



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Paraguay

Reference Date: 05-December-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average cereal output estimated in 2023
- Area sown to 2024 maize and paddy crops forecast at above-average level
- Exports of cereals in 2023/24 forecast slightly below average
- Prices of yellow maize and rice in October 2023 higher year-on-year

Below-average cereal output estimated in 2023

Harvesting of the 2023 wheat crop has been recently completed and production is estimated at a below-average level of 1 million tonnes. This is mainly due to below-average yields as crops have been affected by fungal diseases caused by above-average precipitation amounts and high temperatures between August and October.

The 2023 maize output is officially estimated at 4.5 million tonnes, about 17 percent below the five-year average. The low outturn reflects a contraction of planted area, as planting operations of the main crop were delayed due to the late completion of the soybean harvest, which precedes the main maize season. Similarly, 2023 paddy production is officially estimated at a below-average level of 978 000 tonnes, as low availability of irrigation water, due to below-average rainfall amounts in the first quarter of 2023, resulted in below-average yields. In aggregate, 2023 cereal production is estimated at 6.6 million tonnes, nearly 15 percent below the average.

Area sown to 2024 maize and paddy crops forecast at above-average level

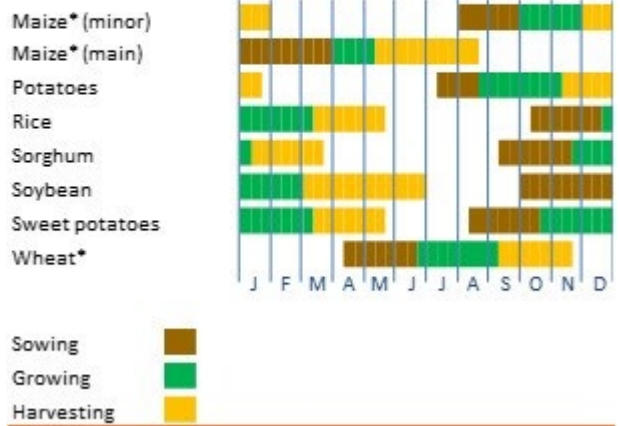
The 2024 minor season maize crop, which accounts for 5 percent of the annual production, will be harvested from December. Satellite imagery as of mid-November points to good crop conditions, especially in the main producing eastern region. Planting of the 2024 main season maize crop will start next January and the area sown is officially forecast at a near-average level of 1 million hectares, rebounding from the low level in 2023, driven by high domestic prices.

Planting of the 2024 paddy crop is ongoing and improved precipitation amounts in late October increased irrigation water levels in most reservoirs. The area planted is officially forecast at an above-average level, supported by all-time high rice prices.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	5 407	6 192	4 492	-27.5
Wheat	1 124	1 288	1 000	-22.4
Rice (paddy)	1 040	862	978	13.6
Others	108	108	108	0.0
Total	7 680	8 449	6 578	-22.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Weather forecasts point to average to above-average rainfall amounts between December 2023 and February 2024, likely providing conducive conditions for planting and germination of the main maize crop as well as for adequate development of the paddy crop.

Exports of cereals in 2023/24 forecast slightly below average

Cereal exports in the 2023/24 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at slightly a below-average level of 3.5 million tonnes, due to the reduced cereal outturn in 2023. This represents a significant drop from the record level registered in 2022/23, when about 5.7 million tonnes were exported following bumper harvests that increased exportable surpluses.

Prices of yellow maize and rice in October 2023 higher year-on-year

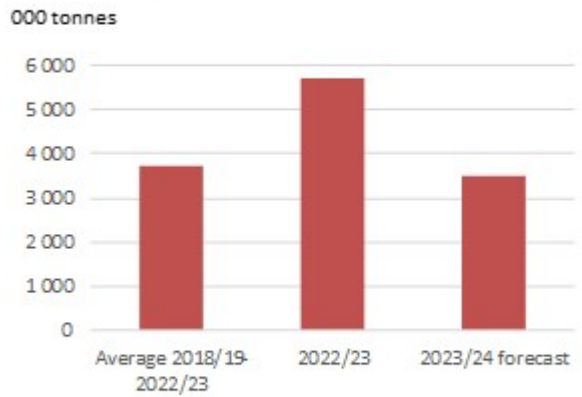
Wholesale prices of rice have been generally on the rise during the first ten months of 2023, due to tight domestic supplies from the low output in 2022 as well as above-average exports during the 2022/23 marketing year. Prices of yellow maize strengthened between July and October 2023 as the strong demand for exports more than offset seasonal downward pressure. October prices of both rice and yellow maize were about 20 percent above their year-earlier levels.

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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/>.

Paraguay

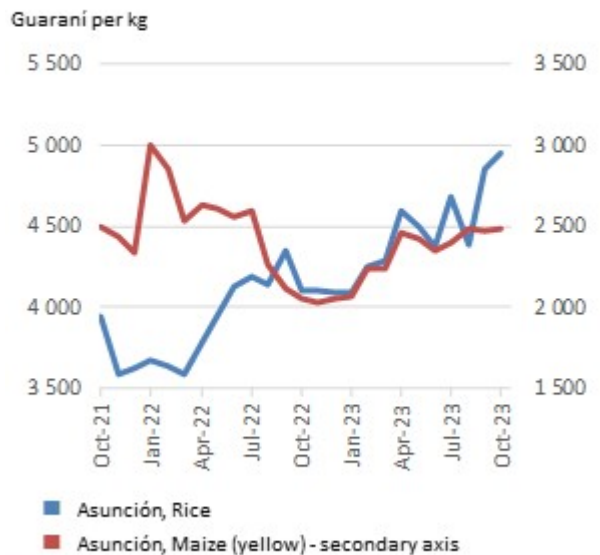
Cereals Exports



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

Paraguay

Wholesale selected prices





GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 04-January-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal output estimated in 2022
- Area sown to 2023 maize crop forecast at above-average level
- Exports of cereals in 2022/23 forecast at near-record level
- Prices of yellow maize declined seasonally since August and lower year-on-year

Above-average cereal output estimated in 2022

Harvesting of the 2022 wheat crop was completed in mid-November and production is estimated at an above-average level of 1.06 million tonnes due to good yields. The planted area is estimated at an average level, which represents a rebound from the low levels of the previous three years, as farmers responded positively to the high domestic prices at planting time.

The 2022 aggregate cereal production is estimated at 8.2 million tonnes, more than 10 percent above the five-year average. This is mainly due to an expansion of maize sowings by farmers that experienced losses of soybean crops in the precedent season. With slightly above-average yields, maize output in 2022 is officially estimated at a well above-average level of 6.2 million tonnes. By contrast, 2022 paddy production is estimated at 862 000 tonnes, more than 10 percent below the five-year average, as dry weather conditions at the end of 2021 severely curtailed yields.

Area sown to 2023 maize crop forecast at above-average level

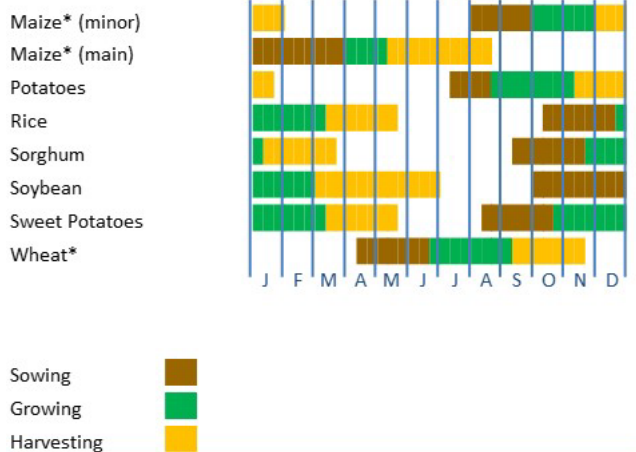
The 2023 minor season maize crop, which accounts for 5 percent of the annual production, is being harvested. Satellite imagery shows good crop conditions, on account of favourable rains between mid-September and October. Planting of the 2023 main season maize crop started in January and the area sown is officially forecast to be similar to the high level in 2022, due to the strong international demand. Rainfall amounts are officially forecast to be [slightly below the average](#) between January and February 2023, raising concerns for planting operations and crop germination.

The 2023 paddy crop is at vegetative and flowering stages, with generally good crop conditions in the main producing departments of Misiones, Itapúa and Caazapá. The area planted

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	5 200	4 088	6 192	51.5
Rice (paddy)	1 053	1 181	862	-27.0
Wheat	1 011	745	1 060	42.3
Others	108	108	108	0.0
Total	7 373	6 122	8 221	34.3

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

is officially estimated at an average level. However, below-average precipitation in December 2022 resulted in low water levels in Tebicuary River, which prompted the government to [ban the extraction of water](#) for irrigation until further notice.

Exports of cereals in 2022/23 forecast at near-record level

Cereal exports in the 2022/23 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.6 million tonnes, near the record level registered in 2015/16. The expected large volume of exports reflects the abundant exportable surplus from the bumper maize harvests gathered in 2022.

Prices of yellow maize declined seasonally since August and lower year-on-year

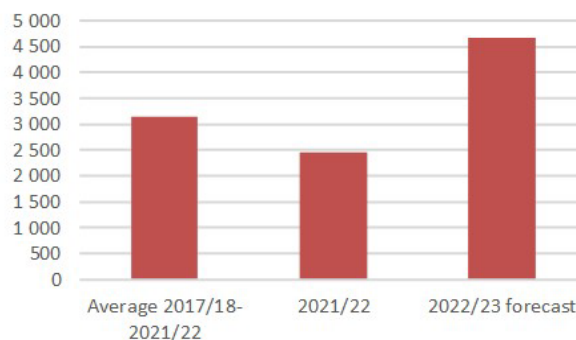
Prices of yellow maize have declining since August 2022, reflecting the ample supply from the 2022 main maize crop harvest. As of November 2022, prices were below the 2021 level, when prices surged as the harvest was severely affected by dry weather conditions. Regarding prices of rice, after sustained increases between April and September 2022 due to the 2022 below-average harvest, they weakened during the following two months. However, prices were still 15 percent higher year-on-year in November 2022.

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Paraguay

Cereals Exports

000 tonnes



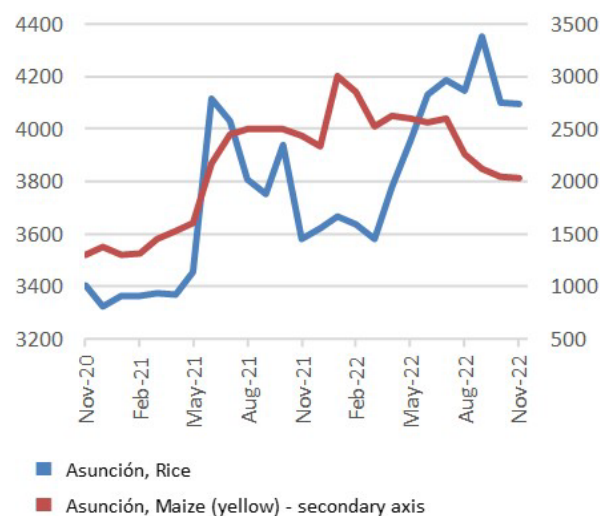
Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Paraguay

Wholesale selected prices

Guaraní per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 19-April-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable production prospects for 2022 main season maize crop
- Cereal production in 2021 estimated at below-average level
- Exports of cereals in 2021/22 anticipated at low levels
- Prices of yellow maize well above year-earlier levels in March

Favourable production prospects for 2022 main season maize crop

The 2022 main season maize crop is currently at flowering and grain-filling stages. According to satellite imagery, crop conditions were favourable in the main producing departments of Alto Paraná and Canindeyú (green areas in NDVI anomaly map), which presents a significant improvement compared to February. Abundant precipitations in March and the first dekad of April boosted soil moisture levels and supported crop development. The planted area is officially estimated at an above-average level as a result of the expansion of maize sowings by farmers that experienced crop losses in the precedent soybean season.

The 2022 main season maize crop was harvested between December 2021 and January 2022 and production is estimated at a below-average level owing to severe and prolonged dry spells between the November 2021 and January 2022 period.

Dry weather conditions also resulted in below-average yields of the 2022 paddy crop production of which is officially estimated at 860 000 tonnes, more than 10 percent below the five-year average.

Cereal production in 2021 estimated at below-average level

Cereal output in 2021 is officially estimated at 5.8 million tonnes, about 20 percent below the previous five-year average. The sharp reduction in production reflects the adverse impact of prolonged dry weather conditions that reduced planted area and lowered yields of the main maize crop. Cold snaps in June 2021 severely affected wheat, production of which was 30 percent below the five-year average.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

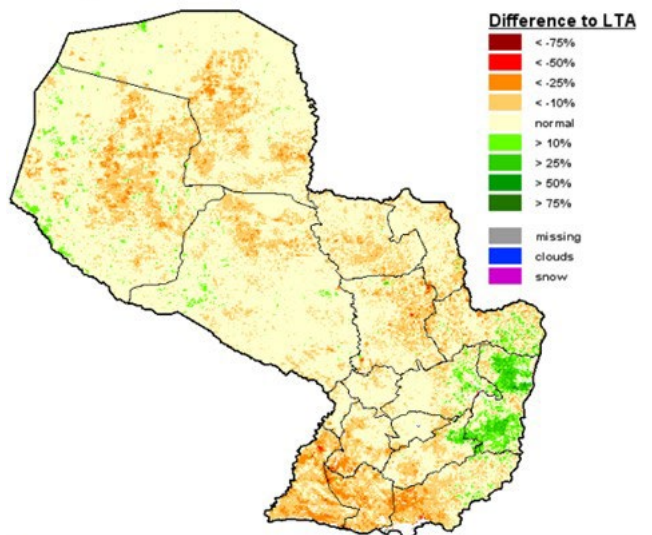


Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay - NDVI anomaly

Dekad 3, March 2022



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Exports of cereals in 2021/22 anticipated at low levels

Cereal exports in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at low levels of 2.6 million tonnes, owing to a sharp decline in exportable surplus of maize in 2021. Imports of maize were at an all-time high between July 2021 and January 2022 aiming at increasing domestic supplies.

Prices of yellow maize well above year-earlier levels in March

After an upsurge during the second quarter of 2021 due to tight market supplies, prices of yellow maize rose sharply again in January, reflecting the below-average production of the 2022 minor season crop. Although prices decreased in February and March, owing to improved prospects for the main season crop, they remained 70 percent above their year-earlier levels. Prices of rice were quite stable between December 2021 and March 2022 and slightly higher year on year on account of the below-average 2022 harvest. In general, food prices in March were higher year on year, with an annual inflation rate of food items estimated at 17.5 percent.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

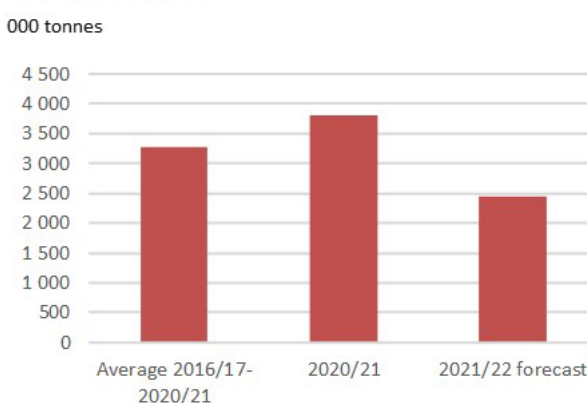
	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	5 413	5 835	4 088	-29.9
Wheat	1 066	928	745	-19.7
Rice (paddy)	989	1 190	1 181	-0.8
Others	108	108	108	0.0
Total	7 576	8 061	6 122	-24.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Paraguay

Cereals Exports

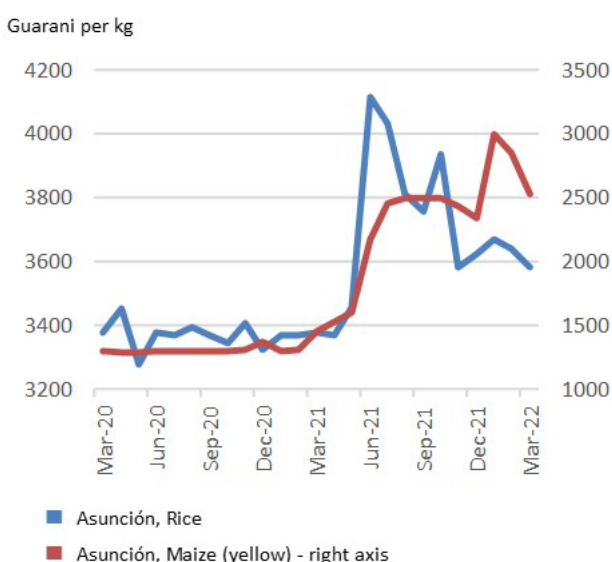


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Paraguay

Wholesale selected prices



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 09-July-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prevailing dry weather conditions curb cereal production prospects in 2021
- Exports of cereals in 2021/22 marketing year forecast at high levels
- Government supports vulnerable households amid severe COVID-19 second wave

Prevailing dry weather conditions curb cereal production prospects in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 maize crop, the main cereal produced in the country, started at the end of June, with about 45 days of delay. The late harvest is due to dryness in the 2020 September-November period that delayed the cropping season of soybeans, which precedes planting of maize on the same fields. Yields are expected at below-average levels, affected by low rainfall amounts in the March-May period and a recent cold spell in June. The 2021 aggregate production of maize, including the below-average minor crop harvested at the beginning of the year, is anticipated at 5.5 million tonnes. The expected near-average output mainly reflects large plantings, instigated by the strong demand for exports, which offset the below-average yields.

Planting of the wheat crop, to be harvested from mid-September, recently concluded in June. Soil moisture deficits accumulated between March and May caused delays to planting operations and affected germination of early-planted crops. Rainfall amounts increased to average levels in June and supported sowing and establishment of late-planted crops. The planted area is preliminarily estimated at a near-average level. Weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of below-average rainfall amounts during the July-September period, with potential negative consequences on yields.

Harvesting of the paddy crop concluded in mid-May and production is estimated at 1.1 million tonnes, 10 percent above the average, mainly due to the large plantings.

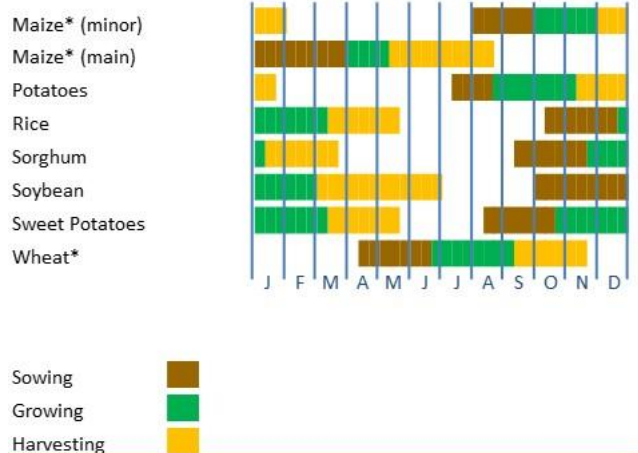
Exports of cereals in 2021/22 forecast at high levels

Cereal exports in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June), mainly maize, are forecast at 3.8 million tonnes, more than 10 percent above the previous five-year average. The expected high level reflects large exportable availabilities and a strong demand from Brazil, the main cereal importing country.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	5 413	5 835	5 500	-5.7
Wheat	1 131	1 250	1 150	-8.0
Rice (paddy)	989	1 190	1 090	-8.4
Others	108	108	108	0.0
Total	7 641	8 383	7 848	-6.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Government supports vulnerable households amid severe COVID 19 second wave

According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the United Nations, the country's Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 3.5 percent in 2021 after having contracted by 1.6 percent in 2020. The latest data released by the National Statistics Institute indicates that the poverty rate increased by 3.4 percentage points year on year in 2020, with a total of 1.92 million people (or 27 percent of the national population) estimated to be living below the poverty line.

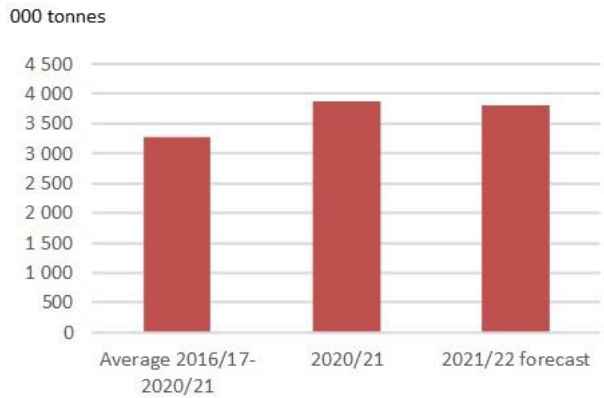
Amid a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in April, the government has reintroduced some containment measures that will be in place until mid-July. It is expected that these measures will have a negative impact on the economy, reducing income-generating activities and curtailing access to food especially for the poorest households.

To improve the food security of the most vulnerable households, the Ministry of Social Development allocated a budget of PYG 54 200 million (about USD 8 million) to scale up its social protection programmes ([Tekoporã](#) and [Tenonderã](#)). These programmes are expected to provide cash to more than 115 000 people.

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Paraguay

Cereals Exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 02-March-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Abundant rains favoured early development of 2021 main season maize crop
- Cereal production in 2020 estimated record high
- Exports of cereals in 2020/21 marketing year forecast at average levels
- Government strengthened safety net programmes to vulnerable households

Abundant rains favoured early development of 2021 main season maize crop

Planting of the 2021 main season maize crop is nearing completion and germinating crops are currently in good condition in the key producing southeastern region (VCI map). Favourable precipitation levels since December 2020 improved soil moisture conditions and benefited planting operations. The area planted is expected to remain at an above-average level due to high international prices of maize. Weather forecasts indicate a high probability that drier-than-normal conditions prevail in the March-May 2021 period, which could have negative effects on crop development and yields.

The 2021 minor season maize crop was harvested between December 2020 and January 2021. Production is estimated at a below-average level, mainly reflecting low yields affected by reduced precipitation amounts in the September-November 2020 period, which is critical for crops at flowering and grain-filling stages.

Harvesting of the 2021 paddy crop is ongoing and production is anticipated at an above-average level. The favourable forecasts are mainly attributed to the trend in expansion of sowings during the past ten years and increased rainfall amounts since December 2020, which improved crop conditions.

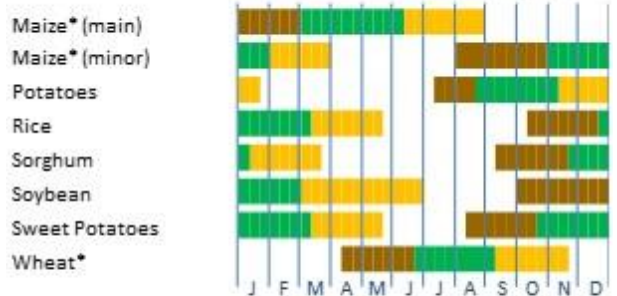
Cereal production in 2020 estimated record high

Aggregate cereal production in 2020 is estimated at a record 8.4 million tonnes. According to official estimates, maize production in 2020 is set at 5.8 million tonnes, more than 10 percent above the five-year average, reflecting an expansion in the planted area and record yields. Production of paddy in 2020 is estimated at 1.2 million tonnes, nearly 30 percent above the five-year average, supported by high plantings and

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

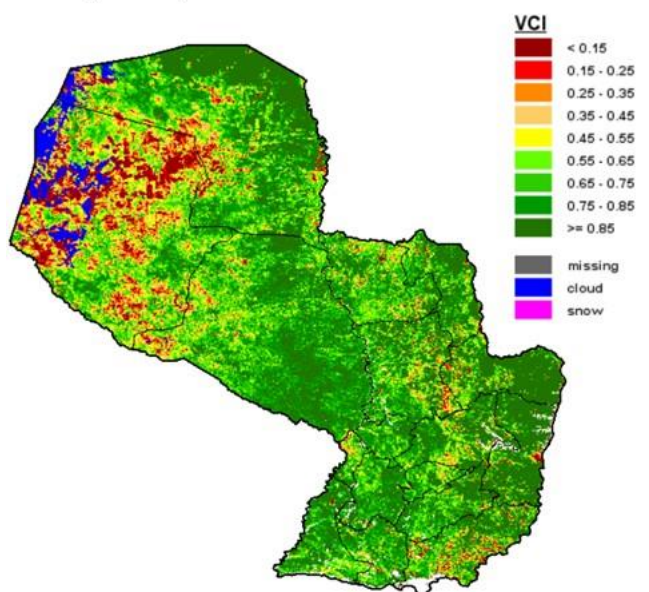


Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

Dekad 2, February 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

above-average yields. Areas sown with maize and paddy have been on the rise in recent years due to strong export demand.

Exports of cereals in 2020/21 forecast at average levels

Cereal exports in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June), mostly maize, are expected to decline from the high levels recorded in 2019/20 and are forecast at an average level of 3.5 million tonnes. The decline mainly reflects strong demand by the domestic bio-fuel sector.

Government strengthened safety net programmes to vulnerable households

According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the United Nations, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's economy has been less severe than other South American countries, with a decline of the Gross Domestic Product of only 1.6 percent. This reflects the country's low COVID-19 infection rates in the subregion and the adequate containment measures put in place by the local authorities. In order to protect the socio-economic and food security situation of the vulnerable households, the cash transfer programme *Tekoporã* was scaled up to reach 600 000 vulnerable people. In addition, two new social protection schemes, *Ñangareko* and *Pytyvo*, were created in 2020 to target children and workers, respectively, in the informal sector whose income-generating activities were affected by the pandemic.

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Paraguay

Cereal Production

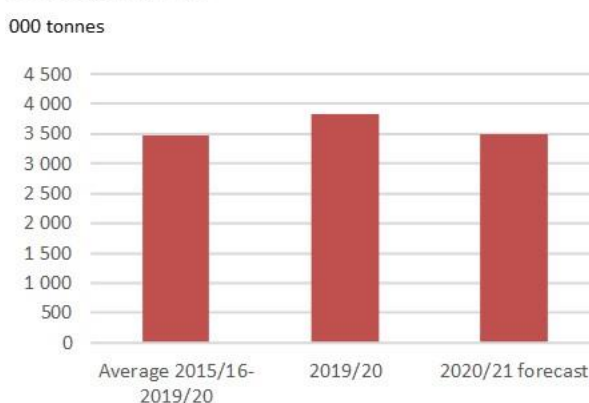
	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019 percent
	000 tonnes			
Maize	5 243	5 577	5 835	4.6
Wheat	1 109	1 303	1 250	-4.1
Rice (paddy)	923	1 072	1 190	11.0
Others	108	108	108	0.0
Total	7 384	8 060	8 383	4.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Paraguay

Cereals Exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 20-August-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Insufficient rains in key producing areas during planting and crop development constrained maize production in 2020
- Cereal exports forecast to decline in 2020/21 due to reduced maize output
- Food insecurity expected to deteriorate due to economic slowdown instigated by COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures

Below-average maize production anticipated due to insufficient rains

Harvesting of the main season maize crop started in mid-June and is expected to conclude by the end of August 2020. The main season maize crop was planted in January and February, with the bulk being planted in Alto Paraná, Canindeyú and Caaguazú departments. Below-average rainfall amounts during the February-April period in the major producing departments caused severe soil moisture deficits and adversely impacted planting operations and early crop development. Improved rains in May and June were insufficient to recover crop yields. The planted area, which was on the rise during the last five years due to good financial gains for farmers and favourable weather conditions, is estimated to have reduced for the first time in five years reflecting the dry weather conditions during planting and crop development. Maize production in 2020, including the already harvested minor crop that accounts for less than 10 percent of the annual production, is anticipated at 4.8 million tonnes, nearly 10 percent below the previous five-year average and 14 percent lower than previous year's bumper crop.

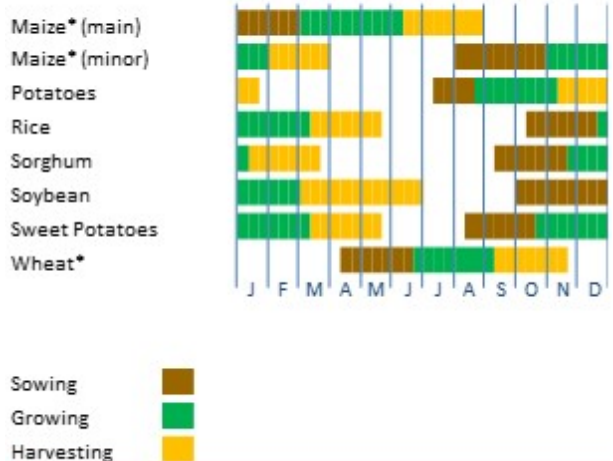
The 2020 wheat crop, planted in the May-July period, is currently at vegetative stages in the key producing southeastern region and overall crop conditions are favourable. Weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of the below-average rainfall in the August-September period, which is likely to affect the crops at the grain filling stage impacting the yields. The 2020 wheat production is preliminary forecast at an average level of 1.1 million tonnes.

Harvesting of the 2020 paddy crop, mostly irrigated, concluded in May. Production is estimated at 1.1 million tonnes, about

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	5 243	5 577	4 800	-13.9
Wheat	1 089	1 200	1 100	-8.3
Rice (paddy)	923	1 072	1 100	2.6
Others	108	108	108	0.0
Total	7 363	7 957	7 108	-10.7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

20 percent above the previous five-year average. Bumper output mainly reflects above-average planted area and good yields, boosted by favourable weather conditions in the November 2019-January 2020 period and ample supplies of irrigation water.

To improve farmers cash flow in the 2020/21 cropping season, the Ministry of Agriculture disbursed GYP 222 billion (about USD 32 million at the exchange rate of 10 August 2020) worth of agricultural credits to about 23 000 agricultural producers as of 10 August.

Exports of cereals forecast to decline in 2020/21 due to reduced maize output

Cereal exports in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 3.7 million tonnes but below the last year's high levels reflecting the significant maize production shortfall in 2020.

Food insecurity expected to deteriorate due to economic slowdown instigated by COVID-19 pandemic

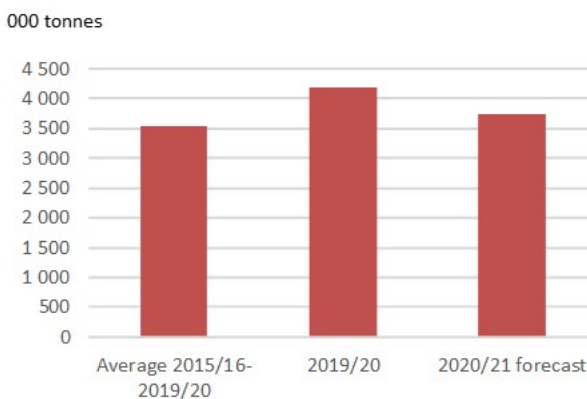
With one of the lowest infection rates of COVID-19 in the subregion as of early August, the country enforced confinement measures for relatively a short period (i.e. less than two months). However, the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures are expected to result in a negative GDP growth in 2020, leading to a rebound of the poverty rate after having declined for last 10 years. Food security situation in the country is likely to deteriorate in 2020 due to income losses associated with the economic downturn.

In order to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic, the Government expanded social protection measures under the Economic Emergency Law since the COVID-19 outbreak. As of 11 August 2020, the Government allocated USD 200 million to the self-employed or employees of micro, small and medium enterprises and USD 80 million to the vulnerable households.

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Paraguay

Cereals Exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 23-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Main 2020 maize crop at development stage and below-average vegetation conditions prevail
- Cereal output in 2019 estimated at above-average level
- Cereal exports in 2019/20 forecast above five-year average

Main 2020 maize crop at development stage and below-average vegetation conditions prevail

Harvesting of the 2020 minor season maize crop concluded recently and yields are estimated at above-average levels due to improved rainfall amounts between November 2019 and January 2020.

Planting of the 2020 main season maize crop was completed in March and crops are currently at the development stage. While official estimates are not yet available, the Chamber of Cereal Exporters and Traders (CAPECO) has estimated the planted area in commercial farms to be close to the previous year's average level. Precipitation in the February-March period, during the late planting and germination stages, was erratic with well below-average amounts in the major producing departments of Canindeyú, Caaguazú and some parts of Alto Paraná. As of early April, remote sensing data indicated below-average vegetation conditions, inferring to a likely decrease in yields (see the VHI map). However, if precipitation improves in the April-June period, as indicated by recent weather forecasts, the expected drop in yields could be contained.

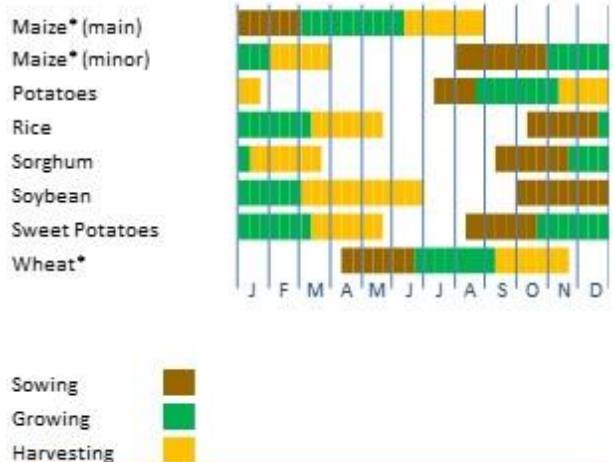
Harvesting of the 2020 paddy crop, mostly irrigated, is underway. Production is expected at average to above-average levels, as ample availabilities of irrigation water supported an expansion of planted area and crop development.

Planting of the 2020 wheat crop, the second cereal crop in the country, is expected to start in May. Weather forecasts indicate a higher likelihood of average rainfall in the May-July period across most parts of the country, which are expected to provide favourable soil moisture conditions for planting operations.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	4 768	5 345	5 577	4.3
Wheat	1 077	1 358	1 200	-11.6
Rice (paddy)	871	897	1 072	19.5
Others	104	108	108	0.0
Total	6 819	7 708	7 957	3.2

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

Cereal output in 2019 estimated at above-average level

The aggregate 2019 cereal output is estimated at 7.75 million tonnes, 14 percent above the five-year average. Maize production in 2019 is officially estimated at a record high of 5.6 million tonnes, driven by strong domestic and foreign demand by the feed industry and for the production of ethanol. The 2019 wheat production is estimated at an above-average level of 1.2 million tonnes, slightly below last year's record output.

Cereal exports in 2019/20 forecast above five-year average

Cereal exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at 4 million tonnes, about 15 percent above the five-year average.

Exports of maize, which account for the largest share of exports, are forecast at an above-average level of 3 million tonnes, reflecting the bumper output in 2019 and strong international demand.

Despite the partial closure of international borders due to the COVID-19 outbreak, trade flows, particularly of meat and cereals, with neighbouring countries were reported to continue in normal conditions as of mid-March.

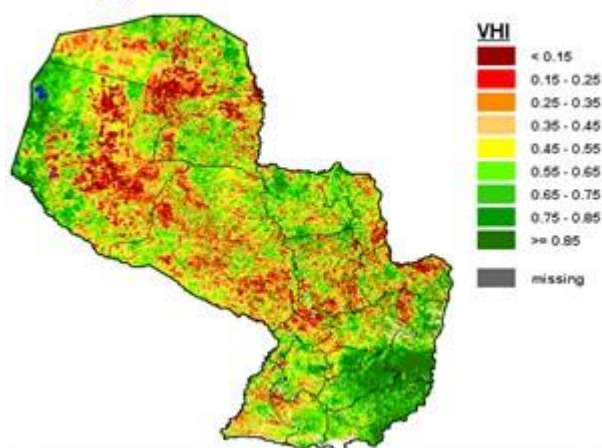
COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In mid-March 2020, the country enacted a national quarantine and partial closure of international borders until end-April, as an effort to halt the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. In order to cover the emergency financial needs, the country cut public sector wages and benefits and requested for new loans to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. To guarantee the agricultural supply, the Ministry of Agriculture [plans to provide](#) GYP 150 billion (about USD 18.5 million at the exchange rate of 8 April 2020) worth of agricultural credits with a one-year grace period and to supply free seeds and agricultural inputs. As a social protection measure, the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) will [deliver cash transfers](#) to 330 000 vulnerable households at risk of high levels of food insecurity so that they can purchase food. Similarly, the Ministry of Education [is providing food](#) to students living in the capital city in order to compensate for the lack of school meals during the suspension of the classes.

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Paraguay - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

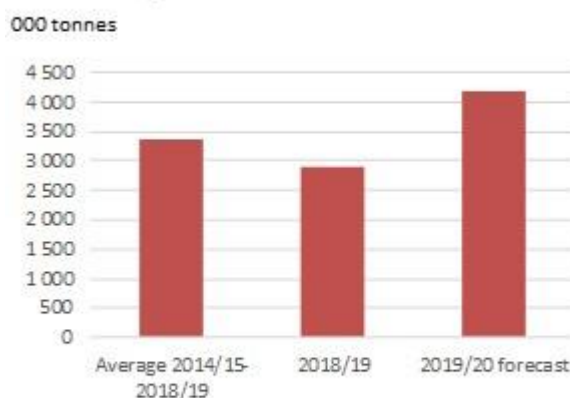
Dekad 1, April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Paraguay

Cereals Exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 12-November-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output in 2019 estimated at average level
- Improved rainfall forecast for remaining of 2019 expected favourable for crop development of 2020 minor season crops
- Cereal exports in 2019/20 forecast close to five-year average

Cereal output in 2019 estimated at average level

Harvesting of the 2019 main maize crop finalized in August and production is estimated at an average level, as a contraction in plantings, instigated by dry conditions during the planting season, was offset by improved yields due to beneficial rains in the development and flowering stages. Dryness in early 2019 also affected the maturation of minor season maize crops, harvested in the first quarter of 2019. The aggregate 2019 maize production is estimated at an average level of 4.9 million tonnes.

Harvesting of the 2019 wheat crop is underway and production is estimated at 1.2 million tonnes, slightly above the average level. The planted area experienced a moderate contraction due to farmers' reduced financial resources at planting time, following a well below-average soybean harvest earlier in 2019. Despite some localized damages by heavy rainfall and frosts in the June-July period, yields are expected to be slightly above average.

The 2019 rice crop, harvested earlier in May, is estimated at an above-average level of 965 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting a significant increase in planted area.

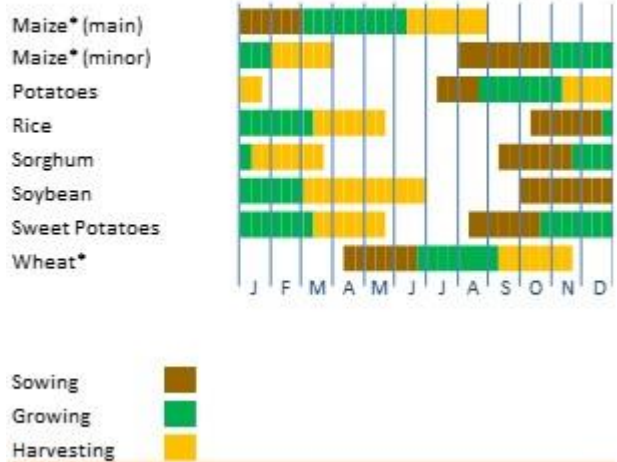
Improved rainfall forecast for remaining of 2019 expected favourable for crop development of 2020 minor season crops

Planting of the 2020 first and minor season maize crops, to be harvested in February and March next year, concluded recently. Sustained rainfall deficits from July to October 2019, particularly in eastern producing areas, caused some delay in planting activities. Weather forecasts for the remainder of 2019 indicate a high likelihood of average to above-average precipitations, which are likely to alleviate soil moisture deficits and support the early development of crops.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	4 768	5 345	4 900	-8.3
Wheat	1 077	1 359	1 200	-11.7
Rice (paddy)	871	897	965	7.6
Others	104	108	108	0.0
Total	6 819	7 709	7 173	-7.0

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

Planting of the 2020 mainly irrigated rice crop, to be harvested between March and June 2020, is ongoing at a good pace, supported by adequate water availabilities for irrigation. Given the abundant rainfall forecast for November and December 2019, the production outlook for the crops is expected at an above-average level.

