



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Honduras

Reference Date: 07-June-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting operations of 2023 main maize crop ongoing
- Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year
- Prices of staple beans, rice and maize higher year-on-year in April
- High levels of acute food insecurity to persist in 2023

Planting operations of 2023 main maize crop ongoing

Planting operations of the 2023 main season maize crop is ongoing, amid generally adequate soil moisture levels in the key maize producing departments of Olancho and El Paraíso. By contrast, below-average rainfall amounts in April and May resulted in dry conditions in northern areas. Weather forecasts indicate below-average rainfall amounts and elevated temperatures in the June to August period, with adverse effects on crop yields. In particular, dry and hot weather conditions are expected in the southern Dry Corridor area as well as Yoro and Atlántida departments in the north.

Fertilizer imports during the first quarter of 2023 were 7 percent lower year-on-year, after the below-average imports recorded in 2022. Domestic prices of fertilizers in end-May remained well above the average, albeit lower year-on-year due to recent declines in international quotations. The reduced imports and thus the low availability of fertilizers in domestic markets are likely to maintain fertilizer prices at high levels. If the use of fertilizers is constrained due to high prices, farmers may have to lower the application, with negative effects on crop yields.

In order to improve production capacity of smallholder farmers, the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) started distributing free seeds (maize, beans, sorghum or rice), fertilizers, herbicides and fungicides in mid-May. The SAG targets at least 300 000 smallholder farmers, with a total budget of HNL 1 billion (about USD 40 million).

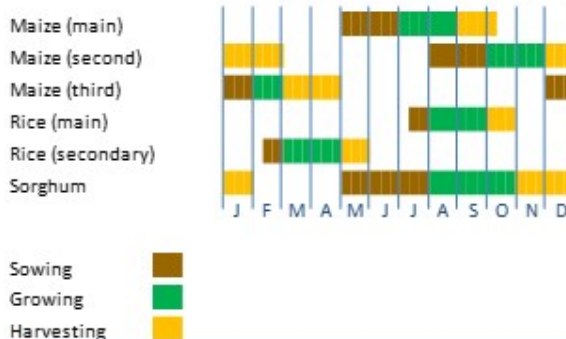
Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (September/August) are expected at an above-average level of 1.3 million tonnes. The high needs reflect the increasing

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Honduras

Cereal Production

	2018-2022	2022	2023	change
	average			2023/2022
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	661	670	630	-6.0
Rice (paddy)	50	49	45	-8.2
Sorghum	19	15	15	0.0
Total	730	734	690	-6.0

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

consumption of wheat and rice in line with population growth and the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry.

Prices of staple beans, rice and maize higher year-on-year in April

Prices of red beans have generally increased since October 2022 and, in April 2023, they were more than 40 percent higher year-on-year. The high level of prices reflects the decline in production in 2022, as well as elevated production and transport costs. High quotations of beans in Nicaragua, where the country sources on average about 10 percent of the annual domestic supply, provided additional upward pressure on prices. Similarly, prices of white maize rose throughout the first four months of 2023 in line with seasonal trends and were slightly above their year-earlier levels. Prices of rice have been stable since August 2022 and, in April 2023, they were nearly 15 percent up from a year earlier. This is due to sharp increases in the previous months, on account of rising quotations of rice in the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier.

In general, prices of most food commodities have been on the rise since end-2021, with the annual inflation rate of food estimated at 15.8 percent in April 2023, limiting the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households.

High levels of acute food insecurity to persist in 2023

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the population facing acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) is estimated at 2.34 million people during the March-May 2023 period,¹ marginally down from the 2.36 million people in the same period in 2022. The projection points to 2.42 million people (25 percent of the analyzed population) experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season June to August 2023, slightly lower compared to the 2.64 million people a year before. The year-on-year improvement mainly reflects recovering economic activities in the tourism, textile and agricultural sectors, albeit slowly. The persistent high levels of food insecurity are mainly due to the elevated prices of food and agricultural inputs, constraining the access to food and the extent of sowings. Excessive rains in localized areas in the northern region in the second half of 2022 affected livelihoods of palm and banana producers, especially in the Gracias a Dios Department.

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This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:

FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS) <https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/>.

FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool <https://fpma.fao.org/>.

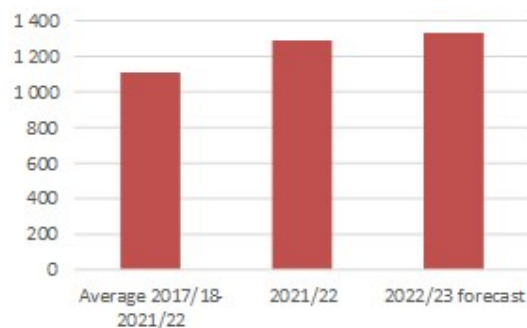
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

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

Honduras

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

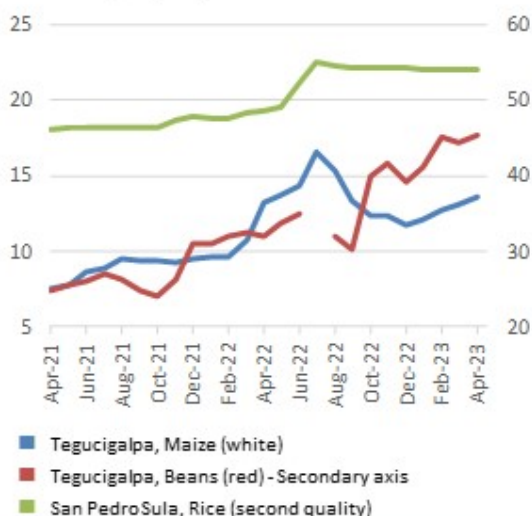


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices

Honduran lempira per kg



¹ The result is published by IPC, yet is awaiting the government's official endorsement.



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Honduras

Reference Date: 07-June-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

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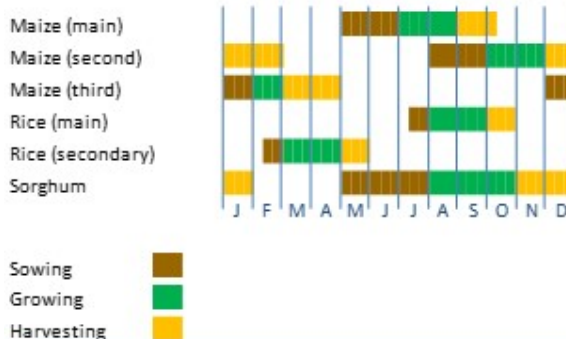
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Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Honduras

Cereal Production

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	average			2023/2022
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In general, prices of most food commodities have been on the rise since end-2021, with the annual inflation rate of food estimated at 15.8 percent in April 2023, limiting the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households.

High levels of acute food insecurity to persist in 2023

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the population facing acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) is estimated at 2.34 million people during the March-May 2023 period,¹ marginally down from the 2.36 million people in the same period in 2022. The projection points to 2.42 million people (25 percent of the analyzed population) experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season June to August 2023, slightly lower compared to the 2.64 million people a year before. The year-on-year improvement mainly reflects recovering economic activities in the tourism, textile and agricultural sectors, albeit slowly. The persistent high levels of food insecurity are mainly due to the elevated prices of food and agricultural inputs, constraining the access to food and the extent of sowings. Excessive rains in localized areas in the northern region in the second half of 2022 affected livelihoods of palm and banana producers, especially in the Gracias a Dios Department.

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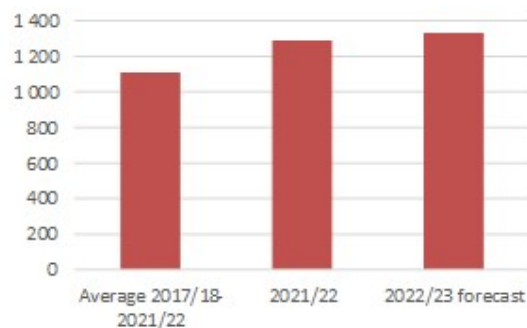
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

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

Honduras

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

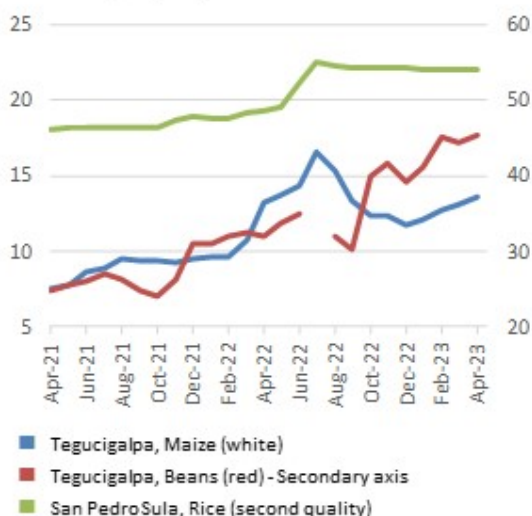


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices

Honduran lempira per kg



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GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 14-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Main season 2022 maize output preliminarily anticipated at near-average level
- Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year
- Prices of staple maize, beans and rice higher than a year earlier in September
- High food prices affect purchasing power of most vulnerable households

Main season 2022 maize output preliminarily anticipated at near-average level

The harvest of the 2022 main season maize crop is ongoing despite some delays in the northern region as well as in the key producing department of Olancho due to above-average rainfall amounts during the last week of September. Crop conditions have been generally favourable during the season due to favourable rains between May and September, which have offset the negative effect of low availabilities of agricultural inputs. As a result, production of the 2022 main maize crop is expected at a near-average level.

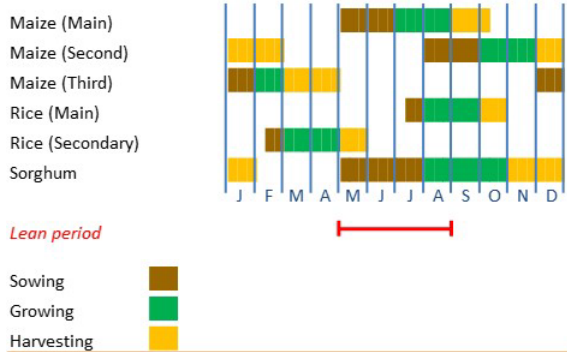
Planting operations of the 2022 minor season maize crop will start after the completion of the main crop harvest. Weather forecasts point to above-average rainfall amounts in the October-December period, raising prospects for maize yields. In the case of beans, which are more susceptible to the impact of excessive moisture, a close monitoring of pest infestations is required. As the Atlantic hurricane season will last until the end of November, there is still risk that torrential rains and strong winds could negatively affect crops.

Fertilizer imports, mostly from the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Canada, during the first seven months of 2022 were 16 percent lower compared to the same period of the previous three years. As of end-September, prices of fertilizers were on average 80 percent above those a year earlier in the capital, Tegucigalpa. The decline in imports as well as the high prices of fertilizers have constrained domestic market availabilities and access.

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	646	620	640	3.2
Rice (paddy)	52	51	49	-3.9
Sorghum	20	15	20	33.3
Total	701	669	692	3.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (September/August) are expected at an above-average level of 1.24 million tonnes. The high needs reflect the increasing consumption of wheat and rice in line with population growth and sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry.

Prices of staple maize, beans and rice higher than year earlier in September

Prices of white maize and black beans declined in August and September, as the ongoing harvest improved market supplies. However, as of September, prices of maize and beans were 45 and 30 percent, respectively, above their year-earlier levels. The level of prices reflects the high costs of production and transportation. Prices of rice also weakened in the August-September period, but remained about 20 percent up from a year earlier due to the sharp increases occurred in the previous months which followed the rising prices in the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier.

High food prices affect purchasing power of most vulnerable households

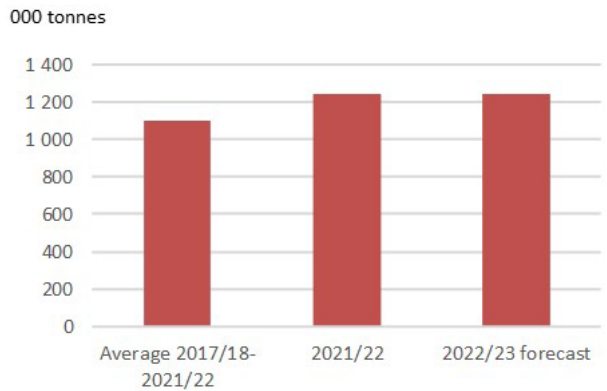
According to the most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the population in acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) during the lean season (between June and August 2022) was estimated at 2.6 million, nearly one-quarter of the total population. However, the analysis was carried out in January 2022 and it did not take into account the rippling effects of high international prices of food and energy on the domestic food security situation.

The annual food inflation rate was estimated at 16 percent in September and high prices are diminishing the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households, limiting their access to food. However, the food security situation is expected to improve during the last quarter of the year, as food stocks held by households for their own consumption are likely to increase with the maize harvests. In addition, harvesting operations of cash crops, such as coffee and sugarcane, also take place during the last months of the year, generating income opportunities for agricultural labourers that rely on daily wages.

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Honduras

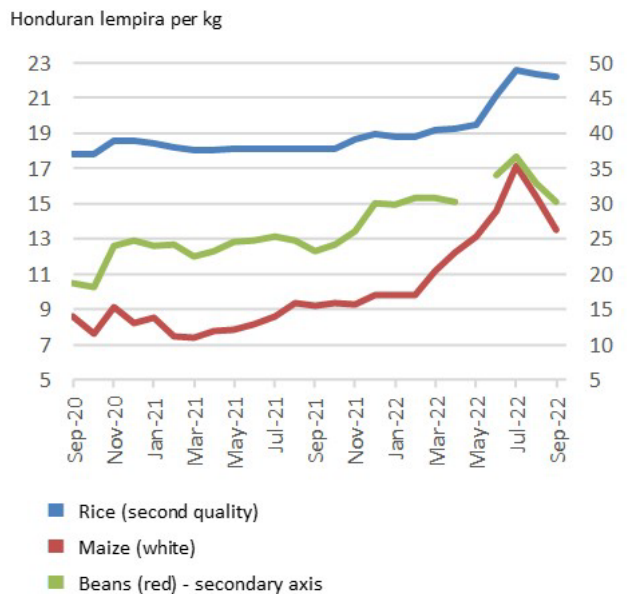
Cereals Imports



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

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in San Pedro Sula



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



GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 1-June-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting operations of 2022 main maize crop ongoing under favourable conditions
- Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year
- Prices of staple maize, bean and rice higher year on year in April 2022
- Number of food insecure people expected to remain high between June and August 2022

Planting operations of 2022 main maize crop ongoing under favourable conditions

Planting of the 2022 main season maize crop is ongoing and abundant cumulative rainfall amounts since end-April have improved soil moisture. At the end of May 2022, amid increasing concerns about high production costs, the government started to distribute a bag of improved maize seeds and 90 kg of fertilizers to 100 000 smallholder farmers with less than 0.7 hectares of land. At the end of April 2022, prices of fertilizers and herbicides were about 90 and 50 percent, respectively, higher year on year in the two major markets of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Imports of fertilizers declined by 20 percent during the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, as a result of the temporary export quota introduced by the Russian Federation, the source of about half of the imported fertilizers during the 2019 to 2021 period. Precipitation amounts were forecast at an average level in June and are likely to improve during the July to September period. However, in case of torrential rains during the crop maturity stage or harvesting operations, the excessive moisture could constrain yield potential.

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

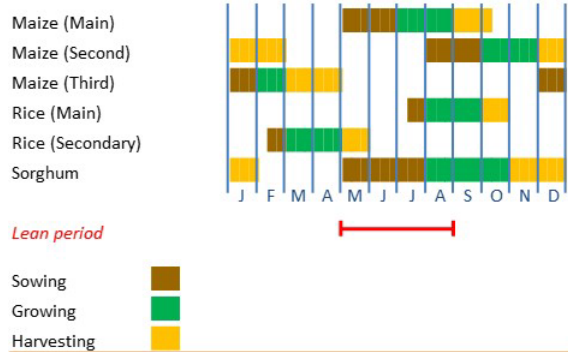
Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (September/August) are expected at an above-average level of 1.2 million tonnes. The high needs mainly reflect the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry and the increasing consumption of wheat and rice in line with population growth.

Prices of staple maize, bean and rice higher

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras

Cereal Production

	2016-2020	2020	2021	change
	average		estimate	2021/2020
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	644	668	620	-7.2
Rice (paddy)	56	48	51	6.3
Sorghum	25	20	15	-25.0
Total	725	736	686	-6.8

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

year on year in April 2022

After having been stable between September 2021 and February 2022 due to adequate market supplies from 2021 harvests, wholesale prices of white maize soared in March and April. The upsurge was due to seasonally low availabilities in combination with high transportation costs. Despite larger year-on-year imports of white maize in the first quarter of 2022, the high level of international maize prices added upward pressure. As of April 2022, prices of white maize in Tegucigalpa were at record-high levels, almost 80 percent higher year on year.

Prices of red beans were 30 percent above their year-earlier levels in April, although they remained overall stable since the beginning of 2022. The stability mainly reflects adequate market supplies from 2021 harvests, which offset the impact of high transportation costs. Prices of rice were 10 percent up from April 2021, as high prices in the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier, exerted upward pressure on domestic prices.

Number of food insecure people expected to remain high between June and August 2022

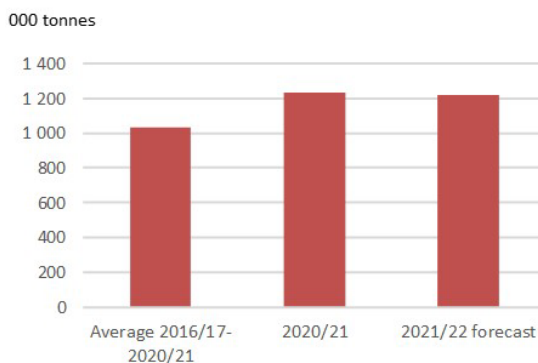
According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis published in January 2022, the population in acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) is projected at 2.6 million during the June to August lean season, nearly one-quarter of the total population. Although this figure is 700 000 people lower than the estimate for the 2021 July to September period, it does not take into account the rippling effects of current high international prices of food and energy on the domestic food security situation.

The annual food inflation rate was estimated at 10 percent in April 2022 and high food prices are expected to limit the purchasing power of vulnerable households. In southern areas, where dry weather conditions in 2021 resulted in localized crop losses, stocks are likely to be depleted earlier than usual and affected farmers have to rely on markets and face very high prices of staple food until the start of the 2022 main season harvest in September. If increased production costs constrain farming activities, crop yields are likely to decrease and income-generating opportunities for agricultural labourers that depend on daily wages may be reduced.

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Honduras

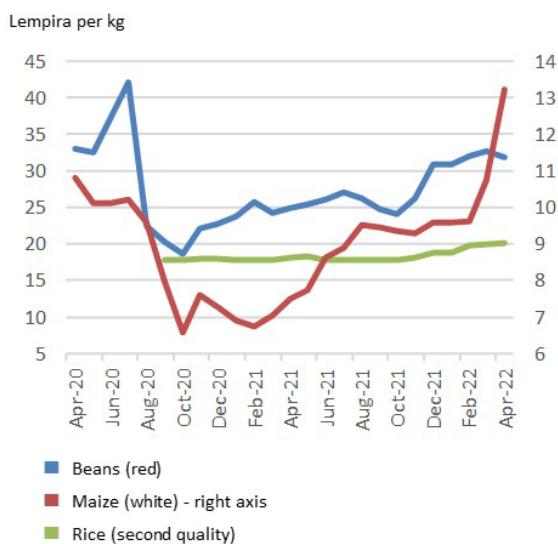
Cereals Imports



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

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa



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



GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 13-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2021 anticipated at near-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year
- Prices of white maize started to weaken in September

Maize production in 2021 anticipated at near-average level

Planting of the 2021 minor season maize crop is ongoing and area is anticipated to be near the average. According to satellite imagery, vegetation conditions are observed to be adequate except in centraleastern areas that received below-average rains since mid-September (NDVI anomaly map). Precipitation is forecast at average levels in the November 2021 to January 2022 period, with likely positive effects on crop development.

The harvest of the 2021 main season maize crop is nearing completion and production is anticipated at an average level. Due to well below-average rainfall amounts at planting time between May and mid-June, replanting of crops was required in some localized areas of the main producing centraleastern region. Improved precipitation amounts since mid-June replenished soil moisture and favoured crop development.

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

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at high levels of 1.15 million tonnes. The above-average requirements mainly reflect the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry and the increasing need for wheat and rice in line with population growth. However, requirements are anticipated to decline year on year, reflecting large carryover stocks due to abundant maize and wheat imports in 2020/21.

Prices of white maize started to weaken in September

Prices of white maize weakened in September after sustained increases during the previous five months, when upward pressure from seasonality was exacerbated by increasing

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - September 2021



Honduras

Cereal Production

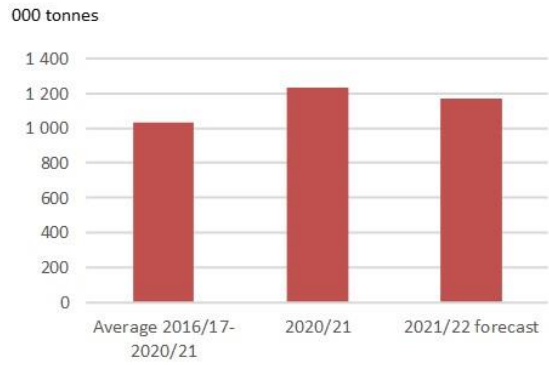
	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	643	670	650	-3.0
Rice (paddy)	56	48	51	6.3
Sorghum	25	20	22	10.0
Total	724	738	723	-2.0

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

production and transportation costs. Prices are expected to continue to decline in the coming months due to the commercialization of the 2021 main season harvests. As of September 2021, average prices of white maize were about 13 percent higher year on year. After declining sharply in August 2020, prices of red beans have been generally stable in 2021 and, in September 2021, they were above their low levels a year earlier. Prices of rice held steady between March and September 2021 and near year-earlier levels, reflecting adequate market supplies.

Honduras

Cereals Imports

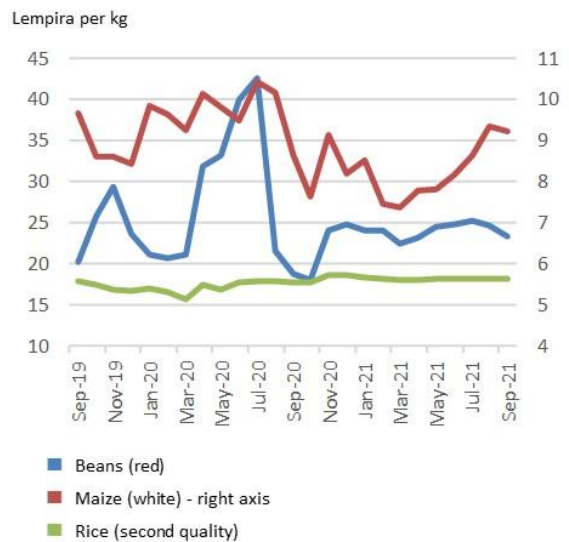


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in San Pedro Sula



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



GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 23-April-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Land preparation for 2021 main season maize crop ongoing amid adequate soil moisture levels
- Cereal production in 2020 estimated at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year
- Prices of red beans declined with improved market availabilities from 2020 third season harvest
- About 3.06 million people estimated severely food insecure in April-June period

Land preparation for 2021 main season maize crop ongoing amid adequate soil moisture levels

In the key producing central-eastern regions, land preparation activities are underway for the planting of the 2021 main season maize crop from early May. Since March, slightly above-average precipitation amounts benefitted soil moisture levels. Weather forecasts point to a high likelihood of near-average precipitation amounts during the May-July period, which raises expectations of adequate water supplies to crops at development and flowering stages. In order to lower the production costs of farmers, the Government has extended the exemption of the value added tax on farmers' purchases of agricultural machinery/parts and irrigation systems in 2021.

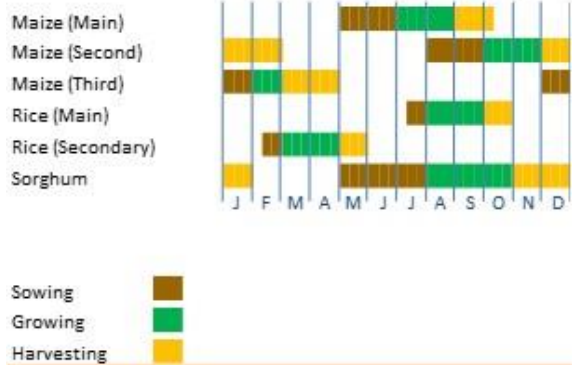
Cereal production in 2020 estimated at above-average level

The 2020 cereal production, mostly maize, is estimated at an above-average level of 690 000 tonnes. The abundant maize output gathered in 2020 is mainly due to excellent yields of the main season crop, reflecting favourable weather conditions. Localized losses of maize occurred during the minor season due to the passage of two consecutive hurricanes in early November. However, heavy rains and consequent flooding severely affected the main season bean crops. After the hurricanes, the Government increased the distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers in the areas where the third season bean crops are cultivated. This, together with favourable weather conditions in the first quarter of 2021, boosted the third "postrera tardía" season output harvested in March and April 2021.

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras

Cereal Production

	2015-2019	2019	2020	change
	average		estimate	2020/2019
000 tonnes				
Maize	585	595	620	4.1
Rice (paddy)	60	50	48	-4.0
Sorghum	29	21	20	-4.8
Total	674	666	688	3.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at 1.1 million tonnes, 10 percent higher than the previous five-year average, due to the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry. Similarly, the demand for wheat and rice, largely imported to satisfy domestic consumption needs, continues to increase steadily following the population growth.

Prices of red beans declined with improved market availabilities from 2020 third season harvest

Prices of red beans declined in March 2021 as large supplies from the third “postrera tardía” season harvest eased the previous upward pressure caused by crop losses due to the November hurricanes. Similarly, prices of white maize decreased for the second consecutive month and, in March 2021, they were more than 20 percent below their year-earlier levels, reflecting the above-average 2020 harvests. In March, prices of rice were also lower year on year due to a contraction in import flows in the October 2020-February 2021 compared to the same period a year earlier.

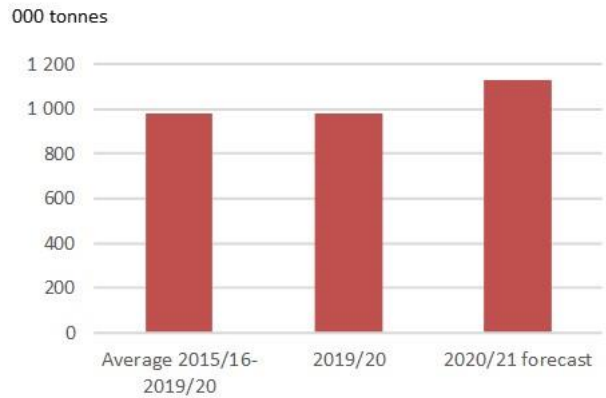
About 3.06 million people estimated severely food insecure in April-June period

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, nearly 3.1 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure (classified in IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and above) between April and June 2021. The highest number of food insecure people since the start of the IPC analysis in the country in 2013 is partially due to the greater geographical scope of analysis, but also reflects the negative impact of the November hurricanes on crop and livelihood losses. Income/job losses and low remittances amid the COVID-19 pandemic have also exacerbated the already fragile food security situation of the country.

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Honduras

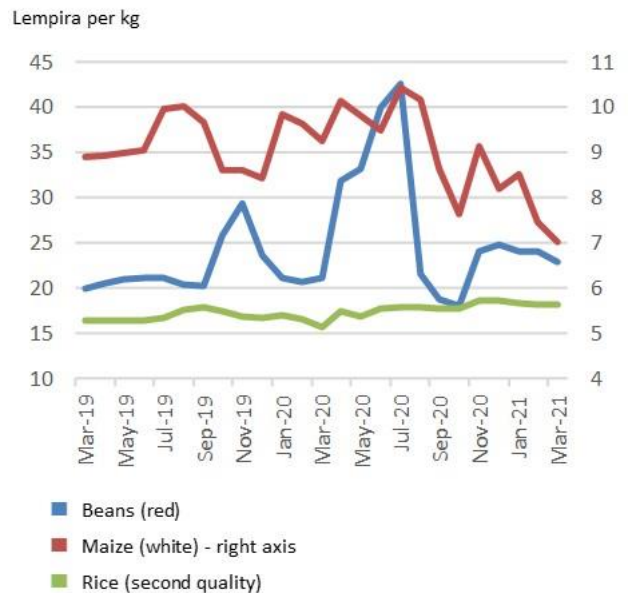
Cereals Imports



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

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in San Pedro Sula



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



GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 09-September-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Output of 2020 main season maize crop anticipated at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year
- Prices of red beans declined significantly in August to pre-pandemic levels
- About 1.65 million people estimated severely food insecure in June-August period

Output of 2020 main season maize crop anticipated at above-average level

Harvesting of the 2020 main season maize crop, which accounts for about 70 percent of the annual production, is ongoing. Production is anticipated to recover from last year's drought-reduced volume and reach an above-average level due to good weather conditions. Favourable rains since the beginning of the season instigated farmers to increase the area planted and improved yields. A localized outbreak of Central American locusts, reported in mid-July in the eastern/southern areas, was effectively controlled by the local authorities, with negligible damage to crops.

Planting of the 2020 minor season maize crop started in September amid overall adequate soil moisture levels. Weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of average precipitation amounts between September and October in the main producing eastern region, favouring crop development. The Government is distributing vouchers worth HNL 150 million (equivalent to USD 6 million) to 150 000 farmers to be used for the purchase of agricultural inputs for the main season beans, minor maize and rice crops.

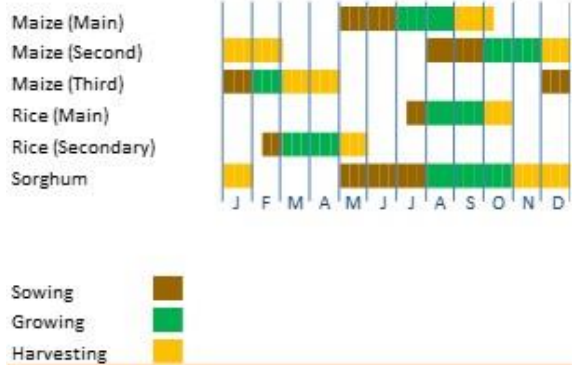
Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at 1.1 million tonnes, 10 percent higher than the previous five-year average, due to the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry. Similarly, the demand for wheat and rice, largely imported to satisfy domestic consumption needs, has been steadily increasing following the population growth.

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	558	460	650	41.3
Rice (paddy)	70	73	73	0.0
Sorghum	29	21	25	19.0
Total	657	554	748	35.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of red beans declined significantly in August to pre-pandemic levels

Prices of white maize in August weakened due to increased market supplies from the ongoing main season harvest. Prices were near their year-earlier levels, supported by increased imports during the first half of 2020.

After the upsurge in the April-July period, prices of red beans decreased by more than 45 percent in August, as the domestic demand that soared during the COVID-19 pandemic returned to normal levels. The significant decline also reflects the ongoing harvest of the minor season bean crop.

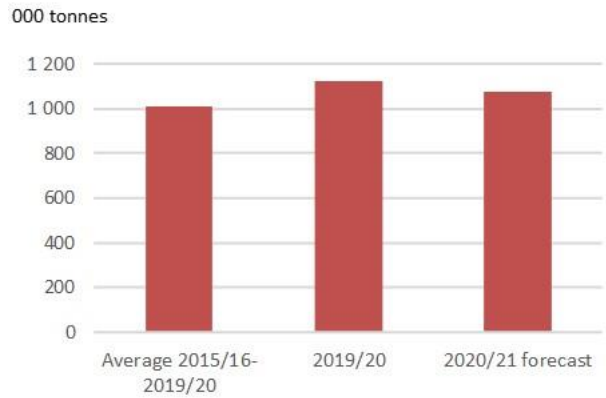
About 1.65 million people estimated severely food insecure in June-August period

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, an early depletion of food stocks and high food prices due to the reduced 2019 crop production, resulted in an increase of the severely food insecure population (classified in IPC Phase 3 and above), from 1.2 million in the March-June 2020 period to 1.65 million in the June-August 2020 period. Furthermore, income/job losses and lower remittances amid the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the already fragile food security situation.

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Honduras

Cereals Imports

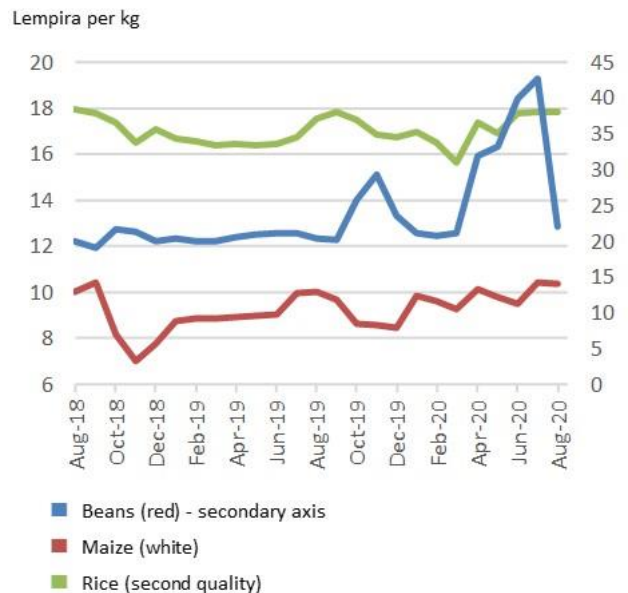


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in San Pedro Sula



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



GLEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 04-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather conditions forecast favourable for planting and development of 2020 main season maize crop
- Cereal production in 2019 estimated at below-average level
- Cereal imports forecast at high levels in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of food items soared in April
- About 1.2 million people forecast severely food insecure from March to June 2020

Weather conditions forecast favourable for planting and development of 2020 main season maize crop

Planting of the 2020 main season maize crop is expected to start from late May with the onset of the rainy season. Precipitation amounts are forecast at average to above-average levels in the May-July period across the country and are expected to be favourable for planting operations and crop development. As an effort to boost domestic production, the Government plans to distribute vouchers to 190 000 smallholder farmers to be used for the purchase of agricultural inputs for the main season maize, bean and rice crops. In addition, the Government plans to build rainwater harvesting systems and wells to strengthen resilience of areas prone to dry weather conditions.

Cereal production in 2019 estimated at below-average level

The 2019 cereal output is estimated at 614 000 tonnes, more than 10 percent lower than the previous five-year average due to drought conditions that affected the main season maize crop from June to August 2019, during the critical flowering and grain-filling stages. According to the Dirección de Ciencia y Tecnología Agropecuaria (DICTA), both rainfed and irrigated crops in key producing departments of Francisco Morazán, Olancho and El Paraíso were severely affected by rainfall deficits. A large number of livestock died due to forage and water deficits in the department of Olancho.

Cereal imports forecast at high levels in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at a well above-average level of 1.1 million tonnes. Imports have been increasing steadily since

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	587	705	520	-26.2
Rice (paddy)	69	69	73	5.8
Sorghum	29	25	21	-16.0
Total	685	799	614	-23.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

2016 due to the growing demand for yellow maize by the feed industry. Similarly, the demand for wheat and rice, largely imported to satisfy domestic consumption needs, has been strong due to population growth. In the 2019/20 marketing year, imports of white maize are also forecast at high levels due to the low outputs gathered in 2019.

Prices of food items soared in April

Prices of white maize in March (up to 13 March 2020 due to the interruption of price gathering activities) declined for the second consecutive month due to increased market supplies from imports. Prices of red beans were stable in the first quarter of 2020 as harvests of Postrera and Postrera Tardía seasons increased domestic availabilities. After the price collection resumed in late April, prices reported a sharp increase. Red beans showed the highest increase by 49 percent, followed by rice (11 percent) and white maize (6 percent).

About 1.2 million people forecast severely food insecure from March to June 2020

About 1.2 million people (24 percent of the rural population) are forecast to be severely food insecure (classified in IPC Phase 3 and above) from March to June 2020, about 250 000 more than the November 2019-February 2020 period. During the current lean season, more vulnerable households are expected to face the early depletion of food stocks due to the low output harvested in 2019 and the high prices in most markets. Furthermore, earnings from collecting coffee beans at the beginning of the year, which is a typical source of income during this period, are anticipated to be low due to a drop in international coffee prices. Up to 35 percent of the local population is expected to be severely food insecure in the departments of Valle and Choluteca.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

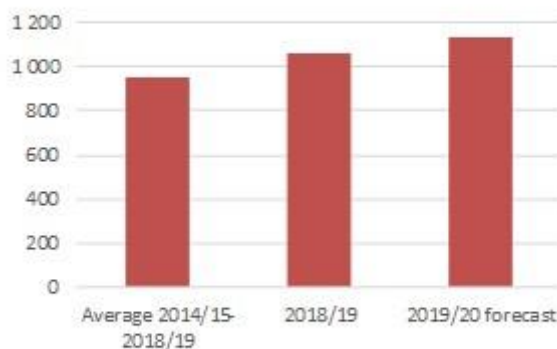
Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government issued an Executive Decree to implement the restriction of movements until 17 May 2020. The Decree sets out a series of exceptions of the confinement, such as foreign trade and agricultural production activities. As a response to soaring prices amid panic-buying and restrictive opening hours of the markets, [price ceilings were introduced](#) on essential food items. [Prices were kept](#) at the pre-pandemic level in the supermarkets run by the Public Supplier of Basic Goods (Banasupro), which also operates mobile supermarkets. In order to guarantee the domestic supply, the Government [temporarily suspended exports](#) of red beans. In addition, the Government has been [distributing basic food baskets](#) to 800 000 vulnerable households since end-March.

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Honduras

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



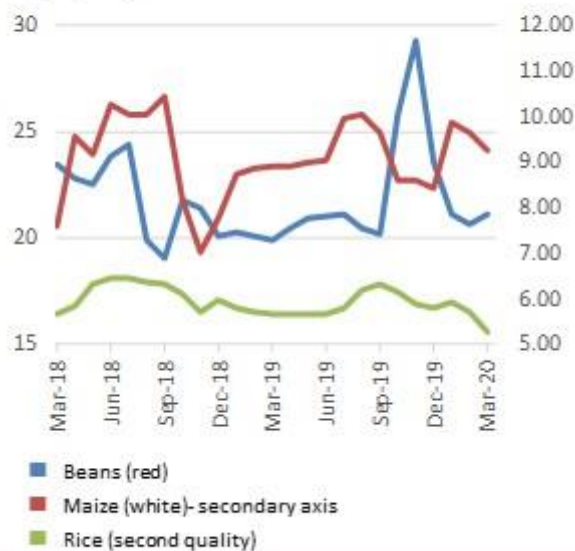
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in San Pedro Sula

Lempira per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 28-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2019 anticipated at below-average level due to prolonged dry spells that affected main season crops
- Cereal imports forecast to increase and reach high levels in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of white maize below their year-earlier levels

Maize production in 2019 anticipated at below-average level due to prolonged dry spells that affected main season crops

Harvesting of the 2019 main season maize crop was completed in September and production is officially estimated at a below-average level due to prolonged dry weather conditions in the June-August period (see ASI map). In comparison to the long-term average (1989-2018), the rainfall amounts during this period were more than 25 percent lower than the average in several maize producing departments. According to the Dirección de Ciencia y Tecnología Agropecuaria (DICTA), the crops in Francisco Morazán, Olancho and El Paraíso departments were severely affected by rainfall deficits, even those under irrigation. A large number of livestock died due to forage and water deficits in Olancho Department.

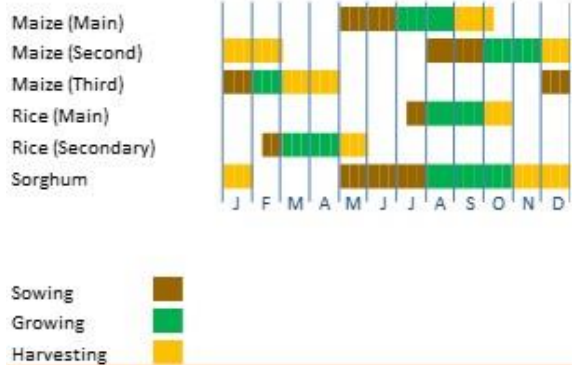
In order to minimize the impact of dryness on the livelihoods of the affected households, the Government is distributing fertilizers and seeds of maize, beans or rice for the ongoing “postrera” season. As part of a short-term response plan, the Government envisions to build rainwater harvesting systems and wells to facilitate imports to meet the domestic demand and to increase financing for irrigation systems.

Rainfall amounts increased since mid-September, reducing soil moisture deficits and easing planting operations of the 2019 minor season maize crop, to be harvested in December. Given the low probability of occurrence of an El Niño phenomenon during the last quarter of 2019, production of the minor maize crop is likely to be at average level. Overall, the aggregate maize crop in 2019 is anticipated at a below-average level of 470 000 tonnes, due to the low outputs gathered in the main season harvest, which accounts for about 80 percent of the annual production.

Honduras

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Honduras

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	549	550	470	-14.5
Rice (paddy)	69	69	73	5.8
Sorghum	29	25	21	-16.0
Total	647	644	564	-12.4

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

Cereal imports forecast to increase and reach high levels in 2019/20 marketing year

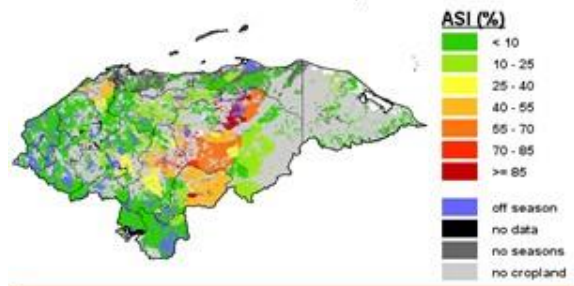
Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at a well above-average level of 1.1 million tonnes due to the reduced maize output. Imports have been increasing steadily since 2016 due to the growing demand for wheat and rice, which the country is largely dependent on imports to satisfy its domestic consumption needs, due to population growth and the increasing demand for yellow maize for feed use.

Prices of white maize below year-earlier levels

Domestic prices of white maize increased from the beginning of 2019 to September when they started to decline with the commercialization of supplies from the main season harvests. They were below their levels a year earlier, which were significantly elevated as high fuel costs in 2018 contributed to substantial increases in production and transportation costs. Prices of red beans have been the rise since May 2019, following seasonal trends. In September 2019, they were higher than a year earlier, reflecting reduced minor season outputs, harvested in September.

Honduras - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to dekad 1, October 2019

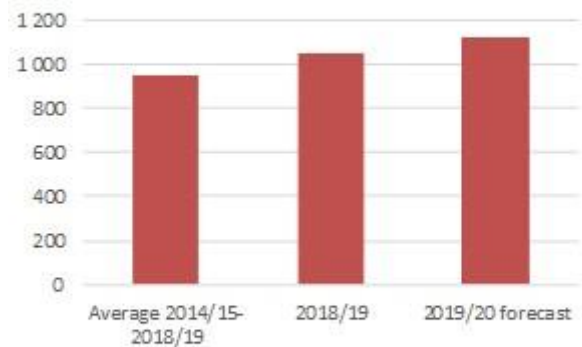


Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Honduras

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa

Lempira per kg



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 13-July-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2018 expected to increase due to favourable weather conditions
- Cereal imports forecast to slightly decline in 2017/18 marketing year
- Prices of white maize and red beans above their year-earlier levels

Cereal production in 2018 expected to increase due to favourable weather conditions

The aggregate cereal production in 2018 is forecast at 643 000 tonnes, 12 percent higher than the last five-year average on account of the expanded planted area and the favourable rainfall forecast.

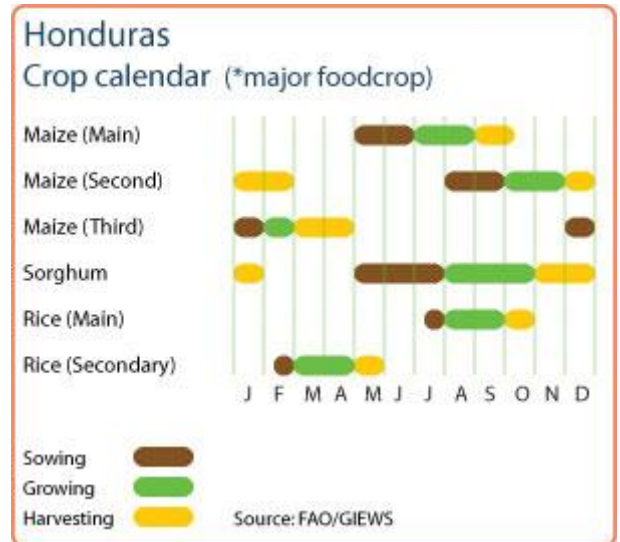
Planting operations of the 2018 main *primera* season maize and sorghum crops initiated from late April. Early expectations of favourable weather conditions during the rainy season led to the expansion of the area sown. FAO's preliminary forecast for the 2018 maize output stands at 570 000 tonnes, 16 percent higher than the average of the last five years.

Harvesting of the 2018 secondary rice crop finalized in June and planting of the main rice crop will initiate in mid-July. The aggregate rice paddy production in 2018 is forecast at an above-average level of 73 000 tonnes. However, certain degrees of uncertainty around the output of the main paddy crop, to be harvested in October, remain since there is a moderate probability that an El Niño phenomenon may develop during the September-December period.

The production of sorghum, mainly produced in the Corredor Seco due to its resistance to dryness, is estimated at 25 000 tonnes, 22 percent lower than the last five-year average.

Cereal imports forecast to slightly decline in 2017/18 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at a slightly below-average level of 1 million tonnes. Despite the good harvest in 2017, maize imports slightly increased year-on-year and are estimated at 512 000 tonnes, reflecting the strong demand of yellow maize as feed use. The increase in yellow maize imports are in line with



Honduras
Cereal production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	472	530	545	3
Rice (paddy)	69	71	73	3
Sorghum	32	21	25	19
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	574	622	643	3

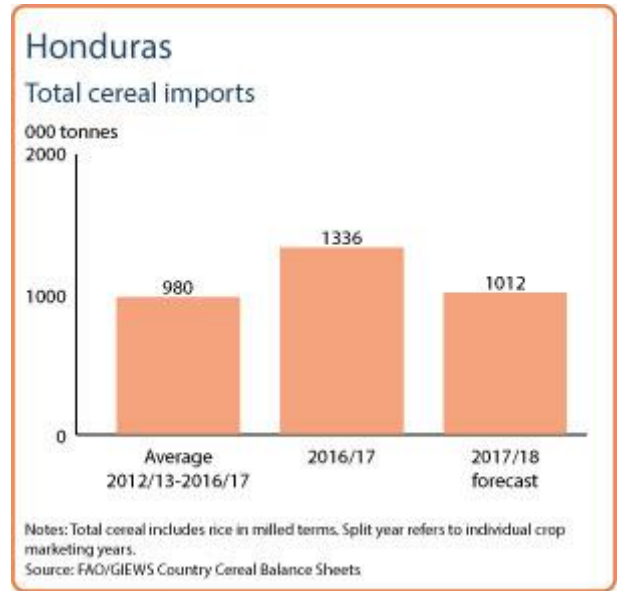
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

the reducing sorghum production, suggesting the shift in choice of feed crop. Due to the increasing demand and population, rice and wheat imports also increased by 2 and 5 percent, respectively, compared to the last five-year average.

Prices of white maize and red beans above their year-earlier levels

Domestic prices of white maize increased from the beginning of 2018 and are above their levels a year earlier in June, due to the high prices of imports from the United States of America, the country's key exporter. Prices of red beans seasonally increased in June and were higher than a year earlier, reflecting higher prices in Nicaragua, from which the country imports red beans during the lean season.

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GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 19-May-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 officially forecast to increase strongly
- Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year
- Prices of white maize seasonally increased, those of red beans remained stable in April

Cereal production in 2017 officially forecast to increase strongly

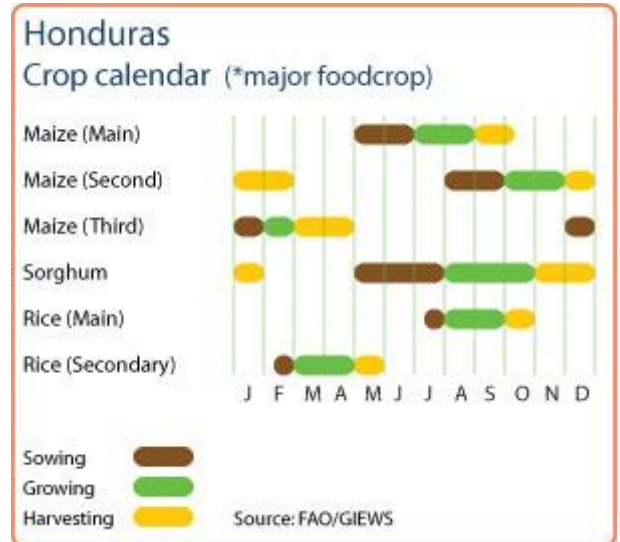
Planting of the main 2017 cereal season will begin from the end of May. Initial official forecasts point to a 7 percent increase from last year to 379 000 tonnes. The forecast mainly reflects higher sowings of maize driven by early expectations that plantings will return to their historical levels after recent droughts in 2014 through early 2016. However, there is a high level of uncertainty around this forecast as there is a moderate probability that an [El Niño](#) event may develop in the June to August period, affecting yields of first season crops and planting conditions for second season crops, which begin in late August. Precipitation [forecasts](#) made in April point to a moderate probability of rainfall deficits from the June to August period in the north of the country and in the Gulf of Fonseca area, with normal probabilities for other regions.

Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (September/August) are forecast to decline from last year's record level reflecting the good outputs of the 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016 marketing year which are forecast to reach 570 000 tonnes, almost 9 percent down year-on-year. However, at this level, imports will remain above the five-year average reflecting strong demand from the feed sector.

Prices of white maize seasonally increased, those of red beans remained stable in April

In April, white maize prices seasonally increased by nearly 2 percent but were some 30 percent down from last year as a result of the good output in 2016. Prices of staple red beans remained stable in April and were some 11 percent lower than a year earlier, reflecting ample supplies from the good 2016 crop.



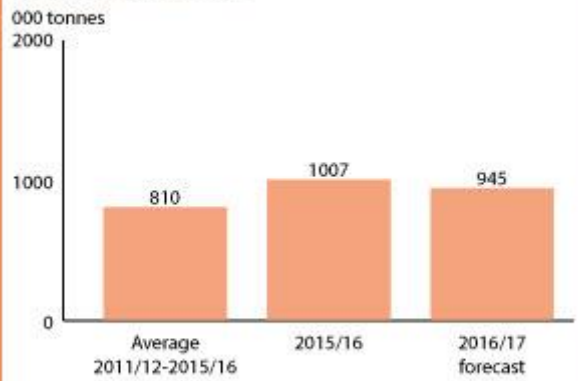
Honduras
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	247	265	290	9
Rice (paddy)	54	50	50	0
Sorghum	36	38	39	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	337	353	379	7

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

Honduras

Total cereal imports

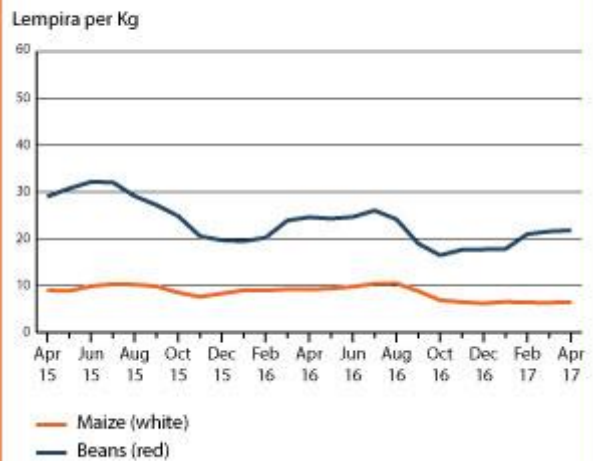


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa



Source: SIMPAH

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GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 16-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 anticipated to recover from last year's drought-reduced level
- Cereal imports forecast to decline sharply in 2016/17 marketing year (July/June)
- Prices of white maize and beans strongly declined in October

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

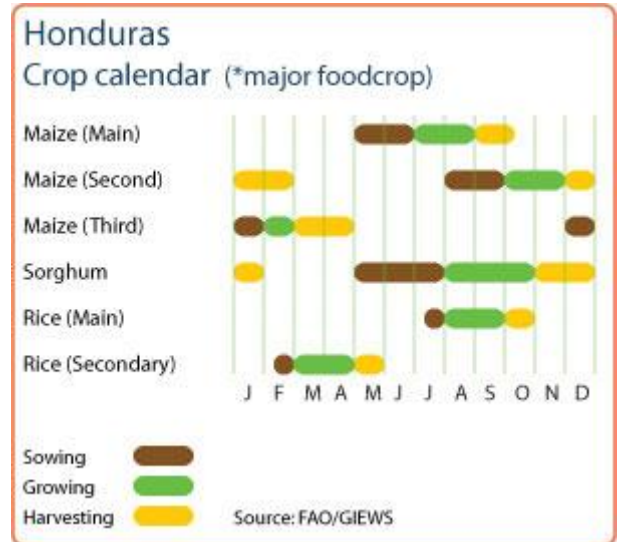
Cereal production for 2016 is forecast at 608 000 tonnes (paddy equivalent) or 39 percent above last year's drought reduced level and slightly higher than average. The anticipated recovery in production follows early indications of a good harvest of the main "de primera" (first season) crop, concluded in early October. The favourable prospects for the harvest are supported by the recovery of precipitations and a return to normal sowing levels after two years of El Niño induced dry weather. The provision of subsidized credits and inputs by the Government also benefited the performance of the first season crops. Planting of the second season crops is concluded and prospects are also favourable as weather conditions remained generally good and the Government continued with the provision of seeds and fertilizers. Aggregate maize production ("de primera" and second season), is anticipated to increase some 49 percent from last year and to be slightly above average. Rice production is anticipated to moderately increase, since the secondary crop, harvested in May, was still impacted by the dry conditions at the beginning of the year. However, this forecast may be revised depending on the results of the main harvest which concluded in October.

Cereal imports forecast to decline sharply in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (September/August) are forecast to decline sharply from last year's record level, reflecting the positive outlook for the 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016 marketing year which are forecast to reach 490 000 tonnes, almost 6 percent down year-on-year.

Prices of white maize and beans strongly declined in October

White maize prices continued the downward trend of previous months and declined by 22 percent in October, as ample supplies



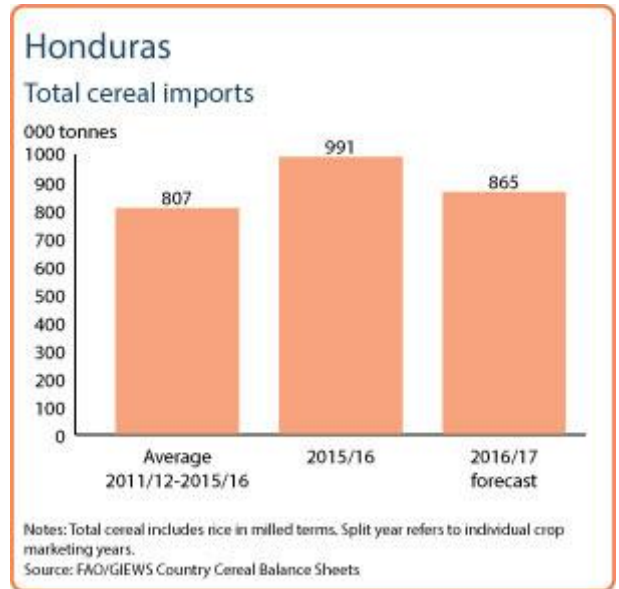
Honduras
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	515	350	520	49
Rice (paddy)	54	48	50	4
Sorghum	37	38	38	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	606	436	608	39

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

from the main “de primera” cereal season harvest, estimated to have strongly recovered from the last year’s drought-reduced level, continued to pressure prices downward.

Prices of beans declined in October with the conclusion of the good secondary season harvest and were some 34 percent below year-earlier levels.





GIEWS Country Brief Honduras

Reference Date: 22-June-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 anticipated to recover from drought-reduced levels
- Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year (July/June)
- Prices of white maize remained stable in May, those of red beans declined

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

Planting of the main 2016 “de primera” season, mostly maize and rice, is underway, although somewhat later than normal. With rainfall levels below average in May, most likely still an impact of the recent strong El Niño event, which is now dissipating, the Government encouraged farmers to delay plantings until the beginning of June. Generally, improved rainfall in the first dekad of June favoured planting activity, with the exception of southern regions of the country where latest remote sensing data indicates that dry conditions still linger. Preliminary information points to a normal level of sowings should the favourable conditions continue. The provision by the Government, of subsidized credits and inputs, also benefited the start of the first season.

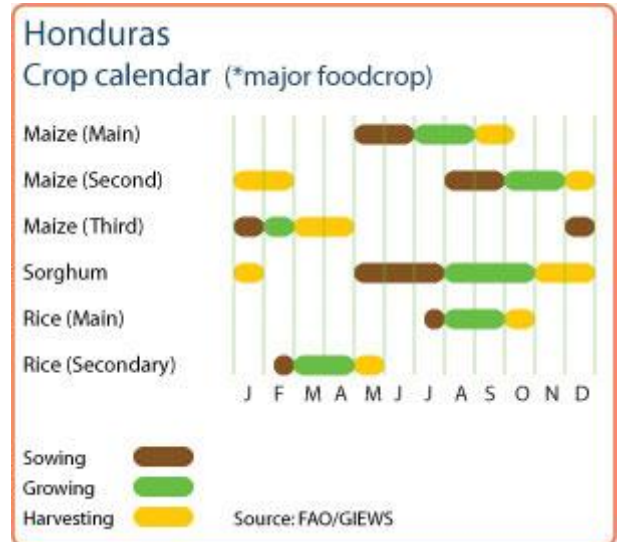
Official forecasts, assuming a return to generally normal weather conditions throughout the growing season, point to a strong recovery in cereal production in 2016 compared to last year's drought-reduced level, resting entirely on an expected increase in maize production. Total cereal production is forecast to reach 678 000 tonnes (paddy equivalent), close to the five-year average.

Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year (July/June)

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline sharply from last year's record level, reflecting the positive outlook for 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016 marketing year (September/August) which are forecast to reach 490 000 tonnes, almost 6 per cent down year-on-year.

Prices of white maize remained stable in May, those of red beans declined

Wholesale white maize prices remained relatively unchanged and moderately above their levels in May last year reflecting seasonal



trends. A continued flow of imports and good prospects for the main “de primera” season have prevented strong price increases.

Prices for red beans, a major staple, declined in May, remaining generally low, as imports and supplies from the 2015 harvests continued to supply the markets.

Honduras

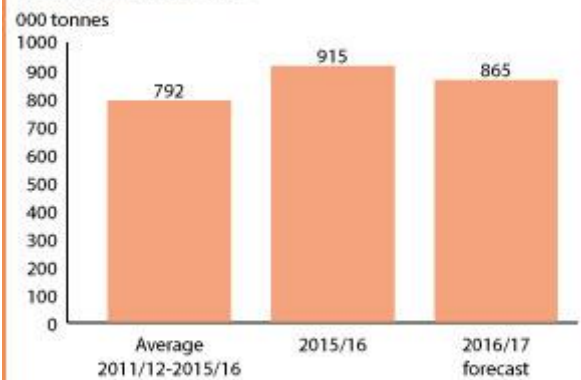
Cereal production

	2011-2015	2015	2016	change
	average			
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	515	350	590	69
Rice (paddy)	54	48	50	4
Sorghum	37	38	38	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	606	436	678	56

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

Honduras

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

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa

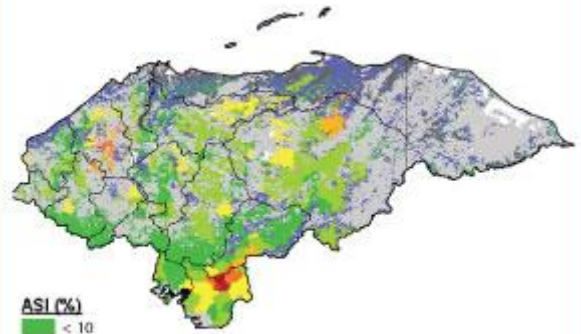
Lempira per Kg



Source: SIMPAH

Honduras - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹

from start of season 1 to dekad 1, June 2016



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

Reference Date: 30-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2015 severely reduced by drought
- Cereal imports forecast at record level in 2015/16 marketing year (July/June)
- Prices of main food staples decline in November: maize prices remain high

Cereal production in 2015 severely reduced by drought

FAO preliminarily estimates the 2015 cereal production at 465 000 tonnes (paddy equivalent), some 8 percent below last year's drought-reduced output. For a second consecutive year the main "de primera" agricultural season (May/September) was significantly affected by prolonged dry weather, associated to the El Niño phenomenon. Production for maize, the main cereal grown in the country, is estimated at 350 000 tonnes, some 12 percent below last year's level and well below the previous five-year average. Rice production is estimated at 77 0000 tonnes (paddy equivalent) or 9 percent below last year's drought reduced level and below the country's average.

Cereal imports forecast at record level in 2015/16 marketing year (July/June)

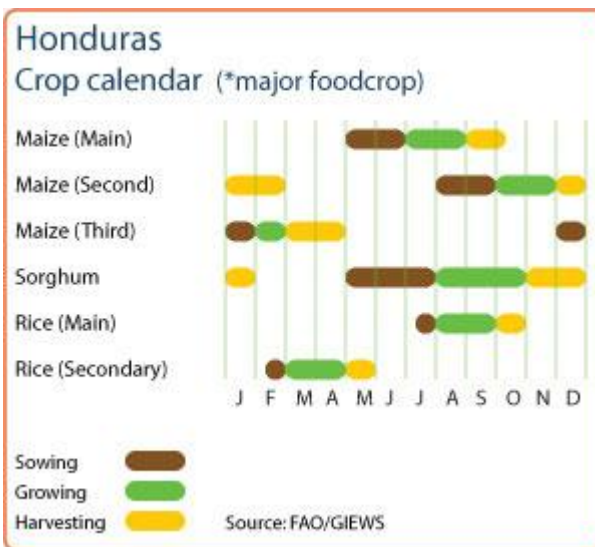
Reflecting this year's drought reduced output, cereal imports are forecast at a record level of 975 000 tonnes. In order to mitigate production shortfalls the Government has allowed larger maize purchases at a zero tariff from outside the Central American region, mainly from the United States of America and Mexico. The increase in imports mainly reflects greater maize purchases, mainly from the United States of America. Rice imports are also forecast to moderately increase.

Prices of main food staples decline in November: maize prices remain high

Wholesale prices of white maize declined sharply in November reflecting adequate availabilities from the recently-completed secondary season harvest and imports from the United States of America and Mexico, the subregion's main producer. Prices, however, remained above their levels a year earlier supported by the reduced first season outputs.

Bean prices in November continued to decline and were below their year-earlier levels. Ample availabilities from recent imports, supplies from the 2015 first and second season harvests put downward pressure on red bean prices. Overall, red bean prices in November were below their levels of the same month a year earlier.

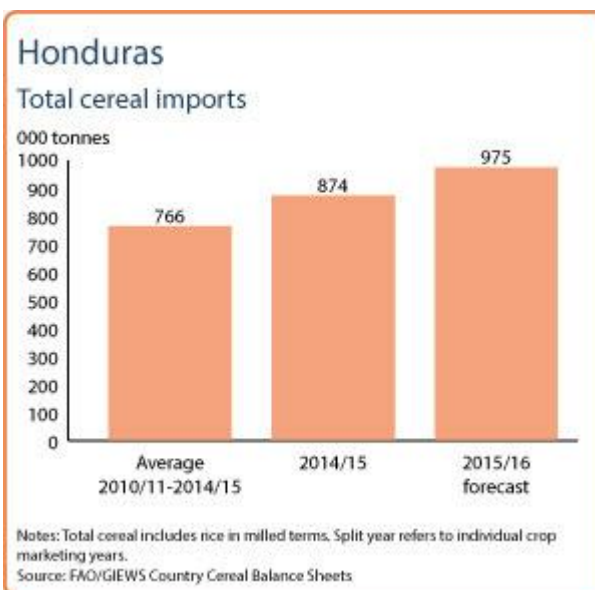
The Government has also introduced since November a freeze on prices until January on 20 basic food products, including most cereals and beans, to prevent excessive increases in prices.



Honduras Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	546	400	350	-12
Rice (paddy)	64	85	77	-9
Sorghum	38	22	38	73
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	647	507	465	-8

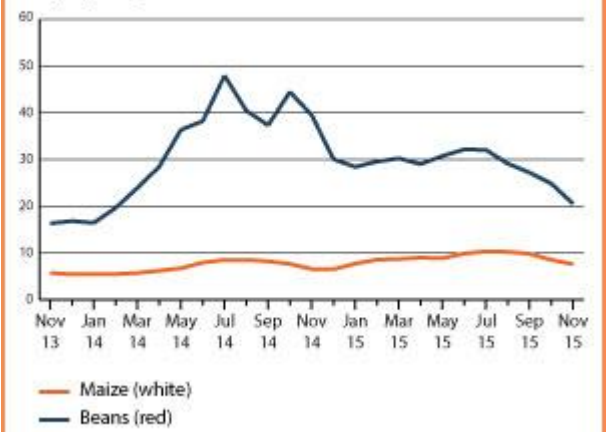
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa

Lempira per Kg



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 25-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2014 maize crop forecast at severely reduced levels, prospects for beans remain uncertain
- Large number of families affected by drought during main first cereal season
- Cereal imports expected to rise in 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)
- Prices of beans and maize begin to decline in November but still at high levels

2014 maize crop forecast at severely reduced levels, prospects for beans remain uncertain

Harvest of the 2014 second *de postrera* season crops, mainly beans, is almost concluded. Despite a late start of planting activities due to below-average rainfall during the first dekad of September, estimates point to a significant increase in the area planted compared to the same season last year, particularly for red beans.

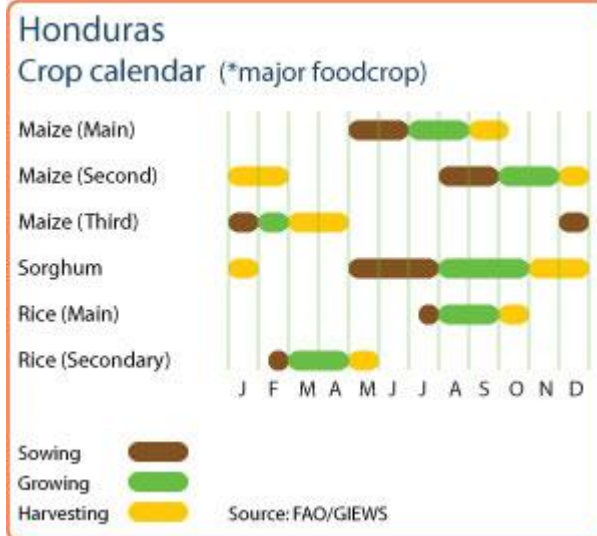
Early prospects for the *de postrera* maize crop harvest, which accounts for 20 percent of annual production, are good following abundant precipitations from the last dekad of September. However, the 2014 maize aggregate production (*de primera* and *de postrera* crops) is forecast to fall by 34 percent compared to last year and well below the country's five-year average, after 204 000 tonnes of crop were lost during the main *de primera* season, due to severe dry weather from the last dekad of July up to the first dekad of September.

Prospects for the *de postrera* bean harvest, which accounts for 70 percent of annual production, remain uncertain as above-average rainfall during the growing season may have negatively affected crops. Pending an assessment of the damage, output of the *de postrera* bean crop is expected to reach 92 000 tonnes or slightly higher than in 2013. This increase mainly reflects higher plantings due to high prices and Government support programmes, including the distribution of seeds and fertilizers.

Large number of families affected by drought during main first cereal season

A severe drought affected crops and livestock in the departments of Choluteca, El Paraiso and parts of Olancho from late June to late September. The number of families affected is officially estimated at some 186 000 and Government food distributions programmes are limited to 76 712 most vulnerable households, mainly small farmers. Food assistance and inputs distribution are provided within the framework of a contingency plan, totalling USD 4.7 million. An additional USD 500 000 were donated to WFP by the Government of Japan to assist 3 600 families under work-for-food programme, mainly in Choluteca and El Paraiso department, which experienced major damages from the drought.

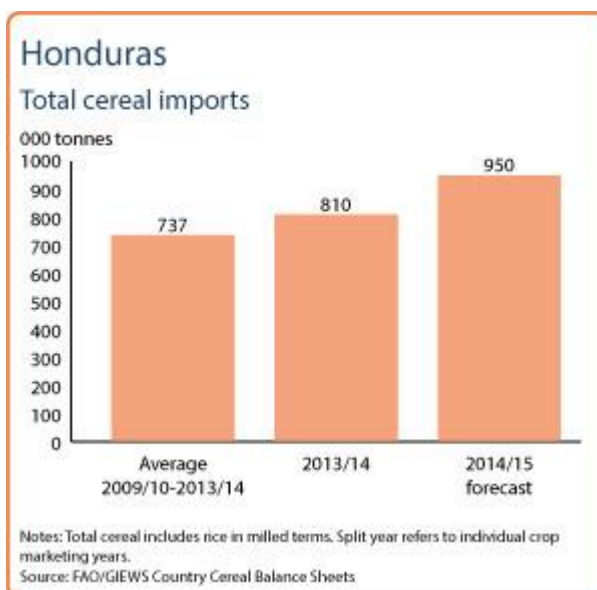
Cereal imports expected to rise in 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)



Honduras Cereal production

	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		forecast	2014/2013
000 tonnes				
Maize	574	604	400	-34
Rice (paddy)	56	80	80	0
Sorghum	38	40	38	-5
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	669	725	519	-28

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



Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to reach 950 000 tonnes, 17 percent up from last year's high level. This mainly reflects a 30 percent increase in maize imports, to a record level of 585 000 tonnes, as a result of the severe crop losses during the main *de primera* season coupled with high domestic demand, particularly from the feed industry. By contrast, wheat and rice imports are expected to remain unchanged.

Prices of beans and maize begin to decline in November but still at high levels

Prices of red beans and maize have started to decline with the new harvest in November. Red bean prices have declined some 8 percent from their record levels in October but remain more than double their year-earlier levels. Maize prices have also declined in November but remain 17 percent higher than in November 2013.



Reference Date: 11-March-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates point to a reduction in 2013 maize and bean production
- Cereal imports expected to rise in 2013/14 marketing year
- Prices of beans surged in February while those of maize remained relatively stable

Estimates point to a reduction in 2013 maize and bean production

Harvesting of the third “de apante” season, which accounts for less than one-third of the annual maize output, finished in February. Below average rain during most of the season significantly affected maize yields and estimates point to a decline in production of about 30 percent compared to the same season in 2012. In aggregate, the 2013 maize production (first, second and third seasons) is officially estimated at 537 000 tonnes or 3 percent down from the previous year’s level, mainly due to lower yields in the first and third seasons.

The 2013 bean production is also estimated to decline, as a result of reduced plantings, due to low prices at sowing time and a decrease in yields in the main producing department of Olancho.

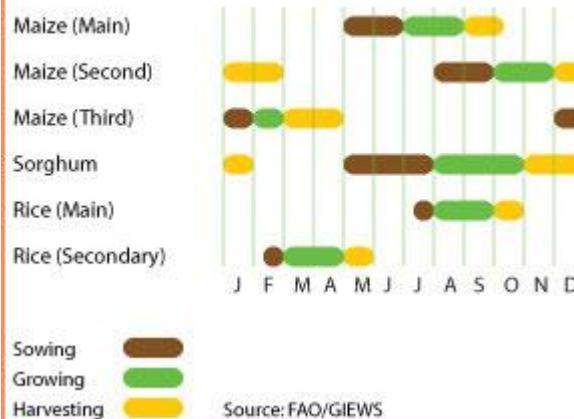
Cereal imports expected to rise in 2013/14 marketing year

Early forecasts point to a 6 percent increase in cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June). This mainly reflects higher maize imports, as a result of the decline in 2013 maize production and high domestic demand, particularly for the feed industry. Wheat and rice imports are expected to remain at average levels.

Prices of beans surged in February while those of remained relatively stable

Prices of red beans surged by 20 percent in February as a result of the reduced production this year. Prices of white maize increased marginally but remained almost 22 percent lower than their year-earlier levels.

Honduras Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

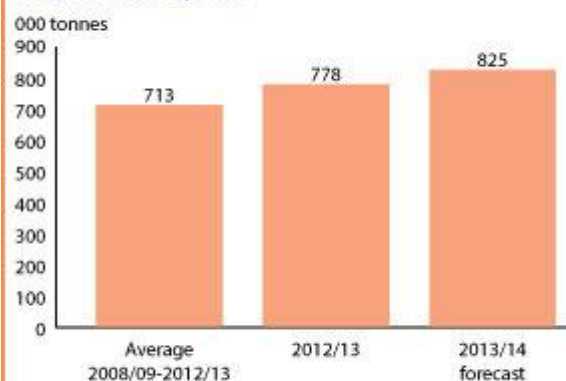


Honduras Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	556	552	537	-3
Rice (paddy)	50	69	92	33
Sorghum	37	40	40	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	644	662	670	1

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

Honduras Total cereal imports

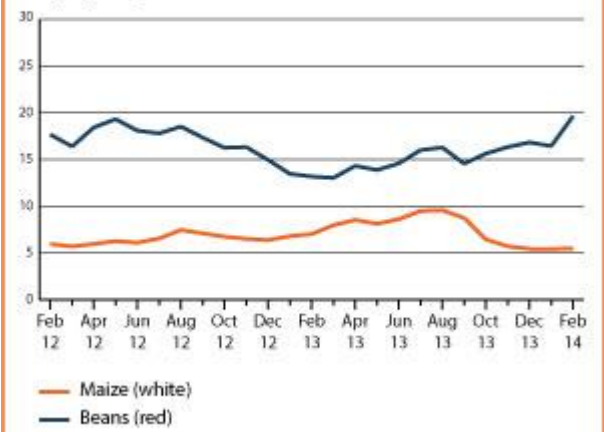


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years. Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa

Lempira per Kg



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 16-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Aggregate cereal production to increase in 2013
- Cereal imports are projected to rise in the 2013/14 marketing year
- Prices for maize and rice still high

Aggregate cereal production to increase in 2013

Harvesting of the main 2013 basic grains season, consisting mostly of maize, has concluded. Despite an overall satisfactory production, below average rains between May and July in the main producing area of Olancho, caused localized losses to the maize and bean crops. An assessment carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, with the support of FAO and WFP, indicated that 16 000 tonnes of maize were lost to the dry weather. The Government has provided targeted assistance to small farmers, including the distribution of seeds and fertilizers for the second crop season.

Prospects for the second season maize and bean crops, to be harvested from late November, are overall good, following favourable precipitation since the beginning of the season in September. The 2013 aggregate maize production forecast (first and second seasons) has been revised downward from previous estimates to 564 000 tonnes, which is still slightly up from last year's level. This reflects larger plantings in response to sustained demand from the feed industry, and Government support programmes for the agricultural sector through the distribution of seeds and fertilizers to small farmers.

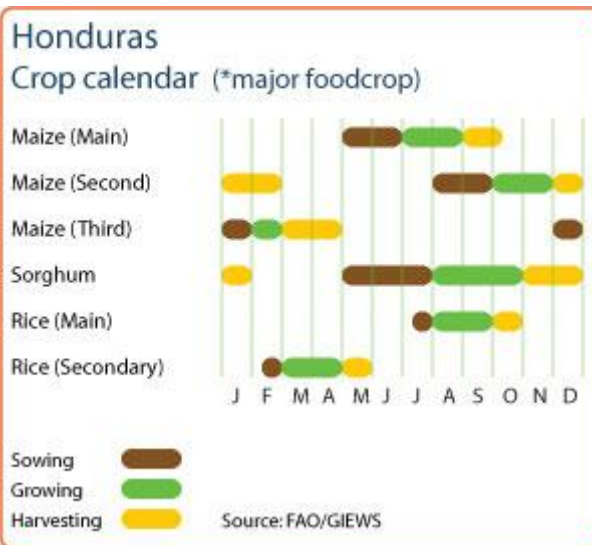
Reflecting higher plantings, 2013 rice production is forecast at 92 000 tonnes (61 000 tonnes, milled basis), well above last year's record level.

Cereal imports are projected to rise in the 2013/14 marketing year

Early forecasts for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) point to a slight increase in cereal imports of 1.5 percent. The increase mainly reflects a projected growth of 5 percent in maize imports to 440 000 tonnes, in order to satisfy local demand for both human consumption and animal feed. Wheat and rice are expected to remain at their historical levels.

Prices for maize and rice still high

Prices of white maize in September declined 8 percent from the previous month but were still 23 percent above their levels a year earlier due to low supplies in the market. Rice prices remained firm in September, averaging increases of 11 and 14 percent from last year, in the two main cities of

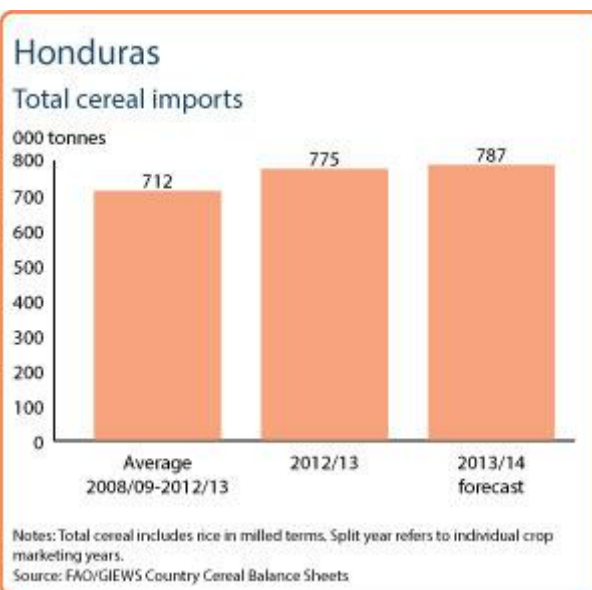


Honduras

Cereal production

	2008-2012	2012	2013	change
	average		forecast	2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	556	552	564	2
Rice (paddy)	50	69	92	33
Sorghum	37	40	38	-5
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	644	662	695	5

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



Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula respectively.

Prices for red bean—a main staple in the local diet—decreased by more than 10 percent in September and were well below prices in September 2012, pressured by large carryover stocks from the bumper harvests of last year.



Reference Date: 13-June-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2013 main season cereal crops are favourable
- Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2012/13 marketing year (July/June)
- Coffee leaf rust impacts production reducing rural incomes
- Maize and rice prices high

Early prospects for the 2013 main season cereal crops are favourable

Sowing of the main 2013 maize season is on-going under favourable weather conditions so far. The Government is distributing certified seeds and fertilizers under its support programme for the agricultural sector that will benefit 80 000 farmers. Assuming favourable weather during the remaining of the main season, early forecast for the 2013 maize production point to a 9 percent increase from the about normal crop of 2012. This reflects larger plantings in response to sustained demand from the feed industry and a recovery in yields from last year's level reduced by dry weather during the season.

Rice production is expected to continue its increasing trend and exceed last year's record level.

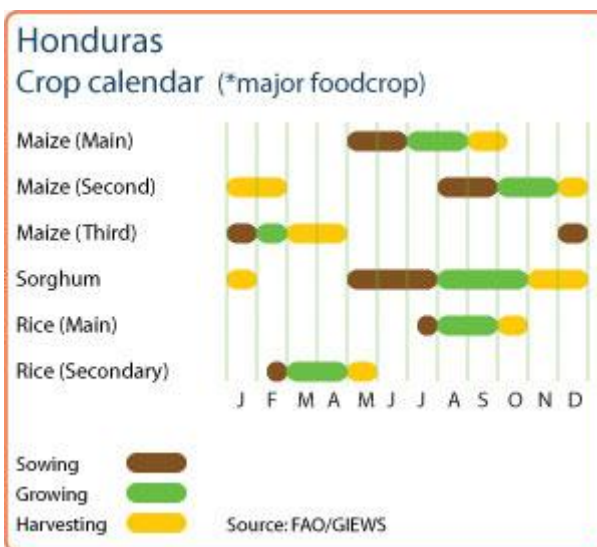
The 2012 aggregate cereal output is preliminary estimated at 662 000 tonnes a reduction of 2 percent from the previous year. A decline of 6 percent in maize production was partially compensated by a bumper rice crop.

Cereal imports forecast to increase in the 2012/13 (July/June) marketing year

Based on official estimates until April of 2013 total cereal imports are projected to increase by almost 8 percent in 2012/13 (July/June) marketing year. The growth is mainly due to higher maize imports expected to reach 430 000 tonnes -an increase of almost 13 percent- driven in part by the production shortfall but also by sustained demand from the feed industry. Wheat imports are also anticipated higher.

Coffee leaf rust impacts production reducing rural incomes

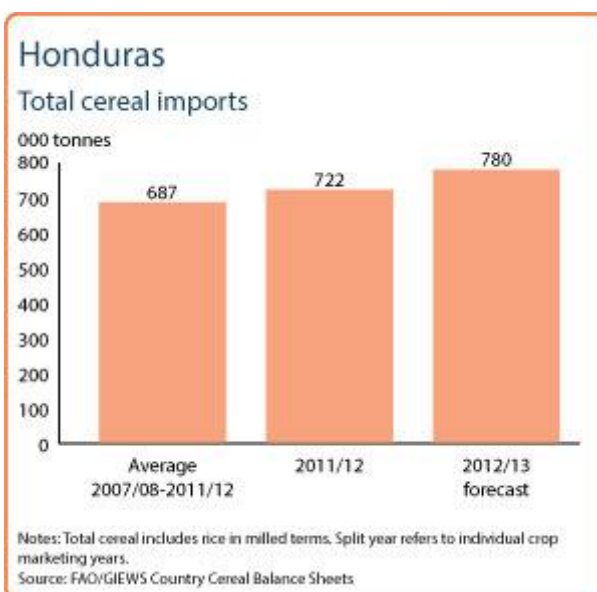
Coffee leaf rust impacted significantly the 2012/13 (Oct/Feb) harvest, reducing production by 9 percent relative to last year to 360 000 tonnes. Official estimates indicate that at least 25 percent of the coffee cultivated area was affected by leaf rust. The impact on rural labour is a loss of 10 000 jobs in the coffee growing areas in 2012/13. Job losses are expected to be higher in 2013/14 as a significant number of plantations will need to be taken out of production and



Honduras Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	556	552	600	9
Rice (paddy)	50	69	92	33
Sorghum	37	40	38	-5
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	644	662	731	10

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



renovated to control the spread of the leaf rust.

To mitigate the effects of the reduced coffee incomes on food security, the Government has put in place special credit facilities of approximately USD 50 million with the private banking sector so that farmers have access to the necessary funds to renovate their plantations. The Government along with the national coffee growers association and other partners is strengthening farmer's technical knowledge in managing and dealing with the coffee leaf rust.

Prices for maize and rice higher but those of beans low

Prices of white maize went down in May, after four consecutive months on the increase, partly reflecting weaker fuel quotations in April and most of May, which temporarily eased transport costs. Despite this recent decline, maize prices were 30 percent higher than a year ago in May reflecting the low supplies in the market due to the contraction of the 2012 production and seasonal pressures that will not subside until the beginning of the next harvest in August of 2013.

Rice prices were also higher in May, averaging increases of 9 and 12 percent from a year earlier in the two main cities of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula respectively.

Prices for red bean—a main staple in the local diet—increased slightly in May with the onset of the lean season. However they remained significantly lower than a year earlier due to large market surpluses.



Reference Date: 31-May-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable
- Maize and bean prices lower than a year ago

Early prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable

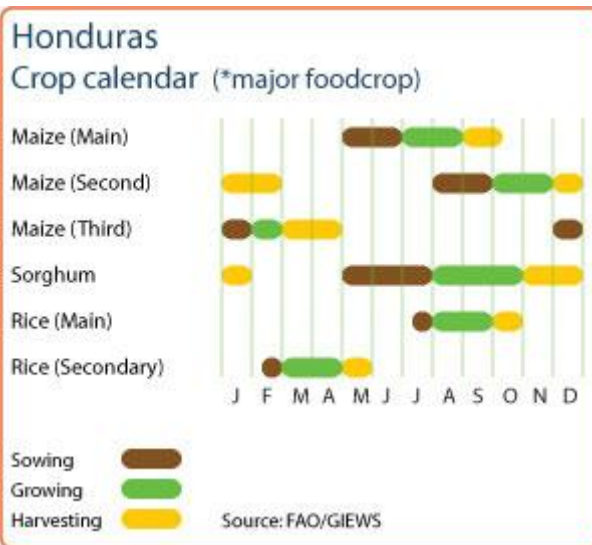
Sowing of the main 2012 cereal crops, particularly maize, is now under way. Following a weakening of the la Niña phenomenon in April, generally normal weather conditions are expected during the cropping season. Rainfall in the first weeks of May was erratic and caused delays in sowing operations. However, weather forecasts suggest that precipitation will be more favourable in the next few months and very close to average throughout the country. In an effort to promote production in this agricultural season, in May the Government started to distribute 110 000 productive solidarity bonds (BSPs), or agricultural input packages that include maize and bean seeds, and fertilizers for smaller-scale producers. With this assistance, and favourable rainfall prospects in the next few months, the 2012 maize and rice harvests are set to be larger than in 2011.

Cereal import requirements decrease in the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June)

On average Honduras imports about 50 percent of its consumption needs. As a result of the good level of production achieved in 2011, cereal imports in the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are expected to be down by about 3 percent.

Maize and bean prices rise but are still lower than a year ago

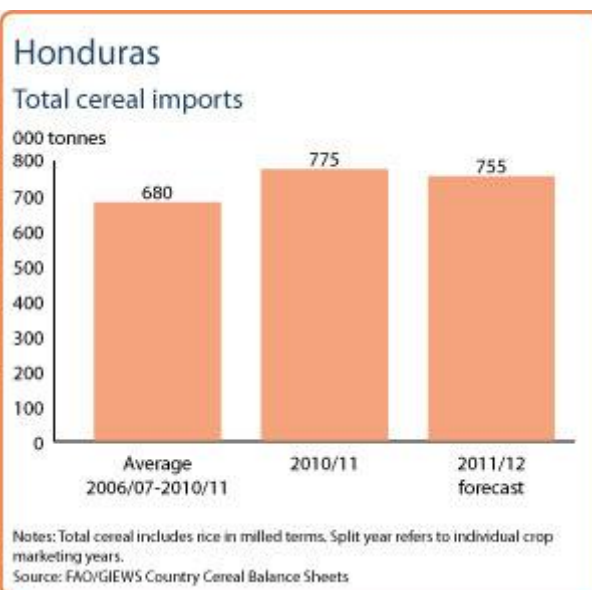
Prices of white maize and red beans, the main food products in the country's basic diet, rose in April and May, mainly owing to an increase in fuel prices. In Tegucigalpa, wholesale maize and bean prices in May were up by 33 percent and 45 percent, respectively, on their levels of a year earlier, having dropped sharply in the second half of 2011 when the main harvest came in. Rice prices have remained relatively stable throughout 2011 and in the first few months of 2012; and in May they were 3 percent lower than 12 months earlier.



Honduras Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	571	590	600	2
Rice (paddy)	42	30	32	7
Sorghum	41	37	40	8
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	655	658	673	-2

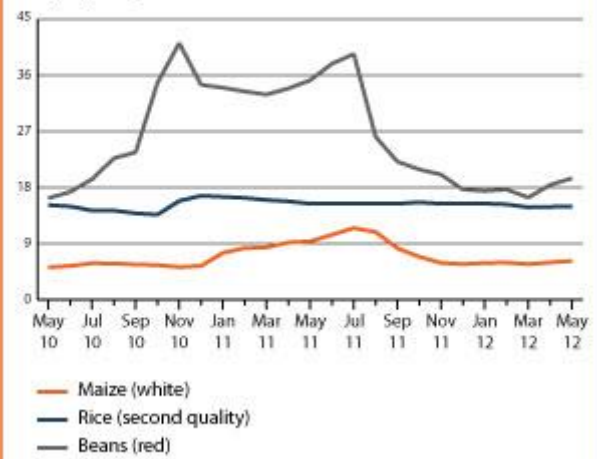
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa

Lempira per Kg



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 28-February-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Higher cereal and bean production in 2011
- Cereal and bean prices lower than a year ago

2011 maize output expected to be good despite October's torrential rainfall

Harvesting of the 2011 second season ("de postrera") crops, which accounts for 20 percent of annual maize production, is under way. The growing season was hampered by tropical depression 12-E last October, when torrential rainfall destroyed around 1 850 hectares sown with maize and 5 750 hectares of beans. Although crop damage was severe at local level, particularly in the Department of Intibucá, average yields were satisfactory in other regions of the country. Harvesting of the smaller 2011 third season is about to start, and prospects are good.

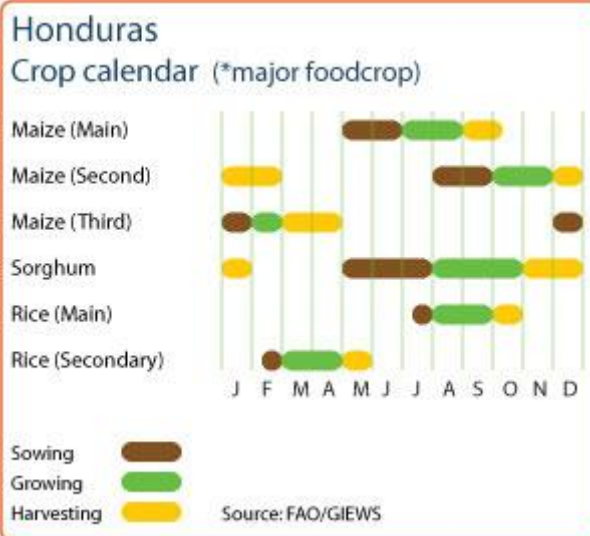
Total maize production for 2011 (first, second and third seasons) is forecast at 590 000 tonnes, 8 percent above the 2010 level.

Cereal import requirements decrease in the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June)

On average Honduras imports about 50 percent of its consumption needs. As a result of the good production forecasts for 2011, cereal imports in the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are expected to decrease by about 3 percent.

Maize and bean prices down

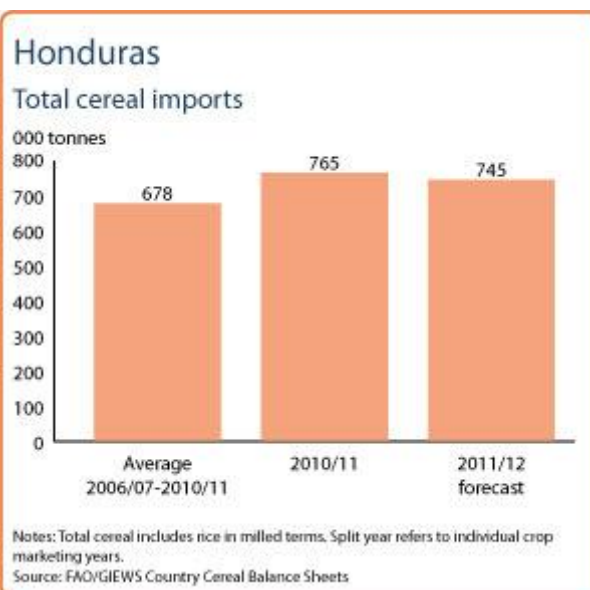
In the market of the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, maize and bean prices fell from their July 2011 peaks from August onwards, as the 2011 "de primera" harvest came in. They then stabilized at relatively low levels in January 2012, when they were down 22 percent and 49 percent year-on-year, respectively. Rice prices held steady throughout 2011 and in January 2012 were 7 percent lower than twelve months before.



Honduras Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	554	509	590	16
Rice (paddy)	42	43	45	5
Sorghum	40	36	37	3
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	637	589	673	14

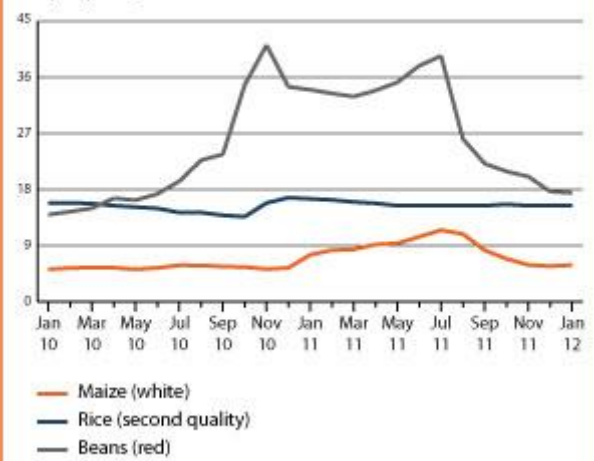
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Honduras

Selected wholesale prices in Tegucigalpa

Lempira per Kg



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 11-November-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Torrential rains in October caused loss of human lives and damages to infrastructure and crops
- 2011 maize production forecast above the average of the last five years
- Maize and bean prices fall

2011 maize output expected to be good, despite October's torrential rainfall

Harvesting of the 2011 second ("de postrera") season cereal and bean crops will start in December. The season was hampered by torrential rainfall in mid-October, caused by tropical depression 12-E. The resulting floods and landslides caused 29 deaths, serious damage to the road network and other infrastructures, and localized crop losses. The Honduran government declared a state of emergency in the departments of Choluteca and Valles on 16 October, before extending this to a further 10 departments two days later. Provisional estimates indicate a total of 1 850 hectares of maize damaged. Nationally, however, the main "de primera" harvest, the most important for maize crop, was completed in September, before the storm hit, and is estimated to be above average. The "de primera" season benefited from a larger area planted and favourable weather conditions during the growing phase. Consequently, aggregate maize output (first and second seasons) is forecast at 590 000 tonnes - 8 percent above the previous year's level and 5 percent above the average of the last five years.

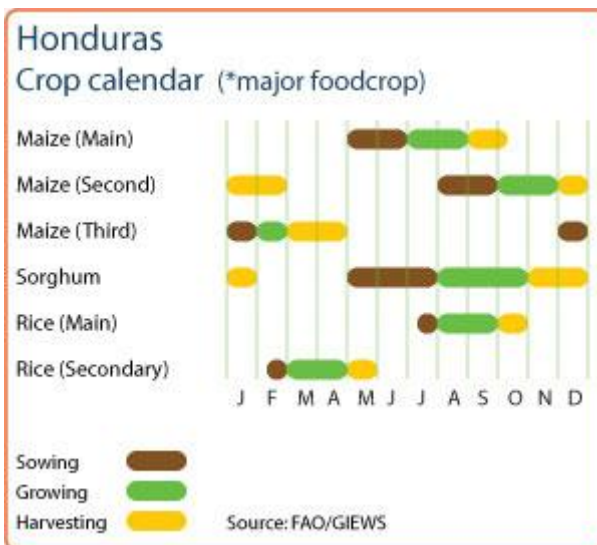
Cereal import requirements decrease in 2011/12

Current estimates for the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) see total cereal import requirements dropping to 745 000 tonnes, 3 percent below last year's figure - due to the bumper harvests forecast for 2011. Despite this, import requirements (mainly yellow maize for animal feed) remain at a high level and above the average of the last five years.

Maize and bean prices down

Maize prices, which reached record levels in July 2011, have eased over the last three months following the "de primera" harvest. Prices in October were still 24 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices of beans, another staple food in the Honduran diet, have also dropped sharply since August with the harvest, although the main bean seasons are the "postrera" and the "apante" (sown in December), which account for 70 percent of total production.

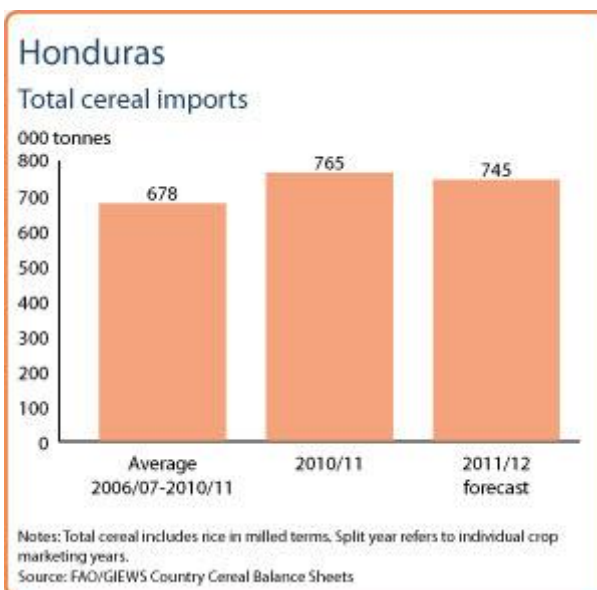
Inflation was negative in October as a result of lower prices of food products such as beans, maize and rice, and others. Year-on-year inflation in October was 6.9 percent, reinforcing the downward trend of this indicator, which is



Honduras Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	561	544	590	8
Rice (paddy)	42	43	45	5
Sorghum	40	36	37	3
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	644	624	673	8

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



now close to its level the same month a year earlier (5.8 percent in October 2010).



Reference Date: 20-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for 2011 cereal and bean crops after the weakening of La Niña
- 2010 bean production reduced by excessive rainfall
- Prices of basic foods high

Favourable prospects for the 2011 main season crops

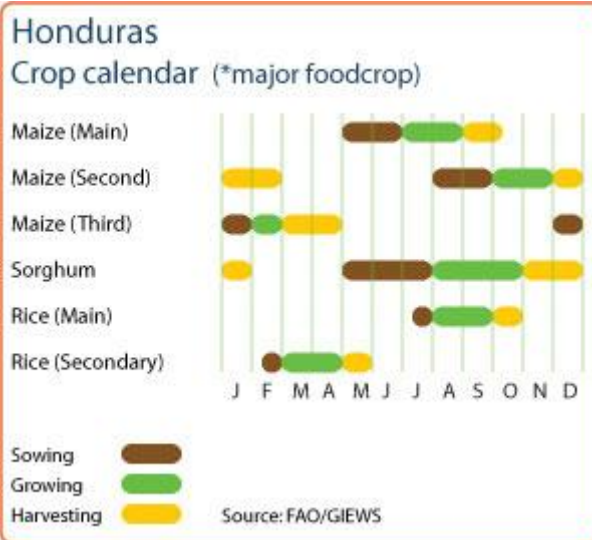
Sowing of the main cereal crops of 2011 has begun. After the weakening of the La Niña phenomenon, from February to April, a return to normal conditions is forecast for the next few months. Normal rainfall in May maintained adequate humidity conditions in the soil and favoured sowing operations. In order to promote production during the season, the government is distributing seeds and fertilizers to 180 000 vulnerable families.

2010 bean production affected by excessive rainfall

Beans of the third "postrera" season, fostered by the government to compensate for crop losses during the second "postrera" season, were harvested. A good production is expected as a result of favourable weather conditions during the agricultural season that benefited the development of crops. Production of the second season, the main one for bean crops, was lower due to excessive rainfall after the passage of tropical storms Agatha and Matthew that resulted in substantial crop losses. The departments most affected were Olancho, Paraíso, Comayagua, Colón, Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, La Paz, Santa Bárbara and Intibucá. Above-average rainfall was also recorded during the first agricultural season, which represents the main season for maize. Despite localized losses of crops, the abundant rainfall generally benefited 2010 maize production, which is estimated to have increased by 11 percent compared to 2009.

Prices of maize and beans high

Prices of white maize, the main food in the country's basic diet, have continued to follow the increasing trend that began at the end of last year due to the reduced main harvest of 2010 and to the increase in prices on the international market as Honduras imports substantial amounts of yellow maize for animal feed. In Tegucigalpa, the wholesale price of maize in May 2011 was valued at the record level of 424 Lempira per kilogramme, 80 percent higher than the price in May 2010. Prices of beans which fell from their high levels in November 2010 rose again in the last two months due to their decreased availability on the market as a result of reduced production in 2010. In Tegucigalpa, prices of red beans in May were valued at over



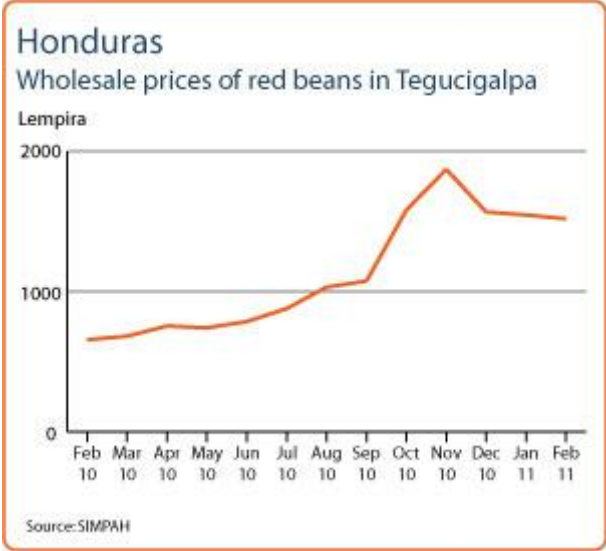
Honduras Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	536	520	575	11
Sorghum	47	52	52	0
Rice (paddy)	24	28	24	-14
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	608	601	652	8

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



double their price for the same month a year earlier.



Reference Date: 10-March-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereals and beans of the 2010 second season have been harvested
- The damages caused by excessive rainfall to bean crops in 2010 led to increased prices in local markets. The prices of cereals are also on the increase
- It is likely that the sowing of crops in the 2011 first season, which will take place in May/June, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon, with irregular rainfalls at levels above the norm

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

It is predicted that the sowing of crops in the 2011 first season, which will begin in April/May, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon. Although the phenomenon has started to ease off, above average and irregular rainfall is forecast for the months in which the first season's crops are sown.

Excessive rainfall affected the 2010 second season crops

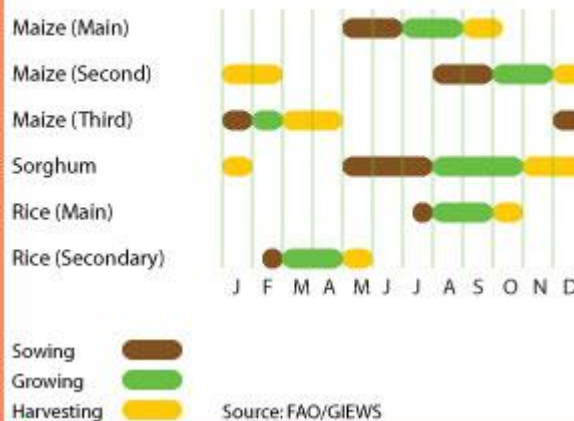
The Secretariat for Agriculture and Livestock reported significant losses of bean crops, the main second season crop, due to the heavy rainfall caused by the passage of tropical storms Agatha and Matthew. The departments most affected were Olancho, Paraíso, Comayagua, Colón, Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, La Paz, Santa Bárbara and Intibucá.

The 2010/11 third (secondary) "apante" crop season is being harvested. Weather conditions were favourable for the development of crops in the departments of Olancho, El Paraíso, Comayagua, Cortés, Yoro and Francisco Morazán. However, satellite images of the department of Olancho indicate below average crop conditions at the end of February.

Although remaining excessively high, the price of red beans has started to decrease

Prices of rice and maize increased in recent months mainly because of the increase in prices on the international market. The price of beans has showed a downward trend in recent months. However, the price of red beans in March 2011 is 122 percent higher than it was in March 2010. The increase is due to crop losses suffered during the 2010 agricultural campaign in Honduras.

Honduras Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

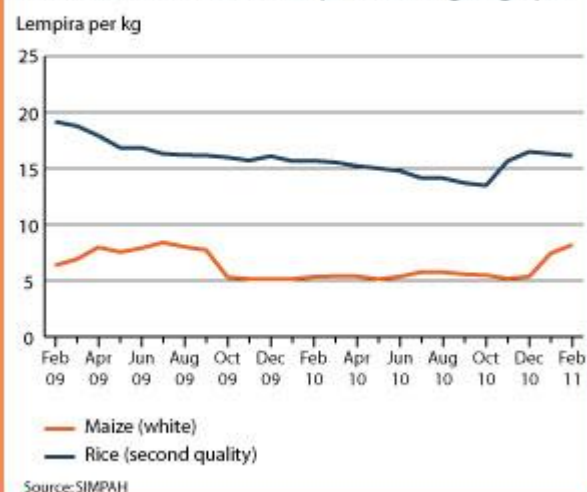


Honduras Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009 percent
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	536	520	575	11
Sorghum	47	52	52	0
Rice (paddy)	24	28	24	-14
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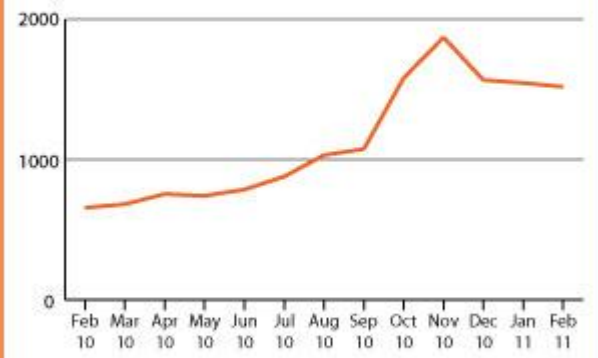
Honduras Selected wholesale cereal prices in Tegucigalpa



Honduras

Wholesale prices of red beans in Tegucigalpa

Lempira



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 10-November-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather is affecting the 2010 second season cereals and bean harvests
- 2010 first season bean production has declined due to excessive rainfall
- Market prices of beans are rising

The lack of rain is affecting the 2010 second season "de postrera" crops, mainly beans

The dry weather since the end of September is adversely impacting on the "de postrera" season cereals and beans, of which harvesting normally begins in December. The lack of rain has begun damaging beans. In particular, this season's principal crop, after the serious losses suffered in the "de primera" season as a result of torrential rainfall between May and August. The Departments suffering most from serious water shortages are Francisco Morazán, Santa Bárbara, El Paraíso and Copan. The Honduran Secretariat for Agriculture and Livestock has declared its intention to support the farmers in the affected areas, which in many instances are the same ones that were hit by flooding in the previous season.

Low 2010 "de primera" bean harvest and localized cereals losses

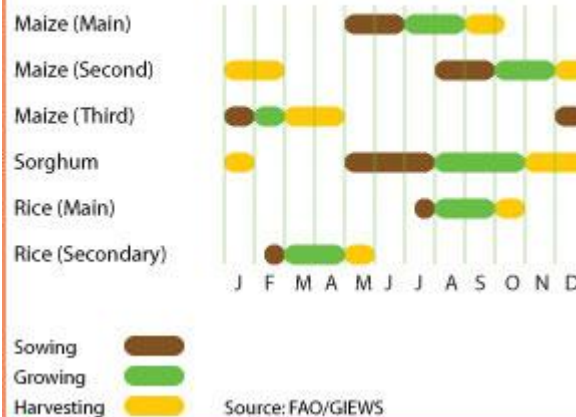
The main 2010 "de primera" cereals and bean harvest ended in September. Excessive rainfall during the agricultural season caused by the tropical storms resulted in flooding and landslides, with serious localized cereals losses. Conversely, this abundant rainfall was a boon to maize farming, and the national output is forecast to be satisfactory. Heavy rain in the first cropping season also badly affected the production of beans, which are more sensitive to excessive moisture.

Red bean prices are soaring

The prices of red beans, which, together with rice and maize constitute the staple Honduran diet, have risen steeply in the past few months. Price rises are due to the 2010 "de primera" harvest losses, which created market shortages and uncertain prospects for the main "de postrera" harvest. The highest bean prices were recorded in October and the first week of November when they reached HNL 1 937.5/qq, some 120 percent above July's prices. The Secretariat for Agriculture and Livestock has announced that the government is examining the possibility of importing beans to prevent speculation and stock depletion, but a decree must first be issued to procure beans meeting the statutory technical standards from other countries.

Maize prices, conversely, have been falling since August 2010 to reach HNL 234/qq in the first week of November. But they might rise again in the coming months because of the strong demand for imports from neighbouring El Salvador, where prices are higher.

Honduras Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

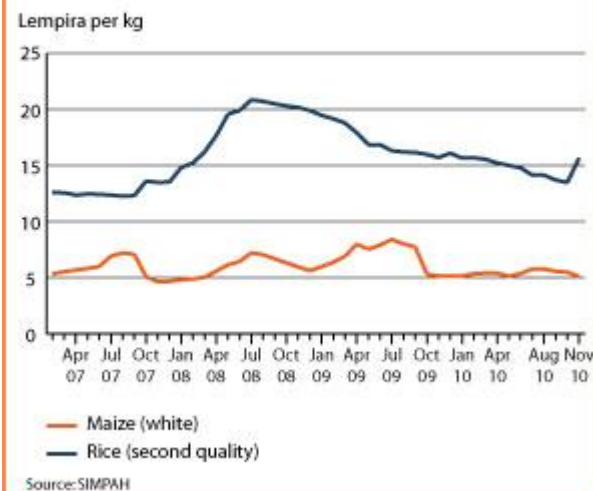


Honduras Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009 percent
	000 tonnes			percent
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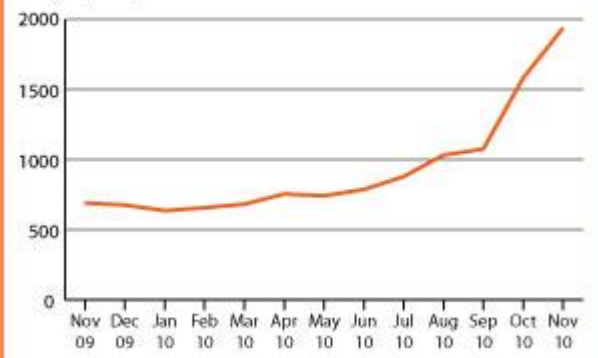
Honduras Selected wholesale cereal prices in Tegucigalpa



Honduras

Wholesale prices of red beans in Tegucigalpa

Lempira per kg



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 17-August-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Storm Agatha affected more than 30 000 hectares of crops
- Prices of maize, the main staple, have remained generally stable since October 2009

Landslides and floods that followed tropical storm Agatha caused widespread damage

The 2010 Pacific hurricane season began with the tropical storm Agatha during May 2010. The western regions of Valle de la Sula and the central and southern regions of the country experienced heavy rainfall which caused landslides and flooding and forced people to evacuate their homes. The most affected departments were Valle, Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, Lempira and Intibucá. Heavy damage to infrastructure and agriculture are reported. More than 30 000 hectares of crops were declared to be affected while 1.5 thousand heads of cattle were found dead. According to official Government reports released on 3 June, tropical storm Agatha caused an estimated USD 18 million in losses to the agriculture sector, including a loss of USD 11.4 million in maize and beans.

Government support to storm affected producers of basic grains in the western departments

Harvesting of the spring (estación de primera) cropping season has almost started. Planting of the main season maize was still underway when the country was hit by the tropical storm Agatha which damaged approximately 20 000 hectares of basic grains. In response, producers in the western regions received fertilizers and seeds under the framework of the programme Bono de Solidaridad Productiva (BSP) in order to re-plant approximately 1.8 thousand hectares of maize and beans as a measure of support the food security of many families in the area.

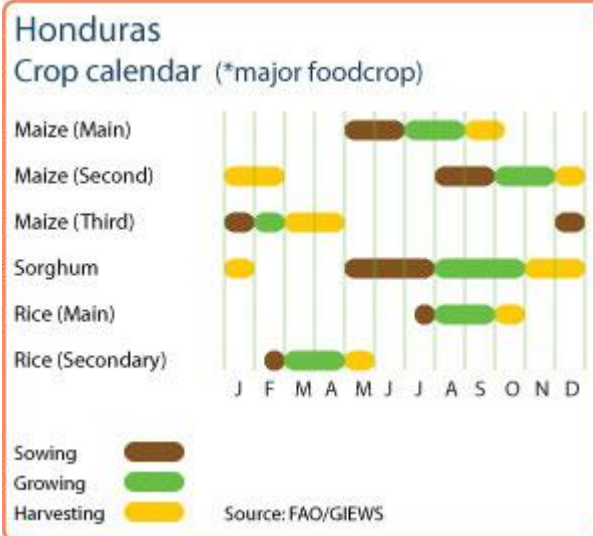
Imports of cereals expected to increase in marketing year 2009/10

In 2009/10, cereal imports are estimated at about 765 000 tonnes compared to 722 000 tonnes imported the previous year. It is expected that maize imports would reach 380 000 tonnes, about 10 percent higher than the amount imported in 2008/09.

Prices of maize stable since the last quarter of 2009

Prices of white maize have been generally stable since the last quarter of 2009 and are in August 18 percent below the levels of two years ago. An agreement has been recently reached between the Government (Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería), maize producers and the flour industry on a set price to purchase white maize used in the preparation of flour for human consumption. The maize will be purchased in the eastern-central and in the north-western areas of the country.

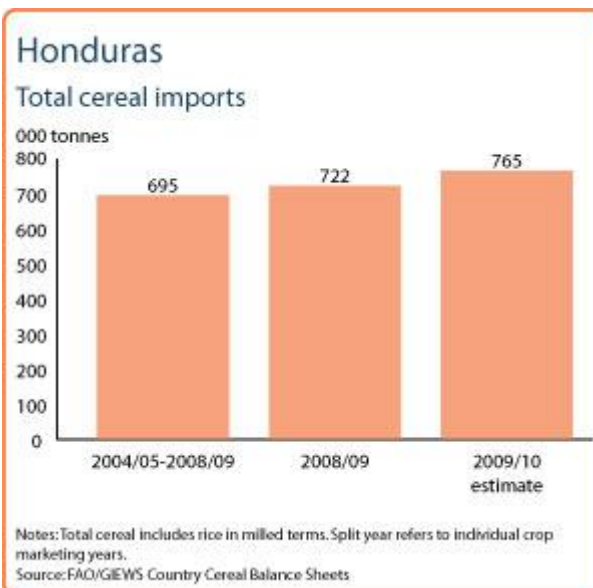
Similarly, the price of rice, which has been declining since April of last year, is in August 30 percent below the levels of the same period of



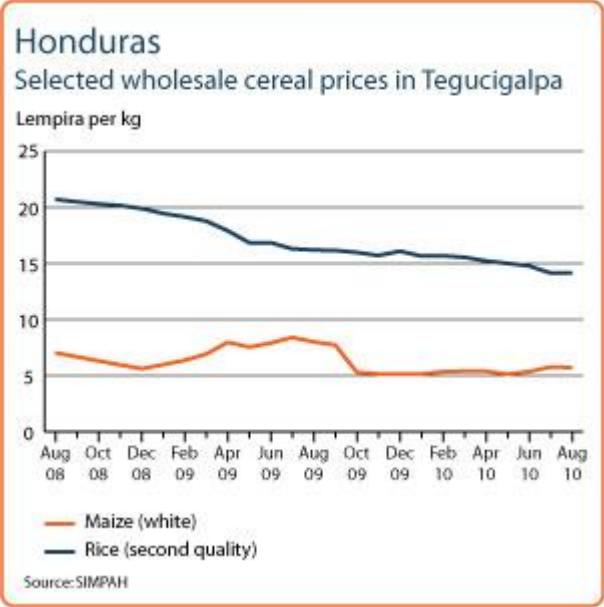
Honduras Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	536	520	575	11
Sorghum	47	52	52	0
Rice (paddy)	23	24	24	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	606	597	652	9

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



2008 reflecting the trend of international prices.



Reference Date: 12-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates indicate a decrease in the 2009 “apante” maize production
- An increase of cereals import requirements is estimated for marketing year 2009/10

Planting of 2010 first cropping season is about to start

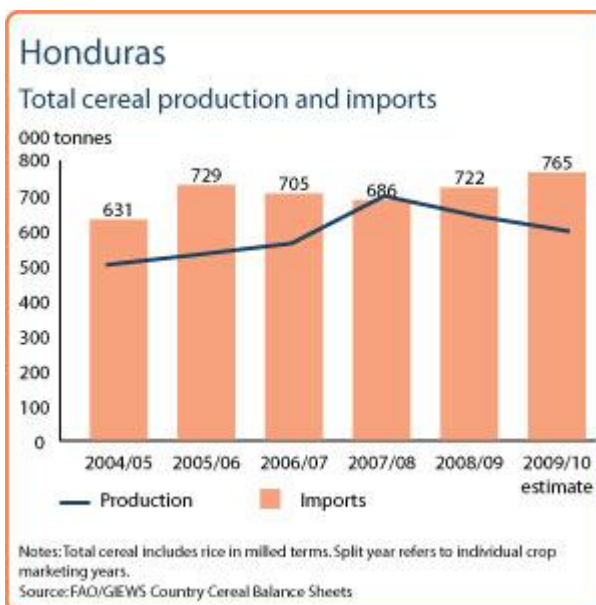
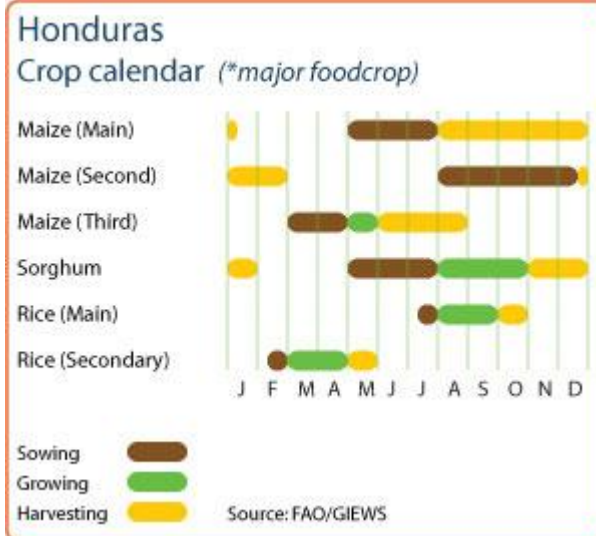
The planting of the 2010 first maize cropping season (representing approximately 80 percent of the aggregate annual production) is about to start in the departments of Olancho, Yoro, El Paraiso and Santa Barbara. After some months of unseasonably below average precipitation, which lasted from December to March, rainfall returned throughout the country since the first weeks of April allowing land preparation activities.

Production of the 2009 beans and maize “apante” cropping season estimated to decrease

Harvesting of the 2009 “apante” maize and beans crops is complete with significant, although localized, losses. In the Southern regions of the country, particularly in the departments of La Paz, Comayagua, Francisco Morazan, El Paraiso, Valle and Choluteca, prolonged drought conditions throughout the season resulted in a significant reduction of yields. However, due to the good output obtained especially during the first season of 2009, which was completed in August and benefited from good rains, the total 2009 maize production is estimated at a slightly below average level of 520 000 tonnes.

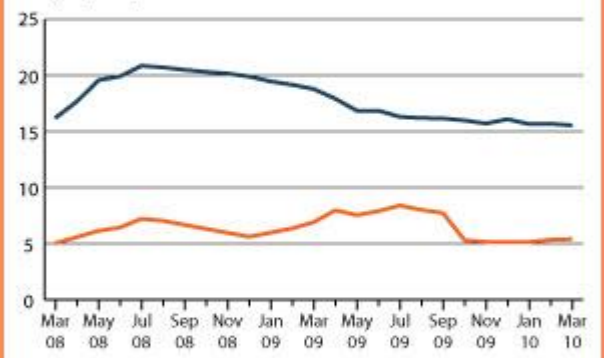
Imports of cereals expected to increase in marketing year 2009/10

For the 2009/10 marketing year, cereal imports are estimated at about 765 000 tonnes compared to 722 000 tonnes imported last year. It is expected that maize imports should reach 380 000 tonnes, a volume 10 percent higher than the amount imported in 2008/09.



Honduras Selected cereal prices

Lempira per kg



Source: SIMPAH

Reference Date: 29-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2009 maize production is expected to reach similar level of 2008 good output
- Incentives to support grain production during next season
- Prices still higher than pre-crisis level

Good output of first season beans and maize is expected

Thanks to a favourable rainy season and regular rainfall during the basic grain development stage, the production of first season white maize, which began to be harvested at the end of August, has been tentatively estimated at 575 000 tonnes, very similar to the good harvest in 2008, which will guarantee a plentiful supply of cereals over the next few months.

Official sources are nevertheless concerned about the next agricultural cycle because the effects of El Niño are already making themselves felt with a rainfall deficit in some areas of the departments of El Paraíso and Olancho.

Support for postrera basic grain sowing

Technological vouchers are currently being distributed for the forthcoming postrera sowing season which began in September and will end in December.

The government will support the postrera sowing of maize, beans and rice with grants of approximately USD 3.5 million for the small farmers to invest in fertiliser and improved seed.

The purpose of this support is to encourage the sowing of basic grains whose prices are currently tending to fall on the domestic market because of the expected good bean harvest and the slump in maize prices on the international market.

Part of the strategic grain reserves will be placed on the market

Instituto Hondureño de Mercadeo Agrícola (IHMA) has decided to sell some of the strategic grain reserves on the domestic and external markets.

To meet the strong demand from neighbouring countries, such as Guatemala and El Salvador, which are facing an emergency situation caused by the food shortages, and in view of the good forecast primera harvest, IHMA decided to empty the silos in order to buy up the new harvests.

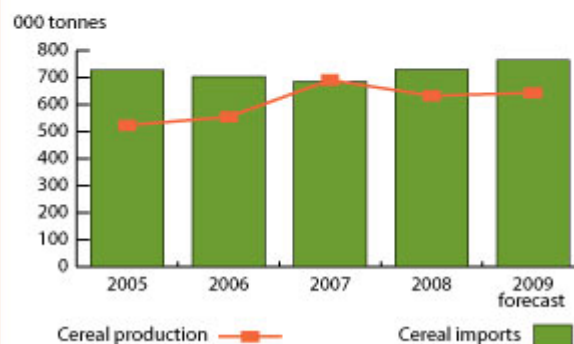
Rice prices still remain above precrisis levels

Domestic rice prices have been falling since July 2008. However, they still stand at about 30 percent above mid-2008 pre-crisis levels.

In September, wholesalers on the Tegucigalpa market paid lempiras

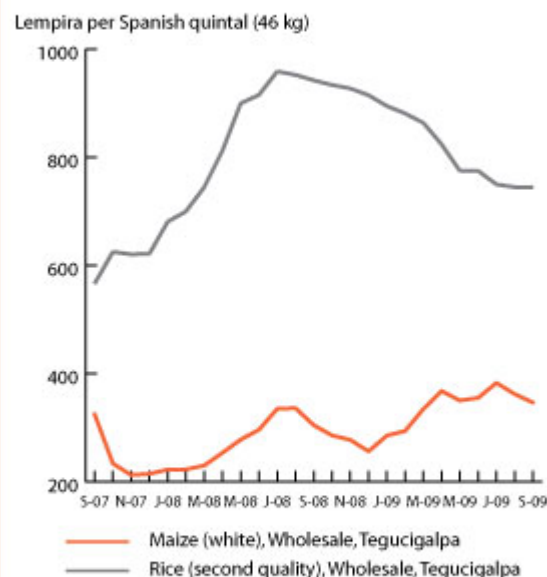
Cereal production and imports Honduras

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	521	570	575	0.9%
Sorghum	43	46	52	13%
Rice (milled)	15	16	16	0%
Other	1	1	1	0%
Total Cereals	579	633	644	1.7%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Honduras Selected cereal food prices



Source: Secretaria de Agricultura Y Ganaderia

745/lb compared with lempiras 566/lb in the same period in 2007.

In the capital, bean prices continue to slide, and in September, red beans sold for lempiras 15.11/Kg, the lowest price recorded since June 2007, when the price was lempiras 14.03/kg.