



GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 28-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2022 forecast well above average
- Below-average cereal imports forecast in 2022
- Prices of coarse grains increased significantly in 2022 and are well above year-earlier levels
- Acute food insecurity underpinned by increasing food prices and severe macroeconomic difficulties

Cereal production in 2022 forecast well above average

Harvesting of rice and main season maize crops is about to conclude in southern parts of the country, while it is expected to continue in northern parts, together with the harvesting of sorghum and millet crops, until December. Planting of the secondary maize crops in the south was completed recently and production prospects are overall favourable.

The rainy season had a timely start in March in southern areas and progressed towards the north with adequate precipitation amounts, supporting land preparation and early crop development. Rains had an overall even distribution in time and space, and, as of September, cumulative rainfall amounts were conducive for crop development, boosting yield expectations. However, heavy rainfall episodes between August and early October caused localized floods, mostly in the north of the country, affecting about 80 000 hectares of crops and disrupting agricultural livelihoods.

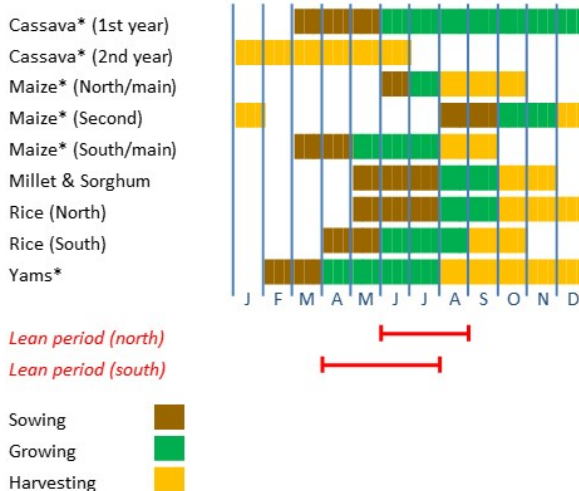
The planted area to cereal crops in 2022 is expected to be near the previous year's above-average level, supported by high prices and strong demand, particularly for exports towards neighbouring Sahelian countries. In addition, the government has continued to implement, during the 2022 cropping season, a programme for distribution of fertilizers and improved seeds at subsidized prices. Albeit the subsidy rates were lowered in 2022 compared to 2021, due to increasing fiscal constraints and currency depreciation, amid high international prices, the programme enhanced farmers' access to agricultural inputs.

Despite some localized crop losses due to floods, the national cereal production in 2022 is officially forecast at a bumper level of 5.6 million tonnes, 10 percent above the previous year's level and

Ghana

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWS NET.

Ghana

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 690	3 340	3 564	6.7
Rice (paddy)	927	1 231	1 350	9.6
Sorghum	314	334	416	24.7
Others	196	181	292	61.6
Total	4 126	5 086	5 622	10.5

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

over 35 percent above the five-year average, reflecting high levels of plantings and overall conducive weather conditions.

Below-average cereal imports forecast in 2022

The country relies on imports, mostly of rice and wheat, to meet its domestic cereal requirements. In the 2022 calendar year, imports of cereals are forecast at 1.5 million tonnes, well below the record level in 2021 and about 15 percent below the previous five-year average. This includes 800 000 tonnes of rice, about 25 percent lower on a yearly basis and nearly 10 percent below the five-year average, due to the large availability resulting from the 2021 bumper rice harvests; as well as 600 000 tonnes of wheat, about 35 percent lower compared to 2021 and over 25 percent below the average, reflecting high international prices and the interruption of shipments from the ports in the Black Sea Region.

Prices of coarse grains increased significantly in 2022 and are well above year-earlier levels

Prices of locally produced coarse grains increased steadily in 2021 and the first half of 2022. Following some seasonal easing of prices in July and August, the upward trend resumed in September. Despite average to above-average market supplies from the good cereal outputs obtained in 2021 and 2022, prices of maize, sorghum and millet were up to about 40, 75 and 110 percent, respectively, above their levels in September 2021. The high price anomalies were underpinned by persistent inflationary pressures due to strong export demand and high international commodity prices. Furthermore, the depreciation of the Ghanaian cedi, that was equivalent to GHS 10.1/USD 1 in September 2022 compared to GHS 5.86/USD 1 in September 2021, has increased the cost of imported goods.

In order to mitigate the price increases and secure market availability, a ban on cereal exports was enforced between September 2021 and September 2022.

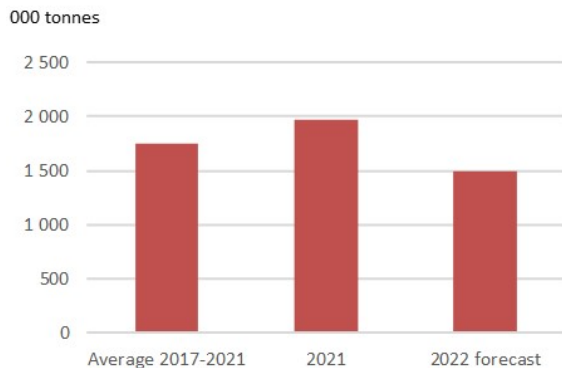
Acute food insecurity underpinned by increasing food prices and severe macroeconomic difficulties

According to the March 2022 “Cadre Harmonisé” (CH) analysis, about 280 000 people were estimated to face acute food insecurity between June and August 2022, including 16 800 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This is below the 410 000 people estimated to be acutely food insecure during the same period in 2021. The decrease in absolute terms is mostly due to a reduction in the coverage of the analysis in 2022, while high food prices remain the main driver of acute food insecurity.

Despite the ongoing cereal harvests, which are expected to improve food availability, concerns about access to food persist as food prices stand at elevated levels and purchasing power of the most vulnerable households remains under pressure, amid severe macroeconomic difficulties, including rampant inflation. The annual inflation rate reached a record high of 34 percent in September 2022, following sustained increases since June 2021. Currency depreciation and low foreign exchange reserves were contributory factors to the inflationary pressure and resulted in increased costs of imports of essential products. In addition, unsustainable debt levels, monetary tightening and reduced

Ghana

Cereals Imports

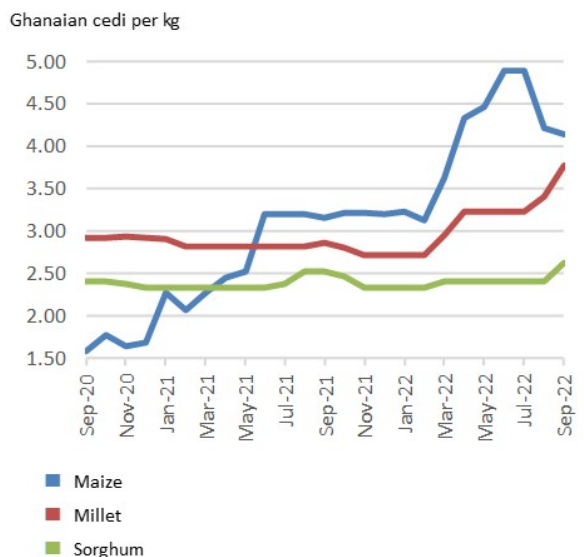


Note: Includes rice in milled terms.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Ghana

Wholesale maize, millet and sorghum prices in Accra



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

domestic private consumption, and investment slowed down economic growth in 2022, reducing income generating opportunities for the most vulnerable. New CH estimates of the number of people facing acute food insecurity in the last quarter of 2022 are expected to be released in late November by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

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GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 28-January-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2020 estimated at above-average levels
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21
- Prices of maize follow mixed trends, but remain high on yearly basis
- Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Cereal production in 2020 estimated at above-average levels

Harvesting activities of millet, sorghum, rainfed rice and main season maize crops have finalized, while the harvesting of the second season maize crops is still ongoing and will be completed by end-January. Support from the Government in terms of provision of improved seeds, fertilizers, extension services and marketing, coupled with favourable rains, benefitted yields in most parts of the country. Despite some localized crop losses due to flooding and attacks of Fall Armyworm (FAW) on maize, the 2020 aggregate cereal output is estimated at an above-average level of 4.6 million tonnes.

Pasture conditions are overall favourable across the country and forage production is estimated at an above-average level of 10.6 million tonnes of dry matter. The animal health situation is generally good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Trypanosomiasis, Contagious Bovine Peripneumonia, Peste des Petits Ruminants, African Swine Fever, Anthrax, Gumboro and Newcastle diseases. However, imports of live animals into the country in 2020 remained lower than in 2019 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which hampered the flows from major outlets.

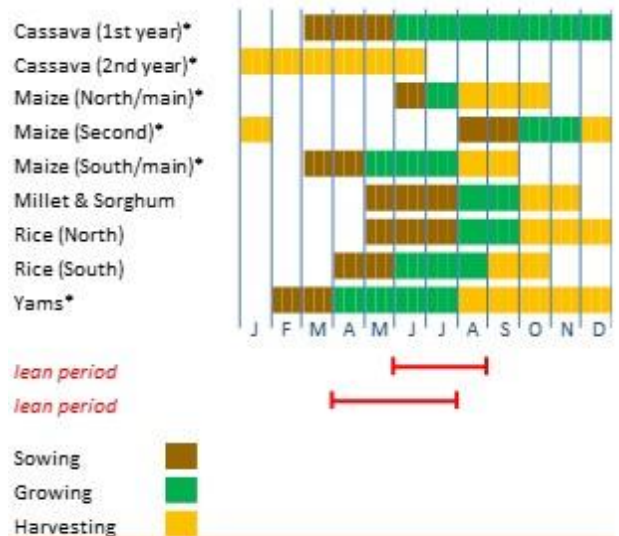
Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21

The country relies significantly on imports of crops, including rice and wheat for human consumption. Despite the 2020 above-average production, cereal import requirements for the 2020/21 marketing year (November/October) are forecast at an above-average level of 1.7 million tonnes as local traders are aiming to replenish their stocks.

Ghana

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Ghana

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 125	2 912	3 071	5.5
Rice (paddy)	748	925	973	5.2
Sorghum	280	347	356	2.6
Others	178	230	236	2.6
Total	3 331	4 414	4 636	5.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of maize follow mixed trends, but remain high on yearly basis

In spite of adequate food availabilities from the recent harvests and imports from the international markets, prices of maize followed mixed trends from August to November in the capital, Accra. Prices stabilized in December but remained at high levels and above their year-earlier values, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic containment measures on the supply chain and trade flows. Prices will likely increase in the coming weeks as the demand by local traders and neighbouring Sahelian countries is expected to strengthen.

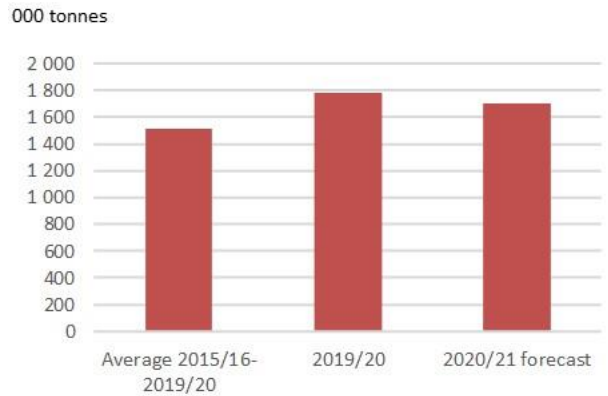
Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

According to the November 2020 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 328 000 people (1 percent of the population in analyzed areas) were estimated to need food assistance between October and December 2020. This number is projected to decline to nearly 164 000 people between June and August 2021 as a result of the harvests of maize and yams, which will improve food availability and access in the southern and central regions.

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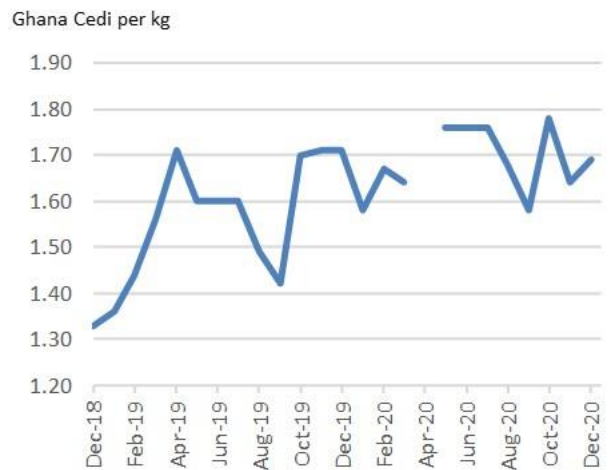
Cereals Imports



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

Ghana

Wholesale maize prices in Accra



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



GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 15-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2020 main season maize ongoing in south under normal weather conditions
- Record cereal production estimated in 2019
- Increasing maize prices following high demand
- Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Start of 2020 cropping season in south follows timely onset of rains

Following the timely onset of seasonal rains in the south, planting of yams was completed in March, while planting of maize is ongoing and will be completed by the end of April. Harvesting operations of both yams and maize crops are expected to start in August. Planting of the rice crop, to be harvested from September, is underway. Cumulative rainfall amounts since early March were average to above average in most planted areas and supported the development of yams, rice and maize crops. Weeding activities are normally progressing in most cropped areas. In the north, seasonal dry weather conditions are still prevailing and planting operations for millet and sorghum, to be harvested from October, are expected to begin in May-June with the onset of the rains.

Despite the ongoing pastoral lean season, forage availability was overall satisfactory in April in the main grazing areas of the country. The domestic livestock seasonal return movement from the south to the north started in early March due to the normal onset of the rains in the south. The animal health situation is generally good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Newcastle disease, Anthrax and African Swine Fever in pigs. In June 2019, the Government launched a programme, "Rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ)" aiming to boost productivity and income from pastoral production.

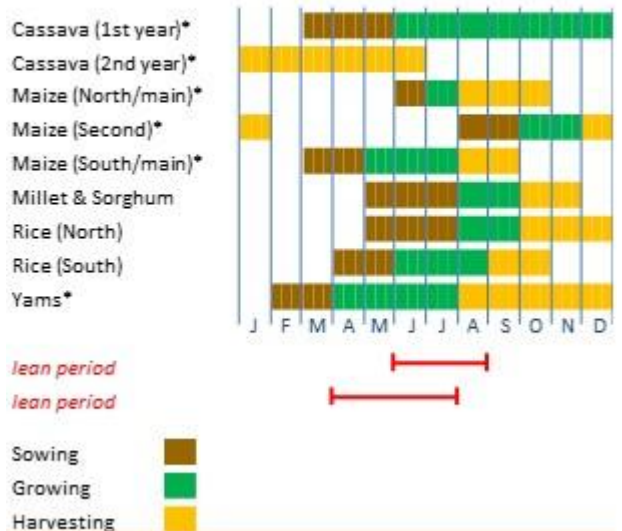
Record 2019 cereal crop harvested

Harvesting activities of the 2019 rainfed and irrigated crops was completed by end-January. Favourable rainfall across the country and an adequate supply of inputs delivered by the Government through the RFJ programme benefited the 2019 national cereal production, estimated at 4.1 million tonnes, about 40 percent above the five-year average. The 2019 harvest included 2.7 million tonnes of maize (45 percent above average) and 900 000 tonnes

Ghana

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Ghana

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 899	2 306	2 759	19.6
Rice (paddy)	685	769	899	16.9
Sorghum	269	316	343	8.4
Others	164	182	190	4.5
Total	3 016	3 573	4 190	17.3

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

of paddy (over 30 percent above average). The increase in the production resulted from the implementation of the key Government RFJ programme aiming to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. The RFJ programme has enrolled 600 000 smallholder farmers since its implementation in 2018, providing seeds, fertilizers and extension services. The target is expected to reach 1.5 million farmers by the end of 2020. In addition, in 2019, through the Regional and District Directors of the Department of Agriculture, the Government also increased the level of control and monitoring of the Fall Armyworm infestations, bringing the overall situation under control.

Following the record 2019 production, cereal import requirements for the 2019/20 (November/October) marketing year are forecast at a below-average level of 1.5 million tonnes.

Increasing maize prices following high demand

The supply of major food commodities (maize and rice) is generally satisfactory for most markets due to adequate food availabilities from the recent harvests and imports from the international markets. However, prices of maize increased in most markets in March due to the strong seasonal demand by local traders and institutions for restocking, by households for domestic consumption and seeds, and by industries for animal feed production.

Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Despite the overall favourable food security conditions, most vulnerable households need external food assistance. According to the March 2020 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 22 000 people were estimated to need food assistance during the lean season between June and August 2020.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

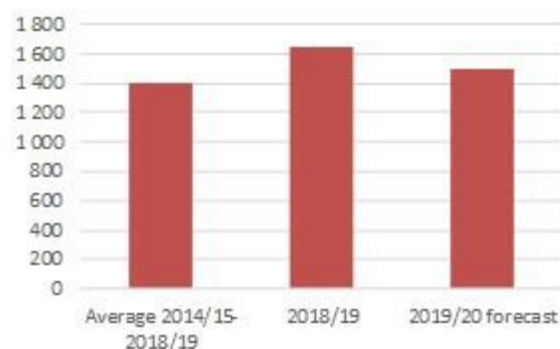
In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Government has decreed a total lockdown and a State-wide confinement in the most affected cities by the virus outbreak, including Tema, Accra and Kumasi. The Government has also taken some sanitary, social and economic measures and decided to close all land borders. Official restrictions on population movements, combined with heightened levels of fear, have led many people to avoid leaving their homes. Although these measures have not affected the access to food, further restrictions on population movements could hamper the access to land and have a consequent negative impact on the 2020 agricultural production.

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Ghana

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.

Ghana

Wholesale maize prices in selected markets

Ghana Cedi per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 20-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allowed planting activities of 2019 main season crops across the country
- Above-average cereal production estimated in 2018
- Increasing maize prices following high institutional demand
- Strong economic growth and high food inflation
- Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Sufficient cumulative rainfall since February/March favours planting activities in 2019

Following a timely onset of seasonal rains, planting of the 2019 main season maize crop was completed in April and harvesting operations are expected to start in August. Weeding activities are normally progressing in most cropped areas. Planting operations for millet, sorghum and rice, to be harvested from October, are underway.

Pastures and availability of water for livestock have improved in May compared to previous months in the main grazing areas of the north and centre of the country. The animal health situation is overall stable.

Above-average 2018 cereal crop harvested

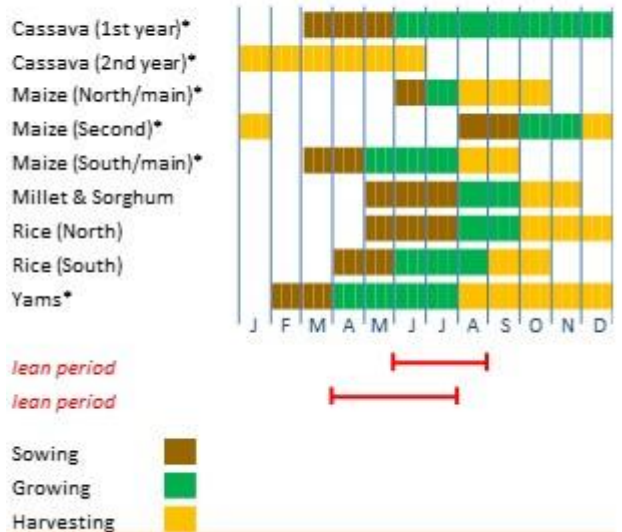
The 2018 agricultural season (main and second cropping seasons) was characterized by timely and well-distributed rainfall. In addition, the Governmental programme "Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ)" provided inputs (seeds and fertilizers) at subsidized prices and extension services to about 500 000 farmers, boosting production. As a result, the 2018 cereal output is estimated at 3.4 million tonnes, about 9 percent higher than the 2017 output and 21 percent above the five-year average.

Despite the above-average 2018 cereal production, import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year (mainly imported rice and wheat flour) are set at a slightly above-average level of 1.4 million tonnes. This is explained by the higher demand by traders to replenish their stocks.

Ghana

Crop Calendar

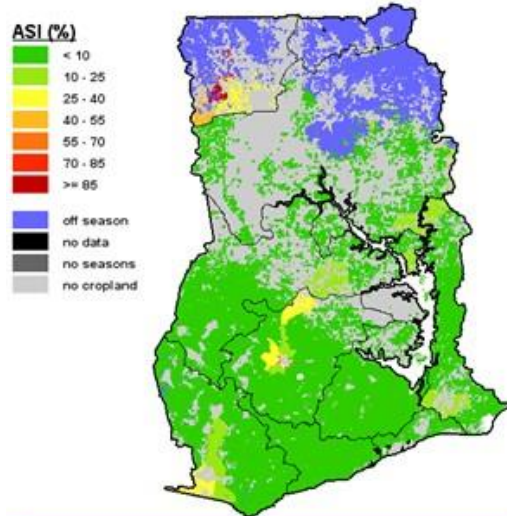
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Ghana - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, April 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Increasing maize prices following high institutional demand

Markets are generally well supplied since the beginning of 2019 due to stocks of the 2018 cropping season's harvests and good harvests in major seasons across the country. However, despite the good availabilities, prices of maize increased in April due to strong demand from traders and institutions for restocking, households for consumption and industries for animal feed production. Prices of mostly imported rice remained relatively stable in April.

Strong economic growth projected, high food inflation

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is forecast to remain strong at about 6.5 percent in 2019, similar to 2018 due to increasing national oil production. The year on year inflation rate in 2019 is forecast to remain high at about 11 percent as a result of increasing consumer prices.

Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Despite the overall favourable food security conditions, most vulnerable households still need external food assistance. According to the March 2019 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 42 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2019, with a significant decrease from the 99 000 food insecure people in March-May 2018. This number is expected to increase to 123 000 during the June to August 2019, if no mitigation actions are taken.

Ghana

Cereal Production

	2013-2017	2017	2018	change
	average		estimate	2018/2017
000 tonnes				percent
Maize	1 785	1 986	2 199	10.7
Rice (paddy)	645	721	755	4.7
Sorghum	257	278	316	13.7
Others	158	165	182	10.4
Total	2 845	3 149	3 451	9.6

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

Ghana

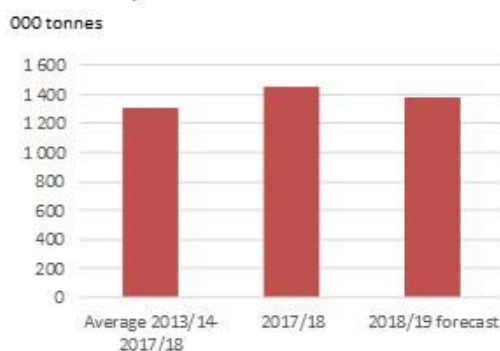
Retail prices of maize in Tamale



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

Ghana

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.

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GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 13-March-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Timely onset of rains in 2019 allows planting activities in south
- Cereal production in 2018 estimated at above-average level
- Increasing food prices following high institutional demand
- Strong economic growth and high food inflation
- Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Timely onset of rains favours planting activities in south in 2019

Timely onset of the rains in 2019 allowed seasonal agricultural activities including land preparation and planting of maize and yams in the south in February/March. Dry conditions continue to prevail in most parts of the north where land preparation and early planting of millet, sorghum and rice crops, for harvest from October, are expected to start in April.

Above-average 2018 cereal crop harvested

The favourable weather conditions in 2018 and the provision of agricultural inputs and materials by the Government benefited crop development in most parts of the country. The overall 2018 cereal production is estimated at about 3.5 million tonnes, which is about 12 percent higher than the 2017 output and 24 percent above the five-year average.

Despite the above-average 2018 production, import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year are set at a slightly above-average level of 1.4 million tonnes due to higher demand by traders to replenish their stocks.

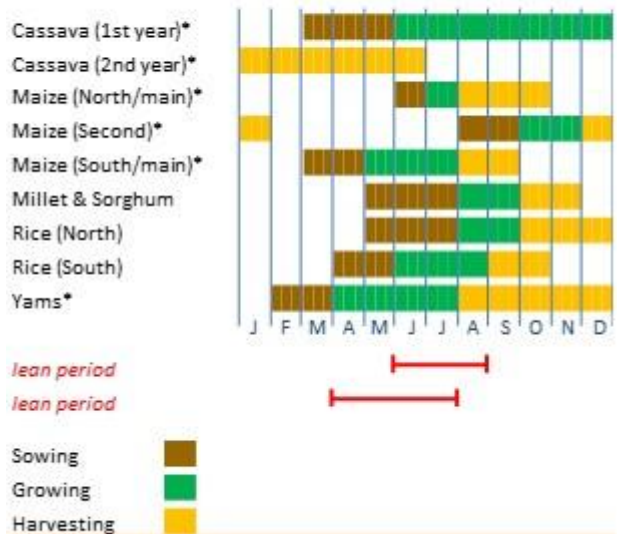
Increasing food prices following high institutional demand

Markets are generally well supplied due to a sustained flow of imports and the commercialization of newly harvested staples including maize, sorghum and rice. Prices of maize remained stable or increased in January as a result of high demand by traders and institutions in order to rebuild their stocks. At the same time, prices of mostly imported rice remained relatively stable.

Ghana

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Ghana

Cereal Production

	2013-2017	2017	2018	change
	average			2018/2017
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	1 785	1 986	2 263	13.9
Rice (paddy)	645	722	790	9.5
Sorghum	257	278	299	7.7
Others	158	165	168	2.1
Total	2 845	3 149	3 520	11.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Strong economic growth projected, high food inflation

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is forecast to remain strong at about 6.5 percent in 2019, similar to 2018 due to increasing national oil production. The year-on-year inflation rate in 2019 will remain high at about 11 percent as a result of increasing consumer prices.

Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Despite the overall favourable food security conditions, some vulnerable households still need external food assistance. According to the November 2018 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 21 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance from October to December 2018, with a significant decrease from the 99 000 food insecure people in March-May 2018. This number is expected to increase to 52 000 during the June to August 2019, if no mitigation actions are taken.

Ghana

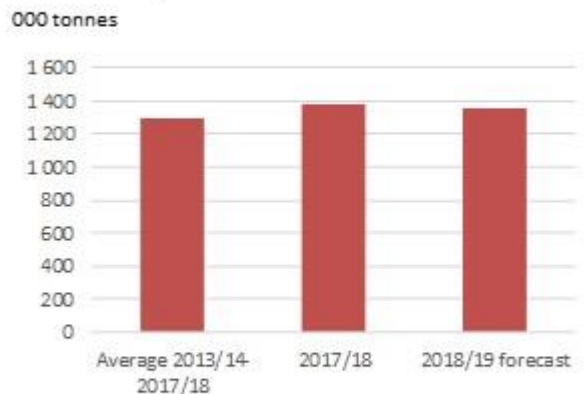
Retail prices of maize in Tamale



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

Ghana

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.

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GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 18-June-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of cereal crops on progress under favourable conditions
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at above average level
- Overall food supply situation satisfactory following 2016 good harvests

Cropping season in 2018 started in south

Following the onset of seasonal rains, planting of maize and yams in the south started on time in February/March. Rice, for harvest in September, was planted in April. Weeding activities are normally progressing in southern parts of the country. Although, dry conditions continue to prevail in most parts of the North, land preparation and early planting of millet and sorghum, for harvest from October, are already taking place.

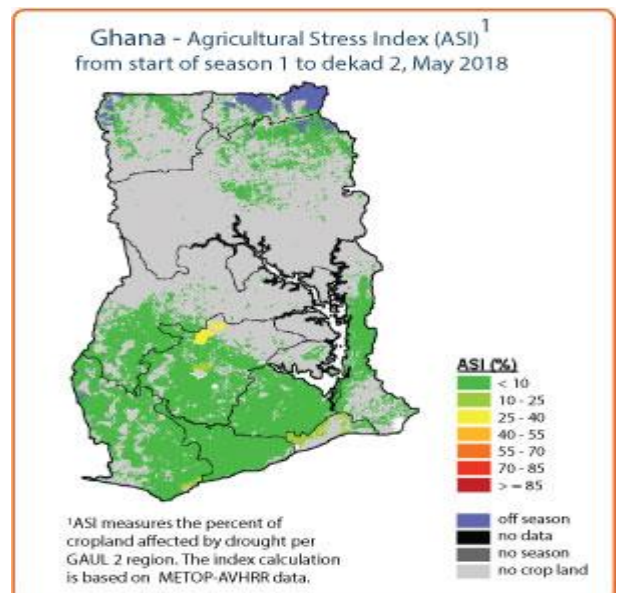
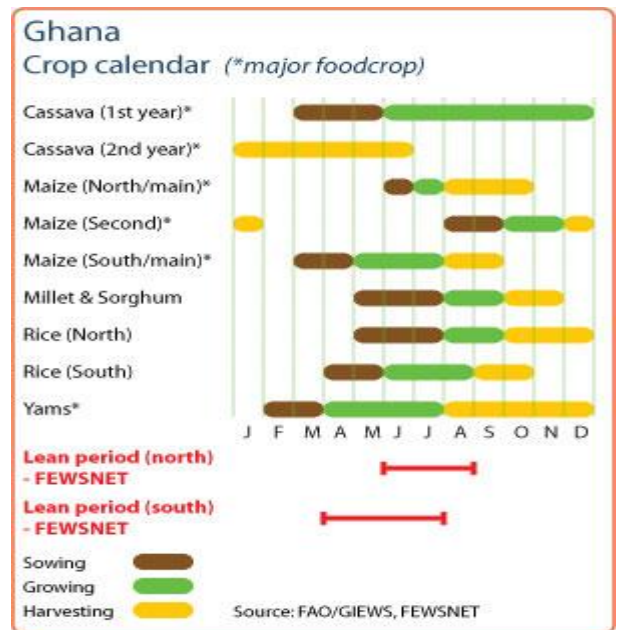
Above-average 2017 cereal crop harvested

The normal development of the 2017 cropping season and the provision of inputs by the Government in the form of subsidized fertilizers and increased technical support for large-scale farming resulted in generally satisfactory and favourable conditions for crop production.

The overall cereal production is estimated at about 3.1 million tonnes, which is 13 percent above the level of both the 2016 harvest and the five-year average. Compared to previous year, maize output increased by about 15 percent, while sorghum increased by 20 percent. Most farming households benefited from higher income due to increased opportunities for casual labour and/or larger sales of agricultural surpluses.

Food prices declined following main season harvests

The grain supply on the local markets reflects seasonality. Imports of rice from the international market are continuing unhindered, thus reinforcing existing supplies of local cereals and other foodstuffs. Prices remained broadly stable between April and May 2018, with slight increases of no more than 10 percent following the normal seasonal pattern. This price stability facilitates the food access for the poor and market-dependent households.



However, significant price increases of more than 25 percent were observed for sorghum and rice in Bolgatanga market in April 2018 compared to April 2017 due strong demand from households.

Food assistance needed for vulnerable people

Food security conditions remain favourable with well-supplied markets, stable prices of rice and normal labour opportunities. The pursuit of economic activities, such as petty trade, provides adequate income that allows for the market purchases of rice and other basic food throughout the lean season, expected to end in late August. However, according to the March 2018 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 99 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance during March to May 2018. This number is projected to increase to 150 000 from June to August during the peak of the lean season.

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Ghana

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 778	1 722	1 965	14
Rice (paddy)	597	688	722	5
Sorghum	258	230	277	20
Others	161	159	159	0
Total	2 794	2 798	3 122	12

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





GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 16-May-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 estimated at above average level
- Overall food supply situation satisfactory following 2016 good harvests

Cropping season in 2017 started in South

Seasonal rains commenced in March in the southern part of the country, allowing land preparation and maize planting to start. Dry conditions prevail in most parts of the North, where planting is expected to begin in the weeks ahead with the onset of the rains.

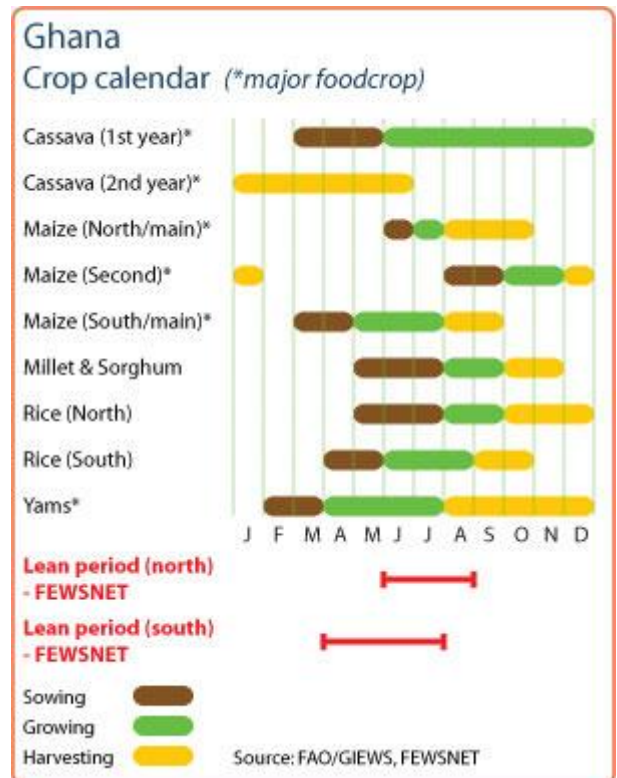
Above-average 2016 cereal production

Overall growing conditions were favourable during the 2016 cropping season. Precipitation was above the previous year's levels in the southern part of the country with cumulative rainfall exceeding 200 percent of the average in the coastal regions. Similarly, climatic conditions were generally favourable across the northern savannah agro-ecological zone. In addition, the continuation of Government assistance in the form of subsidized fertilizers and increased technical support for large-scale farming supported crop development throughout the season. Official estimates put the 2016 aggregate cereal production at about 3 million tonnes, 8 percent above both the 2015 harvest and the five-year average levels. Maize output increased by about 6 percent.

Food prices declined following main season harvests

Prices of coarse grains have declined in recent months reflecting improved availabilities from the recently-completed harvests. Cereal prices followed a steady upward trend in 2015, driven mostly by a steep depreciation of the national currency that caused the consumer price inflation rate to more than triple over the last three years. Cereal production has been mostly stagnant in recent years, which has exacerbated the strong upward trend.

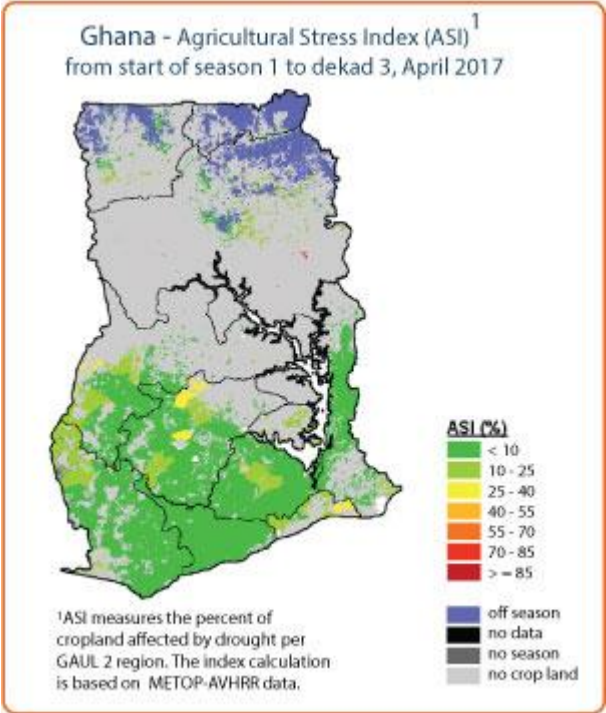
The results of the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis in the country indicated that about 160 000 people were estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and needed urgent assistance between March and May 2017.



Ghana
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1,770	1,692	1,786	6
Rice (paddy)	552	641	753	17
Sorghum	269	263	260	-1
Others	166	157	178	13
Total	2,758	2,753	2,977	8

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



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GIEWS Country Brief Ghana

Reference Date: 27-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 forecast above average
- Food prices on the decline, driven by increased supplies from new 2016 harvest in southern part of the country

Overall prospects favourable for 2016 cereal production

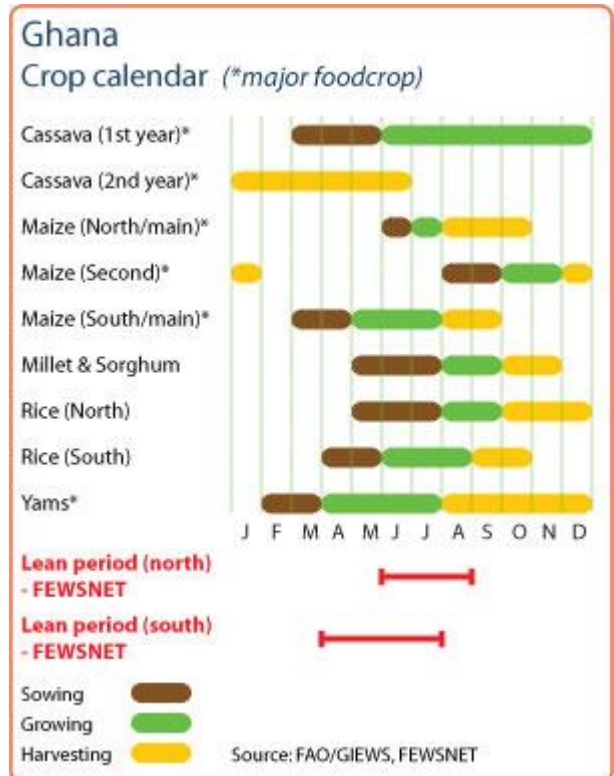
In the South, harvesting of the first season maize crop and planting of the second season crop have recently been completed. In the North, which only has one rainy season, harvesting of cereals is underway. Precipitation has been above last year's levels in the southern part of the country with cumulative rainfall exceeding 200 percent of the average in the coastal regions. Similarly, climatic conditions were generally favourable across the northern savannah agro-ecological zone. In addition, the continuation of Government assistance in the form of subsidized fertilizers and increased technical support for large-scale farming supported crop development throughout the season. Preliminary estimates point to an above average cereal production. Cereal production in 2016 is forecast at nearly 2.9 million tonnes, up 5 percent from 2015. Maize output is forecast to increase by 5.6 percent.

The 2015 cereal production was estimated at some 2.75 million tonnes, a slight decrease compared to the previous year's and the average outputs. Maize production declined by 4 percent compared to the 2014 level.

Food prices declined in recent months

Coarse grains prices have declined in recent months reflecting improved availabilities from the just-completed 2016 main season harvests in the southern parts of the country. Maize prices, for instance, dropped by 8 percent from June to August, while prices of local rice declined by 5 percent.

Cereal prices followed a steady upward trend in 2015, driven mostly by a steep depreciation of the national currency that caused the consumer price inflation rate to more than triple over the last three years. Cereal production has been mostly stagnant in recent years, which has exacerbated the strong upward trend.

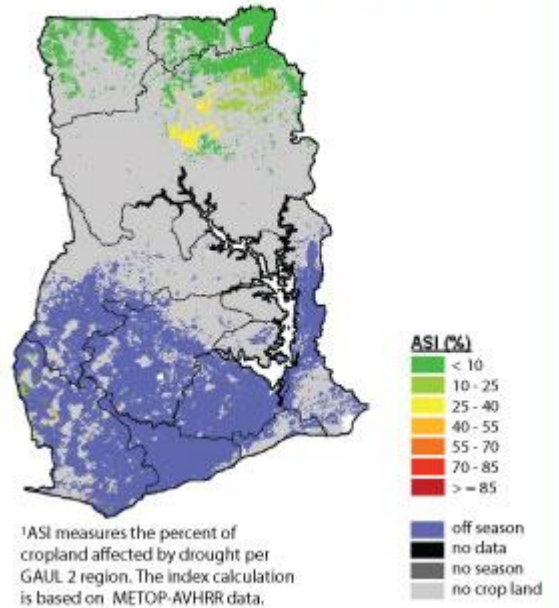


Ghana
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 806	1 692	1 786	6
Rice (paddy)	522	642	660	3
Sorghum	281	263	269	2
Others	179	157	178	13
Total	2 789	2 754	2 893	5

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

Ghana - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹
from start of season 1 to dekad 2, October 2016



Reference Date: 25-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest indicate an average cereal production
- Access to food constrained by high inflation rate

Cropping season in 2016 has started in the South

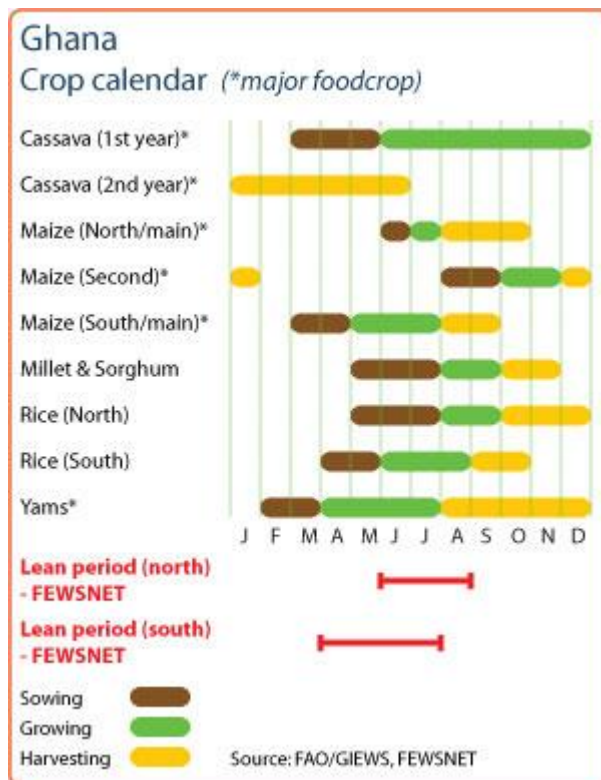
Seasonal rains commenced in March in the southern part of the country, allowing land preparation and maize planting to start. Dry conditions prevail in most parts of the North, where planting is expected to start in the weeks ahead with the onset of the rains.

Average cereal harvest gathered in 2015

In the South, harvesting of the 2015 second season maize crop was completed in January 2016. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in December 2015. Delayed rainfall characterized the beginning of the agricultural season in most parts of the country, while in the major producing regions, poor rainfall distribution and long dry spells hampered crop-growing conditions, notably in southern regions. Official estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at some 2.75 million tonnes, a slight decrease compared to the previous year's and the average outputs. Maize production is estimated at about 1.69 million tonnes, representing a 4 percent decrease over the 2014 level.

High inflation rate continues to affect access to food

Cereal prices have followed a steady upward trend in 2015, driven mostly by a steep depreciation of the national currency that caused the consumer price inflation rate to more than triple over the last three years reaching 19.2 percent in March 2016. Cereals production has been mostly stagnant in recent years, which has exacerbated the strong upward trend.



Ghana Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1,806	1,762	1,692	-4
Rice (paddy)	522	604	642	6
Sorghum	281	259	263	2
Others	179	155	157	1
Total	2,789	2,780	2,754	-1

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

Reference Date: 10-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

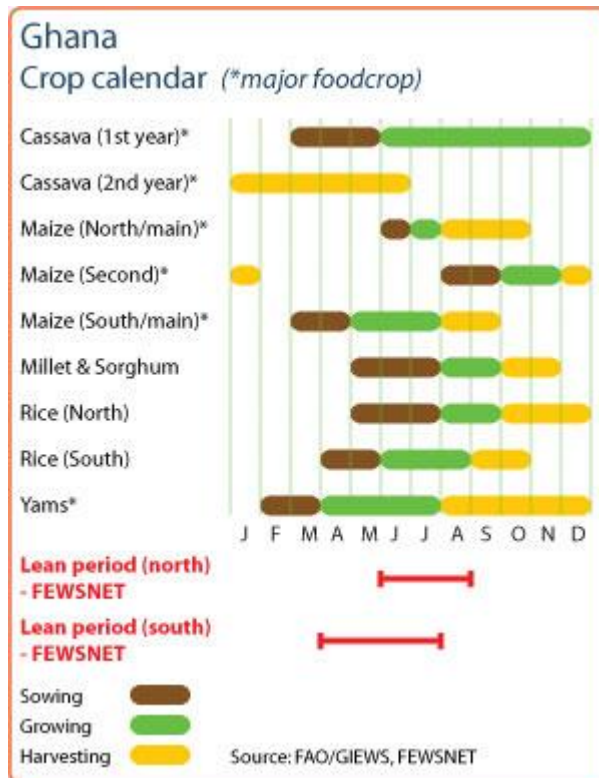
- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest point to below-average cereal production
- Access to food constrained by high inflation rate

Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 second season maize crop is nearly complete in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in December 2015. Delayed rainfall characterized the beginning of the agricultural season in most parts of the country, while in the major producing regions, poor rainfall distribution and long dry spells hampered crop-growing conditions, notably in southern regions. Preliminary estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at some 2.4 million tonnes, 13 percent below both the previous year's and the average outputs. Maize production is estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, representing a significant decrease over the 2014 level.

High inflation rate continues to affect access to food

Cereal prices have followed a steady upward trend in 2015, driven mostly by a steep depreciation of the national currency that caused the consumer price inflation rate to more than triple over the last three years reaching 19 percent in January 2016. Cereal production has been mostly stagnant in recent years, which has exacerbated the strong upward trend.



Ghana Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 806	1 762	1 462	-17
Rice (paddy)	522	604	551	-9
Sorghum	281	259	248	-4
Others	179	155	147	-5
Total	2 789	2 780	2 408	-13

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

Reference Date: 15-January-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

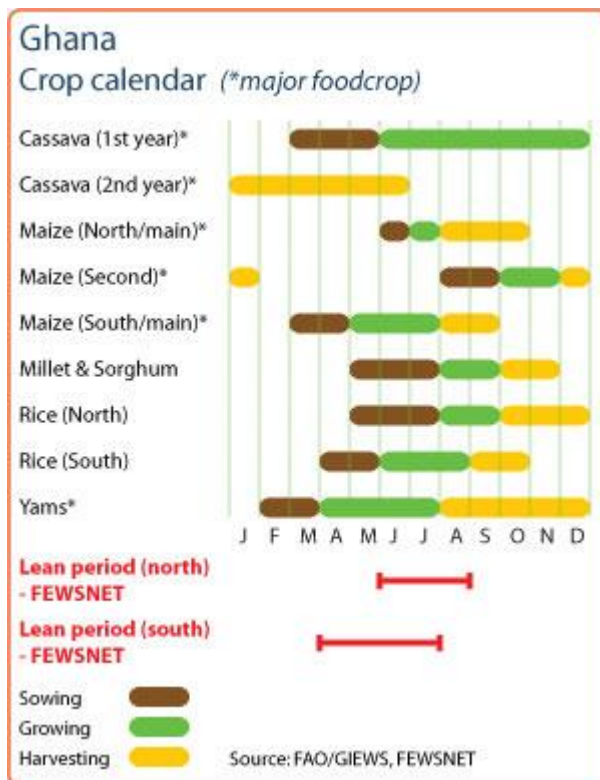
- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest point to below-average cereal production
- Access to food constrained by high inflation rate

Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 second season maize crop is nearly complete in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in December. Delayed rainfall characterized the beginning of the agricultural season in most parts of the country, while in the major producing regions, poor rainfall distribution and long dry spells hampered crop-growing conditions, notably in southern regions. Preliminary estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at some 2.4 million tonnes, 13 percent below both the previous year's and the average outputs. Maize production is estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, representing a significant decrease over the 2014 level.

High inflation rate continues to affect access to food

Cereal prices have followed a steady upward trend in 2015, driven mostly by a steep depreciation of the national currency that caused the consumer price inflation rate to more than triple over the last three years reaching 17.6 percent in November 2015. In addition, cereal production has been mostly stagnant in recent years, which has exacerbated the strong upward trend.



Ghana Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 806	1 762	1 462	-17
Rice (paddy)	522	604	551	-9
Sorghum	281	259	248	-4
Others	179	155	147	-5
Total	2 789	2 780	2 408	-13

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

GIEWS Country Brief

Ghana



Reference Date: 27-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal production in 2014, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Access to food constrained by high inflation rate

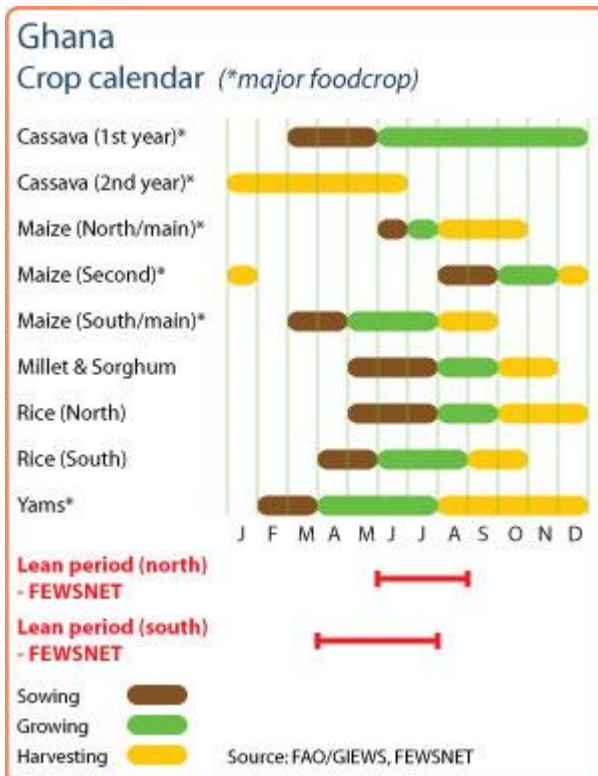
Another good cereal crop was gathered in 2014

There is little agricultural activity in this period, except for limited cultivation of some off-season crops. Planting of main season crops are expected to begin with the start of the rainy season from March.

Harvesting of the 2014 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed last December. The aggregate cereal production in 2014 is estimated at about 2.9 million tonnes, which is 6 percent above the previous year's good output and well above-average. In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, the continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilizers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season. The improvement was also driven by the continuing growth in rice production which doubled over the last six years.

High inflation rate affect access to food

Although cereal production has been following an upward trend in recent years, access to food continues to be constrained by high consumer price inflation. The inflation rate increased steadily in 2014 with the year-on-year inflation reaching 17 percent in December.



Ghana
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1,778	1,764	1,817	3
Rice (paddy)	480	570	604	6
Sorghum	300	257	293	14
Others	197	155	189	22
Total	2,754	2,746	2,903	6

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

Reference Date: 10-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

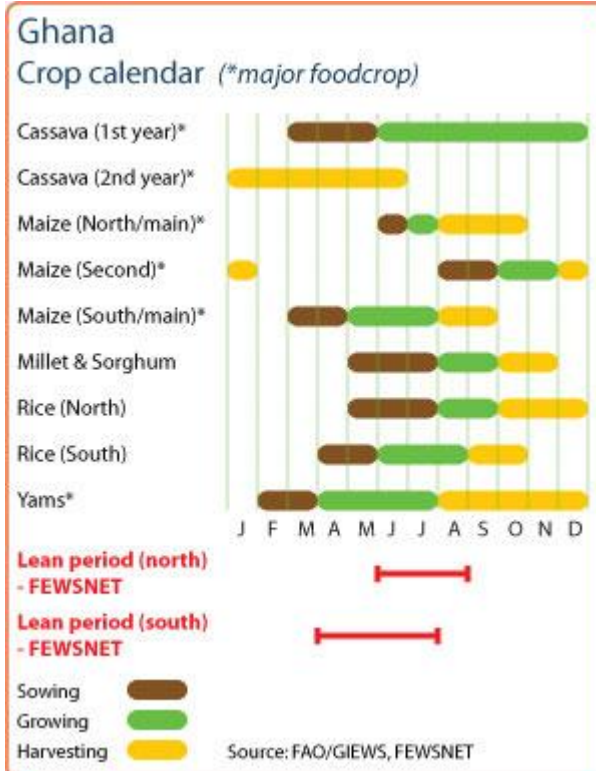
- Above-average cereal production in 2013, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Access to food constrained by high inflation rate

Another good cereal crop was gathered in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed last December. The aggregate cereal production in 2013 is estimated at about 2.85 million tonnes, which is similar to the previous year's good output and well above average. In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, the continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season. The improvement was also driven by a significant growth in rice production which increased by 22 percent over the previous year.

High inflation rate affect access to food

Although cereal production has been following an upward trend in recent years, access to food continues to be constrained by high consumer price inflation. The year-on-year inflation rate was estimated at 13.5 percent in December 2013, the highest level since March 2010.



Ghana

Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 719	1 950	1 816	-7
Rice (paddy)	426	481	587	22
Sorghum	315	280	277	-1
Others	205	180	179	-1
Total	2 665	2 891	2 859	-1

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

Reference Date: 13-May-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal production in 2012, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Access to food constrained by high food prices

The 2013 rainy season has started in the South

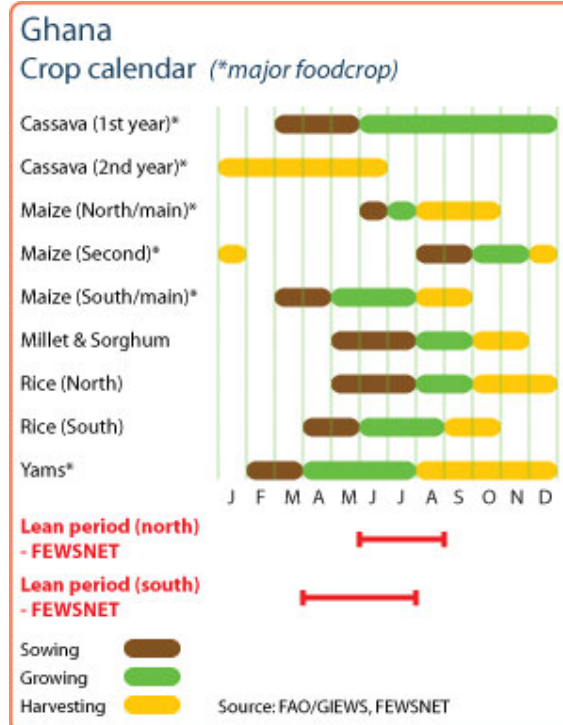
The raining season has started in the southern part of the country, where planting of the first maize crop is underway. Planting will progress northwards with the onset of rains.

A good cereal crop was gathered in 2012

Harvesting of the 2012 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed last December. The aggregate cereal production in 2012 is estimated at about 2.9 million tonnes, which is 10 percent above the previous year's output and well above average. In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, the continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season.

Access to food constrained by high food prices

Although cereal production has been following an upward trend in recent years, coarse grains prices have remained at relatively high levels, notably in the northern part of the country. In Tamale, for instance, maize prices in December 2012 were still 33 percent above the levels of December 2010, although they have dropped significantly from July 2012 with the new harvests. Prices of imported rice also have risen significantly from mid-2011 and remained at very high levels throughout 2012. Average wholesale prices of imported rice more than doubled between December 2010 and December 2012. High prices of imported rice are driven mostly by the depreciation of the local currency and lower imports volume.



Ghana

Cereal production

	2007-2011	2011	2012	change
	average		estimate	2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1,534	1,684	1,950	16
Rice (paddy)	378	464	481	4
Sorghum	312	287	280	-2
Others	197	184	180	-2
Total	2,421	2,619	2,891	10

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

Reference Date: 26-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal production in 2011, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Inflation remains generally stable but in northern parts access to food is constrained by rising food prices

A good cereal crop was gathered in 2012

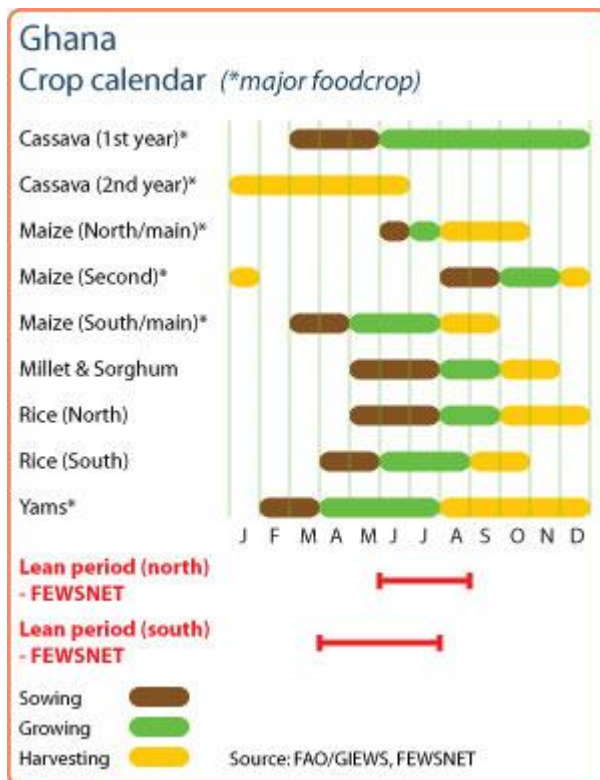
Harvesting of the 2011 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in December. The aggregate cereal production in 2011 is estimated at about 2.6 million tonnes, which is 10 percent below the previous year's record output but well above average. In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, the continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season.

The 2012 cropping season normally starts in April and land preparation is already underway in the South for planting the main maize crop,

Access to food constrained by high prices in the North

Food inflation remained mostly stable over the past 12 months following adequate supplies. Similarly, the overall inflation rate, estimated at 8.6 percent in February 2012, has remained relatively steady over the year.

However, in the Northern parts of the country, the price of grains rose significantly reflecting tight supply in the Sahel region. In Tamale, for instance, maize prices in January 2012 were close to the record levels reached in August 2011 at the peak of the lean season and 66 percent higher than in January 2011. This is negatively affecting access to food in the north, where the proportion of food insecure people is the highest in the country.



Reference Date: 24-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production estimates indicate above-average cereal production in 2011, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Inflation remains generally stable but access to food is constrained by rising food prices in the North

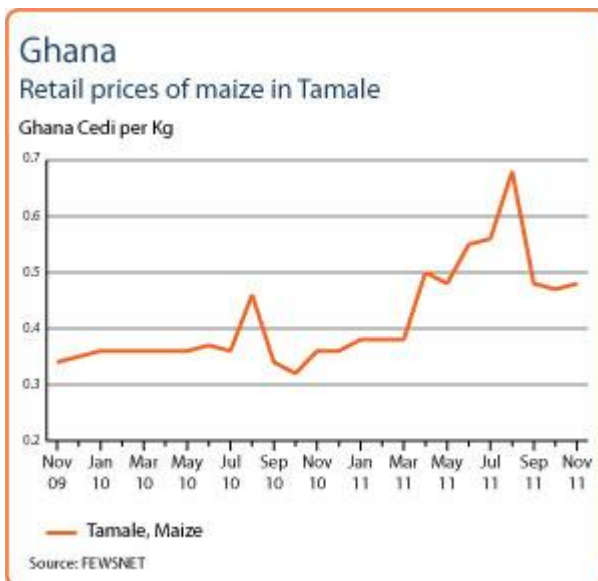
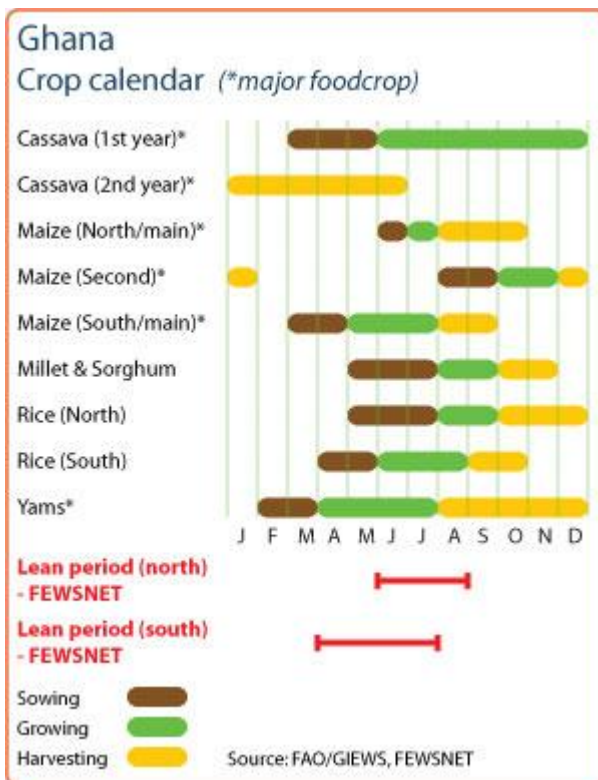
A good cereal crop was gathered in 2012.

Harvesting of the 2011 second season maize crop is nearly complete in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in December. In spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country, official preliminary estimates indicate that cereal production was similar to the previous year's above-average level of 2.9 million tonnes. Maize and sorghum production are estimated at about 1.9 million and 330 000 tonnes, respectively, representing a slight increase over 2010 level. The continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season.

Access to food constrained by high prices in the North

Food and cereal price indexes of the national Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained mostly stable during 2011 following adequate supplies. Similarly, the overall inflation rate, estimated at 8.58 percent in December 2011, has remained relatively steady over the year.

However, in the Northern parts of the country, the price of grains rose significantly reflecting tight supply in the Sahel region. In Tamale, for instance, the price of maize reached record level in August 2011. Although significant declines were recorded, especially following the arrival on markets of newly harvested crops, maize prices in November 2011 were still 33 percent higher than in the same month of previous year. This is negatively affecting access to food in the north, where up to 35 percent of the population is estimated to be food insecure.



Reference Date: 29-August-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early crop prospects are uncertain due to irregular rains in most parts of the country.
- Inflation remains generally stable
- Flooding has affected 45 000 persons and has resulted in some localized crop damages

Early prospects are uncertain for 2011 cereal crops

Harvesting of the main maize crop in southern parts of the country is underway. Seasonal rains have been erratic in many parts of the country, with dry conditions prevailing in most parts of the North, especially in June when well below average levels were received. Poor precipitations have also hindered normal planting and the germination of maize in western areas of the northern region. Overall crop prospects are unfavourable, in spite of continued Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming.

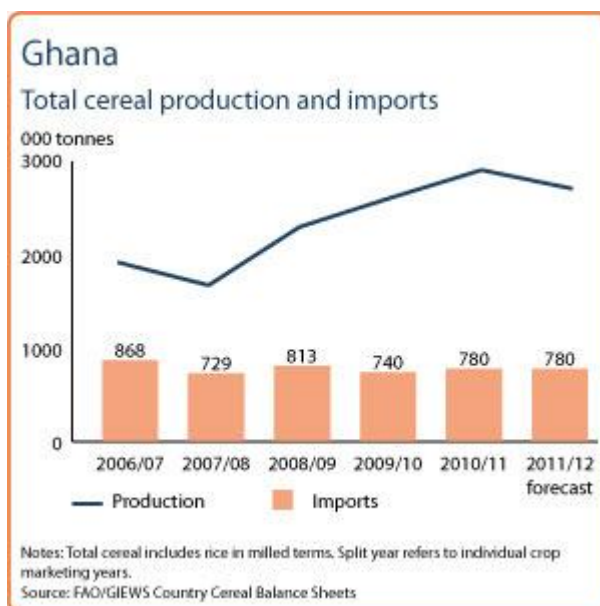
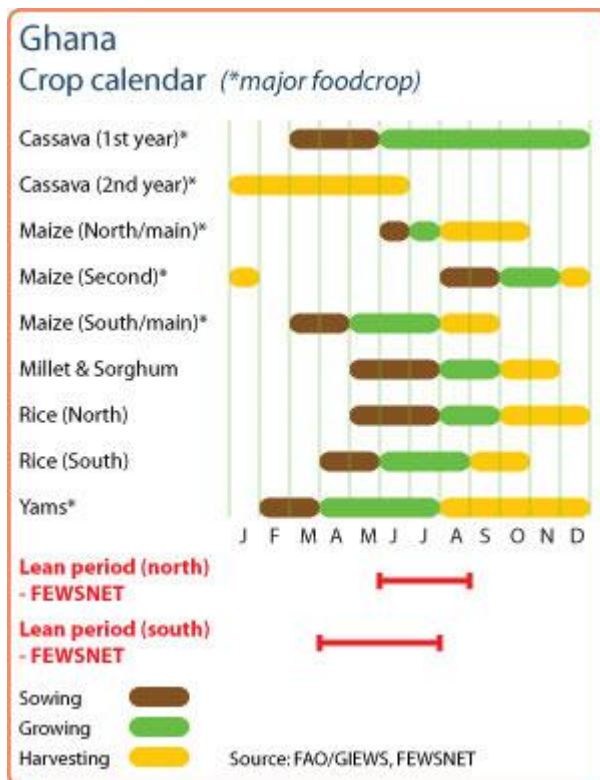
Lowest inflation rate since July 1992 recorded mainly due to decline in food prices

Food and cereal price indexes of the national Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained mostly stable during the year following adequate supplies. In July 2011 the year on year rate rose by 3.25 and 0.5 percent for food and cereal respectively. The overall inflation rate, estimated at 8.4 percent in July 2011, has remained relatively steady over the year.

However, in the Northern region, the price of grains rose significantly and in Tamale, for instance, the price of maize in July 2011 increased by 48 percent compared to 2010. Consequently, access to food is deteriorating in the North of the country, where up to 35 percent of the population is estimated to be food insecure.

Flooding has caused population displacement and damages to crops

A ten-hour torrential rainfall on 20 July 2011 and the overflow of the Birim River in the Eastern Region have caused heavy flooding in some areas. Some 872 acres of farmland have been submerged and crops washed away while some bridges and roads have been damaged making difficult movement of people and goods. Over 45 000 people have been displaced in Eastern, Volta, Ashanti and Central regions. The affected persons are in need of food, shelter and non-food relief items.



Reference Date: 23-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 cropping season has started in the South, while seasonably dry conditions still prevail in the north
- Cereal production increased by 8 percent in 2010
- Inflation remains generally stable
- Flooding affected 35 000 persons and resulted in some localized crop damage

The 2011 cropping season has started in the South

Seasonal rains commenced in April in the southern part of the country, allowing land preparation and maize planting to start. Dry conditions prevail in most parts of the North, where planting is expected to start in the weeks ahead with the onset of the rains.

Despite erratic rains, a good cereal harvest was gathered in 2010

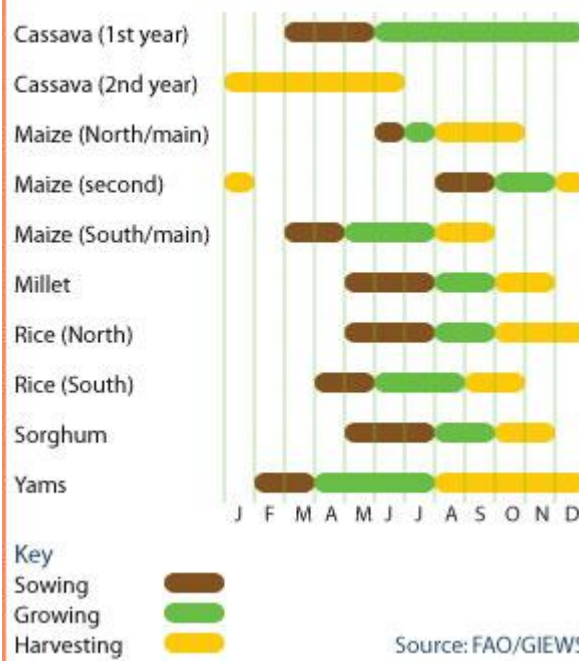
In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, official estimates indicate that cereal production expanded by 8 percent in 2010, over previous year's level, to 2.8 million tonnes. This is due partly to the continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, which supported crop development in many parts of the country. Rice production (paddy), estimated at about 491 600 tonnes, is about 24 percent higher than the 2009 output, while maize productions is estimated at about 1.87million tonnes compared with 1.6 million tonnes in 2009. By contrast, millet and sorghum declined by 10 percent and 8 percent respectively.

Cereal and food prices have remained mostly stable reflecting adequate supplies. As a result, although a slight increase in inflation was observed at the beginning of the year (due to a 30 percent rise in petrol prices in January), the year-on-year inflation rate, estimated at 9.02 in April 2011, has been relatively stable since July 2010, according to the country's statistics office.

Floods caused damage to crop

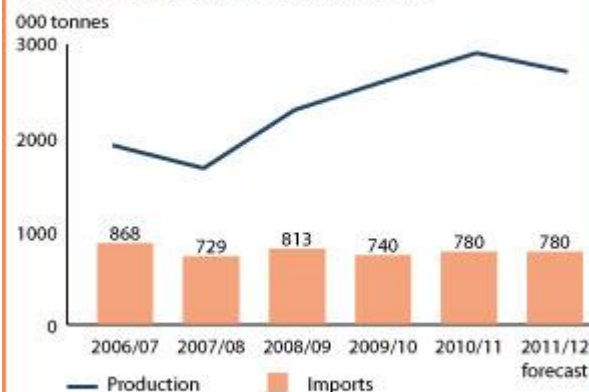
Last year, heavy rains and spill-over flood waters, due to the opening of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso, led to some localised crop losses mainly along river banks in the Upper East and Northern regions. Localised crop damage was also reported in the south. The floodwaters have damaged an estimated 6 000 hectares of crop land and affected about 35 000 people across the country.

Crop calendar Ghana



Ghana

Total cereal production and imports



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

Reference Date: 1-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production estimates indicate a slight expansion in cereal production in 2010, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Food and cereal prices remained stable during 2010;
- Flooding affected 35 000 persons and resulted in some localized crop damage

Despite erratic rains, a good cereal harvest was gathered in 2010

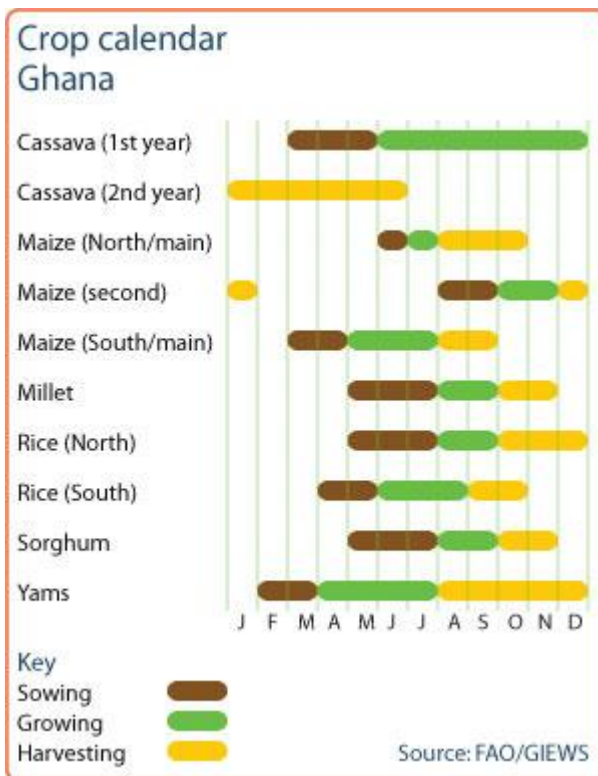
In the South, harvesting of last year's second season maize is nearly complete. In the North, which only has one rainy season, harvesting of cereals was completed in December. Rainfall has been erratic in southern regions, particularly in Volta and Eastern regions. By contrast, rainfall levels in the north, with the exception of Upper West, were above average.

In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, official preliminary estimates indicate that cereal production expanded by 4 percent in 2010, over previous year's level, to 2.69 million tonnes. Maize and sorghum production are estimated at about 1.67 million and 360 000 tonnes, respectively, representing a slight increase over 2009 level. The continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season.

Cereal and food prices have remained mostly stable in 2010. As a result, the year-on-year inflation rate has continued to fall, decreasing to 8.58 percent in December 2010, marking the 18th straight month of slowing or stable inflation and bringing the rate to the lowest since June 1992, according to the country's statistics office.

Floods caused damage to crop

Last year, heavy rains and spill-over flood waters, due to the opening of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso, led to some localised crop losses mainly along river banks in the Upper East and Northern regions. Localised crop damage was also reported in the south. The floodwaters have damaged an estimated 6 000 hectares of crop land and affected about 35 000 people across the country.



Ghana				
Cereal production				
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1294	1620	1676	3
Sorghum	314	351	359	2
Rice (paddy)	284	391	412	5
Others	187	246	252	2
Total	2079	2607	2699	4

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

Reference Date: 01-October-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production estimates indicate a slight expansion in cereal production, despite erratic precipitation from March to August
- Food and cereal prices remained stable during 2010; slight decreases observed in maize prices as supplies from recently harvested crops reach the market
- Flooding affects 35 000 persons and results in some localized crop damage

Despite erratic rains, preliminary estimates indicates good cereal production

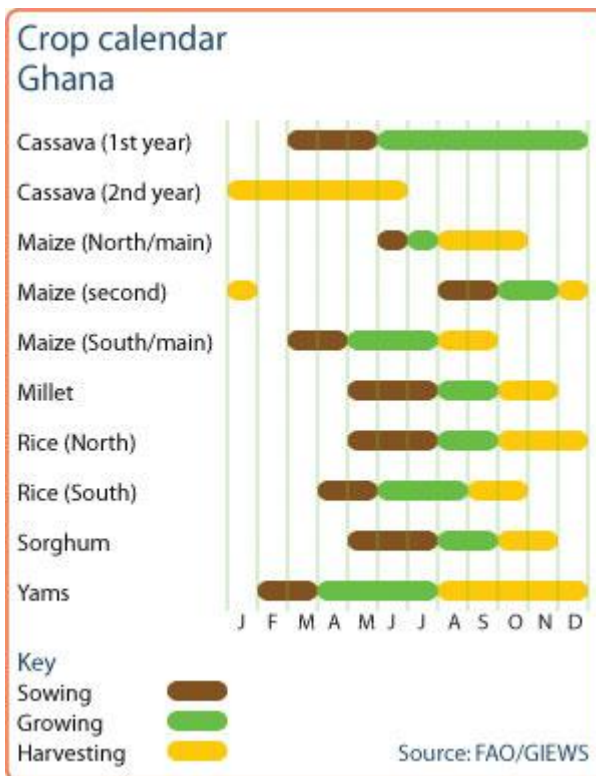
In the South, harvesting of first season maize crop is nearly complete, while planting of the second season crop is underway. In the North, which only has one rainy season, harvesting of cereals has begun. Rainfall has been erratic in southern regions with cumulative levels (March-August) below the 30 year average, particularly in Volta and Eastern regions. By contrast, rainfall levels in the north, with the exception of Upper West, were above average.

Heavy rains and spill-over flood waters, due to the opening of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso, led to some localised crop losses mainly along river banks in the Upper East and Northern regions. Localised crop damage was also reported in the south. The floodwaters have damaged an estimated 6 000 hectares of crop land and affected about 35 000 people across the country.

In spite of the erratic precipitation in parts of the country, official preliminary estimates indicate that cereal production expanded by 3 percent, over last year's level, to 2.5 million tonnes. Maize and sorghum production are estimated at about 1.7 million and 360 000 tonnes, respectively, representing a slight increase over last year's level. The continuation of Government assistance, in the form of subsidized fertilisers and increased technical support for large-scale farming, supported crop development throughout the season.

Food prices remain steady throughout 2010

Since the beginning of the year, cereal and food prices have remained very stable and the average annual inflation rate in the food sector has continued to fall, decreasing to 9 percent in August 2010, compared to 17 percent in the same month in 2009. At the regional level, the southern regions of Western, Volta and Greater Accra are still experiencing the highest yearly food inflation rates. Market prices of maize in the Northern and Upper East regions are between 20 and 40 percent below levels observed at the same period last year, having remained comparatively stable since the start of 2010. The arrival of recently harvested crops and the good stock levels from the previous year have contributed to the stable prices. However, an estimated 1.2 million persons, approximately 5 percent of the population, remain food insecure, mainly located in the Northern Savannah Zone.



Ghana Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1202	1470	1620	10
Sorghum	301	331	351	6
Rice (paddy)	254	302	391	29
Others	166	194	246	27
Total	1924	2297	2607	13

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

Reference Date: 12-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early heavy rains were recorded in central and southern regions in February heralding a good start to the 2010/11 cropping season
- In 2009/10 favourable growing condition and an expansion in the cropping area resulted in an increased cereal harvest.
- National food prices began to increase, following seasonal declines between July and October 2009
- An estimated 1.2 million people are categorised as food insecure, mainly located in the north

Early rains herald a good start to the 2010 agricultural season

Heavy and above average rainfall was recorded in mid-February in the major cereal producing regions of Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Eastern; prior to the normal start of the rainy season (March-September). Rainfall levels declined in the first dekad of March, but remained above average. Government assistance, in the form of imported subsidized fertilisers and increased investment for large-scale farming, is expected to support cereal production growth in the forthcoming 2010/11 cropping season. Farmers also received new varieties of maize, which are drought tolerant and resistant to the *Striga hermonthica* parasite. The new varieties that were released by Ghanaian Crops Research Institute (CRI) in collaboration with the Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of Ghana are expected to help boost crop yields.

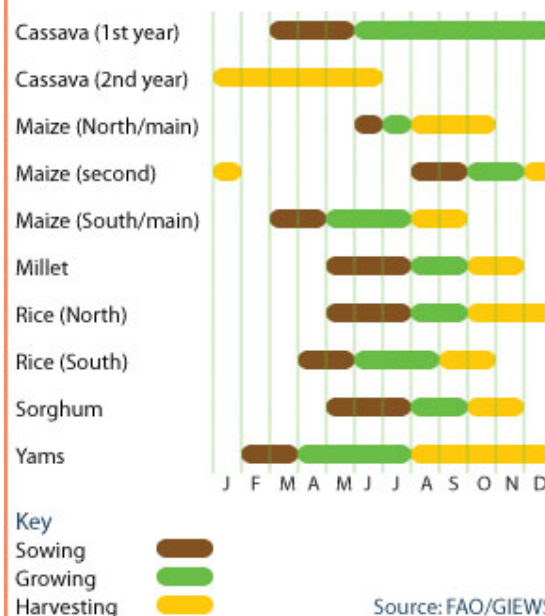
Favourable growing conditions boost cereal production in 2009

Harvesting of the main cereal crops (maize, sorghum and rice) for the 2009/10 season was completed in December. The performance of the crops was good, despite dry conditions during April and May, which affected some maize crops in Ashanti and Eastern regions. Recent estimates indicate that aggregate cereal production grew by 13 percent, relative to previous year's output, to 2.6 million tonnes. The 2009 harvest for maize and rice marks the second consecutive year of production growth. However, delays in the distribution of combined harvesters to the northern regions delayed the rice harvest, which is reportedly to have led to greater post-harvest losses. The secondary maize crop was also affected by late rains that led to smaller planted area. Consequently the secondary maize harvest, completed in January, was below expectations.

Steady increase in food prices

The national food price index followed a seasonal decline between July and October 2009, but has since risen up. Despite the increase in the food price index compared to February 2009 levels, the annual inflation rate is lower than the highs experienced in 2008 and 2009. At the regional level, the Upper East and West, as well as Volta, are still experiencing the highest yearly food inflation rates. According to the 2010 Budget Statement and Economic Policy, the government proposed to eliminate the import duty exemption on some food items, including rice

Crop calendar Ghana



Ghana Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1202	1470	1620	10
Sorghum	301	331	351	6
Rice (paddy)	254	302	391	29
Others	166	194	246	27
Total	1924	2297	2607	13

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

and wheat, which were introduced during the price crisis in 2008. The higher costs could be passed on to the consumer by importers, potentially placing pressure on food inflation.

Food insecurity remains a concern in the north

About 1.2 million people, predominantly located in the rural areas of the Northern Savannah Zone, remain food insecure, according to a WFP vulnerability assessment (May 2009). Overall, food security conditions are reported to have improved in the area, following good harvests in 2009; however, high cereal prices are continuing to negatively impact on households that are primarily reliant on markets for food supplies. Recent widespread bushfires in Northern and Brong Ahafo regions, caused by land burning in preparation for cultivation, left 5 000 people homeless. The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) has provided assistance to the affected population.

Reference Date: 18-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains and expansion in cropping area contribute to increase in 2009/10 seasons cereal production
- National food prices begin to decline since the mid-2009
- An estimated 1.2 million people still remain food insecure, mainly located in the north

Favourable growing conditions boost cereal production

Harvesting of the main cereal crops (maize, sorghum and millet) for the 2009/10 season was completed in December. The performance of the cereal crops has been good; with aggregate cereal production estimated to have grown by 14 percent, relative to last year's average output, to 2.6 million tonnes. Good rains during the main cropping season, coupled with the continued increased use of subsidized fertiliser, supported this growth. In addition, an expansion in the area planted, particularly for maize, which grew by a fifth, was a primary factor contributing to the production gains. Cereal crops in some districts in the Ashanti and Eastern regions were affected by slight water deficits at the beginning of season; however, this had negligible impact on aggregate production levels. Estimates indicate that Ghana will be self-sufficient in major coarse grains. However, the country has a significant structural deficit in rice, which is expected to be met by commercial imports. To reduce the reliance on imported rice, the Government has proposed strengthen collaborations with the Rice Growers Association, in efforts to resolve production bottlenecks before the start of the 2010/11 season.

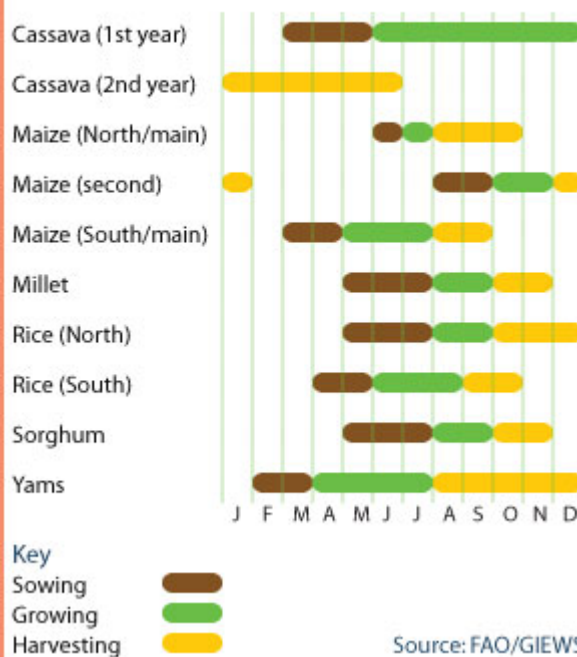
Cereal prices decline, but significant regional disparities exist

Nationally, the food price index declined between July (peak level) and November, increasing marginally in December. However, prices still remain above the levels recorded in December last year and 30 percent above prices in 2007. At a regional level, there exists a significant variation in annual food inflation. In December, the annual food inflation rate in Volta, which is a relatively small cereal producing area, was 45 percent, while Ashanti had the lowest rate for the same month, at -1 percent. The government has proposed to eliminate the import duty exemption on some food items, including rice and wheat, which were introduced during the price crisis in 2008, according to the 2010 Budget Statement and Economic Policy. The higher costs could be passed onto the consumer by importers, potentially placing pressure on food inflation.

Food insecurity remains a concern in the north

In the Northern Region, significant rainfall during the beginning of September reportedly caused localised flooding, damaging maize, millet, sorghum and rice crops in the affected areas. Overall, it is estimated that a total of 1.2 million people remain food insecure, who are predominantly located in the rural areas of the Northern Savannah Zone. The Government has planned to establish the Buffer Stock Management Agency, to administer a food security stock and would also be mandated to intervene in the cereal market to maintain competitive prices. Furthermore, an additional 250 000 pupils are expected to be included in

Crop calendar Ghana



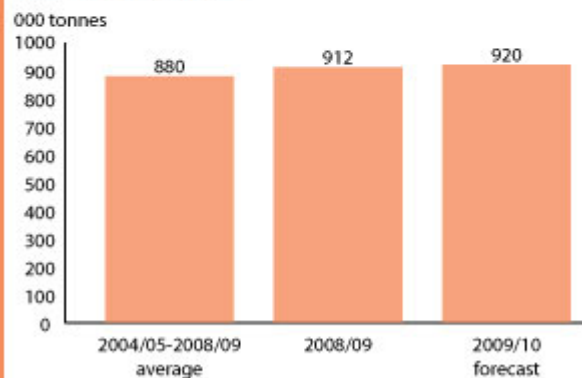
Ghana

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1202	1470	1645	12
Sorghum	301	331	377	14
Rice	254	302	356	18
Others	166	194	232	20
Total	1924	2297	2610	14

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

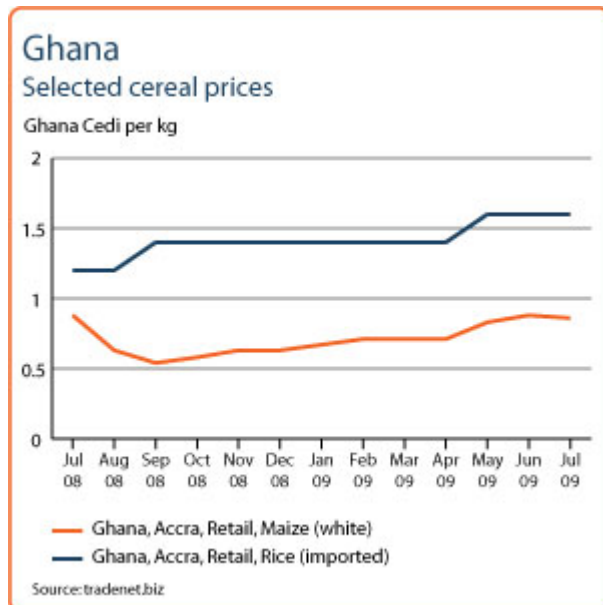
Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

the School Feeding Programme for 2010.



Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable crop prospects in the northern regions
- Government continues to support agricultural production through subsidised inputs
- Flooding in north and south could lead to localised crop losses

Favourable crop prospects in northern Ghana

In the South, harvesting of the main maize crop is scheduled to be completed in September. In the North with only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains crops is about to start. Localised water deficits in the Upper Western Region and Northern Region in June were followed by increased rains from July, improving crop prospects. By contrast, southern Ghana received insufficient rainfall during the crucial development phase of the main maize crop, particularly in the transitional zones of Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Eastern and Volta Regions.

The government has continued the provision of 50 percent subsidies on fertilizers in 2009 to further support agriculture production, and this has reportedly encouraged farmers to increase their acreage. Overall, 2009 cereal production is expected to be similar to last year's average crop.

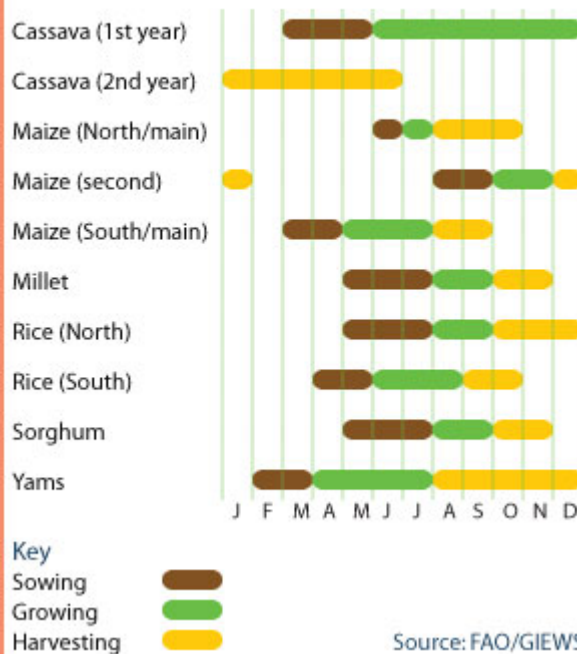
Food prices decline, but remain above average

Nationally, year-on-year food inflation in July 2009 declined to 15.2 percent, continuing a declining trend since the beginning of 2009. However, cereal prices still remain at above average levels, severely impacting households' purchasing power, with poor urban households particularly vulnerable to the current conditions. A decline in remittances (16 percent decrease in January-February 2009, compared to the same months in 2008) will also negatively impact income levels of recipient households, further threatening food security. Furthermore, the weaker cedi, as well as the removal of import duties, may cause inflationary pressure during the remainder of 2009. Maize (white) prices, recorded in Accra in July 2009, are at a comparable level to prices observed in the previous year, but are double the level relative to the pre-crisis period in July 2007. It is anticipated that domestic cereal prices will begin to decline in September as the harvest reaches the market.

Localised flooding in the north damages cereal crops

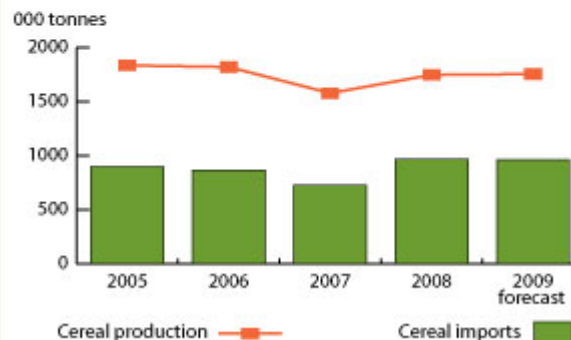
Heavy rainfall in June and July has led to flooding in south Ghana, affecting 19 755 people in western parts of Accra, and Eastern, Volta, Central, Western and Ashanti regions. In the Northern Region, significant rainfall during the beginning of September has reportedly caused localised flooding, damaging maize, millet, sorghum and rice crops in the affected areas.

Crop calendar Ghana



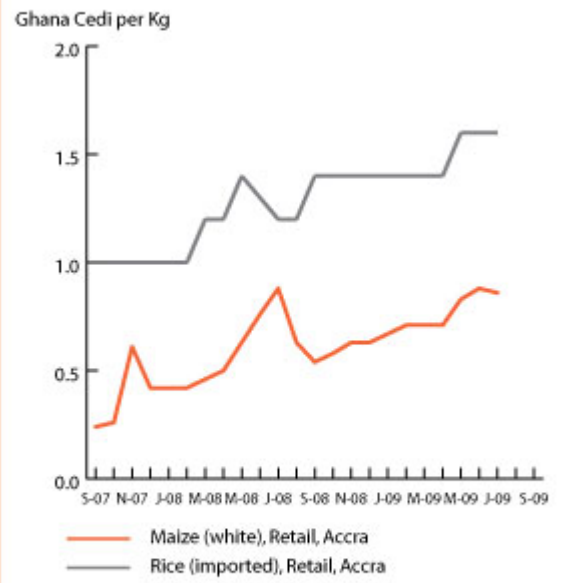
Cereal production and imports Ghana

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1131	1113	1113	0%
Sorghum	295	300	300	0%
Rice (milled)	161	184	192	4.3%
Other	162	151	151	0%
Total Cereals	1744	1748	1756	0.5%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Ghana Selected cereal food prices



Source: tradenet.biz