Cereal exports in 2019/20 forecast close to five-year average

Cereal exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at 3.3 million tonnes, close to the five-year average.

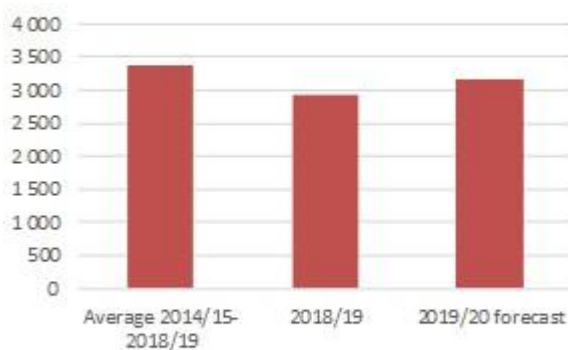
Exports of maize, which account for the largest share of exports, are forecast at a near-average level of 2.15 million tonnes, reflecting large market availabilities from the 2018 and 2019 harvests that allowed also to cover the increasing in domestic demand for the production of ethanol.

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Paraguay

Cereals Exports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 08-August-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output in 2019 is forecast at above-average level
- Cereal exports in 2019/20 anticipated at below-average level

Cereal output in 2019 is forecast at above-average level

Harvesting of the 2019 main “Zafriña” season maize crop is ongoing. Due to good rainfall amounts during the crop development stage, yields are estimated to be excellent. Further, reduced precipitation in June has favoured harvesting operations. Planting of the minor “Zafra” season maize crop will start in August and plantings are expected to increase, mainly reflecting the high level of prices and the sustained domestic demand of maize by the ethanol and feed industries. While an official production forecast is not yet available, the Chamber of Cereal Exporters and Traders (CAPECO) expects that the aggregate 2019 maize production will be well above the average.

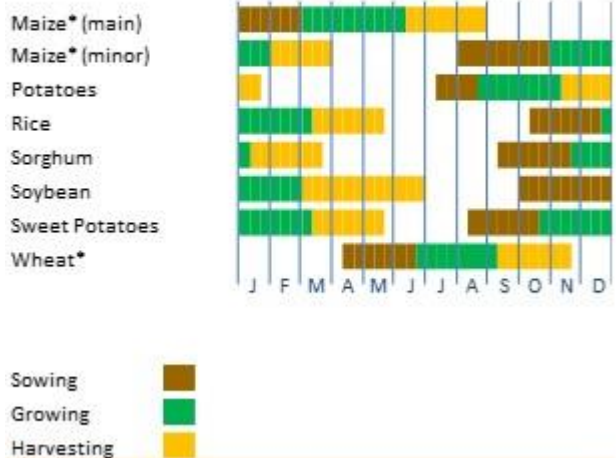
Currently, the 2019 wheat crop is at development stage and will be harvested from late September. Favourable rainfall and temperature in early July across the major producing Itapúa, Caaguazú y Alto Paraná regions have provided favourable conditions for the growth of crops. According to the Producer Union (UGP), the use of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs during the current season is estimated to be lower than usual. This is due to the fact that inputs of wheat crops are mainly financed by financial gains from previously harvested soybean crops, which this year were affected by dry conditions, and profits for farmers were substantially reduced. Assuming normal weather conditions for the remainder of the season, the 2019 wheat production is forecast at above-average level.

Harvesting of the 2018 soybean crop is completed and production is estimated to be at below average 8.8 million tonnes. According to CAPECO, plantings of soybeans were above average, but dry weather conditions between December 2018 and early February 2019 significantly affected yields, lowering the 2018 output to below-average level.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	4 768	5 345	5 600	4.8
Wheat	1 077	1 359	1 400	3.0
Rice (paddy)	871	897	965	7.6
Others	104	108	108	0.0
Total	6 819	7 709	8 073	4.7

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

Cereal exports in 2019/20 anticipated at below-average level

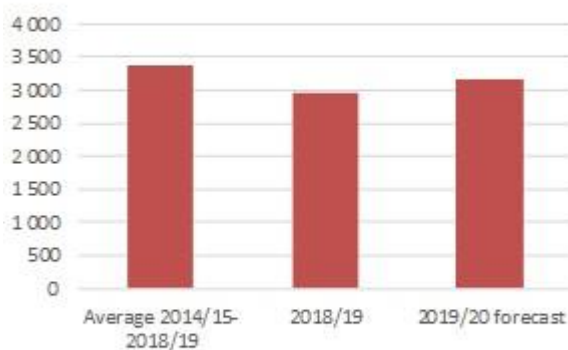
Cereal exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to be at below average 3 million tonnes, reflecting higher demand of maize by domestic industries producing ethanol and feed.

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Paraguay

Cereals Exports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 14-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output for 2018 forecast at above-average level
- Cereal exports in 2018/19 anticipated at average level
- Prices of maize and rice stable in October

Cereal output for 2018 forecast at above-average level

The 2018 aggregate cereal production is forecast at 7.1 million tonnes, 12 percent higher than the last five-year average, mainly reflecting the increased area sown of maize.

Harvesting of the 2018 wheat crop started with some delay due to heavy rains and is nearing completion. According to the Chamber of Cereal Exporters and Traders (Capeco), heavy rains in the first half of October in the major producing Itapúa, Caaguazú y Alto Paraná regions had a negative impact on yields and caused crop losses in some areas. As a result, the 2018 wheat production is anticipated at 850 000 tonnes, 12 percent lower than the previous five-year average.

Harvesting of the 2018 main “zafriña” season maize crop concluded in August. Although the southern region experienced dry weather conditions in April, the adverse impact was only limited to late-planted crops. Preliminary estimates by the Producer Union (UGP) point to a year-on-year increase in the area planted by 27 percent. The increase in sowings mainly reflects strong domestic demand for production of ethanol. While official estimates are not yet available, the main “zafriña” season output is expected to increase from last year’s already high level. Planting of the 2018 minor “zafra” season maize crop, to be harvested in February, recently concluded in October. With the rainy season forecast to extend until January 2019, providing favourable growing conditions, the 2018 aggregate maize production is forecast at an above-average level of 5.2 million tonnes.

Although planting started with some delay due to the above-mentioned torrential rains, planting of the 2018 “zafra” season soybean crop is nearing completion under generally favourable conditions. The 2018 soybean crop, to be harvested in February, is anticipated to reach an above-average level of 10.1 million tonnes.

Paraguay

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Paraguay

Cereal Production

	2013-2017	2017	2018	change
	average			2018/2017
000 tonnes				
Maize	4 523	5 155	5 200	0.9
Wheat	969	700	850	21.4
Rice (paddy)	816	927	990	6.8
Others	103	108	108	0.0
Total	6 410	6 890	7 148	3.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal exports in 2018/19 anticipated at average level

Cereal exports in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at an average level of 3.3 million tonnes, about 22 percent above last year's low level, reflecting higher domestic availabilities.

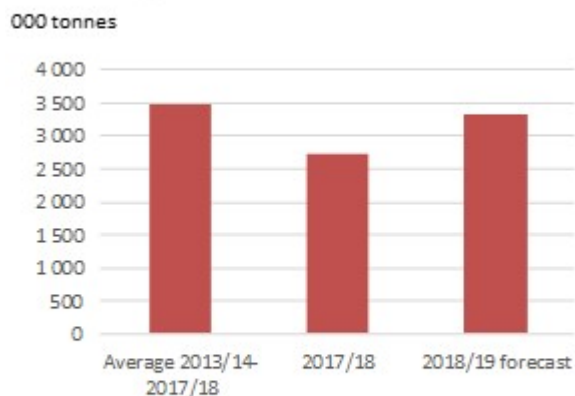
Prices of maize and rice stable in October

Prices of yellow maize declined slightly in October with the above-average 2018 "zafriña" harvest that was completed in August. Prices of rice have been stable since the beginning of 2018 reflecting adequate domestic availabilities.

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Paraguay

Cereals Exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 21-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

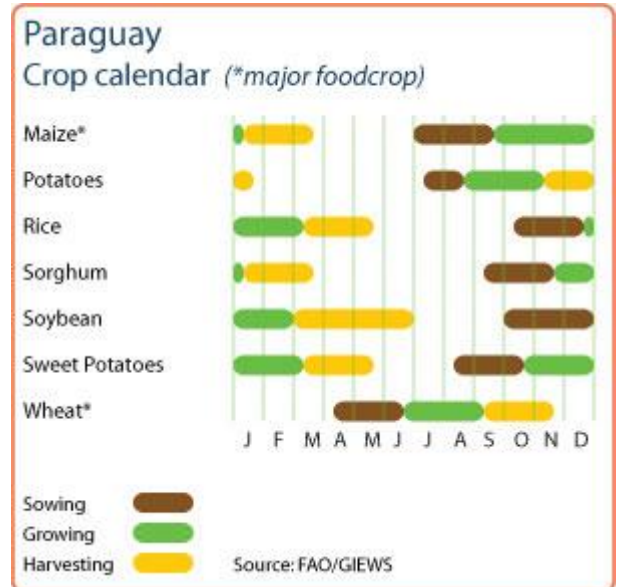
- Smaller cereal output expected in 2017
- Cereal exports to decline in 2016/17 marketing year but remain high

Smaller cereal output expected in 2017

Planting of the 2017 wheat crop concluded in early June. Official estimates are not yet available. However, preliminary estimates from producer organizations point to a decline in the area planted of 40 percent from last year's level to 300 000 hectares; its lowest level in the past decade. The decline in sowings mainly reflects lower returns for wheat, pressured by the ample availabilities in regional and international markets. At this level of sowings, Paraguay will more than cover its domestic consumption needs. However, the country is likely to export smaller volumes of wheat during the upcoming marketing year which starts with the harvest in September. Maize output is also anticipated at a lower level than in previous years, also reflecting lower sowings. FAO anticipates that maize production in 2017 will not exceed 4 million tonnes, well below last year's record level of 5 million tonnes, pressured by high availabilities and a potentially lower first season output. By contrast, the 2017 soybean crop is anticipated to reach over 10 million tonnes, a bumper level. The increase in production mainly reflects higher sowings of soybeans as farmers diversified away from maize.

Cereal exports to decline in the 2016/17 marketing year but remain high

Cereal exports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.3 million tonnes, below last year's record level but still above the five-year average. The decline mainly reflects lower maize exports which are expected to decline by about 20 percent from last year's high level reflecting lower domestic availabilities.

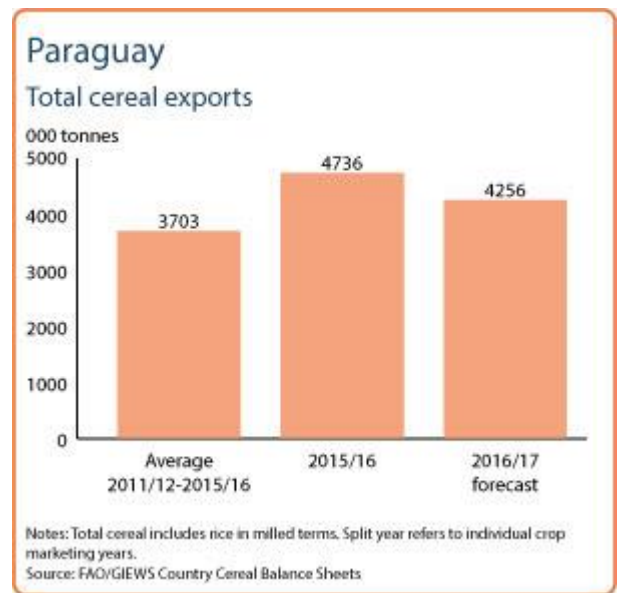


Paraguay
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	4 107	5 152	4 000	-22
Wheat	1 171	1 300	1 300	0
Rice (paddy)	710	860	875	2
Others	31	31	31	0
Total	6 020	7 343	6 206	-15

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

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GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 13-April-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

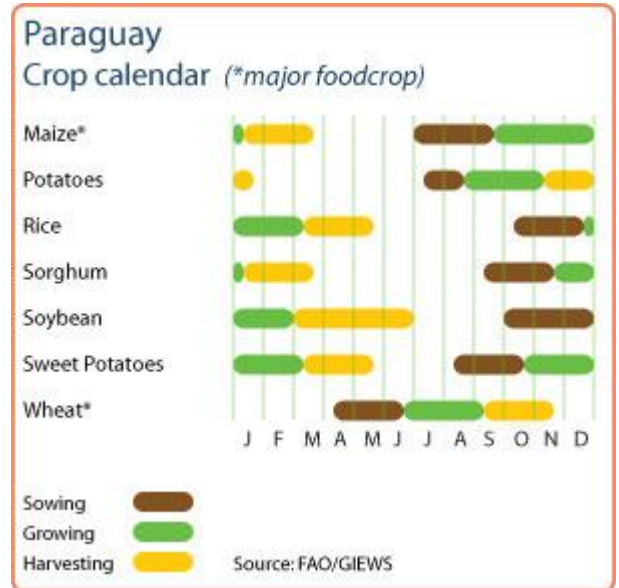
- Cereal output in 2017 forecast to remain at high level
- Cereal exports to decline in 2016/17 marketing year but remain high

Cereal output in 2017 forecast to remain at high level

Planting of the 2017 second season “zafrihna” crop concluded in February under favourable weather conditions. Early reports from the private sector point to the area planted remaining close to last year’s level. Official output figures for the first season 2017 crop, harvested in February, are not yet available but early reports point to a lower crop relative to a year earlier due to lower plantings. FAO anticipates that maize production in 2017 will not exceed 4 million tonnes, well below last year’s record level of 5 million tonnes, pressured by high availabilities and a potentially lower first season output. Planting of other main cereals, like wheat and rice, have not begun and wheat planting, which is expected to start by mid-April, is anticipated to remain unchanged reflecting high availabilities and low domestic price levels.

Cereal exports to decline in 2016/17 marketing year but remain high

Cereal exports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at 4.2 million tonnes, below last year’s record level but still above the five-year average. The decline mainly reflects lower maize exports which are expected to decline by about 20 percent from last year’s high level as high maize availabilities in the subregion has reduced demand.



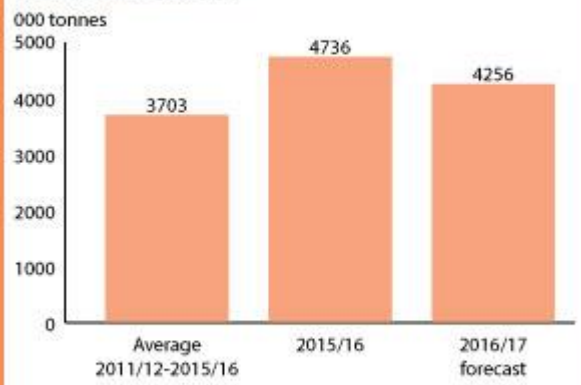
Paraguay
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	4 108	5 152	4 000	-22
Wheat	1 171	1 300	1 300	0
Rice (paddy)	710	860	875	2
Others	31	31	31	0
Total	6 020	7 343	6 206	-15

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

Paraguay

Total cereal exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 08-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output in 2016 to decline sharply from last year's record level
- Cereal exports to decline strongly in 2016/17 marketing year
- Yellow maize prices declined in September, but white maize and maize flour quotations above year-earlier levels

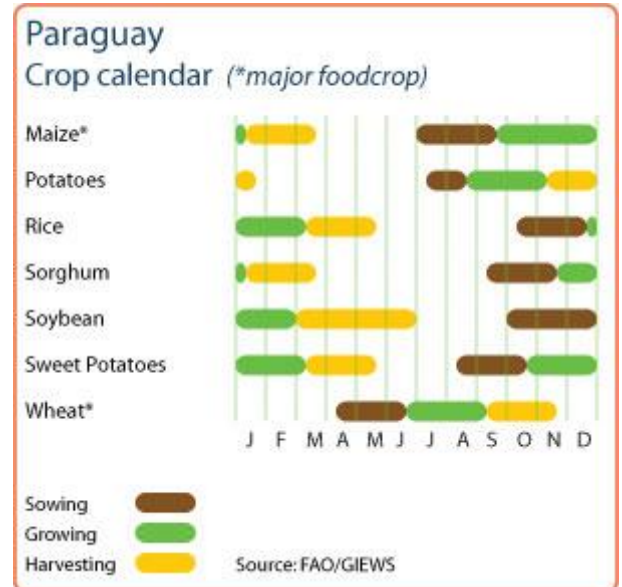
Cereal output in 2016 to decline sharply from last year's record level

Cereal output in 2016 is forecast sharply down from last year's record level at 5.3 million tonnes, its lowest level since 2012. The decline is a result of lower sowings for both maize and wheat, which together account for 85 percent of cereal output, as a result of low prices and large carryover stocks from the previous year. The 2016 maize crop, which was harvested last April, has been estimated at 3.75 million tonnes, below the five-year average, as sowings were reduced by almost 12 percent and yields were impacted by below-normal precipitation at the beginning of the season. The harvest of the 2016 wheat crop is well advanced and early indications point to an output of 800 000 tonnes, 25 percent below last year's level, as sowings were reduced in response to the low prices at the beginning of the season. Rice production also declined in 2016 as reduced margins discouraged producers who reduced plantings, while less than ideal weather negatively affected yields.

Planting of the 2017 maize crop concluded in September. Supported by low export prices, preliminary estimates point to a further reduction in the area sown of 3 percent from last year's reduced level.

Cereal exports to decline strongly in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal exports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at 3.7 million tonnes, below last year's record level and the five-year average. The decline mainly reflects lower maize exports which are expected to decline by almost 19 percent from last year's high level.



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 814	5 070	3 750	-26
Wheat	1 105	1 064	800	-25
Rice (paddy)	621	860	730	-15
Others	31	31	31	0
Total	5 571	7 025	5 311	-24

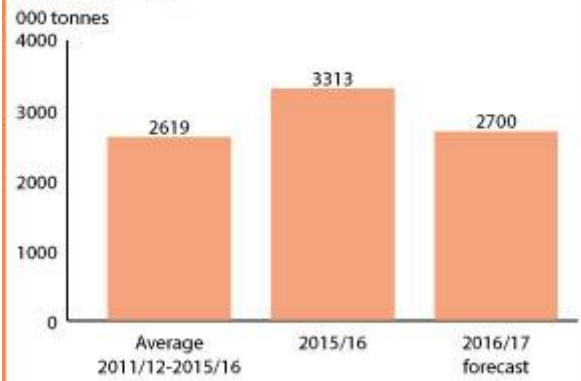
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Yellow maize prices declined in September, but white maize and maize flour quotations above year earlier levels

Yellow maize prices declined in September and were 8 percent below last year's level reflecting ample availabilities in the market from the harvest earlier in the year and high stock levels. However, both white maize and maize flour prices increased in September from the previous month and from the same time a year earlier, reflecting this year's reduced output.

Paraguay

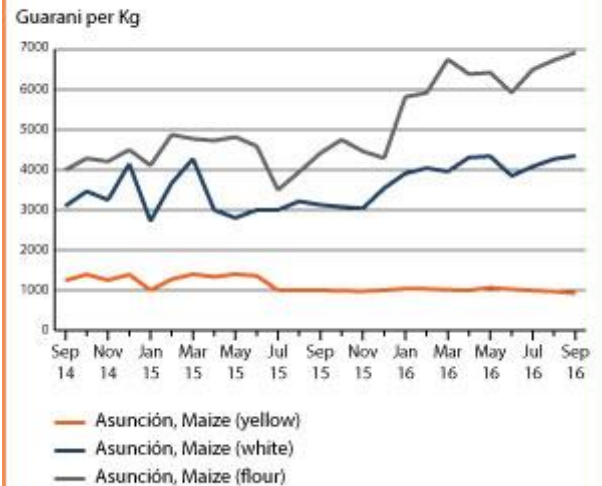
Maize exports



Notes: Split year refers to individual crop marketing year.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Paraguay

Wholesale Maize Prices



Source: Servicio de Información de Mercados Agropecuarios (SIMA) - MAG



GIEWS Country Brief Paraguay

Reference Date: 22-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output in 2016 to decline sharply from last year's record level
- Cereal exports to decline strongly in 2016/17 marketing year
- Maize prices followed mixed trends in July, white maize and maize flour prices above year earlier levels

Cereal output in 2016 to decline sharply from last year's record level

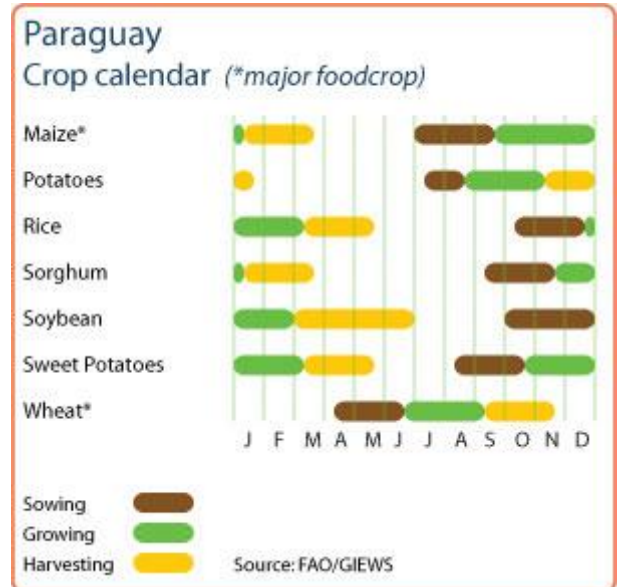
Cereal output in 2016 is forecast sharply down from last year's record level at 5.1 million tonnes, its lowest level since 2012. The decline is a result of lower sowings for both maize and wheat, which together account for 85 percent of cereal output, as a result of low prices and large carryover stocks from the previous year. The 2016 maize crop, which was harvested last April, has been estimated at 3.5 million tonnes, below the five-year average, as sowings were reduced by almost 12 percent and yields were impacted by below normal precipitations at the beginning of the season. The 2016 wheat crop planting was concluded in June, and the area sown is estimated down 32 percent from last year's high level reflecting the prevailing low market prices. As a result, production is forecast to be down by 25 percent at 800 000 tonnes, its lowest level in three years.

Cereal exports to decline strongly in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal exports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are preliminarily forecast at 3.7 million tonnes, below last year's record level and the five-year average. The decline mainly reflects the anticipated reduction in cereal availabilities, particularly for wheat, as a result of this year's lower cereal output.

Maize prices followed mixed trends in July but white maize and maize flour quotations above year earlier levels

Yellow maize prices declined in July and were unchanged from a year earlier, reflecting ample availabilities in the market from the harvest earlier in the year. However, both white maize and maize



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	3 814	5 070	3 500	-31
Wheat	1 105	1 064	800	-25
Rice (paddy)	621	860	730	-15
Others	31	31	31	0
Total	5 571	7 025	5 061	-28

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

flour prices increased sharply in July from the previous month and from the same time a year earlier, reflecting this year's reduced output.



Reference Date: 22-January-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize output in 2016 to decline from previous year's high
- Record 2015 cereal production forecast
- Cereal exports forecast at record level for 2015/16
- Maize prices stable and below last year's levels

Maize output in 2016 to decline from previous year's high

Early forecasts for the 2016 maize crop, currently being harvested, point to an almost 36 percent decrease in production from last year's record level. The decline mainly reflects a reduction of 22.5 percent in the area sown, in response to high availabilities and low market prices. However, at the forecasted level of almost 3.3 million tonnes, this year's output would be close to the average of the past five years.

Record 2015 cereal production

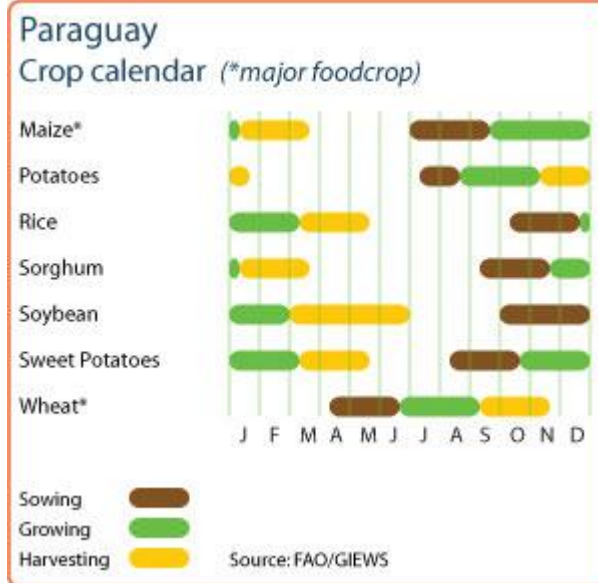
Cereal production in 2015 is estimated at a record 7.1 million tonnes. The increase mainly reflects considerably higher maize output estimated at a record level of 5 million tonnes, as a result of a 30 percent expansion in the area harvested, as well as bumper yields due to above-average rainfall. By contrast, wheat production decreased by 19 percent to 1.1 million tonnes, due to a 16 percent contraction in plantings and lower yields, and unfavourable weather conditions during the season.

Cereal exports forecast at record level for 2015/16

Cereal exports in the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June) are preliminarily forecast at a record 4.1 million tonnes, two-thirds of which are expected to be maize. Maize exports, which are primarily destined to China, are forecast to reach a record level at 3 million tonnes, up 20 percent compared to the previous year. Wheat exports are expected to increase by 250 000 tonnes or 50 percent from the 2014/15 level, reflecting a higher demand from Brazil.

Maize prices stable and below last year's levels

Maize (white and yellow), as well as maize flour prices remained relatively unchanged in November and well below their year-earlier levels reflecting ample supplies in the market, particularly for yellow maize.



Paraguay
Cereal production

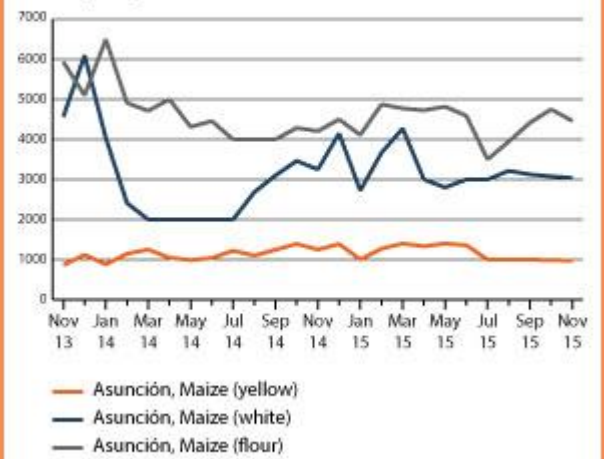
	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	3 422	3 219	5 070	58
Wheat	1 185	1 314	1 064	-19
Rice (paddy)	522	804	910	13
Others	31	31	31	0
Total	5 159	5 368	7 075	32

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



Paraguay Wholesale Maize Prices

Guarani per Kg



Source: Servicio de Información de Mercados Agropecuarios (SIMA) - MAG

Reference Date: 11-March-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early forecast for the 2014 maize crop points to a sharp decline from last year's record harvest
- Cereal exports forecast to decline in 2013/14
- Wheat flour and bread prices declined in February but still at high levels

Early forecast for the 2014 maize crop points to a sharp decline from last year's record harvest

Planting of the 2014 main "zafrifa" season maize crop is almost complete. Early estimates point to a significant drop in plantings from last year's high level due to low maize prices and a shift to more profitable crops, including soybeans. Prospects for the 2014 first season maize crop, currently being harvested, are generally favourable, reflecting good weather conditions during most of the season.

The 2013 total cereal production is estimated at 5.2 million tonnes, marginally below its level in 2012. The slight decline reflects a sharp reduction in the wheat output, severely damaged by frost, being partially compensated by increased maize and rice outputs. Maize production in 2013 reached a new record of 3.9 million tonnes, as a result of an increase in the area planted and good yields due to favourable weather conditions during the season.

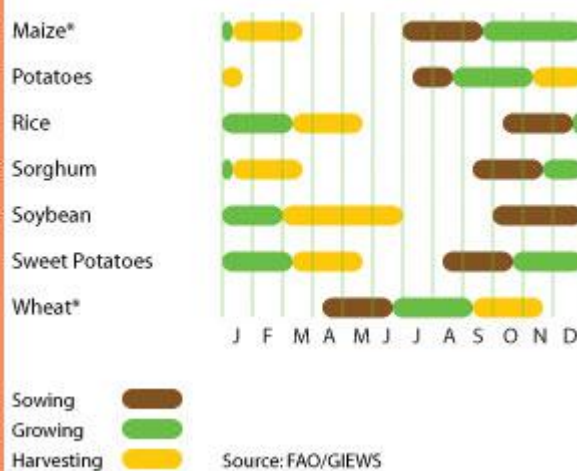
Cereal exports forecast to decline in 2013/14

Cereal exports in the 2013/14 marketing year (November/October) are preliminarily forecast to decrease by some 10 percent. This mainly reflects a decline in wheat exports, following the sharply reduced 2013 output, which are anticipated at about 300 000 tonnes, well below their levels in the previous marketing year. However, maize exports are forecast to increase by 20 percent to 3 million tonnes.

Wheat flour and bread prices declined in February but still at very high levels

Wheat flour prices declined by 8 percent in February, but they remained high following the frost-reduced 2013 crop and high export demand from Brazil. Bread prices declined by 17 percent in February, but were still at significantly higher levels than in February 2013.

Paraguay Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

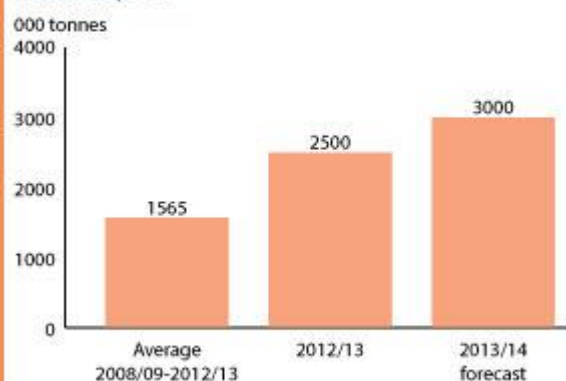


Paraguay Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	2,648	3,500	3,900	11
Wheat	1,276	1,237	702	-43
Rice (paddy)	320	500	600	20
Others	32	31	32	3
Total	4,275	5,268	5,234	-1

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

Paraguay Maize exports



Notes: Split year refers to individual crop marketing year.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 14-November-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2013 wheat production significantly reduced by severe frosts
- Cereal exports forecast to decline in 2013/14
- Wheat flour prices firm at record high levels

The 2013 wheat production significantly reduced by severe frosts

Harvest of the 2013 wheat crop is about to be completed and production is estimated at 840 000 tonnes a decline of some 30 percent from last year. The sharp reduction reflects severe frosts which caused severe damage to the crop between July and August in the main production areas of Alto Parana, Itapua and Caaguazu.

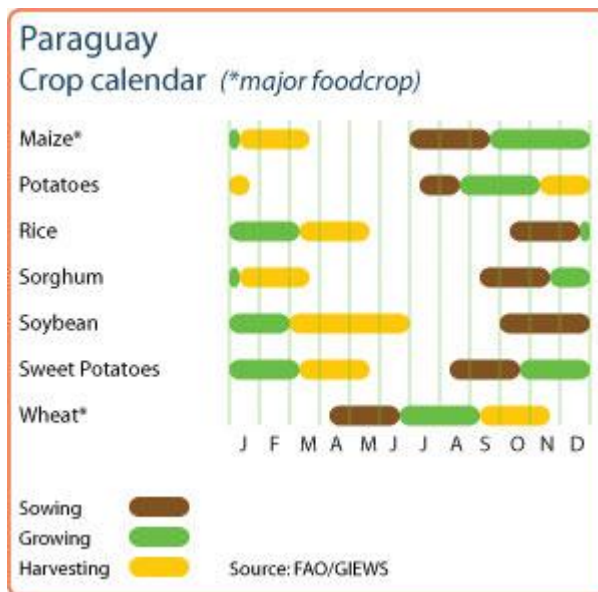
By contrast, the main season maize “zafrña” crop, which was harvested in August, was not affected by the low temperatures and estimates for the 2013 aggregate maize production -first and second season crops- point to 3.7 million tonnes, 6 percent over the good level of 2012. The increase reflects an increase in area planted and good yields due to favourable rainfall.

Cereal exports forecast to decline in 2013/14

Preliminary forecasts for the 2013/14 marketing year (November/October) point to a reduction in cereal exports of about 20 percent. The significant decrease mainly reflects the projected decline in wheat exports which are anticipated well below their levels of the previous marketing year and may not reach 500 000 tonnes, due to low market availability. By contrast maize exports are forecast to remain firm at last year’s level of 2.5 million tonnes.

Wheat flour prices firm at record high levels

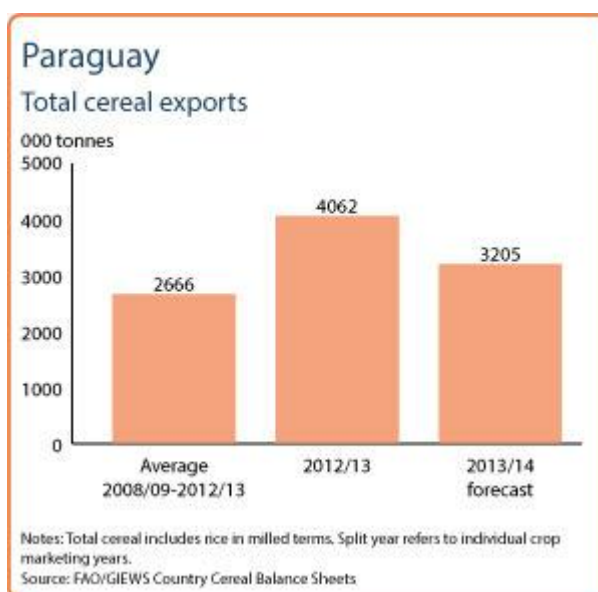
Wheat flour prices in October remained at the record highs reached in the previous months due to the anticipated reduced 2013 wheat production and to increased import demand from Brazil. Wheat flour prices are expected to remain stable until the end of the year, following an agreement between the milling and bakery industries.



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	2 648	3 500	3 700	6
Wheat	1 276	1 237	840	-32
Rice (paddy)	318	500	500	0
Others	32	31	32	3
Total	4 274	5 268	5 072	-4

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



Reference Date: 10-September-2013

Food Security Snapshot

- Wheat production in 2013 to fall sharply due to severe frosts
- Bread and wheat flour prices considerably increase
- Wheat exports considerably reduced in 2013/14 but those of maize anticipated to remain firm

Wheat production in 2013 to fall sharply due to severe frosts

Harvest of the 2013 wheat crop has begun. Despite favourable weather conditions during most of the cropping season, severe frost at the end of July and during August in the main producing areas of Alto Parana, Itapua and Caaguazu, caused severe damage to the crop. Preliminary official estimates point to an average yield reduction between 30 and 40 percent and this year's output could decline up to 840 000 tonnes, well below the early production forecast of 1.4 million tonnes. Moreover, it is anticipated that the quality of this year's wheat will also be negatively affected.

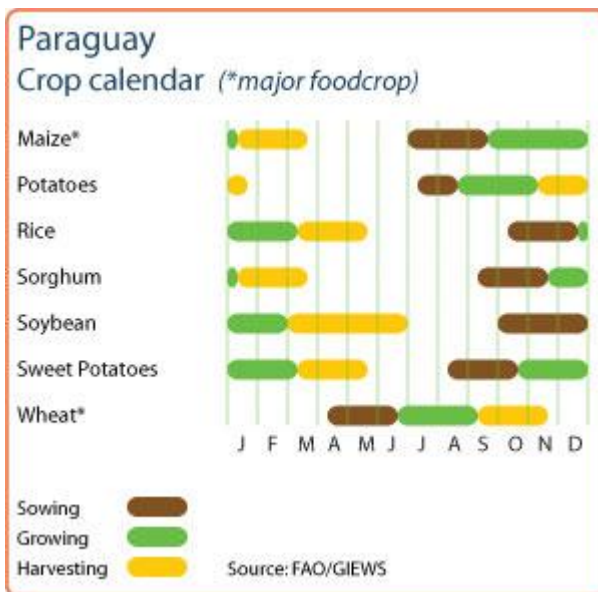
Bread and wheat flour prices considerably increase

Paraguay is a net exporter of wheat and on average domestic consumption represents only one third of production. Therefore, shortages of wheat are not anticipated in local markets because of this year's drop in production. However, prices for basic bread have increased approximately 20 percent in late August, going from PYG 7 000 to PYG 8 500 per kg. This change reflects higher wheat flour prices that from January to August have risen 55 percent. Further price increases are expected due to this year's lower supply coupled with strong export demand, particularly from Brazil where frosts in the past months have also lowered production prospects for the 2013 wheat crop.

Higher 2013 maize production

Harvesting of the 2013 second season main maize crop (Zafriña) concluded in August. Preliminary estimates for the 2013 aggregate maize production -first and second season crops- point to an increase of 6 percent over the good level of 2012, to 3.7 million tonnes. This reflects an increase in the area and good yields due to abundant rains. Las heladas de finales de julio y agosto, no afectaron al cultivo que estaba en gran parte ya cosechado. Sin embargo, las fuertes lluvias durante la segunda temporada agrícola causaron pérdidas localizadas, en particular en algunas zonas de Itapúa y los distritos sureños de Alto Paraná, aunque no se dispone aún de una evaluación detallada de los daños.

The frost conditions of late July and August did not affect the maize crop as most of it had already been harvested. However, heavy rains during the second agricultural season caused localized crop damage, particularly in some areas of Itapua and the southern districts of Alto Parana. However, a detailed evaluation of the losses is not yet available.



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	2,648	3,500	3,700	6
Wheat	1,276	1,237	840	-32
Rice (paddy)	318	500	500	0
Others	32	31	32	3
Total	4,274	5,268	5,072	-4

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



Wheat exports to decline considerably in 2013/14 but those maize to remain firm

Wheat exports in 2013/14 marketing year (November/October) are anticipated severely reduced due to the lower 2013 production. In the past three years, the country has exported on average 1.2 million tonnes annually, mainly to Brazil, but volumes may not reach 500 000 tonnes in 2013/14. The reduced availabilities of Paraguay are expected to exacerbate the tight regional market situation mainly reflecting reduced production and export restrictions in Argentina.

In recent years, Paraguay has become the third most important exporter of maize in South America, after Argentina and Brazil. For the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) maize exports are forecast to remain at the previous year's high level of 2.5 million tonnes.

Reference Date: 07-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2013 cereal production to increase despite localized crop damage
- Maize exports in 2013/14 (July/June) expected to remain stable

The 2013 cereal production forecast to increase despite localized crop damage

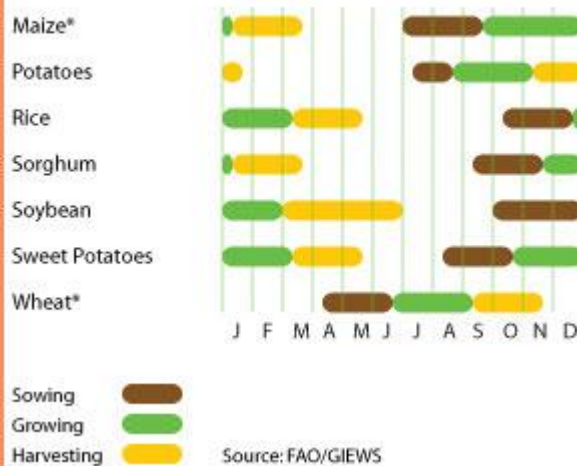
Harvesting of the 2013 main second season (Zafriña) maize crop is about to be completed. Heavy rains and floods since June and frosts have damaged crops and disrupted agricultural activities in parts of the main producing areas of Itapúa and in the southern districts of Alto Paraná. Although a detailed assessment of the losses is not yet available, an estimated increase of the maize planted area, as well as the use of high yielding seed varieties, are expected to more than offset the crop losses due to floods and cold weather. The 2013 aggregate maize production – first and second season, harvested in the early months of the year – is still forecast at 3.7 million tonnes, 6 percent above the good level of last year.

The 2013 wheat crop, to be harvested from late September, has been affected by a high incidence of pest infestation and disease caused by excessive moisture as a result of heavy rains and cold weather over the last months in the main producing areas of Itapúa and Alto Paraná. However, an estimated increase in plantings is expected to offset yield reductions, and tentative forecasts point to an increase in the 2013 wheat output to about 1.3 million tonnes.

Maize exports in 2013/14 (July/June) expected to remain stable

Maize exports in marketing year 2013/14 (July/June) are forecast to remain firm at last year's record level of 2.5 million tonnes, due to the expected high level of production for this year.

Paraguay Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

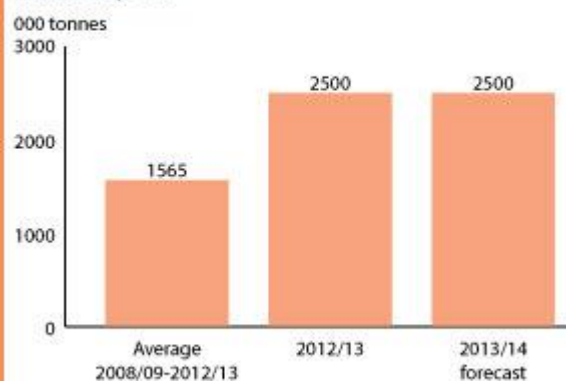


Paraguay Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	2,648	3,500	3,700	6
Wheat	1,276	1,237	1,300	5
Rice (paddy)	318	500	500	0
Others	32	31	32	3
Total	4,274	5,268	5,532	5

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

Paraguay Maize exports



Notes: Split year refers to individual crop marketing year.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 03-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2012 maize production forecast below the 2011 record level but still high
- Favourable production prospects for the 2012 wheat crop
- Exports of maize in 2012/13 (July/June) expected at 2 million tonnes

The 2012 maize production forecast below the record level of 2011 but still high

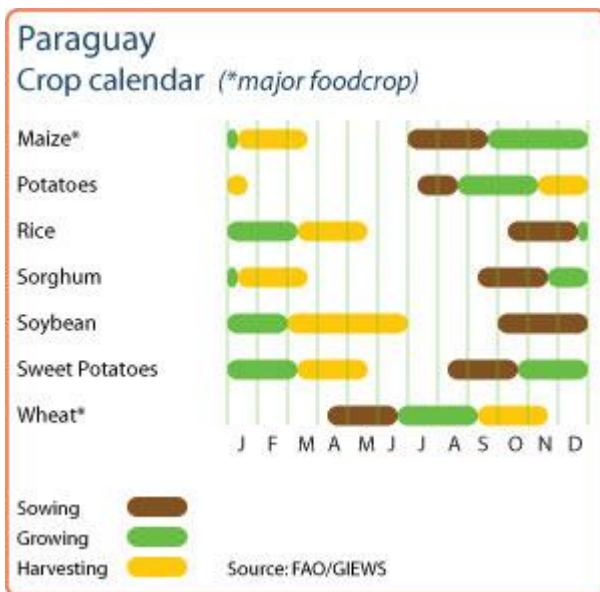
Harvesting of the 2012 main season (Zafriña) maize crops is underway. Earlier in the season, severe dry weather negatively affected the main producing areas of Alto Paraná and yields are estimated to be some 20 percent below the record level of 2011. However, an increase in plantings is anticipated to partially offset the decline in yields. The 2012 aggregate maize production (main and secondary season, harvested in the first months of the year) is anticipated at about 3.1 million tonnes, 8 percent below the record level of 2011 but still well above the average of the past five years.

Planting of the 2012 wheat crops was completed in June under favourable weather conditions. The area planted is estimated to be 10 percent higher than the relatively low level of 2011. Assuming normal growing conditions in the coming months, the 2012 wheat output is forecast at about 1.4 million tonnes or 16 percent above the frost-reduced level in 2011.

The prolonged dry weather, from December 2011 to February 2012, severely affected soya-beans crop -the main source of the country's foreign exchange and production in 2012 is estimated at about 4.3 million tonnes nearly 50 percent below the good level of 2011, reflecting a sharp decline in yields which more than offset higher plantings.

Maize exports in 2012/13 (July/June) expected at high levels

Maize exports in marketing year 2012/13 (July/June) are forecast at about 2 million tonnes, close to the record levels of last year. Exports are forecast to remain steady due to the still relatively high level of production expected this year and carry-over stocks from last year's bumper crop.



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 198	3 346	3 079	-8
Wheat	1 184	1 209	1 400	16
Rice (paddy)	245	405	340	-16
Others	32	31	31	0
Total	3 658	4 991	4 850	-3

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



Reference Date: 03-February-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Severe drought reduces the 2012 first season food and non-food crops
- Agricultural assistance needed for affected vulnerable farmers
- Production of 2011 maize estimated at record level, but that of wheat was reduced
- Exports of cereals in 2011/12 (March/February) expected to reach 2.2 million tonnes

Severe drought adversely affects the 2011-12 first season crops

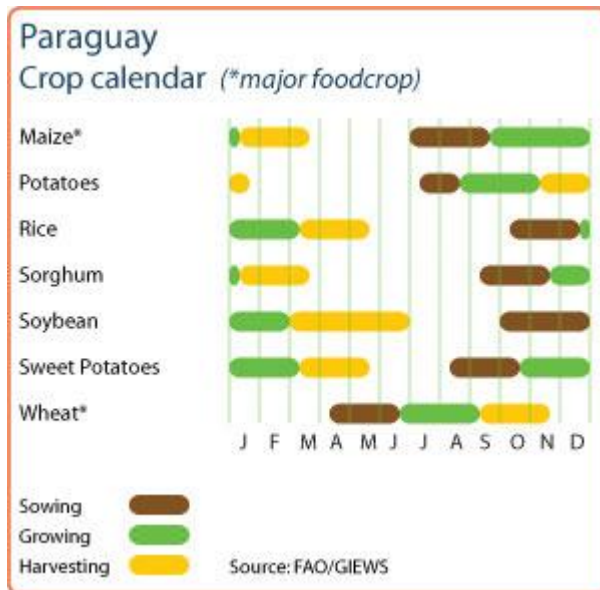
Harvesting of the 2011-12 spring-summer first season crops is underway. After a good start of the growing season in October and first three weeks of November, precipitation became significantly below average in December and no rains were recorded in January. The dry weather, associated with La Niña phenomenon, coupled with higher than normal thermal oscillation, has resulted in severe crop losses in the main producing area of the Eastern region and sharply reduced yields. Most affected crop is maize, with about 58 percent of losses according to preliminary official estimates. The country exports two-thirds of its maize production but the crop is also an important staple in the diet of rural families. Other food crops affected by drought are pulses, cassava and groundnuts. Severe losses have also been reported for cash crops cotton and sesame and, in particular for soybeans -the main source of the country's foreign exchange- with estimated production losses of 56 percent. A detailed estimate of the crop damage is not yet available but, overall, early assessments point to a reduction in yield ranging from 30 to 70 percent according to crop and geographical area. The most hit departments are Itapúa, Paraguari, Alto Paraná and Canindeyú.

The Government declared the State of Food Emergency for three months on 17 January 2012, in order to assist the vulnerable affected population estimated at over 200 000 families. It will distribute maize and beans seeds to peasant families and indigenous groups with losses of 40 percent of their crops for planting of the second season (Zafriña), about to start.

Production of 2011 wheat reduced, while maize output was record

Production of recently harvested wheat in 2011 was estimated at around 1.2 million tonnes, 17 percent below its level in 2010. This mainly reflects freezing temperatures in June and July in the main producing areas of the Eastern region reduced crop yields by some 11 percent. By contrast, the 2011 maize output was estimated at record levels. A good output of the first season and a significant increase in the area planted of the second season, which more than compensated lower yields, led to the high production.

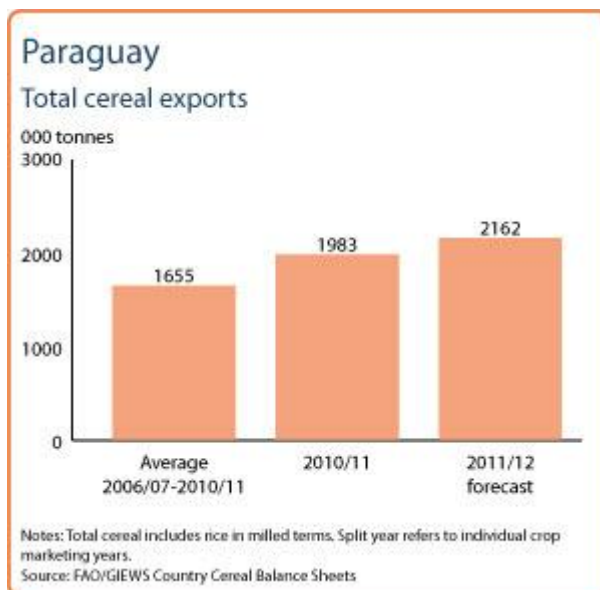
Record maize exports expected in 2011/12 (March/February) but low levels of rivers



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 741	1 845	2 240	21
Wheat	1 102	1 443	1 200	-17
Rice (paddy)	191	315	330	5
Others	30	28	31	11
Total	3 064	3 631	3 801	5

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



hampering trade activities

As a result of the bumper crop of last year, and high prices in the international markets, exports of cereals in marketing year 2011/12 (March/February), mainly maize, are anticipated to reach a record level of 2.1 million tonnes. However, the current drought situation is disrupting trade activities as the low levels of the rivers are hampering commercial shipping and delaying transport of commodities to the main port of Rio de la Plata.

Reference Date: 13-June-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Increase in area sown to wheat expected in 2011
- Record production of maize in 2011
- Levels of cereals exported increases in 2011

Increase in area sown to wheat expected in 2011

Sowing of wheat crops of the 2011 autumn-winter season, which will be harvested from September, is in progress in several areas of the country. In the important producing areas of Alto Paraná, in the Oriental region, it is expected that the area sown will increase to 200 000 hectares, compared to the 160 000 hectares sown last year, due to high prices of wheat on the international market. The country exports approximately half of its annual yield of wheat. On the basis of favourable weather conditions and average yields, it is estimated that production will stand at around the same good level reached in the last two years.

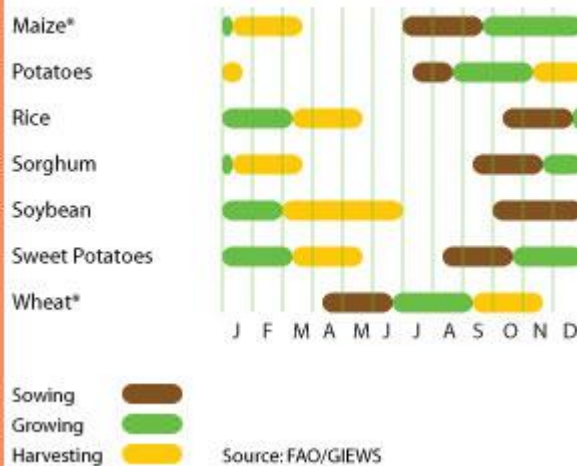
Record production of maize in 2011

The 2010 maize harvest has been harvested. Favourable weather conditions during the agricultural season favoured the development and growth of the crops despite the La Niña phenomenon at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011. It is estimated that crop yields were above average in all of agricultural areas and there was a sharp increase in maize production. Early estimates indicate an output of approximately 2.2 million tonnes, 21 percent more than in the previous season.

Increase in exports

It is estimated that 2.1 million tonnes of cereals will be exported in 2011, 6.5 percent more than in 2010 and 28 percent above the average for the last five years (2006-2010). Official statistics indicate that in the first four months of 2011 the levels of cereal exported increased by almost 120 percent.

Paraguay Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

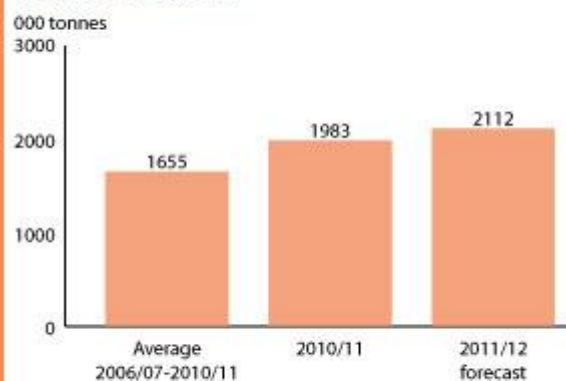


Paraguay Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		forecast	2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 741	1 845	2 240	21
Wheat	1 102	1 443	1 400	-3
Rice (paddy)	188	300	330	10
Others	30	28	31	11
Total	3 061	3 616	3 686	-2

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

Paraguay Total cereal exports



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

Reference Date: 10-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Very favourable weather conditions for spring-summer crops
- Record production is expected in 2011

Favourable weather condition during the spring-summer crop season

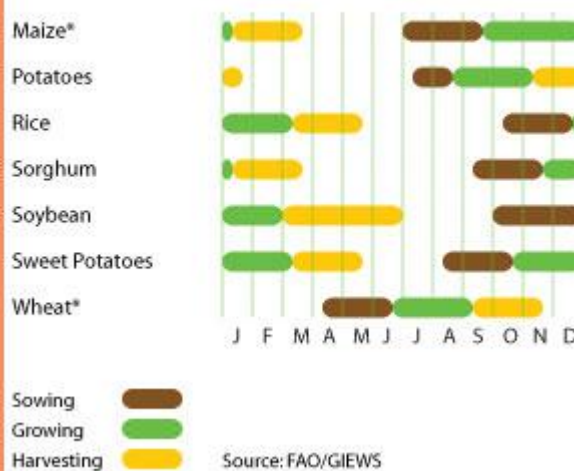
Rainfall has been very favourable for the normal development of the spring-summer crops. Adequate rainfall recorded and well distributed in the main productive areas in Region Oriental should be a sign of a very good crop production prospects. Even in the Chaco area the rainfall recorded has been near normal, except the western part where dry weather persists.

Very good production prospects

It is expected a record crop production for the spring-summer crops in 2011. For the current 700 thousand hectares planted with maize it is estimated a record yield of 3.2 kg by hectare (4 percent higher than maize yield recorded in 2007). If the weather conditions continue to be favourable, the output foreseen will be near to 2.2 million tonnes of maize. Also it is expected a record in the soybean production, with a 30 percent increase when compared with 2008 record production (5.9 million tonnes).

The total cereal exports are estimated at 2.1 million tonnes, slightly below to the previous year (4.2 percent decrease) but still 53 percent higher than the average total cereals exports of the last five years (2005-2009).

Paraguay Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

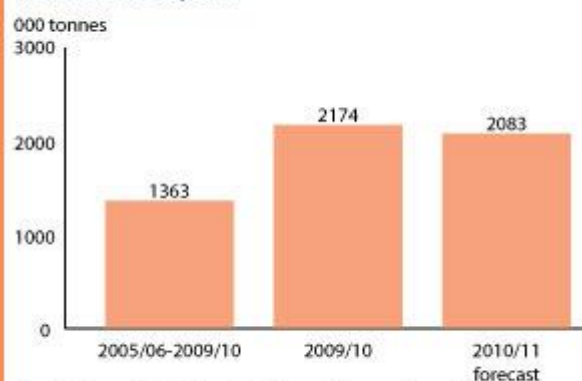


Paraguay Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009 percent
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1538	1858	1845	-1
Wheat	938	1402	1443	3
Rice (paddy)	149	220	300	36
Others	29	35	28	-20
Total	2653	3515	3616	3

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

Paraguay Total cereal exports



Reference Date: 27-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable outlook for the ongoing 2010 wheat harvest
- Scarcity of water is threatening the Chaco region

Dry conditions may affect the forthcoming cropping season

From June to August, precipitation was generally close to average levels with pockets of dryness persisting in the departments of Concepción, Amambay and Canindeyú. In August, rainfall decreased and water availability deteriorated against seasonal trends causing severe dry conditions in the southern and central departments. Reports from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that the La Niña event is expected to have strong effects on weather conditions that could reduce further the water availability and recommends adequate water management practices for the forthcoming spring-summer cropping season. In particular, during the coming semester, the La Niña phenomenon might cause a rainfall reduction of more than 40 percent compared to the seasonal average.

A good wheat harvest is expected in 2010

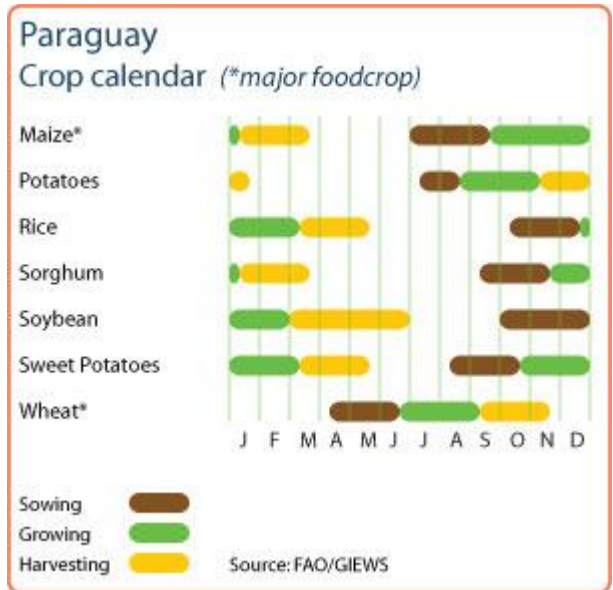
Harvesting of the winter wheat crop has just started and the preliminary forecast points to a slight increase in output compared to last year's drought affected crop. The 2010 wheat harvest is projected at 800 000 tonnes, 14 percent up on last year, due to an increase in area planted, and favourable dry weather conditions. The sharp increase in international prices of wheat is expected to compensate for the costs incurred by farmers and is likely to favourably influence planting intentions in the 2011 cropping season.

Sowing of the important maize crop is nearing completion while planting of sorghum and the key soya crops, to be harvested from January 2011, is underway. Concern is rising among farmers on the scarcity of traditional maize seed varieties mainly due to the increased use of enhanced varieties in Latin American major cereal producers.

The 2010 export estimates point to an increase in the total traded volumes of cereals, mainly due to increased international demand and the good production obtained in 2009.

Scarcity of water is affecting the Chaco region and its people

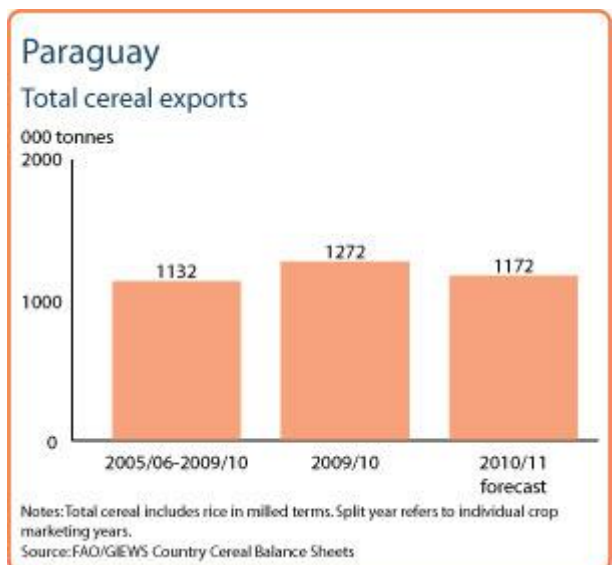
According to official sources, the prolonged scarcity of rainfall, particularly affecting the central and northern regions of the Paraguayan Chaco, is reducing the availability of water for human consumption. This is endangering mainly vulnerable indigenous and rural families living in precarious conditions. The region has limited access to fresh water sources and only 6 percent of total population residing in this area have access to potable water.



Paraguay Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1476	1500	1800	20
Wheat	702	700	800	14
Rice (paddy)	136	152	160	5
Others	29	35	28	-20
Total	2342	2387	2788	17

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



Reference Date: 12-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable outlook for the beginning of the 2010 wheat cropping season

Heavy rainfall caused losses to the zafrinha maize crop

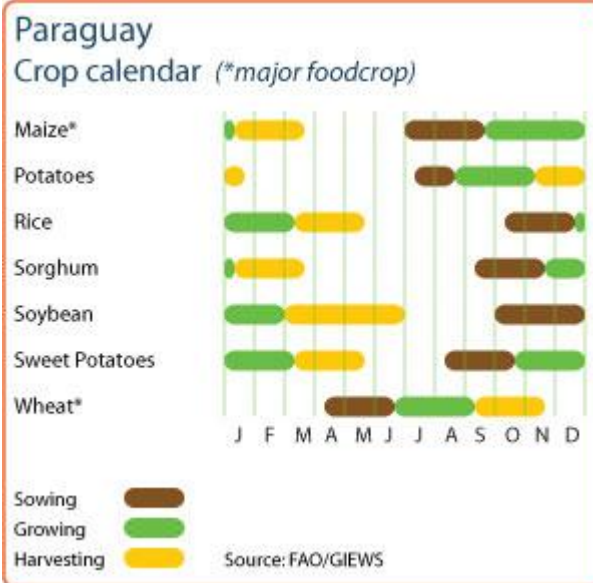
At the beginning of April, heavy precipitations were recorded in several farming departments of the country with damages to the agricultural sector in the departments of Alto Paraná, Caaguazú, Guaira and Caazapa. The Ministry of Agriculture reported widespread losses of the zafrinha maize crop, in particular in the department of Alto Paraná where approximately 3 000 hectares have been affected.

Estimates indicate an almost average maize production in 2010

Harvesting of the 2010 maize crop is virtually complete. To date, preliminary estimates indicate a total production of approximately 1.5 million tonnes, similar to last five year average but 12 percent below the previous year's good output. This reduction is mainly due to the persistent drought of the last months of 2009 coupled with unseasonably above average temperatures that discouraged the planting of maize crop while favouring the expansion of soybean crop.

A good wheat harvest is expected in 2010

The 2010 wheat cropping season is about to start in the departments of Alto Paraná and Itapúa (Eastern region) and total planted area is preliminary forecast to increase by almost 20 per cent compared to 2009. This increase is mostly due to the higher financial returns of wheat that is likely to induce farmers to shift away from maize.



Paraguay
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1400	1900	1500	-21
Wheat	705	630	700	11
Rice (paddy)	130	135	135	0
Others	25	36	35	-3
Total	2260	2701	2370	-12

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

Reference Date: 08-October-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Expected localized heavy rains and hotter than normal temperatures due to El Niño
- Wheat harvesting is hindered by excessive rainfall volumes
- Planting for the 2010 main cropping season is underway

Rainfall pattern will be influenced by the onset of the phenomenon of El Niño

The coming months will show a strong influence in their rainfall patterns due to the onset of the El Niño. Prevailing hotter-than-normal temperatures and localized heavy rains will be recorded from November onward. In this scenario, usually dry areas, which experienced prolonged drought conditions, such as the Región Occidental and the Chaco Paraguayo, will receive beneficial rainfall.

Wheat harvesting activities proceed under unfavourable rainy conditions

Wheat harvesting is underway and will be completed in November. Unexpected rainfall during harvesting is likely to cause problems to harvesting operations and localized losses are already reported in farming regions.

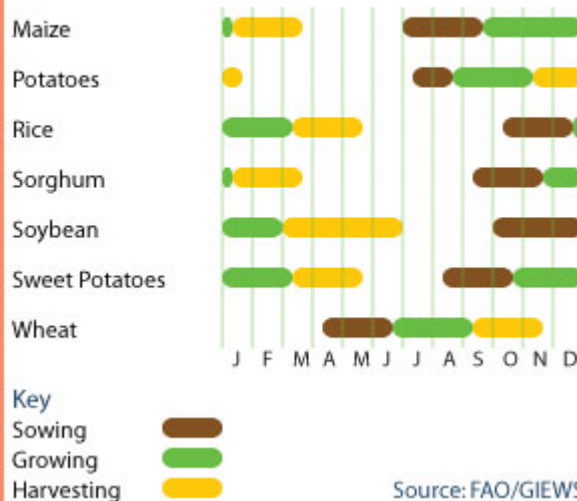
El Niño phenomenon is raising concern among farmers as heavy rains during this crucial period of the year will result in further losses and cause wheat quality to deteriorate.

To date, preliminary estimates point at a total production of almost 700 000 tonnes.

Planting for the 2010 main cropping season is underway

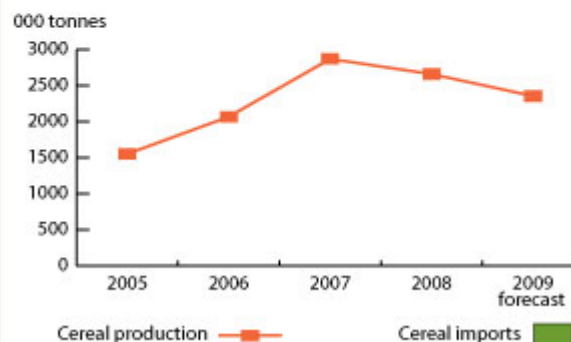
Planting for the main season maize is also underway and total planted area is preliminary forecast at 570 000, 12 percent below last year's acreage.

Crop calendar Paraguay



Cereal production and imports Paraguay

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1400	1900	1525	-19.7%
Wheat	705	630	701	11.3%
Rice (milled)	91	95	95	0%
Other	23	36	35	-2.8%
Total Cereals	2221	2661	2356	-11.5%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets