



GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 04-May-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Timely start of 2021 planting season
- Average rice production harvested in 2020
- Increasing prices of staple food due to inflation
- Continued assistance needed for most food insecure households

Timely start of 2021 planting season

Following a timely onset of seasonal rains in late March, planting operations for paddy rice, the only cereal grown in the country, are ongoing and the harvest is expected to start in September. The cumulative rainfall amounts have been average to above average, supporting the development of early-planted crops. While planting activities will continue until end-July, the crops already in place are at sprouting, seedling and tillering stages and weeding activities are regularly taking place.

According to the latest Forum on the Agro-Hydro-Climatic Seasonal Forecast in the Gulf of Guinea countries (PRESAGG), above-average rainfall amounts are expected during the April/June period, with likely positive effects on crop production and availability of pasture and water for livestock.

Forage availability is currently satisfactory in the main grazing areas of the country, allowing animals to maintain good body conditions and enhance their market value. The animal health situation is generally good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Trypanosomiasis and Contagious Bovine Peri-pneumonia.

Average rice production harvested in 2020

Despite localized flooding in some areas of the South-Western Region, the 2020 national rice production is estimated at 270 000 tonnes, similar to the five-year average and slightly below the previous year.

Imports account for more than half of country's total cereal requirements. Rice for human consumption accounts for over 80 percent of imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 percent and 6 percent, respectively. Import requirements for the 2020/21 marketing year (November/October) are forecast at an above-average level of 540 000 tonnes as local traders are aiming to replenish their stocks.

Liberia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

Cassava (1st year)*

Cassava (2nd year)*

Rice*

Yams



lean period

Sowing

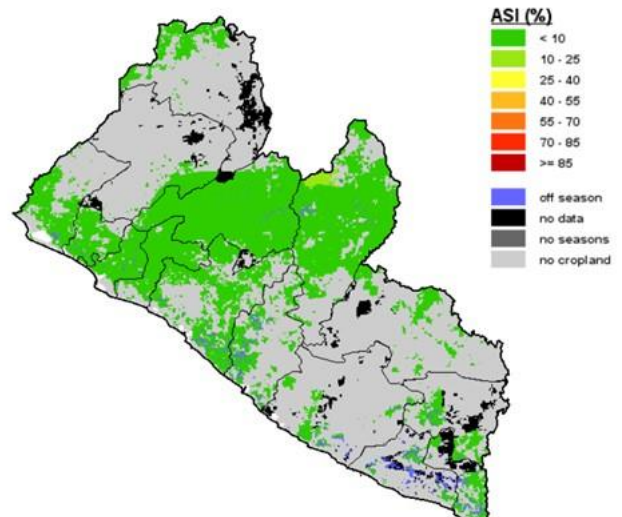
Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Liberia - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, April 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Increasing staple food prices due to inflation

Although the implementation of the COVID-19 restriction measures has disrupted operations in some markets, the overall supply of both local and imported commodities were satisfactory in April 2021. Prices of staple food have been on the rise in most domestic markets since early 2021. Prices of rice reported the major increases, between 5 and 40 percent in early 2021 above the level recorded during the same period in 2020. Rural markets in Maryland and River Gee counties continue to report the highest food prices than other counties due to poor internal trade flows. The increased prices in the country are attributed to the poor conditions of roads, high food inflation and the weakening of the local currency.

Continued assistance needed for most food insecure households

According to the March 2021 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 773 000 people were estimated to need food assistance from March to May 2021. This number is expected to increase to 939 000 people during the lean period from June to August 2021, if no mitigation actions are taken. The main drivers of the food insecurity are the effects on crop production of floods and high infestations of pests, including Fall Armyworm in some localized areas, coupled with high inflation rates, weakening local currency and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the value chain.

According to the UNHCR, the number of registered refugees in the country was about 8 200 as of October 2020 (last available data).

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Liberia

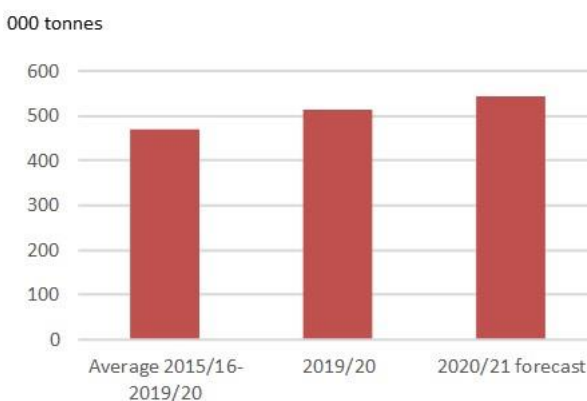
Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	269	276	270	-2.4
Total	269	276	270	-2.4

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

Liberia

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.



GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 05-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Timely start of 2020 planting season
- Average rice production harvested in 2019
- Increasing prices of staple food due to inflation
- Pockets of poverty remain in country

Timely start of 2020 planting season

Following a timely onset of seasonal rains in late March, planting operations for paddy rice, the only cereal grown in the country, are ongoing and the harvest is expected to start in September. Since the onset of the season, adequate rainfall amounts are supporting soil moisture conditions for crop growth and development. In most areas, crops are at sprouting, seedling and tillering stages, and weeding activities are regularly underway. The latest Agro-Hydro-Climatic Seasonal Forecast in Sudano-Sahelian Africa (PRESASS) points to below-average rainfall amounts during the July-September period, with a likely negative impact on crop yields as well as the availability of pasture and water for livestock.

Recent favourable rains have contributed to the recovery of pasture conditions. Currently, forage availability is satisfactory in the main grazing areas of the country, allowing animals to maintain good body conditions and enhance their market value. The animal health situation is generally good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Trypanosomiasis and Contagious Bovine Peripneumonia.

Average rice production harvested in 2019

Despite localized flooding in some parts of the South-Western Region, the 2019 national rice production was estimated at 269 000 tonnes, similar to the five-year average and 4 percent above the previous year.

Imports account for more than half of country's total cereal requirements. Rice for human consumption accounts for over 80 percent of imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 percent and 6 percent, respectively. Cereal import requirements for the 2020 marketing year (January-December) are forecast at 500 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and about 10 percent above the average as local traders are aiming to replenish their stocks.

Liberia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

Cassava (1st year)*

Cassava (2nd year)*

Rice*

Yams



lean period

Sowing

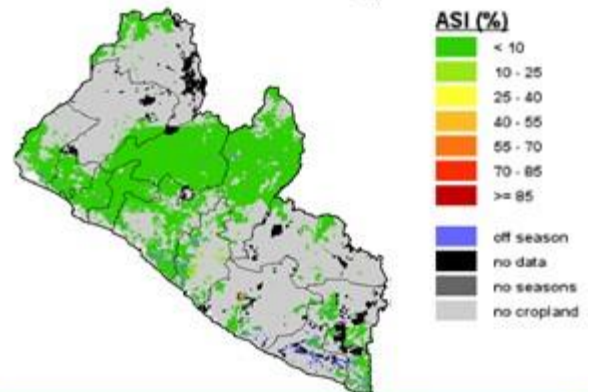
Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Liberia - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Increasing staple food prices due to inflation

Markets are well supplied with both local and imported commodities across the country. However, field reports indicate that prices of staple foods continued to increase in early 2020 due to some macro-economic factors including the high inflation rate, the liberalization of the exchange rate and the weakening of the local currency. According to Trading Economics, the year-on-year food inflation rate increased to 32.38 percent in October 2019. The large trade deficits are maintaining a downward pressure on the exchange rate, which weakened from LRD 164 per USD in early 2019 to about LRD 197 per USD in early 2020.

Pockets of poverty remain in country

Despite the overall satisfactory food security situation, some vulnerable households still need external food assistance. According to the March 2019 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 41 500 people were estimated to be need food assistance during the lean period between June and August 2019. According to the UNHCR, the number of registered refugees in the country was about 8 600 as of December 2019, slightly down from about 9 000 in March 2019.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Government has decreed a State of Emergency to include travel restrictions between counties as of early April. The Government has also taken some sanitary, social and economic measures.

In early April, the World Bank through the International Development Association (IDA) approved a USD 7.5 million grant to strengthen the preparedness of the national health system in terms of prevention, detection and response to the threat posed by the virus.

Official restrictions on population movements, combined with heightened levels of fear, have led many people to stay at 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 negative impact on 2020 agricultural production.

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Liberia

Cereal Production

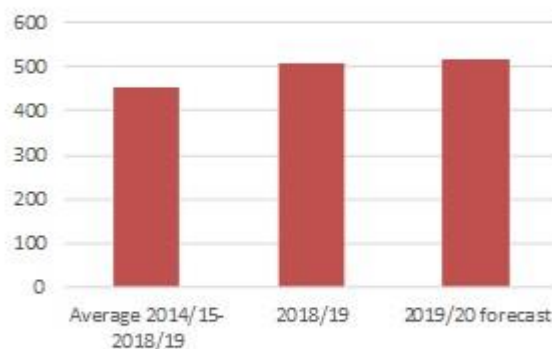
	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018 percent
	000 tonnes			
Rice (paddy)	267	258	269	4.3
Total	267	258	269	4.3

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

Liberia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 20-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allowed timely planting of 2019 rice crop
- Average rice production harvested in 2018
- Decreasing economic growth and food price inflation
- Pockets of poverty remain in the country

Favourable moisture conditions allowed timely start of 2019 planting season

The onset of the rains in late February and early March 2019 allowed a timely start of the cropping season. Planting of the paddy crop, to be harvested from September to December, started in April 2019. Rainfed paddy is the only cereal grown in the country. Adequate rainfall amounts are supporting soil moisture conditions for crop growth and development and contributed to the recovery of pasture conditions across the country. Weeding activities are underway in most cropping areas.

Average rice production harvested in 2018

Despite localized flooding in some parts of the South-Western Region, the 2018 national rice production was estimated at 280 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year-average.

Imports account for more than half of country's total cereal requirements. Rice for human consumption accounts for over 80 percent of imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 percent and 6 percent, respectively. Cereal import requirements for the 2019 marketing year (January-December) are forecast at 500 000 tonnes, about 2 percent above the previous year and 16 percent above the average due to higher demand for human consumption.

Decreasing economic growth and food price inflation

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth will slow down from 2.9 percent in 2018 to 1.6 percent in 2019 as a result of unfavourable prospects for international prices of some of the country's exports, including iron ore, gold and diamonds. Moreover, the local currency is expected to weaken from around LRD 130 per USD in 2018 to LRD 166 per USD in 2019 as a result of a greater exchange rate liberalization and a large current account deficit, which put downward pressure on the Liberian Dollar.

Liberia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



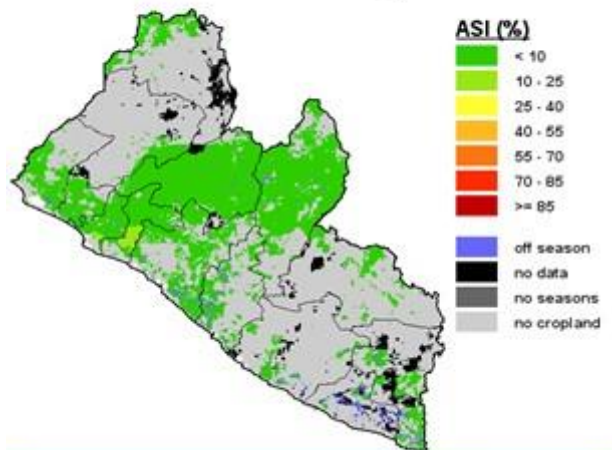
lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Liberia - Agricultural Stress index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, April 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Despite the depreciation of the Liberian Dollar, the year-on-year food inflation is expected to decline from 23.6 percent in 2018 to 13.9 percent in 2019 as a result of the lower prices of staple food, including rice, as well as oil for consumption.

Pockets of poverty remain in the country

Despite the overall satisfactory food security conditions, some vulnerable households still need external food assistance. According to the March 2019 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 29 500 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2019. This number is expected to increase to 41 500 during the June to August 2019 period, if no mitigation actions are taken. According to UNHCR, the number of registered refugees in the country is around 9 000 as of March 2019, down from about 11 000 in April 2018.

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Liberia

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	276	279	280	0.2
Total	276	279	280	0.2

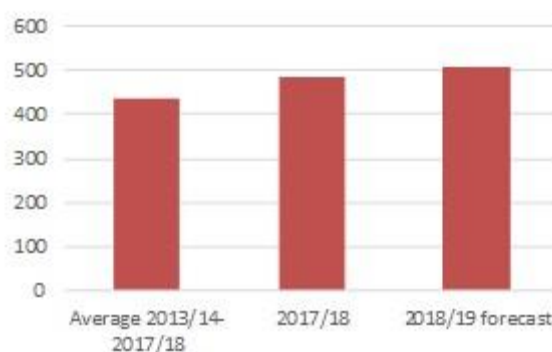
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Liberia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 18-June-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions in 2018 cropping season allow timely planting of rice
- Average cereal import requirements forecasted
- Strong economic growth projected, food price inflation increasing
- Pockets of poverty remain

Timely start of planting season

The timely onset of rains in late February and early March 2018 allowed for a normal start of the cropping season. Planting of paddy crop, to be harvested from September to December, is to be completed in July. Rainfed paddy is the only cereal grown in the country.

Despite localized dry spells in July and August 2017, the 2017 national cereal production was estimated at 279 000 tonnes, about 6 percent above the previous year and similar to the five-year average.

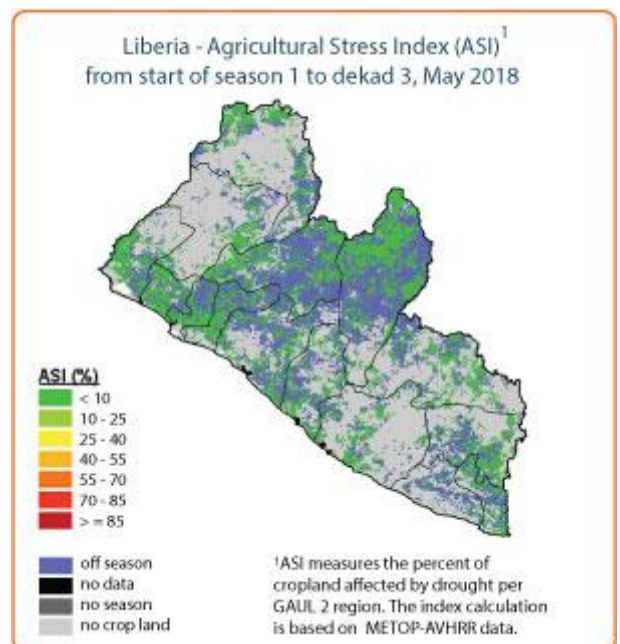
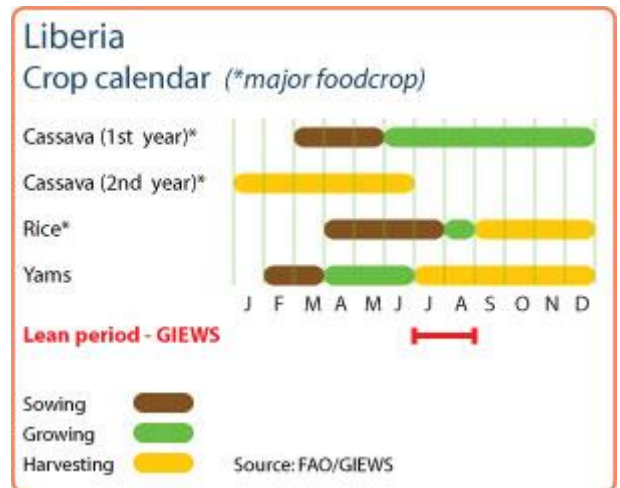
Average cereal import requirement forecast

Imports account for more than half of the country's total cereal requirements. Rice for human consumption makes up for over 80 percent of the imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 and 6 percent, respectively. Cereal import requirements for the 2018 marketing year (January-December) are forecast at a near-average level of 437 000 tonnes.

Strong economic growth projected, food price inflation increasing

There has been a significant recovery of marketing activities since the effects of the Ebola outbreak (June-August 2014) on the national economy (movement restrictions and limited trade flows). According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth will pick up during 2018 due to the normalized political environment and infrastructure improvements, sustained growth in agriculture with palm oil and rubber production as well as gold production. The GDP growth is forecast at 4.1 percent in 2018, over 60 percent up from an estimated 2.5 percent in 2017, and well above the estimated 0.7 percent in 2014 during the Ebola outbreak.

Field reports indicate that prices of imported commodities are rising due to the weakening currency (around LRD 130 per



USD in June 2018 compared to around LRD 90 per USD a year earlier), stronger domestic demand and higher average oil prices. In addition, according to the Central Bank of Liberia, the year-on-year food inflation was 19.5 percent as of March 2018, up from 7.6 percent reported in March 2017.

Pockets of poverty remain

As the economy continues to recover, households' livelihoods and incomes are returning to the levels observed prior to the Ebola crisis. However, despite a projected economic growth, pockets of poverty still remain. According to the October 2017 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 29 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from October to December 2017 (last figures available). This number is expected to increase to 43 000 people during the June to August 2018 period if no mitigation actions are taken. According to UNHCR, the number of registered refugees in the country is around 11 000 as of April 2018, down from about 15 000 in June 2017.

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Liberia
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	279	269	279	4
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	279	269	279	4

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





GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 17-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for 2017 harvest
- Increased import requirement forecasted
- Food price inflation increased in August 2017, but remains below the peak in November 2016
- Number of food insecure people declines, but humanitarian assistance still needed

Favourable prospects for 2017 harvest

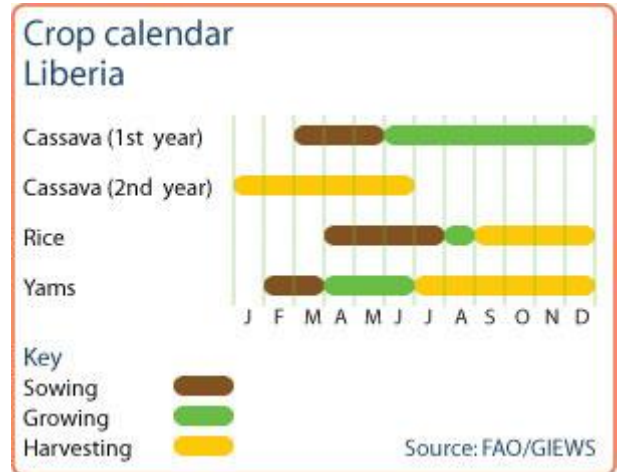
Harvesting of the 2017 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, is ongoing and will be completed by the end of December. The early onset of rainfall in February allowed for an on-time start to the cropping season. Although localized dryness was observed following a below-average rainfall in July and August, overall production outlook is favourable and preliminary estimates put the 2017 aggregate paddy production at about 275 000 tonnes, 2 percent above the previous year's output and slightly below the five-year average. Cassava production is expected to continue to grow, expanding by close to 40 percent over last year's level and increasing by over 70 percent over the 2010-2014 average production, to reach 892 000 tonnes.

Increased import requirement forecasted

Imports account for more than half of the country's total cereal requirements. Cereal import requirements for 2017 are forecast at over 457 000 tonnes, about 3 percent above the previous year's level and 9 percent over the five-year average. Rice makes up for over 80 percent of the imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 and 6 percent, respectively.

Food price inflation increased in August 2017, but remains below the peak in November 2016

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June-August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted the marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. Since then, there has been a significant recovery of marketing activities. However, the continued depreciation of the Liberian dollar (around LRD 120/USD in early November 2017 compared to around LRD 90/USD a year earlier) and higher average oil prices in 2017 are reported to be raising prices of imported commodities. According to the Central Bank of Liberia, year-on-year food inflation was 5.4 percent as of August 2017, up from 3.8 percent reported in July 2017, but well below the high level of about 14 percent reached in November and December 2016.



**Liberia
Cereal production**

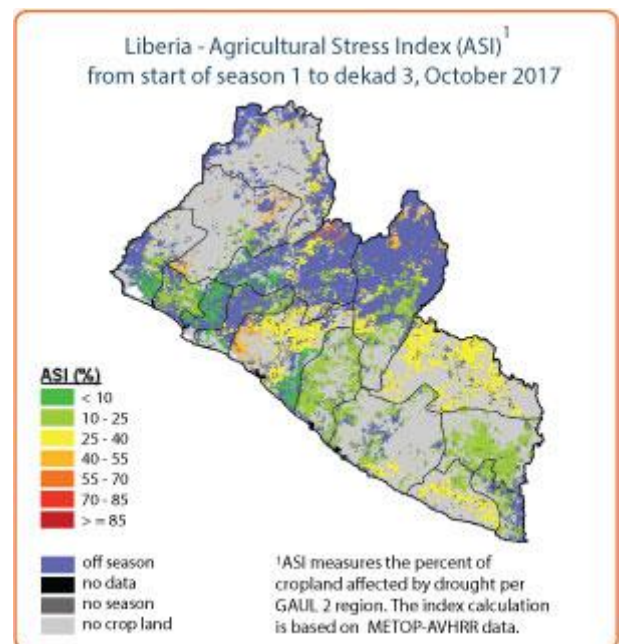
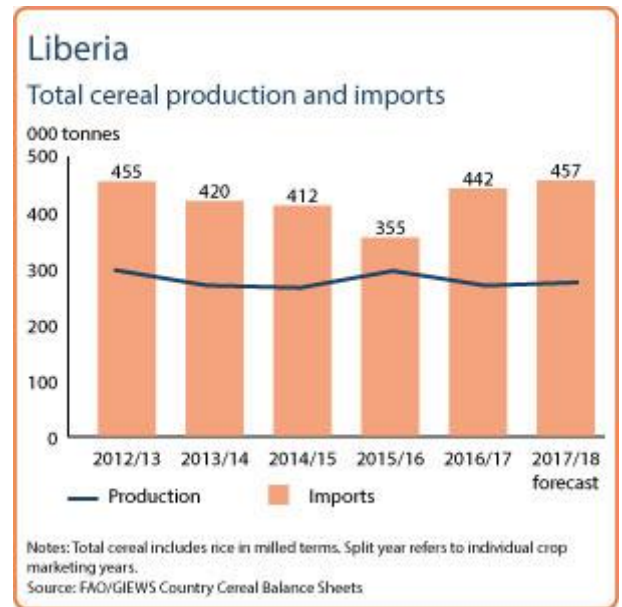
	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	279	269	275	2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	279	269	275	2

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

Number of food insecure declines, but humanitarian assistance still needed

The Ebola outbreak in 2014 seriously affected all sectors of the economy. The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecasts a stronger rebound of 3.4 percent growth in 2017, well above the growth rates of the last two years, but still well below the 8.7 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. As the economy continues to recover, household livelihoods and incomes are returning to the levels observed prior to the Ebola crisis. The Ebola outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. The latest “Cadre Harmonisé” exercise conducted in the country estimated that around 15 000 people were in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above between June and August 2017 across the country, down from about 21 000 a year before. According to UNHCR, the number of registered refugees in the country, most of them from Côte d’Ivoire and residing in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee and Maryland counties, was around 12 000 as of end-September, down from about 19 000 at the end of 2016. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it was resumed in mid-December 2015 following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian governments.

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GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 09-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Food crop production declined in 2016
- Food markets recovered significantly following Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)-related disruptions
- Number of food insecure people estimated at about 53 000

Below-average rice harvest gathered in 2016

Harvesting of the 2016 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, was completed in December. The overall rainfall situation was conducive for crop development. However, localized dryness during planting of upland rice and flooding of lowland in some areas combined with increased pest infestations led to a decline in national rice output. Preliminary estimates put the 2016 aggregate paddy production at about 269 000 tonnes, 9 percent below the previous year's output and 5 percent below-average. By contrast, cassava production rebounded strongly by 27 percent compared to the previous year's output.

The EVD outbreak had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors in 2014. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially affected by the outbreak that started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop-growing season until the critical harvesting period. However, production recovered significantly in 2015.

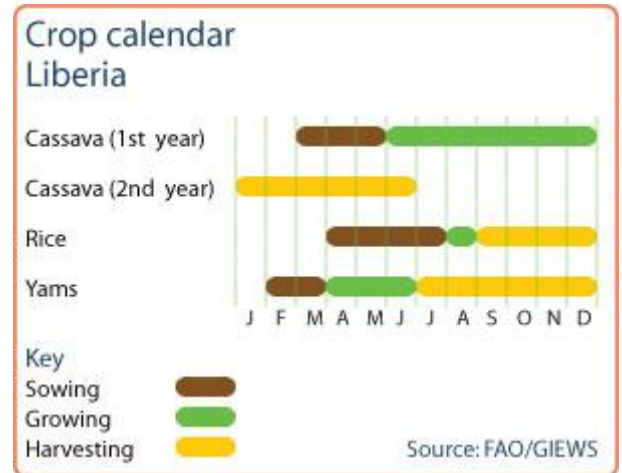
Food markets recovered significantly

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June-August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. There has been a significant recovery of marketing activities. However, prices of imported commodities are reported to be on the increase, driven by the depreciation of the local currency.

Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2016 are estimated at over 400 000 tonnes, about 13 percent above the previous year's level.

Lingering effects of the EVD outbreak continue to affect food security

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) revised

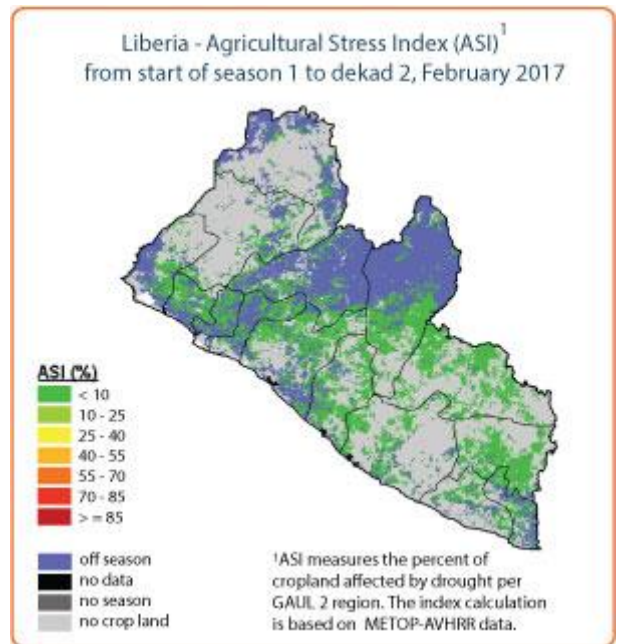
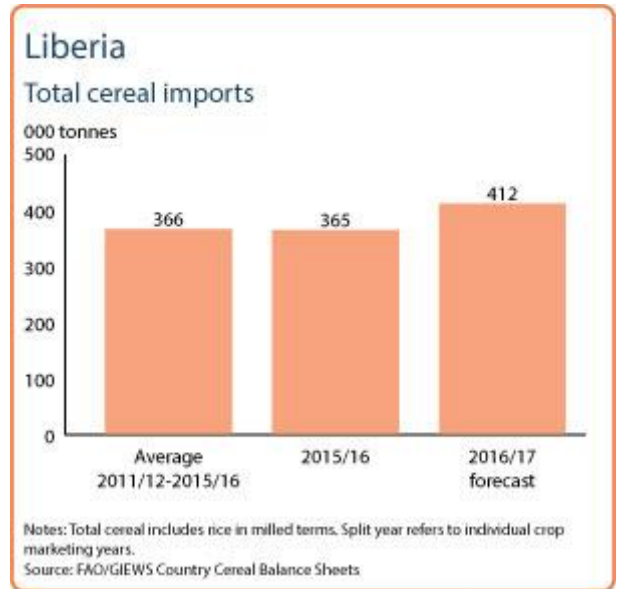


**Liberia
Cereal production**

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	284	296	269	-9
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	284	296	269	-9

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

estimates, GDP growth was estimated at 0.2 percent in 2016 and 0.3 percent in 2015, owing to the low output for Liberia's main exports and reduced harvests in 2014. A stronger rebound of 3.9 percent growth is forecast in 2017, well above the growth rate of the last two years, but still well below the 8.7 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. As the economy continues to recover, household livelihoods and incomes are returning to the levels observed prior to the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. Although the Ebola outbreak has ended, about 52 960 people were estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above between October and December across the country, according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis. Moreover, according to UNHCR, Liberia is hosting about 19 000 registered refugees as of end-December 2016, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it was resumed in mid-December 2015 following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian governments.



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GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 16-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Food crop production to further recover in 2016
- Food markets recovered significantly following EVD related disruptions
- Number of food insecure people estimated at about 21 400

Above-average harvests expected following favourable rains

Harvesting of the 2016 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, is underway. Rains started on time for the 2016-cropping season and were generally adequate. Cereal production is forecast to further increase from last year's above-average level.

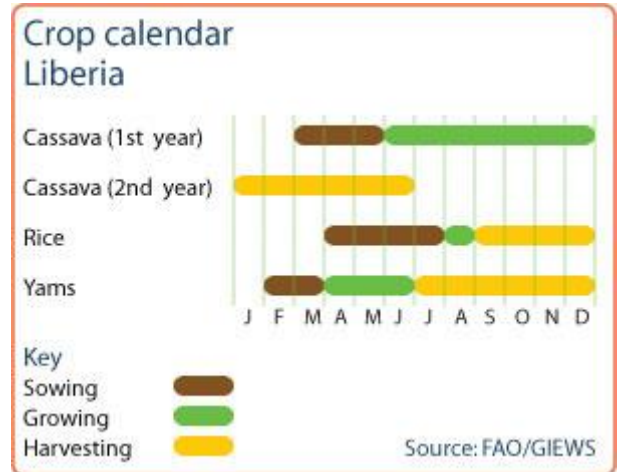
Three newly-confirmed cases of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) were reported in early April in Monrovia. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of the most recent outbreak of EVD in Liberia on 9 June 2016. The resurgence of Ebola did not have any major impact on the 2016 agricultural season.

Agricultural production recovered in 2015 following the previous year's Ebola-affected harvest. Official estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at about 296 000 tonnes, 11 percent above the previous year's output and 6 percent above average. Cassava production is estimated to have increased by 9 percent. The recovery was supported by the intervention of the Government and its partners in supplying improved seeds, fertilizer and purchasing paddy rice from farmers.

In 2014, the EVD outbreak had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors. Rice production in 2014 was estimated at about 266 000 tonnes, about 4 percent below average. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially affected by the EVD outbreak that started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop-growing season until the critical harvesting period.

Food markets recovered significantly

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June-August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine



Liberia Cereal production	2010-2014	2015	2016	change
	average		forecast	2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	284	286	290	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	284	286	290	1

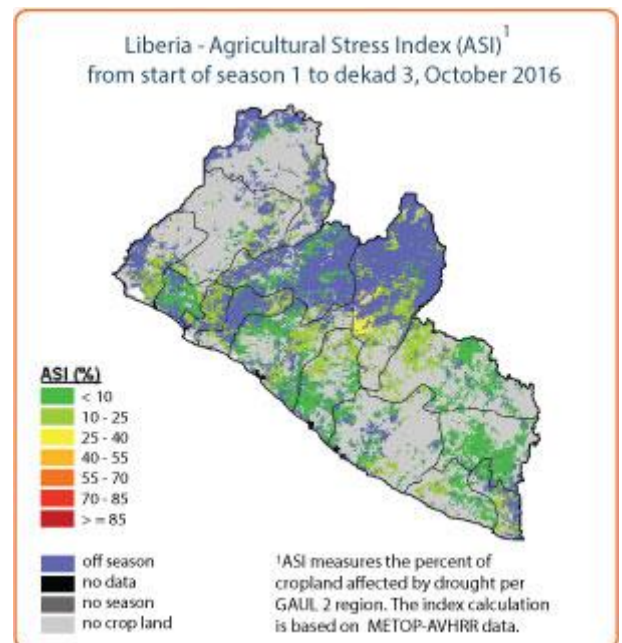
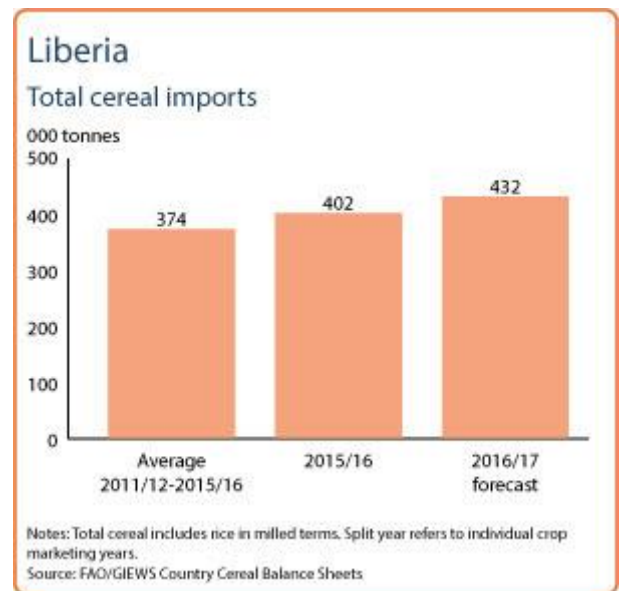
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. There has been a significant recovery of marketing activities. However, prices of imported commodities are reported to be on the increase, driven by the depreciation of the local currency.

Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2016 are estimated at about 402 000 tonnes, about 14 percent above the previous year's level.

EVD outbreak severely affected economy and food security

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) revised estimates, GDP growth is estimated at 0.9 percent in 2015, owing to the low output for Liberia's main exports and reduced harvests in 2014. A stronger rebound of 4.8 percent growth is forecast in 2016, well above the growth of only 0.5 percent achieved in 2014, but still well below the 6.8 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. As the economy continues to recover, household livelihoods and incomes are returning to the levels observed prior to the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. Although the Ebola outbreak has ended, about 21 463 people were projected to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above between June and August across the country, according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis. Moreover, according to UNHCR, Liberia is hosting about 20 000 registered refugees as of 30 June 2016, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it was resumed in mid-December 2015 following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian governments.





GIEWS Country Brief Liberia

Reference Date: 28-June-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting activities affected by irregular rainfall at beginning of cropping season
- Rice production increased by 11 percent in 2015 compared to previous year
- Number of food insecure people estimated at about 22 400

Early prospects uncertain for 2016 cereal production

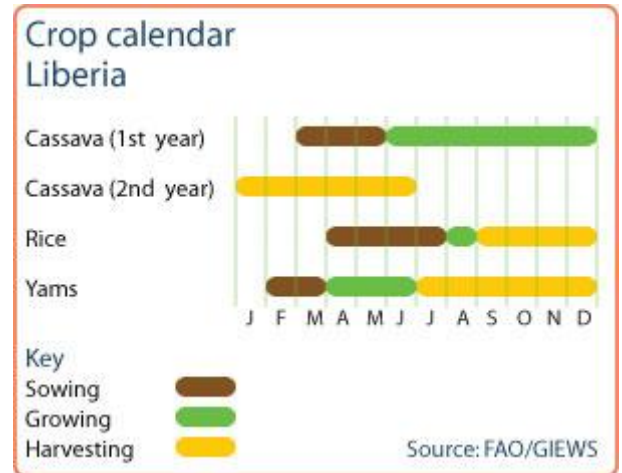
Planting of the 2016 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, began in April and is still underway. Seasonal rainfall started on time in March; however, during April and May, irregular rainfall over northwestern and central areas of the country slowed down planting activities. According to satellite imagery, abundant rainfall in some areas in mid-June have helped diminish deficits.

Three newly-confirmed cases of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) were reported in early April in Monrovia. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of the most recent outbreak of EVD in Liberia on 9 June 2016. The resurgence of Ebola is unlikely to have any major impact on the 2016 agricultural season.

Agricultural production recovered in 2015 following the previous year's Ebola-affected harvest. Official estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at about 296 000 tonnes, 11 percent above the previous year's output and 6 percent above average. Cassava production is estimated to have increased by 9 percent. The recovery was supported by the intervention of the Government and its partners in supplying improved seeds, fertilizer and purchasing paddy rice from farmers.

In 2014, the EVD outbreak had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors. Rice production in 2014 was estimated at about 266 000 tonnes, about 4 percent below average. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially affected by the EVD outbreak that started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop-growing season until the critical harvesting period.

Food markets recovered significantly and



	2010-2014	2014	2015	change
	average		estimate	2015/2014
	000 tonnes			
Rice (paddy)	284	266	296	11
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	284	266	296	11

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

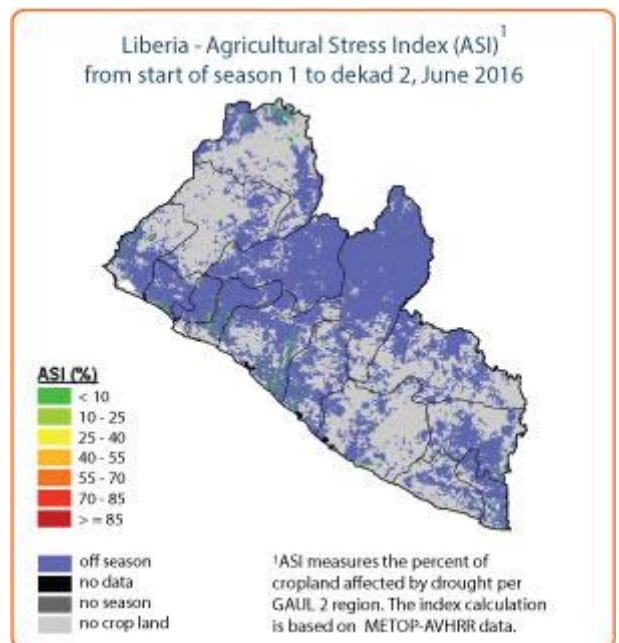
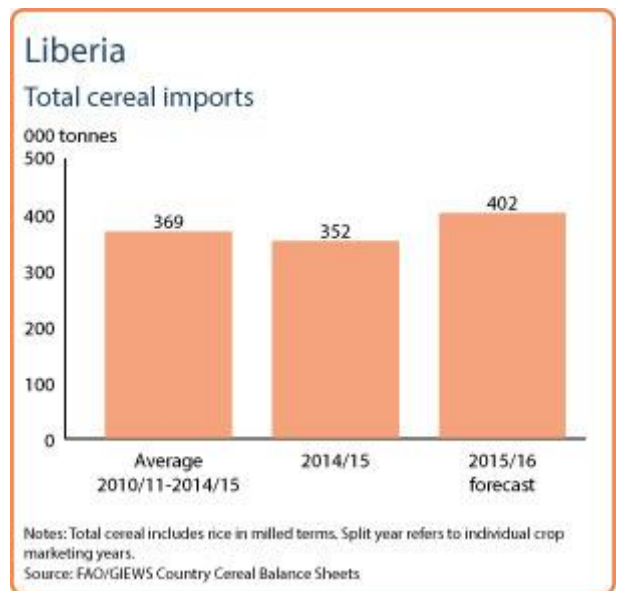
prices of imported rice generally stable

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June-August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. There has been a significant recovery of marketing activities. Due to good supplies from the 2015 harvest, prices of imported rice have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2016 are estimated at about 402 000 tonnes, about 14 percent above the previous year's level.

EVD outbreak severely affected economy and food security

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) revised estimates, GDP growth is estimated at 0.9 percent in 2015, owing to the low output for Liberia's main exports and reduced harvests in 2014. A stronger rebound of 4.8 percent growth is forecast in 2016, well above the growth of only 0.5 percent achieved in 2014, but still well below the 6.8 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. As the economy continues to recover, household livelihoods and incomes are returning to the levels observed prior to the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. Although the Ebola outbreak has ended, about 24 900 people were projected to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above and in need of urgent assistance across the country, according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis. Moreover, according to UNHCR, Liberia is hosting more than 20 000 registered refugees as of 31 May 2016, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it was resumed in mid-December 2015 following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian governments.



Reference Date: 10-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Farming activities and food markets have recovered significantly across the country
- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest indicate that rice production increased by 11 percent compared to previous year
- Number of food insecure people estimated at about 17 000

An above-average rice harvest was gathered in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, was completed in December 2015. According to the Liberia Hydrological Service (LHS), adequate rainfall was received last year, allowing for sowing activities and satisfactory crop development. Moreover, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), which significantly affected rice production in 2014, has been largely controlled. Liberia was declared free of the Ebola virus transmission in the human population in September 2015. With the intervention of the Government and its partners in supplying improved seeds, fertilizer and purchasing paddy rice from farmers, preliminary estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at about 295 000 tonnes, 11 percent above the previous year's output and 6 percent above-average. Cassava production is estimated to have increased by 9 percent.

In 2014, the EVD outbreak has had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors. Rice production in 2014 was estimated at about 266 000 tonnes, about 4 percent below-average. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially affected by the EVD outbreak that started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop-growing season until the critical harvesting period.

Food markets have recovered significantly and prices of imported rice generally stable

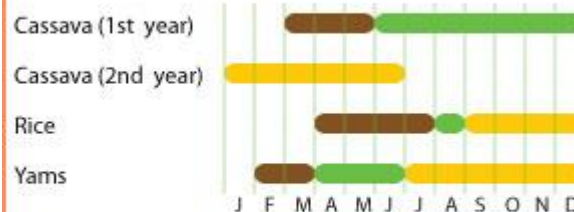
During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June-August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. There has been a significant recovery of marketing activities. Prices of imported rice have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2016 are estimated at about 432 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year's level.

EVD outbreak severely affected economy and food security

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) revised estimates, GDP growth is estimated at 0.9 percent in 2015, owing to the low output for Liberia's

Crop calendar Liberia



Key



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Liberia

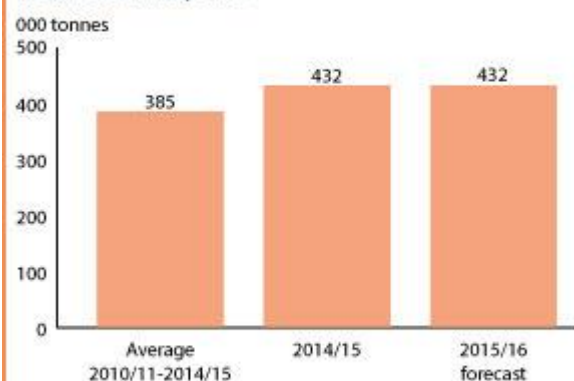
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	278	266	295	11
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	278	266	295	11

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

Liberia

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

main exports and reduced harvests in 2014. A stronger rebound of 4.8 percent growth is forecast in 2016, well above the growth of only 0.5 percent achieved in 2014, but still well below the 6.8 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. As the economy continues to recover, household livelihoods and incomes are returning to the levels observed prior to the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. Although the Ebola outbreak has ended, about 17 000 people are currently estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above and are in need of urgent assistance across the country, according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis. Moreover, Liberia is hosting about 36 041 refugees as of end-December 2015, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it was resumed in mid-December 2015 following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian governments.

Reference Date: 12-January-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Farming activities and food markets have recovered significantly across the country
- Preliminary estimates for 2015 harvest indicate that rice production increased by 11 percent compared to previous year
- Number of food insecure people estimated at about 17 000

An above-average rice harvest was gathered in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, was completed in December. According to the Liberia Hydrological Service (LHS), adequate rainfall was received last year, allowing for sowing activities and satisfactory crop development. Moreover, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), which significantly affected rice production in 2014, has been largely controlled. Liberia was declared free of the Ebola virus transmission in the human population in September 2015. With the intervention of the Government and its partners in supplying improved seeds, fertilizer and purchasing paddy rice from farmers, preliminary estimates put the 2015 aggregate cereal production at about 295 000 tonnes, 11 percent above the previous year's output and 6 percent above-average. Cassava production is estimated to have increased by 9 percent.

In 2014, the EVD outbreak has had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors. Rice production in 2014 was estimated at about 266 000 tonnes, about 4 percent below average. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially affected by the EVD outbreak that started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop-growing season until the critical harvesting period.

Food markets have recovered significantly and prices of imported rice are generally stable

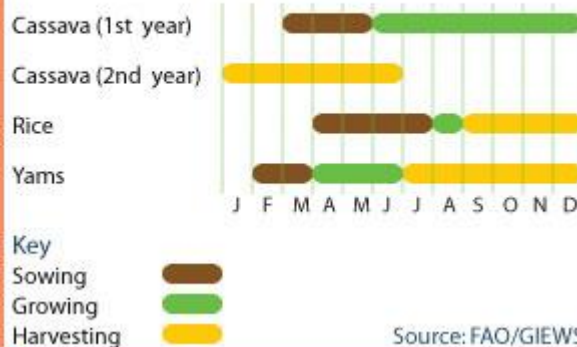
During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June to August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. There has been a significant recovery of marketing activities. Prices of imported rice have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2016 are estimated at about 432 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year's level.

EVD outbreak severely affected economy and food security

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) revised estimates, GDP growth is estimated at 0.9 percent in 2015, owing to the low output for Liberia's

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

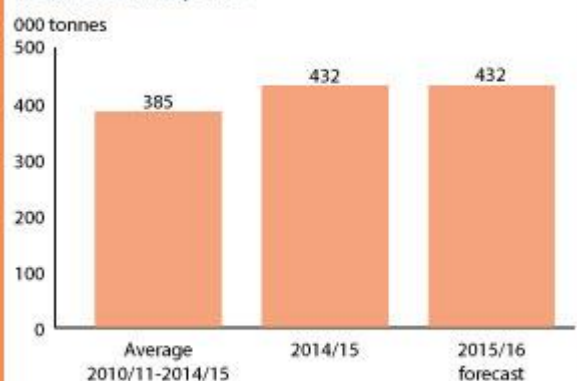
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	278	266	295	11
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	278	266	295	11

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

Liberia

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

main exports and reduced harvests in 2014. A stronger rebound of 4.8 percent growth is forecast in 2016, well above the growth of only 0.5 percent achieved in 2014, but still well below the 6.8 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. Although the Ebola outbreak has ended, about 17 000 people are currently estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above and are in need of urgent assistance across the country, according to the latest “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis. Moreover, Liberia is hosting about 36 041 refugees as of end December 2015, most of them from Côte d’Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it has been resumed in mid-December 2015 following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian Governments.

Reference Date: 05-August-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Farming activities and food markets are recovering across the country
- Rice production dropped by 12 percent in 2014 due to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak
- Number of food insecure people estimated at about 722 000 between June and August
- Most food insecure counties are located in southeastern part of the country

Farming activities are recovering in most areas

Planting of the 2015 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, is almost completed. According to satellite imagery, rains have been generally widespread and regular since the beginning of the cropping season, allowing for sowing activities and satisfactory crop development.

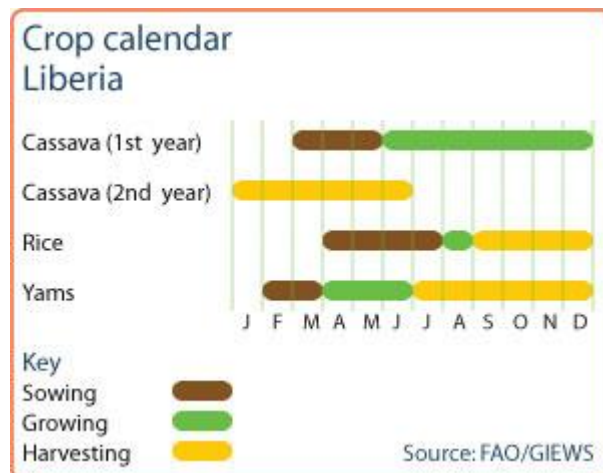
The EVD, which significantly affected rice production last year, has been largely controlled and Liberia was declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organization on 9 May 2015. However, on 29 June, a new case of Ebola was confirmed and as of mid-July, seven cases have been reported, of which two have died. According to a FEWSNet SMS-based trader survey conducted in late May 2015, almost 80 percent of interviewed traders reported that current rice cultivation activities in their local communities were occurring at normal levels with the highest proportion of traders reporting average activities in Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, River Cess and River Gee. Agricultural production in 2015 is expected to recover from last year's reduced output.

Last year, the EVD outbreak has had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors. Rice production in 2014 was estimated at about 174 000 tonnes (rice in milled terms), about 12 percent below 2013. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially effected by the EVD outbreak which started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop growing season until the critical harvesting period.

Food markets are recovering and prices are generally stable

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June to August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. As of early June 2015, there has been significant recovery of marketing activities. However, according to a recent Inter-Agency Food Security Assessment conducted in the country, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi markets in the north as well as Grand Kru and River Gee in the southeastern part of the country are still not functioning at pre-crisis levels. Prices of local and imported rice have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2015 are estimated at 445 000 tonnes, about



24 percent more than the average of the previous five years. Rice import requirements account for about 350 000 tonnes of the total. With commercial imports estimated at 380 000 tonnes, the uncovered gap is estimated at about 90 000 tonnes for which additional resources and international assistance is required. In fact, the significant impact of EVD on the country's export earnings is likely to compromise its financial ability to cover the cereal gap in 2015.

EVD outbreak severely affected economy and food security

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) revised estimates, GDP growth is projected at 0.5 percent in 2015, owing to the low output for Liberia's main exports and reduced harvests in 2014. A stronger rebound of 4.8 percent growth is forecast in 2016, well above the growth of only 1 percent achieved in 2014, but still well below the 6.8 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. Overall, according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 722 000 people are currently estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above and are in need of urgent assistance across the country. The most food insecure counties are located in the southeastern part of the country. As of June 2015, 33 percent of the population in Grand Kru, 32 percent in River Gee are food insecure. Some areas in the North are also highly food insecure such as Grand Cape Mount and Bomi where 30 percent of the population in both areas are food insecure.

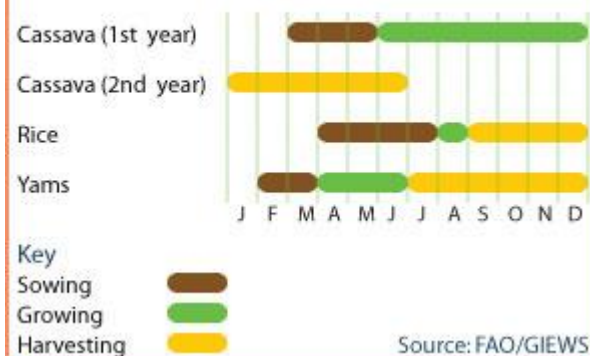
As of end of June 2015, Liberia is hosting 38 444 refugees, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it has been resumed in March following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian Governments.

Reference Date: 20-May-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production is estimated to have dropped by 5 percent in 2014 due to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak
- As of early April 2015, there has been significant recovery of marketing activities
- Poor and very poor households in Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Margibi and Montserrado counties are expected to face food access difficulties due to insufficient purchasing power
- Number of food insecure people at IPC "Crisis" level was estimated at about 190 000 in March 2015 and it is projected to increase to 720 000 during lean season

Crop calendar Liberia



Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2014

Planting of the 2015 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country began in April and is ongoing. According to satellite imagery, precipitation was adequate in April and in the first dekad of May, allowing for the sowing activities.

The aggregate 2014 cereal production was estimated at about 250 000 tonnes, with an estimated drop of 5 percent from the previous year. In particular, cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties was substantially effected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which started to spread when crops were already being planted and expanded during the whole crop growing season until the critical harvesting period.

Liberia Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	278	237	237	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	278	237	237	0

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

Food markets recovering but prices are generally above average

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June to August 2014) trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. As of early April 2015, there has been significant recovery of marketing activities; however, over 35 percent of traders reported that they were not able to sell their cash crops as usual at this time of the year.

Cereal import requirements for 2015 are estimated at 445 000 tonnes, about 24 percent more than the average of the previous five years. Rice import requirements account for about 350 000 tonnes of the total. With commercial imports estimated at 380 000 tonnes, the uncovered gap is estimated at about 90 000 tonnes for which additional resources and international assistance is required. In fact, the significant impact of EVD on the country's export earnings is likely to compromise its financial ability to cover the cereal gap in 2015.

Local and imported rice prices remained stable in March, but are still well above average. Palm oil prices were stable, but were nearly 20 percent higher in the counties in the extreme southeast (Maryland, Grand Kru and River Gee), compared to Montserrado county.

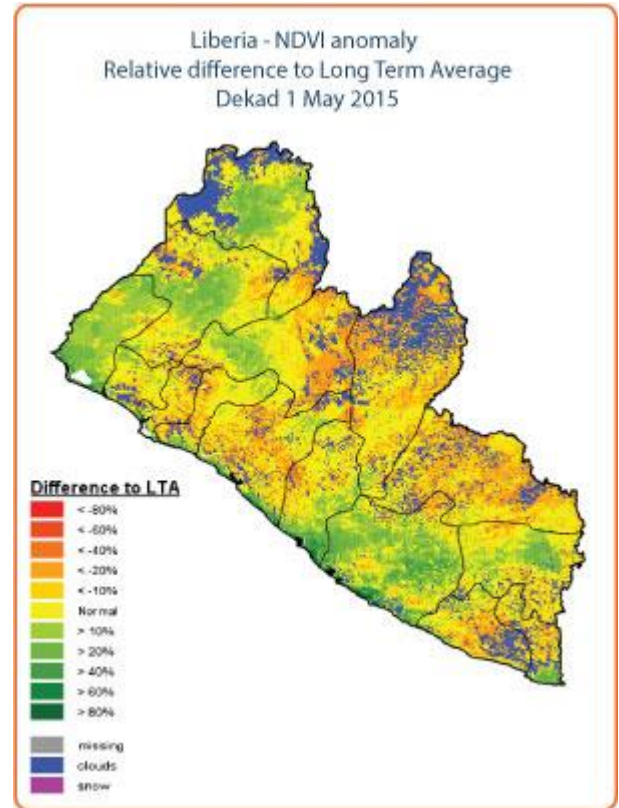
Food security persists as an aftermath of the EVD

outbreak

On 9 May 2015, the World Health Organization declared Liberia free of the Ebola virus transmission with the last laboratory-confirmed case reported in the end of March 2015. Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD outbreak seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the World Bank's revised estimates, GDP growth is projected at 3 percent in 2015, well above the growth of only 1 percent achieved in 2014, but still well below the 6.8 percent forecasted before the Ebola crisis. The EVD outbreak had also a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups.

According to Cadre Harmonisé, as of March 2015, 1.23 million people were facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity and 190 000 were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Stressed food insecurity is projected to increase to 1 460 000 people (35 percent of the population) and Crisis food insecurity is projected to increase to 720 000 people (15 percent of the population) during the lean season (from June–August). Poor and very poor households are expected to face significant food access difficulties due to insufficient purchasing power particularly in Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Margibi and Montserrado counties. According to a survey conducted in March by the World Bank, 75 percent of the households had concerns about having enough food to eat and, although the situation in rural areas has slightly improved after the conclusion of the 2014 harvest, food insecurity has continued to increase in urban areas.

Liberia is hosting 39 843 refugees, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but it has been resumed in March following the agreement among UNHCR and the Liberian and Ivorian Governments.



Reference Date: 22-January-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production is estimated to have dropped by 12 percent in 2014 due to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak.
- The sub-national level impact, such as in Lofa and Margibi counties hit hard by the disease, is much more severe, with losses of paddy crop estimated as high as 25 percent.
- Trade activities slowed down significantly across the country due to border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions. However, they showed some signs of recovery in recent weeks.
- The number of food insecure people estimated at about 630 000 as of November 2014, is projected to increase to 750 000 by March 2015.

Ebola Virus Disease outbreak severely affected agricultural production

Harvesting of the 2014 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country was completed in December. The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak resulted in a serious shock to the agriculture and food sectors. The epidemic started to spread when crops were being planted and expanded during the crop maintenance period and expanded rapidly during the critical harvesting period for the staple crops rice and cassava. Various farming activities including crop maintenance (such as weeding, fencing and application of chemicals) and harvesting have been disrupted mostly through labour shortages. Based on the GIEWS Disease Impact on Agriculture – Simulation (DIAS) Model and the findings of Rapid Assessments carried out in the country, the aggregate food crop production in 2014 is estimated at 323 000 tonnes (including cassava in cereal equivalent and rice in milled terms), which is 8 percent lower than the 2013 output. Of this total, rice production (in milled terms) is estimated at 174 000 tonnes, 12 percent lower than the year before. Cassava production is estimated to have declined by 5 percent. The sub-national level impact, such as in Lofa and Margibi counties hit hard by the disease, is much more severe, where losses of paddy crop are estimated as high as 25 percent.

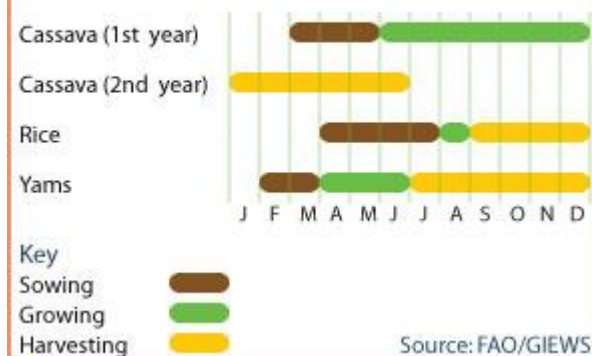
Food markets have been disrupted by the EVD outbreak

Liberia relies heavily on imported food with a cereal import dependency ratio of over 60 percent. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions have seriously disrupted marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. Trade activities are estimated to have declined significantly, although they showed some signs of recovery in recent weeks.

Cereal import requirements in 2015 are estimated at 445 000 tonnes, about 24 percent more than the average of the previous five years. Rice import requirements account for about 350 000 tonnes of the total.

With commercial imports estimated at 380 000 tonnes, the uncovered gap is estimated at about 90 000 tonnes for which additional resources

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	289	270	237	-12
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	289	270	237	-12

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

and international assistance is required. The significant impact of Ebola on the country's export earnings is likely to compromise its ability to cover the country's cereal gap.

The price of imported rice in Liberia has increased during several consecutive months, spiking well above usual seasonal patterns. Prices stabilized in November 2014 but remained higher than a year earlier in most markets. Prices of imported rice have also increased due mainly to exchange rate depreciation.

Food security severely affected by the EVD outbreak

Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD has seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. According to the World Bank's revised estimates, 2014 GDP growth fell by more than half to 2.2 percent from 5.9 percent expected before the Ebola crisis, with serious impact on livelihoods, income and access to food. The outbreak has had a substantial impact on employment activities throughout the country on all livelihood groups. About 630 000 people, or 14 percent of the population, are estimated to be severely food insecure as of November 2014. The impact of EVD accounts for 170 000 people. The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 750 000 by March 2015, 290 000 of which are attributed to EVD. About 76 percent of the Ebola-related food insecure individuals live in rural areas. The most food insecure households include food crop producers; fishermen and hunters; and unskilled labourers.

Reference Date: 10-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A reduced rice crop gathered in 2013
- Access to food remains adequate reflecting lower prices of imported rice
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

Preliminary estimates indicate a decline in rice production in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country was completed in December. Following erratic rains throughout the growing season, 2013 rice production (paddy) is estimated to decline by 20 percent compared to the 2012 above-average output. By contrast, production of cassava, the second most important staple food after rice, is forecast to increase slightly over 2012 output.

An above-average rice harvest was gathered in 2012, owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main rice growing regions. The 2012 rice production was estimated at about 298 000 tonnes, similar to the 2011 good output and about 7 percent above the average of the previous five years.

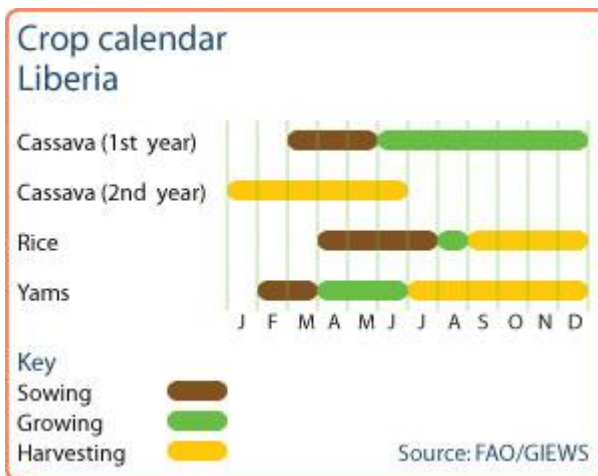
Lower rice prices favour access to food

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated three-fourths of the national cereal consumption requirement is covered by imports. The Government has preserved the suspension of rice import tariff, which combined with declining rice prices on the international market, has led to lower domestic prices. In 2013, imported rice prices have remained below the previous year's levels in most markets.

Although prices of imported rice are expected to remain relatively stable, food insecurity is likely to increase in areas affected this year by irregular rains and poor harvests.

Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

Thousands of Ivorians left their country and sought refuge in eastern Liberia during the 2010-2011 post election crises in Côte d'Ivoire. Although most of the displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, some 58 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of January 2014.



Liberia Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	291	298	238	-20
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	291	298	238	-20

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

GIEWS Country Brief

Liberia



Reference Date: 02-December-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A reduced rice crop expected in 2013
- Access to food remains adequate reflecting lower prices of imported rice
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

Preliminary estimates indicate a decline in rice production in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, is underway, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of December. Following erratic rains throughout the growing season, 2013 rice production (paddy) is estimated to decline by 20 percent compared to last year's above-average output. By contrast, production of cassava, the second most important staple food after rice, is forecast to increase slightly over 2012 output.

An above-average rice harvest was gathered in 2012, owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main rice growing regions. The 2012 rice production was estimated at about 298 000 tonnes, similar to the 2011 good output and about 7 percent above the average of the previous five years.

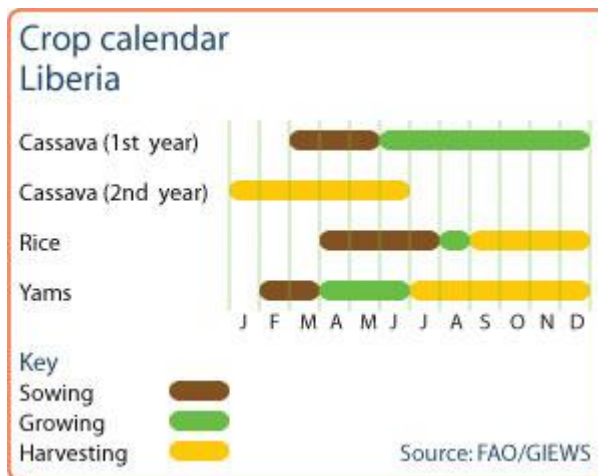
Lower rice prices favour access to food

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated three-fourths of the national cereal consumption requirement is covered by imports. The Government has preserved the suspension of rice import tariff, which combined with declining rice prices on the international market, has led to lower domestic prices. Imported rice prices have remained below last year's levels through August 2013 across the country.

Although prices of imported rice are expected to remain relatively stable, food insecurity is likely to increase in areas affected this year by irregular rains and poor harvests.

Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

Thousands of Ivorians left their country and sought refuge in eastern Liberia during the 2010-2011 post-election crises in Côte d'Ivoire. Although most of the displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, some 58 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of August 2013.



Liberia
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	291	298	238	-20
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	291	298	238	-20

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

Reference Date: 28-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for the 2013 rice crop are uncertain due to irregular rains in parts
- Access to food remains adequate reflecting lower rice prices
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

Prospects for the 2013 rice crop are unfavourable

Harvesting of the 2013 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, is about to start, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of December. Satellite imagery indicates erratic rains with below average precipitation and poor vegetative growth in several parts of the country. The unfavourable weather conditions may have affected rice and cassava yields.

An above-average harvest was gathered in 2012, owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main rice growing regions. The 2012 rice production was estimated at 289 000 tonnes, similar to the 2011 good output and 3 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Lower rice prices favour access to food

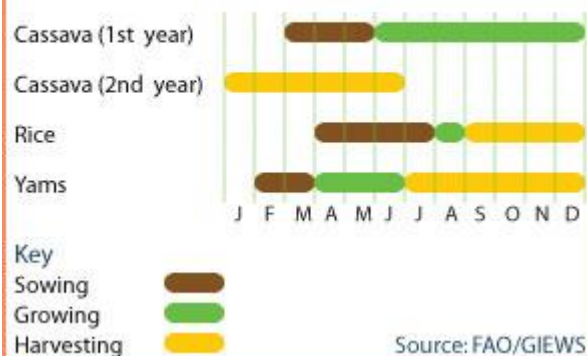
The adequate harvest position, coupled with declining rice prices on the international market, has led to lower domestic prices. Imported rice prices in June 2013 were up to 24 percent lower than a year earlier. The Government has preserved the suspension of rice import tariff to maintain lower market prices.

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated three-fourths of the national cereal consumption requirement, put at about 400 000 tonnes, is covered by imports.

Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

Thousands of Ivorians left their country and sought refuge in eastern Liberia during the 2010-2011 post-election crises in Côte d'Ivoire. Although most of the displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, some 60 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of July 2013.

Crop calendar Liberia

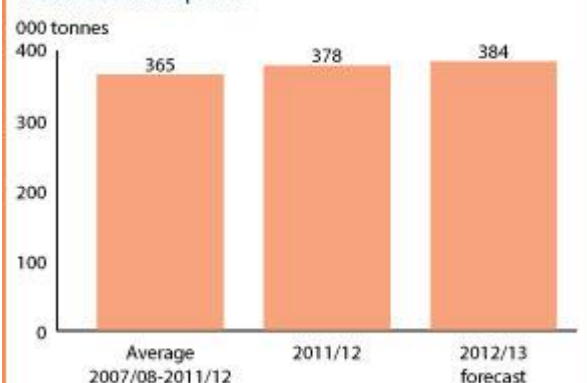


Liberia Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	280	291	289	-1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	280	291	289	-1

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

Liberia 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

Reference Date: 27-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Final production estimates indicate above-average rice production in 2011, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Rice prices remain high
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

A good rice crop gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, was completed in December. In spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country, official estimates indicate that cereal production was similar to the previous year's above-average level of 298 000 tonnes.

Increasing commodity prices

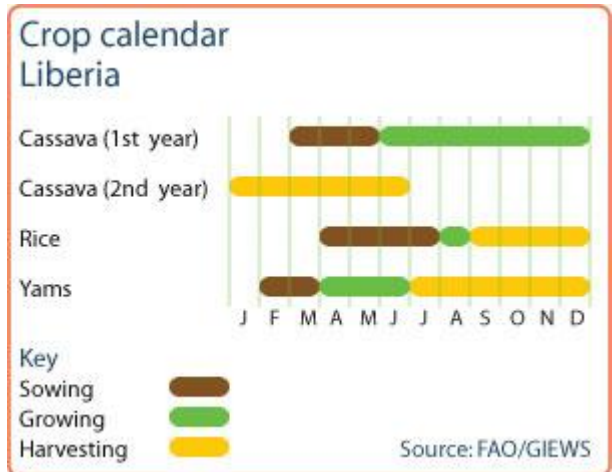
Rice prices were on an increasing trend since the beginning of 2011 reflecting increased demand from the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire but also following trends on the international market. For instance, rice prices in November 2011 in Tubmanburg and Red Light markets in western Liberia were respectively 57 percent and 39 percent higher than in November 2010.

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirement, put at about 530 000 tonnes, is covered by imports. The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice to help maintain lower market prices

Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

The post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge in eastern Liberia. The refugee influx into Liberia has had serious negative impact on Liberian communities in the four counties bordering Côte d'Ivoire. The sudden increase in population has further depleted local resources and increased vulnerability: the proportion of households with inadequate food consumption scores increased from 32 percent in 2010 to 75 percent in 2011 according to inter-agency Emergency Food Security and Market Assessment conducted last year.

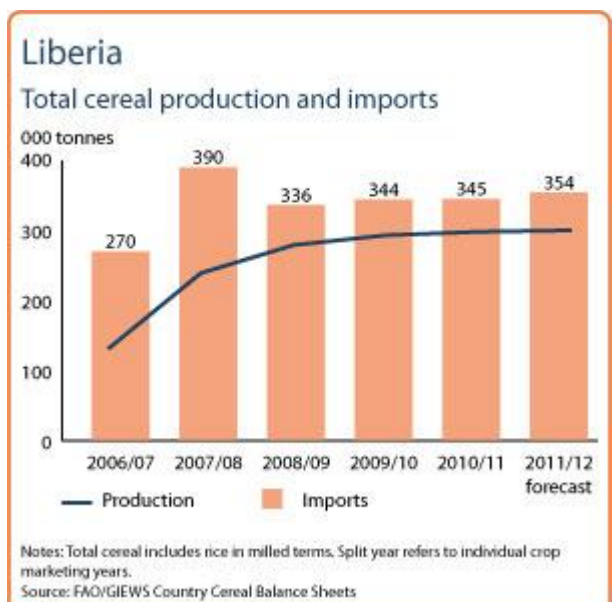
Most of the displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire but, as of mid March, nearly 70 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia. Access to food is constrained for many households following the disruption in their livelihoods. The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) launched in April 2011 for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (including Liberia) was followed by a Consolidated Appeal (CAP) 2012, aiming at providing assistance to about 262 000 beneficiaries. By late March the CAP has received about 8 percent of its required funding of USD 121 million.



Liberia Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	248	298	300	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	248	298	300	1

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



Reference Date: 24-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production estimates indicate above-average rice production in 2011, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Rice prices remain high
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

A good rice crop gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, 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 296 000 tonnes.

Increasing commodity prices

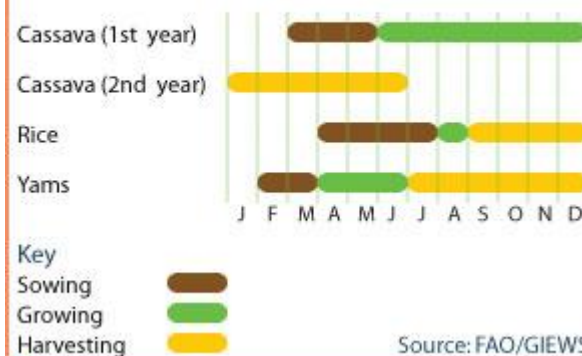
Rice prices were on an increasing trend since the beginning of 2011 reflecting increased demand from the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire but also following trends on the international market. For instance, rice prices in November 2011 in Tubmanburg and Red Light markets in western Liberia were respectively 57 percent and 39 percent higher than in November 2010.

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirement, put at about 530 000 tonnes, is covered by imports. The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice to help maintain lower market prices. In addition, the corporate income tax rate, as outlined in the 2010/11 national budget, has been set at a low of 15 percent for the rice sector to attract further investment.

Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

The post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge in eastern Liberia. Most of the displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation but, as of mid October, nearly 138 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia. Access to food is constrained for many households following the disruption in their livelihoods. The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) launched in April 2011 for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (including Liberia) has been revised in July 2011, requesting USD 166.6 million in support of humanitarian efforts to cover the most urgent needs of refugees, displaced people and the host population. As of 28 November, 53 percent of the EHAP has been funded for Liberia.

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

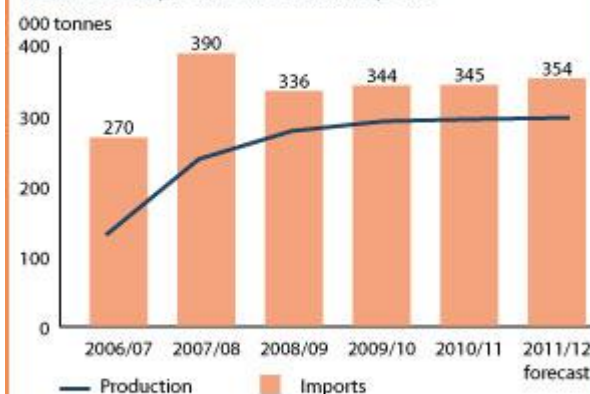
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	248	296	298	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	248	296	298	1

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

Liberia

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: 22-November-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2011 is forecast to be similar to last year's above-average level.
- Rice prices remain high
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

A good rice crop expected in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, is underway. Satellite imagery indicates that weather conditions have been relatively favourable with good levels of vegetation indexes and rainfall estimates during the cropping season. Rice production is forecast to be similar to last year's above-average level.

Increasing commodity prices

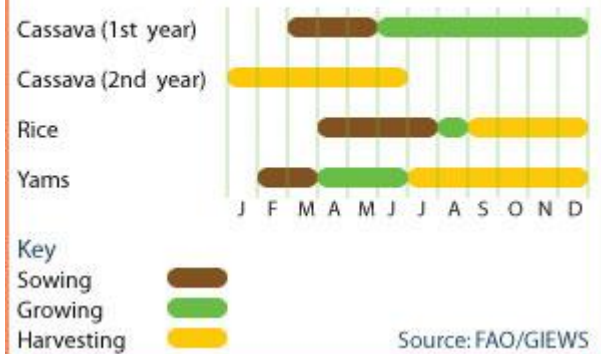
Rice prices increased since the beginning of 2011 reflecting increased demand from the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire but also following trends on the international Market. For instance, rice prices in October in Gbarnga and Saclepea markets in central Liberia were respectively 40 percent and 38 percent higher than in October 2010. Prices in Monrovia, the main entry point for imports, are generally lower than in other areas. However, rice prices in Monrovia were 33 percent above their levels of a year earlier.

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirement, put at about 530 000 tonnes, is covered by imports. The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice to help maintain lower market prices. In addition, the corporate income tax rate, as outlined in the 2010/11 national budget, has been set at a low of 15 percent for the rice sector to attract further investment.

Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

The post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge in eastern Liberia. Most displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation but, as of late September, about 178 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia. Access to food is constrained for many households following the disruption in their livelihoods. The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) launched in April 2011 for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (including Liberia) has been revised in July 2011, requesting USD 166.6 million in support of humanitarian efforts to cover the most urgent needs of refugees, displaced people and the host population. As of 24 October, 50 percent of the EHAP has been funded.

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

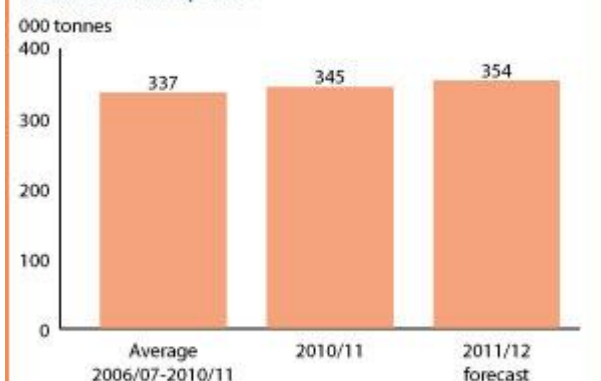
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	248	297	300	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	248	297	300	1

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

Liberia

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

Reference Date: 29-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of the 2011 rice crop is ongoing under favourable weather conditions
- Rice prices are increasing
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

Planting of 2011 rice crop is underway. Satellite imagery indicate that so far planting conditions have been relatively favourable with good levels of vegetation indexes and rainfall estimates since the beginning of the rainy season in April 2011.

A good rice crop estimated in 2010

Harvesting of the 2010 rice crop was completed last December. The 2010 rice production is estimated to have increased slightly compared to the previous year's good output due to above average and adequate rains throughout the 2010 growing season.

Increasing commodity prices

Rice prices has shown an increasing trend since the beginning of 2011 reflecting increased demand, partly due to the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire. The price of imported rice has increased by 60 percent from 12.5 LD/0.75 kg before the arrival of refugees to 20 LD/0.75 kg in subsequent months.

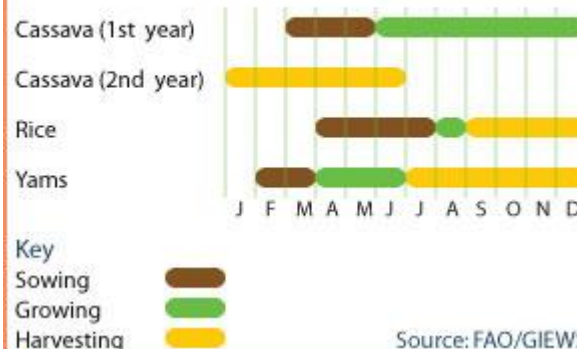
Normally, imported rice supply in local markets starts to predominate in the months of May or June, as the domestic varieties begin to deplete. This year, however, a significant supply of imported rice began to appear in local markets much earlier according to recent reports. The annual average inflation rate in 2011 is forecast to increase by around 10 percent mainly due to rising world oil and food prices.

The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice for a further 12 months from July 2010 to help maintain lower market prices, given that an estimated two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirements are covered by imported rice. In addition, the corporate income tax rate, as outlined in the 2010/11 national budget, has been set at a low of 15 percent for the rice sector to attract further investment.

Food security is deteriorating in the East

Overall food security conditions are worsening in the south-east. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate increased from the 13 percent in December 2010 to 13.7 in February 2011 for the refugees, while from 1 to 5.8, over the same period, for host population. The highest concentration of food insecure households is in rural regions close to the borders of Côte d'Ivoire. Current figures from UNHCR indicate that over 175 000 people have fled Côte d'Ivoire to Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland which are among the poorest counties in Liberia. The refugee influx is straining the limited basic services and resources. Trading routes between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia have been disrupted, further affecting food availability and prices. An emergency operation (EMOP) launched in February 2011 is underway and extended in time from August to December 2011. From an initial number of 60 000

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

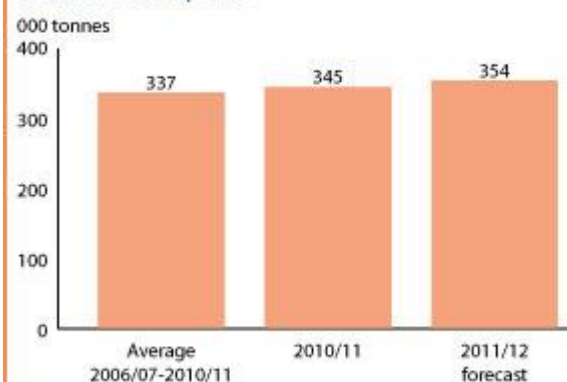
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	248	297	300	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	248	297	300	1

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

Liberia

Total cereal imports



people (50 000 Ivorian refugees and 10 000 host population), the target beneficiaries reach more than 150 000 refugees and around 36 000 host community population.

Reference Date: 11-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates point to above average rice production for the 2010/11 agricultural season
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

Preliminary estimates indicate a good rice crop

Harvesting of the 2010 rice crop, the main cereal produced and consumed in the country, was completed in December. Following above average rains throughout the growing season, rice production (paddy) is estimated to have increased slightly compared to the previous year's good output. An estimated fall in output in south-eastern and western regions was offset by good production in central areas, attributed to the timely distribution of improved seed varieties and favourable weather conditions. Similarly, cassava production is estimated to have increased over 2009 output.

Prices of rice lower in 2010

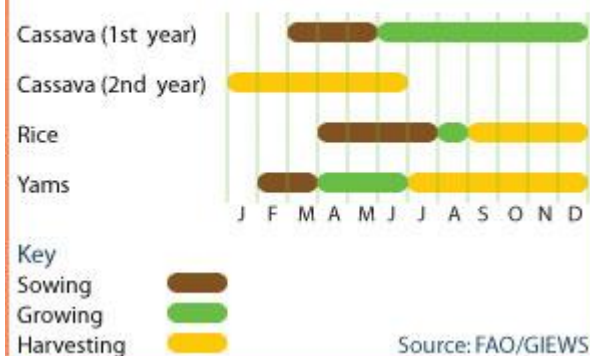
Prices of imported rice in 2010 were generally lower than in 2009. The exception was Foya, Lofa county, where prices in September 2010 were higher than the previous year due mainly to the comparatively poor transport links that worsen during the rainy season and consequently increase transportation costs.

The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice for a further 12 months from July 2010 to help maintain lower market prices, given that an estimated two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirements are covered by imported rice. In addition, the corporate income tax rate, as outlined in the 2010/11 national budget, has been set at a low of 15 percent for the rice sector to attract further investment.

Overall food security is satisfactory; but assistance is required for Ivorian refugees in the East

Overall food security conditions are stable. However, an estimated 13 percent of the population remain severely food insecure. The highest concentration of food insecure households is in rural regions in the south-east. Moreover, the current post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire has led to a sustained influx of refugees into eastern parts of Liberia. Current figures from UNHCR indicate that over 32 000 people have fled to Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties, and taken refuge in 32 villages along the border. These communities are among the poorest in Liberia, and the refugee influx is straining the limited basic services and resources. Trading routes between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia have been disrupted, further affecting food availability and prices. On 18 January 2011, the United Nations and partners launched the Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (including Liberia) Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP), requesting USD 32 766 935 to facilitate humanitarian organizations' preparedness and cover the most urgent humanitarian needs for the next six-month.

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

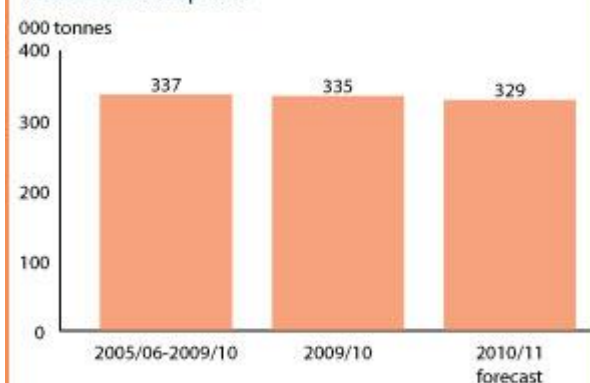
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	211	293	297	1
Total	211	293	297	1

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

Liberia

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

Reference Date: 01-October-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates point to above average rice production for the 2010/11 agricultural season
- Prices of rice during 2010, in general, are lower than levels last year

Preliminary estimates indicate a good rice crop

Harvesting of the 2010 rice crop, the main cereal produced and consumed in the country, is currently underway in the south east, and will commence soon in central and northern regions. Following above average rains throughout the growing season, rice production (paddy) is forecast to be similar to last year's good output. Good production in central areas, attributed to the timely distribution of improved seed varieties and favourable weather conditions, is expected to offset an estimated fall in production in south-eastern and western regions. Similarly, cassava production is forecast to increase over last year's output.

Prices of rice lower in 2010

Prices of rice (imported) in 2010 are in general lower than those observed in 2009, with the exception of market prices in Pleebo, Maryland county, and Foya, Lofa county, which, in June 2010 were higher than prices in the previous year. The higher price levels in these markets are attributed to the comparatively poor transport links that worsen during the rainy season and consequently increase transportation costs.

The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice for a further 12 months from July 2010 to help maintain lower market prices, given that an estimated two thirds of the national cereal consumption requirements are covered by imported rice. In addition, corporate income tax rate, as outlined in the 2010/11 national budget, has been set at 15 percent for the rice sector to attract further investment.

Food security conditions remain stable

Food security conditions are stable. Access to land and area cultivated has expanded significantly since 2006, but an estimated 13 percent of the population remain food insecure. The highest concentration of food insecure households is in rural regions in the south-east.

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	174	279	293	5
Total	174	279	293	5

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

Reference Date: 12-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Government estimates indicate a small increase in rice production in the 2009/10 agricultural season
- Decline in local rice prices, but depreciation of currency may lead to higher import prices

Rice harvest estimates indicate production gains

Harvesting of the 2009 rice crop, the main cereal produced and consumed in the country, was completed at the end of 2009. Rice production (paddy) increased marginally by 5 percent compared to the previous year, according to the latest government estimates, to 292 950 tonnes.

Planting of the rice crop for the 2010/11 season is scheduled to begin in April; rainfall levels during the beginning of March 2010 have been above average in most counties, but declined in the last dekad of March.

Local rice prices decline

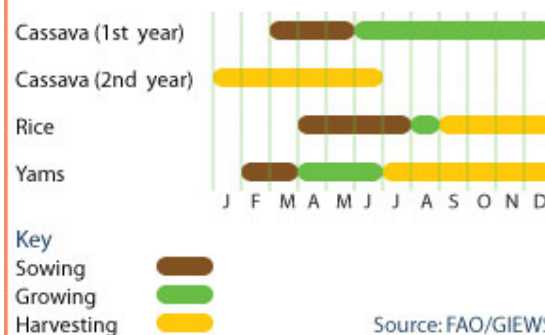
Improved market supplies, following the 2009 harvest, contributed to lower local rice prices throughout the country, as of January 2010. In addition, imported rice prices have also declined, but remain higher than local rice prices. In inland and remote markets, which are significantly distant from the main ports, prices are generally higher due to higher transportation costs. In Pleebo, Maryland county and Voinjama, Lofa county, for example, prices are approximately 40 percent higher than levels recorded in Buchanan, the second largest port in Liberia, as of January 2010.

An estimated two thirds of the national consumption requirements are covered by imported rice and the gradual depreciation of the currency could make imports more expensive. Given that approximately two thirds of Liberian households depend on market access for food supplies, higher food prices are expected to aggravate the food security conditions for vulnerable households.

Food insecurity more prevalent in south-east

A joint government/UN assessment at the end of 2009 indicates that 11.3 percent of the population remain food insecure, while 38 percent are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. The highest concentration of food insecure households is located in rural regions in the south-east, with a lack of social services and poor infrastructure contributing to the high prevalence.

Crop calendar Liberia



Liberia

Cereal production

	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		estimate	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	174	279	293	5
Total	174	279	293	5

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

Reference Date: 18-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable production estimates for the 2009/10 season
- Government continues to support agriculture and food security

Poor rainfall levels recorded in southern rice producing regions

Harvesting of the 2009 rice crop, the main cereal produced in the country, is complete. Precipitation levels during the rainy season (April-November) have been below average in Bong and Lofa counties, but rainfall was heavier in the northern regions of the country compared to the south. In efforts to enhance rice production for the 2009/10 season, the Government sourced 50 tonnes of high yielding rice seeds from the Africa Rice Centre (formerly WARDA) in June 2009. In other initiatives to support domestic rice production, the Central Bank established a fund of USD 1 million to purchase locally grown rice and offered land incentives to encourage farmers to return to the northern region to re-start farming activities.

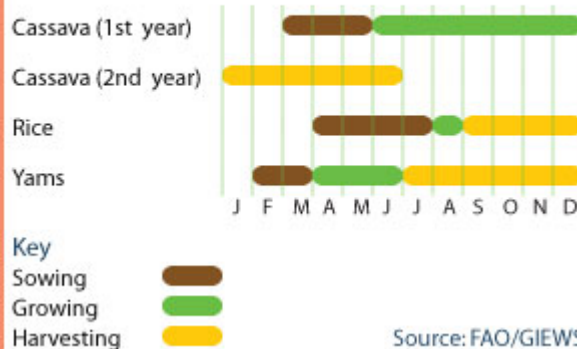
Depreciation of Liberian dollar contributes to maintaining high food prices

An estimated two thirds of the national consumption requirements are covered by imported rice. Given the large proportion of imported rice in the country's markets, domestic rice prices strongly reflect international price movements, which have been relatively stable between January and September. However, the gradual depreciation of the Liberian dollar has meant that the drop in international prices, since peaking in mid-2008, has not been fully transmitted to the domestic market. In contrast to the comparative price stability observed across the country, prices in Pleebo, in southeastern Maryland County, rose considerably between June and September, reportedly as a consequence of higher transportation costs.

Heavy rains cause localised flooding

Heavy rainfall during the beginning of June in Monrovia caused flooding and displaced hundreds of people. Two other counties, Grand Cape Mount in the northwest and Grand Gedeh in the southeast, have also been affected by flooding. The government provided emergency assistance to the affected population.

Crop calendar Liberia



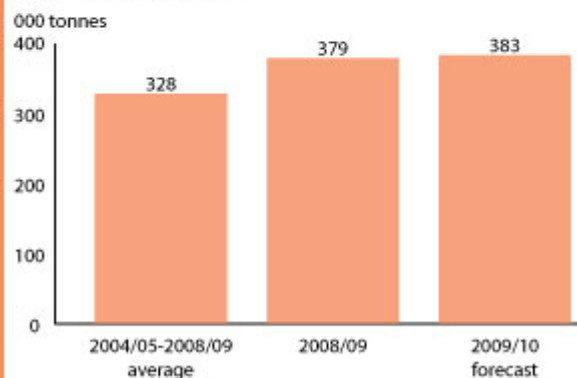
Liberia

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice	176	287	250	-13
Total	176	287	250	-13

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

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable crop prospects for 2009
- Government continues to support agriculture and food security

Prospects for the 2009 rice crop are unfavourable

Harvesting of the 2009 rice crop has started and is scheduled to be completed by the end of December. Rainfall levels, prior to the planting period (February-April), have been below average in Bong and Lofa counties, and satellite imagery from September 2009 indicates below average cumulative rainfall and poor vegetative growth across the country.

Government continues to support rice production and food security

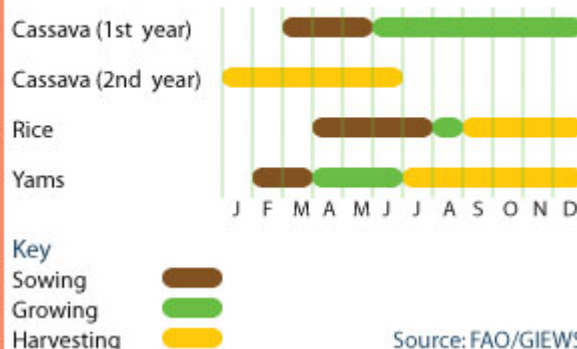
A very good harvest was gathered in 2008, owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main rice growing regions. In efforts to enhance rice production further to above pre-war levels, the Government has sourced 50 tonnes of high yielding rice seeds from the Africa Rice Centre (formerly WARDA) in June 2009. In other initiatives to support domestic rice production, the Central Bank has established a fund of USD 1 million to purchase locally grown rice and offered land incentives to encourage farmers to return to the northern region to re-start farming activities.

The Government has persevered with the abolishment of the USD 2.10 tax on 45kg bags and the removal of tariffs on imported rice. However, as prices are anticipated to decline further during 2009, it is expected that the anti-inflationary policies will be phased out.

Floods caused the displacement of hundreds of people in June

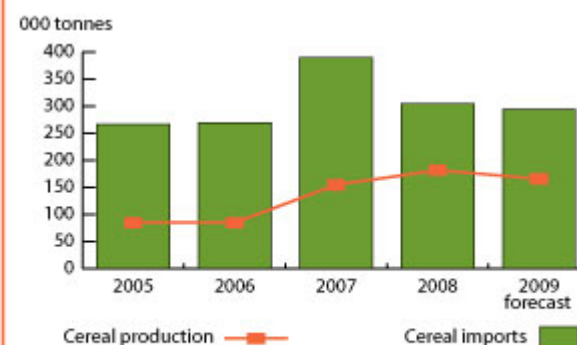
Heavy rainfall during the beginning of June in Monrovia caused flooding and displaced hundreds of people. Two other counties, Grand Cape Mount in the northwest and Grand Gedeh in the southeast, have also been affected by flooding. The government is providing emergency assistance to the affected population.

Crop calendar Liberia



Cereal production and imports Liberia

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (milled)	122	182	166	-8.8%
Total Cereals	122	182	166	-8.8%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets