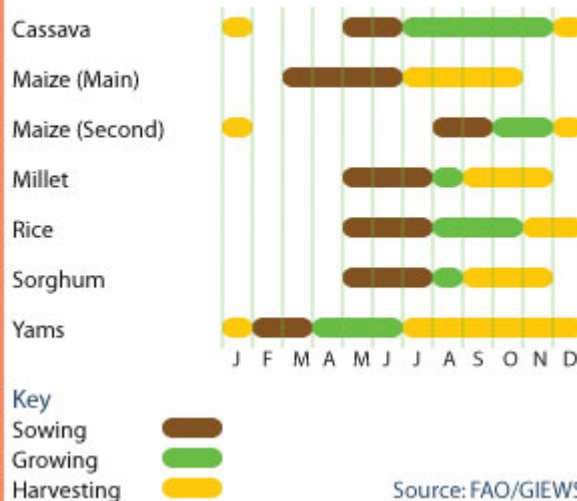
The harvesting of the main maize crop, which was sowed between March and June, is underway. Rainfall estimates indicate that localized areas of southern Cameroon received below average rainfall in March and early April, which may have delayed the sowing of maize in some areas. However, overall, rainfall during the maize growing period (March – June) in the south-west was favourable, with rains subsiding in early July during the harvest period. The southern position of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) has suppressed rainfall in the northern region, leading to some localised moisture deficits in the sorghum and millet growing regions. The water shortages could have delayed planting activities in areas and hindered initial crop development, with satellite imagery from July indicating poor crop conditions in the north.

Food prices remain high, affecting access to food across the country

Cereal prices have remained above pre-crisis levels of 2007, as of June 2009. The retail price of maize in Yaoundé increased by 24 percent between January and June 2009, and still remains 47 percent higher than a year earlier. Similarly, rice prices in June 2009 were 9 percent higher than the same period last year, and 45 percent higher compared to June 2007. The rise in international food prices and strong recovery of the poultry industry, which was hard hit by Avian Influenza in 2006, has contributed to a steady rise of cereal prices since the end of 2007. The government will continue to control the price of basic food staples and maintain the import tariff exemption for food commodities. These two policy initiatives should assist in controlling food inflation.

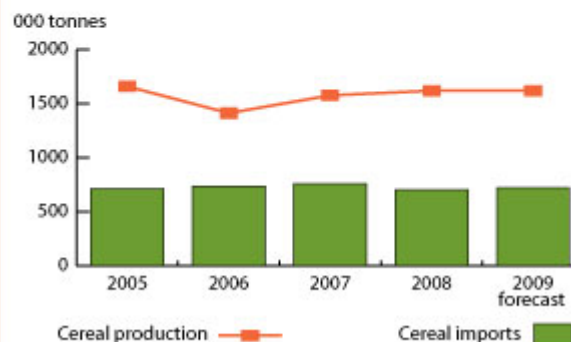
Imports of cereals in 2009, mostly wheat and maize, are forecast at just below 650 000 tonnes, which is close to the average.

Crop calendar Cameroon



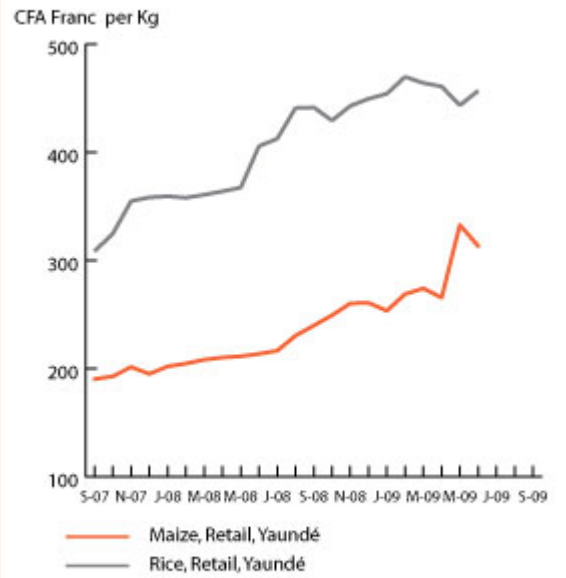
Cereal production and imports Cameroon

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	942	950	950	0%
Sorghum	534	550	550	0%
Millet	58	60	60	0%
Other	53	60	60	0%
Total Cereals	1591	1620	1620	0%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Cameroon Selected cereal food prices



Source: National Institute of Statistics