



GLEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Costa Rica

Reference Date: 18-October-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy output in 2023 forecast at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at above-average levels in 2023/24 marketing year
- Prices of rice slightly lower year-on-year in September 2023

Paddy output in 2023 forecast at below-average level

Harvesting of the 2023 main season paddy crop is underway and production is forecast at a below-average level. This mainly reflects a sharp decline in plantings for the second consecutive year as farmers were discouraged to sow, following the government's [decision](#), in August 2022, to eliminate reference prices on rice. According to estimates of the National Rice Corporation (CONARROZ) as of end-September, the planted area with the 2023 main season paddy crop was more than 35 percent lower year-on-year and over 65 percent below the level of two years ago. Satellite imagery indicates favourable crop conditions in the key producing western provinces of Guanacaste and Puntarenas (VCI map).

Planting of the 2023 minor season paddy crop, predominantly irrigated, is ongoing in Guanacaste and Alajuela provinces, where seasonal production is concentrated. The area sown is forecast to remain at a below-average level. Rainfall amounts are forecast at below-average levels in the main producing areas during the last quarter of 2023, which could lower irrigation water availability and exacerbate the contraction of plantings.

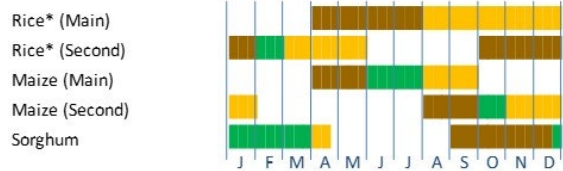
Cereal import requirements forecast at above-average levels in 2023/24 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (August/July) are forecast at an above-average level of 1.6 million tonnes, mainly reflecting the sustained demand for yellow maize by the domestic feed sector. Import requirements of wheat (grain and flour), and rice are also forecast at high levels, on account of the rising demand for human consumption. Rice imports rose sharply by 75 percent year-on-year in the 2022/23 marketing year due to the decline in domestic production.

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar

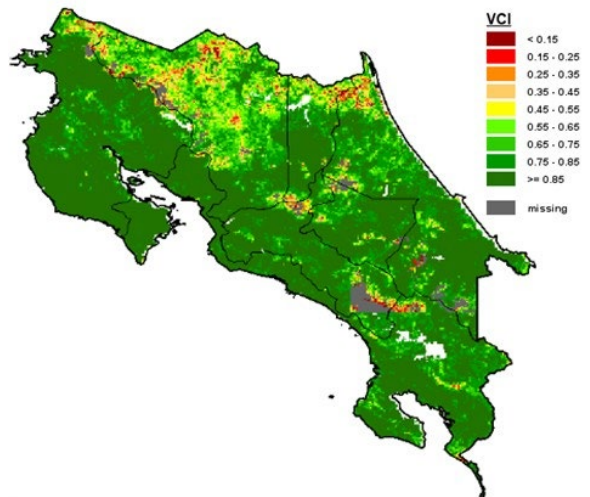
(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Costa Rica - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

September 2023



Prices of rice slightly lower year-on-year in September 2023

Despite the removal of reference prices, retail prices of rice declined in the first half of 2023 as the strengthening of the Costa Rican colón made imports more affordable. The improved supply due to an increase in imports also exerted downward pressure on prices. Between July and September, prices strengthened moderately following the depreciation of the national currency and upward trends in international markets. In September 2023, prices were marginally lower year-on-year, with markets well supplied by imported rice.

Prices of black beans reached record high levels in March 2023 due to year-on-year lower imports in 2022 as well as high export prices in the United States of America and Nicaragua, the country's main suppliers of beans. Increased imports weighed on prices in the April to July period. In September 2023, prices were 6 percent above their year-earlier levels.

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This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:
 FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS) <https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/>.
 FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool <https://fpma.fao.org/>.
 FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.
 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

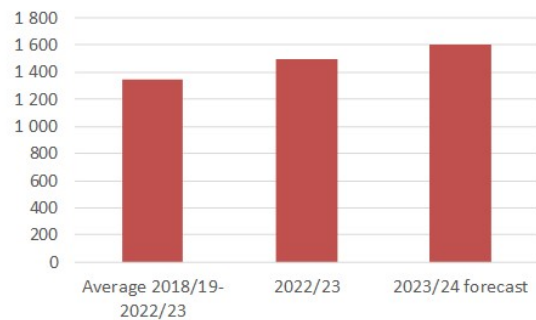
	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 estimate	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	144	110	90	-18.2
Maize	6	7	6	-10.4
Total	150	117	96	-17.7

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Costa Rica

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

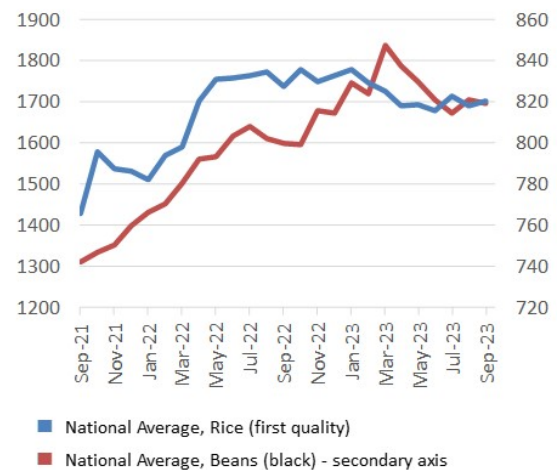


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Costa Rica

Selected retail cereal prices

Costa Rican colón per kg





GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 23-December-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production anticipated at below-average level in 2022 on account of low plantings
- Cereal import requirements forecast slightly above average in 2022/23 marketing year
- Rice prices stable between June and November 2022

Paddy production anticipated at below-average level in 2022 on account of low plantings

Harvesting of the 2022 main season paddy crop is ongoing and production is forecast at a below-average level. This mainly reflects a contraction in plantings, as farmers were discouraged to sow, following the government's [decision](#) to eliminate the reference prices on rice in retail and wholesale markets.

According to the National Rice Corporation (CONARROZ), the planted area with the main season paddy crop was 14 553 hectares, nearly 40 percent lower year-on-year as well as the five-year average. Weather conditions have been generally favourable, supporting the development of crops, which are mostly rainfed.

The 2022 minor season paddy crop, to be harvested in April and May 2023, is being planted in the provinces of Guanacaste and Alajuela, where seasonal production is concentrated. The area sown is forecast to remain at a below-average level, amid the lack of guaranteed reference prices and the high costs of agricultural inputs. Rainfall amounts are forecast at average levels during the first quarter of 2023, securing irrigation water supplies. This is expected to have a positive impact on yields of predominantly irrigated crops.

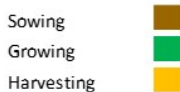
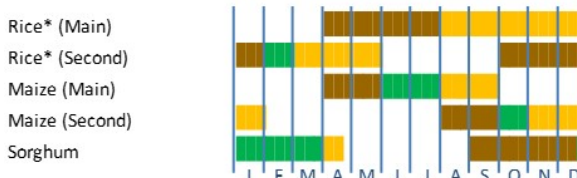
Cereal import requirements forecast slightly above average in 2022/23 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 1.3 million tonnes, slightly above the five-year average level, mainly due to rising demand for yellow maize by the domestic feed sector. Requirements are similar to year-earlier levels, reflecting the availability of some carryover stocks of grains imported in the 2021/22 marketing year. Imports of wheat grain and flour are also forecast at high levels, reflecting the sustained demand for human consumption in line with

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	155	159	148	-6.9
Maize	6	6	6	-3.2
Total	161	165	154	-6.8

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

increasing population.

Rice prices stable between June and November 2022

Retail prices of rice have been stable since June 2022, despite the removal of reference prices in August. This was due to adequate market supplies owing to the above-average production harvested in 2021 and large imports between January and October 2022, which were nearly 60 percent above the five-year average. As of November 2022, prices of rice were 5 percent higher year-on-year.

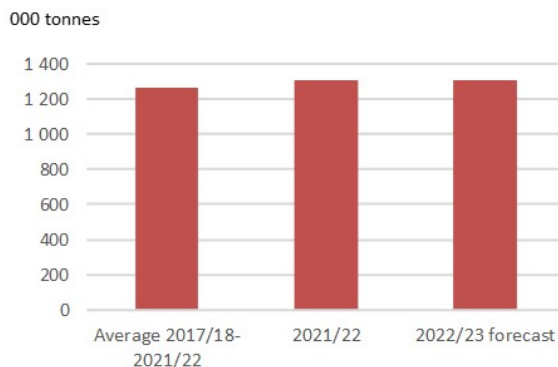
Prices of black beans have been generally rising since mid-2021, driven by increases in prices of imports from the United States of America, the country's major supplier of black beans. The lower year-on-year imports during the first ten months of 2022 provided additional upward pressure. Prices were more than 20 percent above their year-earlier levels in November. Similarly, prices of white maize in November were well above their values a year before, reflecting elevated international prices.

Overall, food prices rose steadily in 2022, with the annual food inflation rate officially estimated at 20 percent in November 2022.

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Costa Rica

Cereals Imports

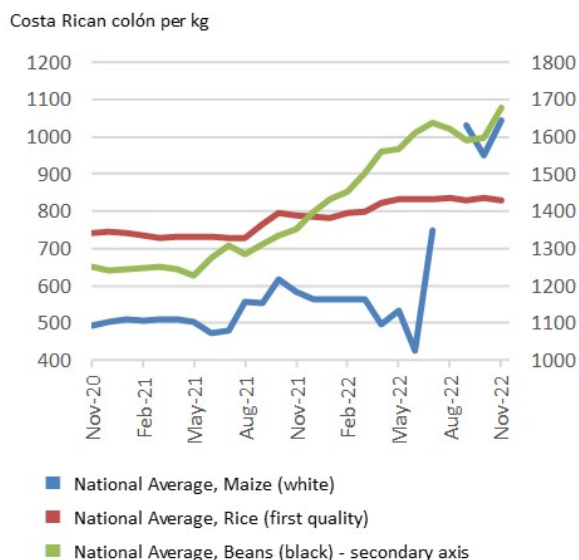


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices



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



GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 25-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production of 2021 main season paddy crop forecast below average due to low plantings
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year
- Reference prices of rice in wholesale and retail markets revised upwards by government

Production of 2021 main season paddy crop forecast below average due to low plantings

Harvesting of the 2021 main season paddy crop is ongoing and production is forecast at a slightly below-average level. This mainly reflects a contraction in plantings, which follows the decreasing trend observed during the last ten years. Yields of harvested crops are reportedly favourable due to adequate rainfall amounts between March and August. In the main producing province of Guanacaste, above-average rains in the May to June period secured an adequate availability of irrigation water.

Planting operations of the 2021 minor season paddy crop is underway in the provinces of Guanacaste and Alajuela, where seasonal production is concentrated. Rainfall amounts are forecast at slightly above the average in the November 2021 to January 2022 period, securing irrigation water supplies. This is expected to have a positive impact on yields of predominantly irrigated crops.

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

Cereal imports in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at the high levels of 1.4 million tonnes mainly due to the rising demand for yellow maize by the domestic feed sector. Imports of wheat grain and flour are also forecast at high levels, reflecting the sustained demand for human consumption in line with increasing population.

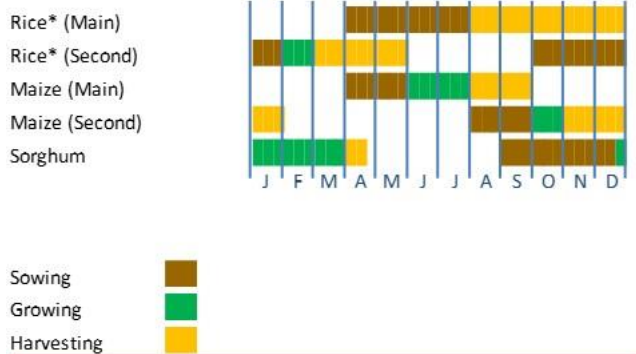
Reference prices of rice in wholesale and retail markets revised upwards by government

Minimum and maximum consumer prices of rice in wholesale and retail markets are regulated by the government. According to the Executive Decree 43151 issued at the end of August 2021, prices were revised upwards reflecting high production and

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	162	145	152	4.8
Maize	6	6	6	-3.9
Total	168	151	158	4.5

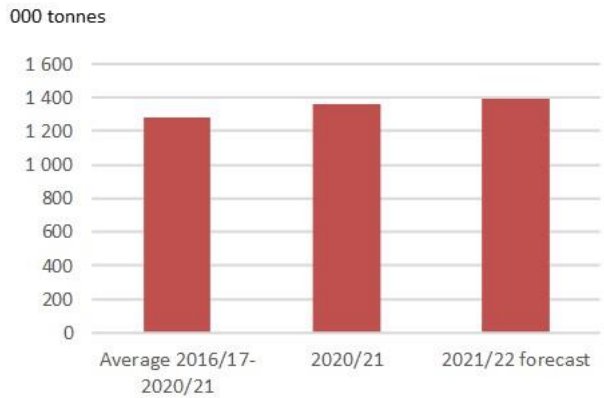
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

transportation costs. Prices of black beans increased seasonally between June and September 2021. Prices of white maize, which held steady during the first half of 2021, soared in August due to lower year-on-year imports in the May to July period as well as high international quotations. As of September 2021, prices of maize were more than 10 percent higher than a year earlier.

Costa Rica

Cereals Imports

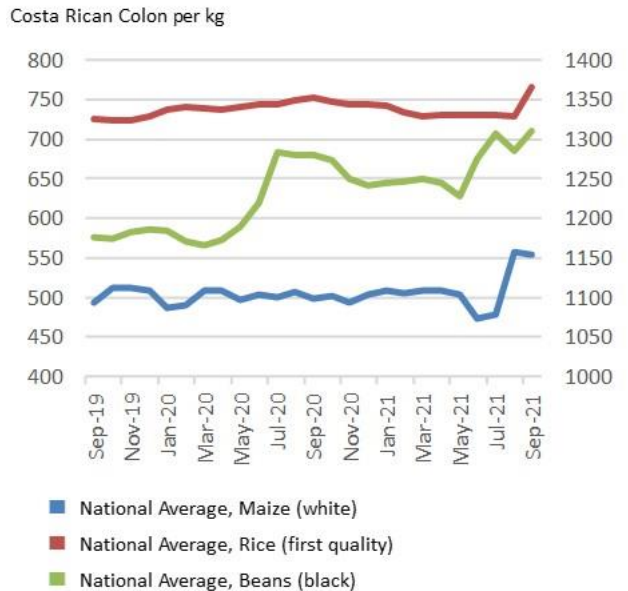


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices



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

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GLEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 10-May-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather forecasts boost yield prospects for 2021 main season
- Paddy production in 2020 estimated at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements anticipated at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year
- Prices of black beans strengthened in March following seasonal trends

Favourable weather forecasts boost yield prospects for 2021 main season

Planting operations of the 2021 main season paddy and maize crops are underway at a slow pace due to above-average rainfall amounts in April. However, the seasonal outlook is favourable as the weather forecast points to average to slightly above-average precipitation amounts in the May-July period, which coincides with the critical crop development and flowering stages. The planted area of the main paddy crop is expected at a below-average level, as the decreasing trend observed during the last ten years is likely to continue.

Paddy production in 2020 estimated at below-average level

Harvesting of the 2020 second (minor) season paddy crop, predominantly irrigated, is ongoing in the key producing province of Guanacaste. Crop yields are expected to be above average due to favourable weather conditions and adequate irrigation water supplies in the first quarter of 2021. With the main season crop harvested in the August-December 2020 period, the 2020 paddy production is expected at a below-average level of 145 000 tonnes. The low level mainly reflects the steady decline in plantings as farmers prefer to cultivate more remunerative horticulture crops.

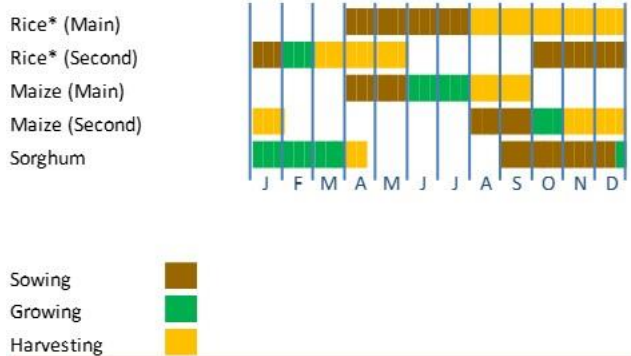
Cereal import requirements anticipated at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at a high level of 1.47 million tonnes, mainly due to rising demand for yellow maize by the domestic feed sector. Imports of wheat grain and flour are also forecast at high levels, reflecting the sustained demand for human consumption.

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

	2015-2019	2019	2020	change
	average		estimate	2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	170	149	145	-2.9
Maize	7	6	6	12.5
Total	177	155	151	-2.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

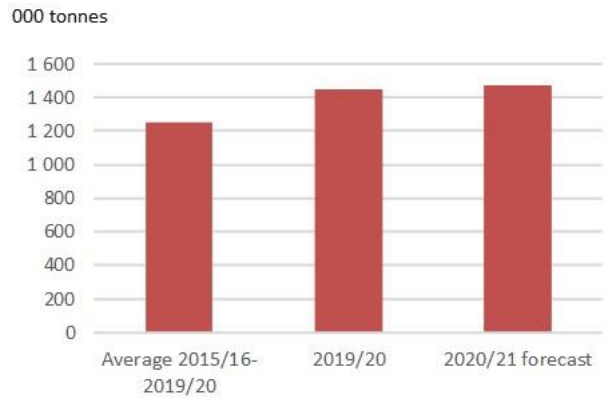
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of black beans strengthened in March following seasonal trends

Retail prices of black beans strengthened seasonally during the first quarter of 2021 and, as of March, they were more than 5 percent above the level of one year before. The year-on-year higher levels reflect the upsurge of retail demand amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of maize were mostly stable throughout the 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 reflecting adequate imports. Similarly, prices of rice have been overall stable as they are regulated by the Government.

Costa Rica

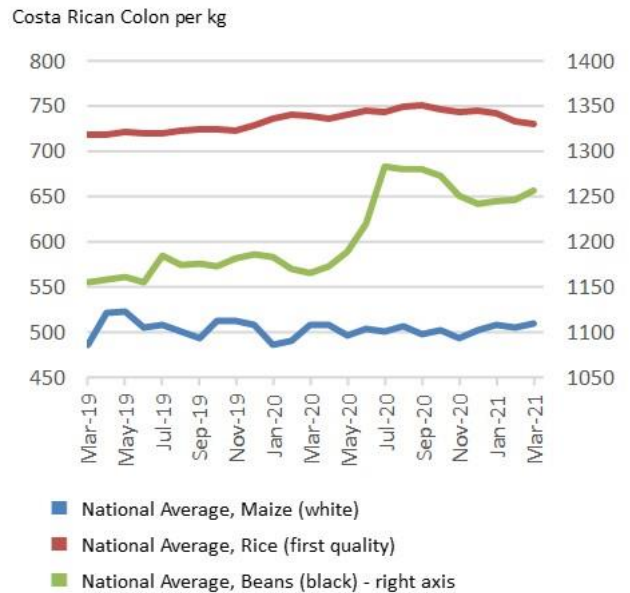
Cereals Imports



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.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices



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



GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 22-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2020 anticipated below-average level due to reduced sowings
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year
- Prices of black beans stable in September at high levels

Paddy production in 2020 anticipated below-average level due to reduced sowings

Harvesting of the 2020 predominantly rainfed main season paddy crop was completed in September. Production is expected to remain at a below-average level due to the continuous contraction in plantings over the past ten years, following farmers' shift to more remunerative horticulture crops. Yields of paddy are expected at an above-average level, mainly reflecting good seasonal rainfall during the crop development and flowering stages in the main producing Pacific areas.

The minor season paddy crop is at development stage and will be harvested from November. Sowings are expected to have followed the declining trend. Currently, satellite-based imagery indicates above-average vegetation conditions reflecting the positive impact on crops of adequate rainfall in the previous months.

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

Cereal imports in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at a record high level of 1.47 million tonnes. The high level of imports is due to the rising demand for yellow maize by the domestic feed sector. Imports of wheat grain and flour are also forecast at high levels reflecting the sustained demand for human consumption.

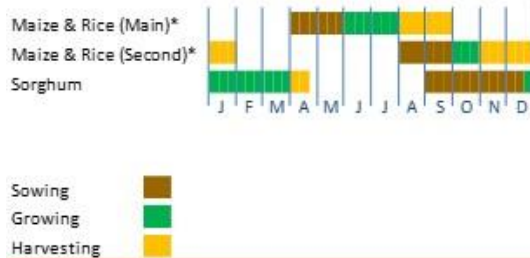
Prices of black beans stable in September at high levels

Retail prices of black beans were stable in September for the second consecutive month due to improved market availabilities from the first minor season harvest. As of September, prices were nearly 10 percent higher year on year after the upsurge in the previous months when retail demand soared amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of maize were mostly stable

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

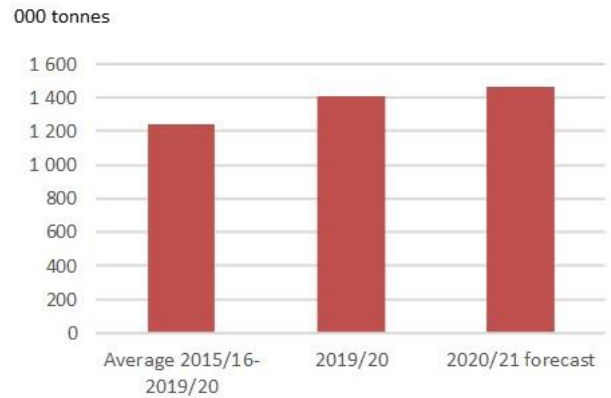
	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	171	153	152	-0.7
Maize	7	6	6	7.5
Total	178	159	158	-0.4

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

throughout the year reflecting adequate imports. Similarly, prices of rice have been overall stable as these are regulated by the Government.

Costa Rica

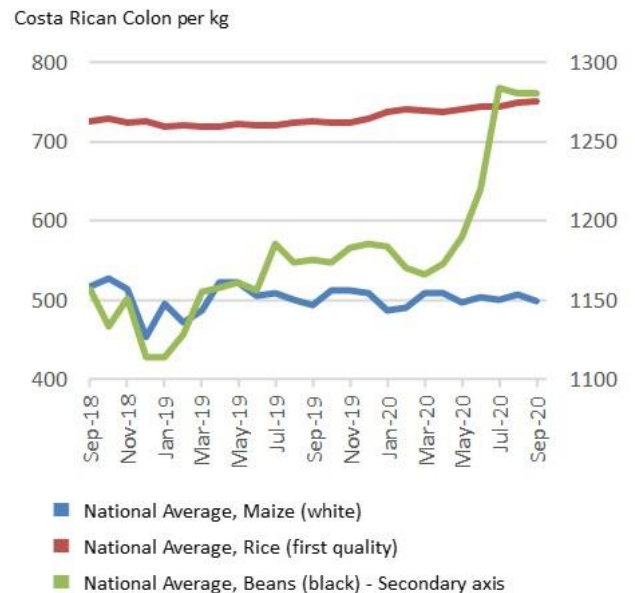
Cereals Imports



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.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices



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



GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 26-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2020 forecast to continue to decrease following reduced sowings
- Cereal import requirements anticipated at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of staple food generally stable in April

Rice production in 2020 forecast to continue to decrease following reduced sowings

Planting of the 2020 predominantly rainfed main season paddy crop is nearing completion. The planted area is estimated to continue to decline following the trend over the past ten years when farmers have shifted to more remunerative horticulture crops. Prospects for yields are favourable as rainfall amounts forecast for the June-August period are expected at average to above-average levels. The anticipated abundant precipitation will replenish the main reservoirs, water of which will be used for the irrigation of the second minor season rice crop.

Cereal import requirements anticipated at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.3 million tonnes, about 8 percent higher than the last five-year average. Imports of maize, accounting for about 70 percent of the total cereal imports, are on the rise reflecting the high demand by the domestic feed sector. Imports of wheat grain and flour are expected at a slightly above-average level due to sustained demand for human consumption.

Prices of staple food generally stable in April

After some increases during the last months, prices of white maize stabilized in April as lower prices of maize imported from the United States of America exerted downward pressure. Prices of black beans declined during the first quarter of 2020 due to the increased harvests in 2019 but strengthened seasonally in April. Prices of rice have been overall stable as these are regulated by the Government.

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	171	153	152	-0.7
Maize	7	6	6	7.5
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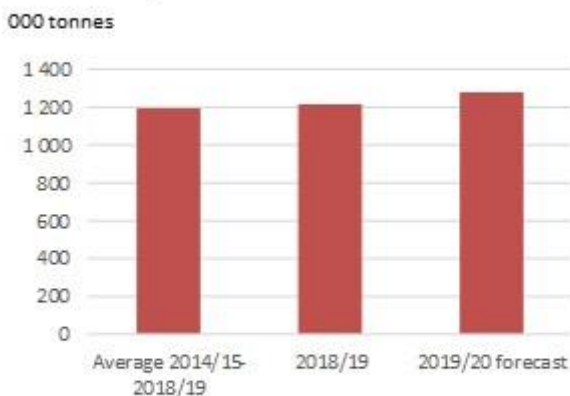
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In an effort to secure domestic food supplies and stabilize market prices amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government [temporarily lowered the tariff](#) of imports of 50 000 tonnes of rice (one-third of the average imports in the previous five years) from 35 percent to 6.5 percent in 2020. The Government also increased its social spending by [distributing food kits](#) to 850 000 students in the absence of school meals and [allocating a monthly subsidy](#) worth CRC 200 000 (about USD 350 at the exchange rate of 21 May 2020) for three months to about 375 000 households that have been economically affected by the crisis.

Costa Rica

Cereals Imports

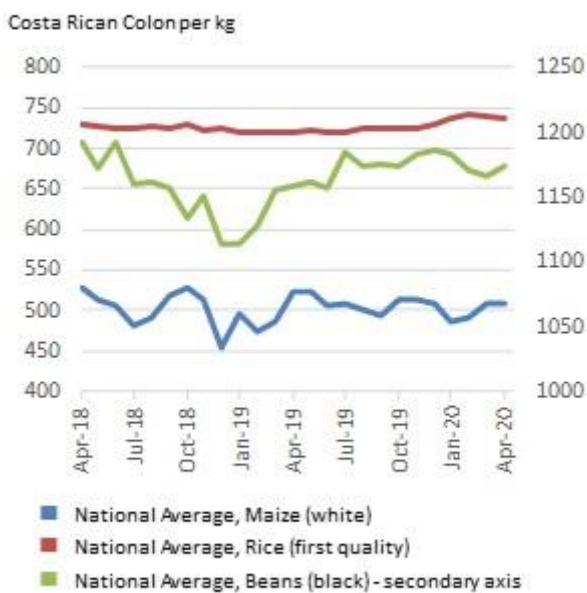


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 26-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2020 forecast to continue to decrease following reduced sowings
- Cereal import requirements anticipated at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of staple food generally stable in April

Rice production in 2020 forecast to continue to decrease following reduced sowings

Planting of the 2020 predominantly rainfed main season paddy crop is nearing completion. The planted area is estimated to continue to decline following the trend over the past ten years when farmers have shifted to more remunerative horticulture crops. Prospects for yields are favourable as rainfall amounts forecast for the June-August period are expected at average to above-average levels. The anticipated abundant precipitation will replenish the main reservoirs, water of which will be used for the irrigation of the second minor season rice crop.

Cereal import requirements anticipated at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year

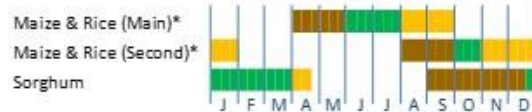
Cereal imports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.3 million tonnes, about 8 percent higher than the last five-year average. Imports of maize, accounting for about 70 percent of the total cereal imports, are on the rise reflecting the high demand by the domestic feed sector. Imports of wheat grain and flour are expected at a slightly above-average level due to sustained demand for human consumption.

Prices of staple food generally stable in April

After some increases during the last months, prices of white maize stabilized in April as lower prices of maize imported from the United States of America exerted downward pressure. Prices of black beans declined during the first quarter of 2020 due to the increased harvests in 2019 but strengthened seasonally in April. Prices of rice have been overall stable as these are regulated by the Government.

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
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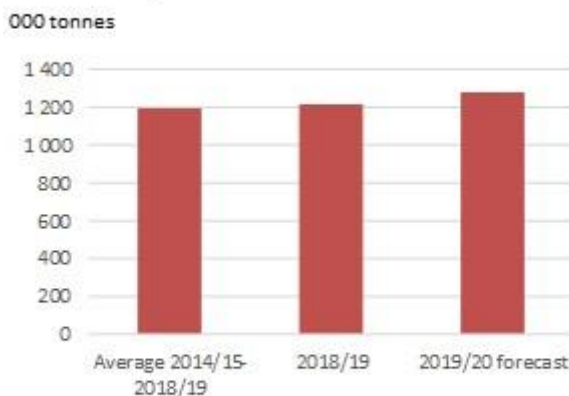
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

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Costa Rica

Cereals Imports

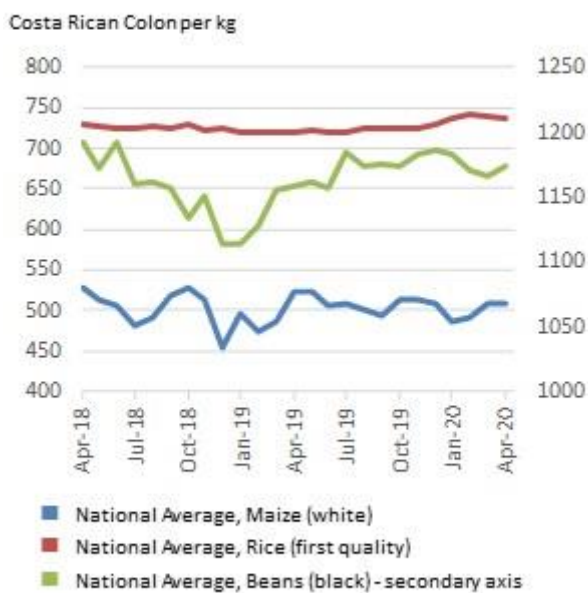


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices



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GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 30-January-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2019 expected at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements anticipated at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year

Rice production in 2019 expected at below-average level

Harvesting of the 2019 minor season rice crop is nearing completion. Production of the minor season is expected at below-average level due to reduced rainfall at planting and germination stages in the major producing Chorotegea Region.

The 2019 aggregate rice output, including the main season crop harvested in the August-October period, is anticipated at below-average 150 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting the continuous contraction in plantings as farmers shifted to more remunerative horticulture crops. During the main season, adequate rains benefitted planting operations and early development of crops in May, but rainfall amounts were below average during the June-August period, affecting yields in the key producing region.

Cereal import requirements anticipated at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.3 million tonnes, about 7 percent higher than the last five-year average. Maize imports, accounting for about 70 percent of the total cereal imports, are on the rise reflecting the high demand by the domestic feed sector. Wheat grain and flour imports are expected at an average level due to sustained demand for human consumption.

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Costa Rica

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

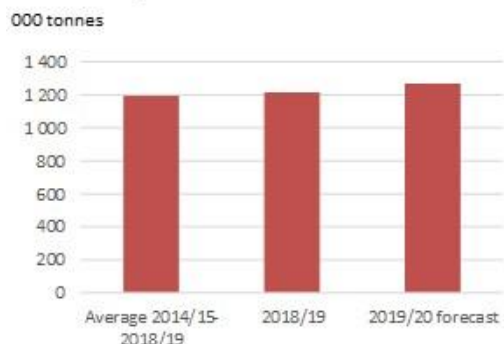
Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	183	155	150	-3.2
Maize	8	5	6	13.2
Total	191	160	156	-2.7

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

Costa Rica

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 Costa Rica

Reference Date: 31-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2019 forecast at below-average level
- Cereal imports in 2018/19 marketing year expected at near average
- Prices of staple crops lower year on year

Cereal production in 2019 forecast at below-average level

Planting of the main season rice crop is ongoing. Dry weather conditions are disrupting planting operations in Huetar Norte region, where 10-15 percent of the national rice output is produced. Elsewhere in the country, the accumulated rainfall is at average level, indicating adequate conditions for the planting. The Government raised retail prices of rice in January 2019 in order to sustain farmers' income and counterbalance the declining trend in plantings. As weather forecast point to reduced rainfalls in the May-July period when planting and early development take place, the Government re-established insurance programmes for the 2019 rainfed rice crop, which accounts for about 70 percent of total production. Given the localized dry conditions and trend in planting contraction, the 2019 production is forecast to remain below average.

Rice paddy production in 2018 is officially estimated at below-average about 158 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting contraction in plantings. The planted area in 2018 is estimated to be more than 25 percent lower than previous five-year average.

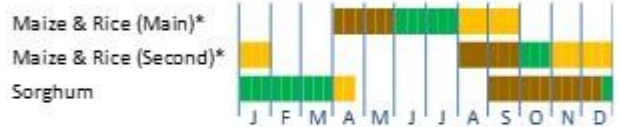
Planting of the main maize crop is also underway and production is forecast at below average due to a contraction in plantings.

Cereal imports in 2018/19 marketing year expected at near average

Cereal imports in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.2 million tonnes, near the five-year average. The country mainly imports maize and wheat for feed and food use, respectively, and the import dependency is high.

Costa Rica

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Costa Rica

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	200	153	158	3.3
Maize	10	7	5	-20.9
Total	210	160	163	1.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

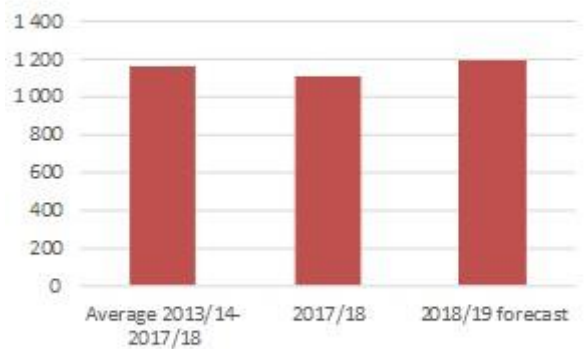
Prices of staple crops lower year on year

In April, prices of maize and rice were lower than year-earlier levels, reflecting adequate amount of imports. Prices of black and red beans were also below their levels a year earlier, as the good 2018 outputs are supplying the markets.

Costa Rica

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



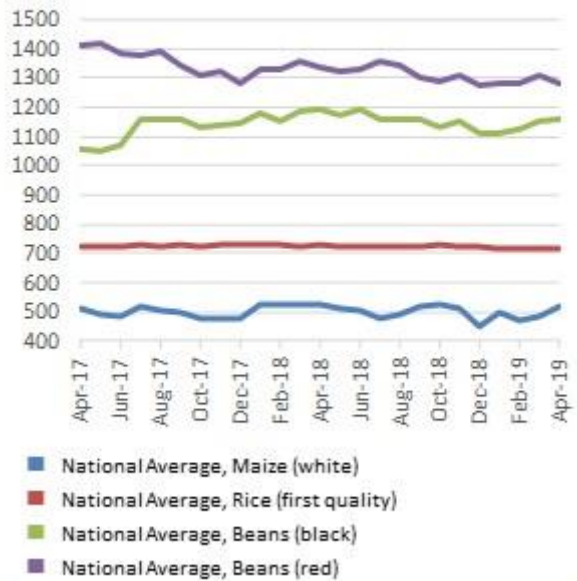
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Costa Rica

Selected cereal prices

Costa Rican Colon per kg



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 23-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 forecast well below average level
- Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year expected to remain high
- Maize prices increased in October, while prices of other main staples declined

Cereal production in 2017 forecast to decline from last year

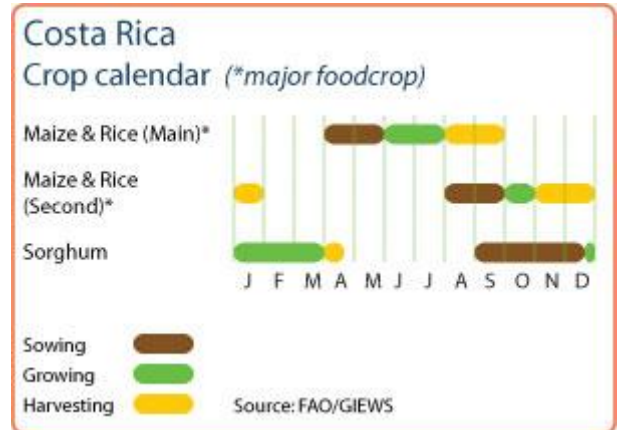
Cereal production for 2017 is anticipated to reach 200 000 tonnes, about 4 percent below last year's level and well below average. The decline mainly reflects a reduced rice crop output. Yields of the 2017 first and second season rice crops were affected by excess precipitations caused by concurrent hurricanes and tropical storms during the months of September and October. Rice output is estimated at 190 000 tonnes, about 5 percent below the 2016 level and well below average. Production of the 2017 main season maize crop, harvested in August, is anticipated at below-average levels, reflecting lower plantings. By contrast, second and third season maize crops, to be harvested from December and February, respectively, are progressing favourably. Overall, maize output for 2017 is anticipated at 10 000 tonnes, about 11 percent above last year's level, but still below average. Low profit margins continued to depress maize planting for the second consecutive year.

Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year expected to remain high

Cereal imports, mainly maize and wheat, in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.2 million tonnes, slightly below last year's record level, but well above the five-year average. The high level of imports is mainly due to the strong domestic demand for feed maize and the contraction in 2017 rice output.

Maize prices increased in October, while prices of other main staples declined

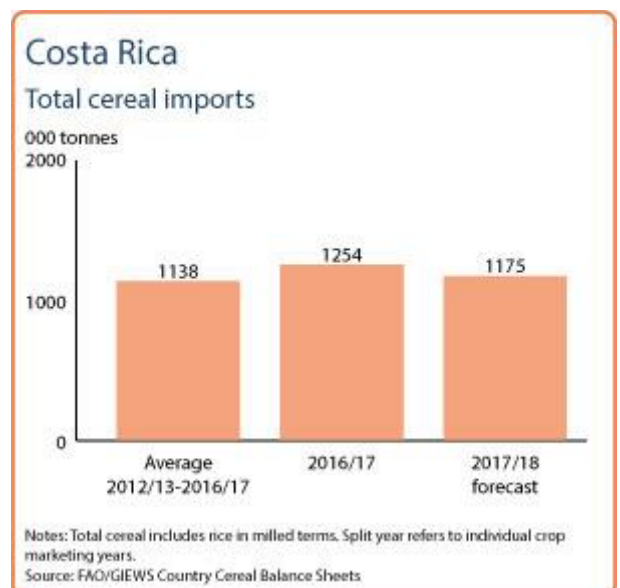
Maize prices continued to increase in October as seasonal trends were pressured by the below average output during the main first season. By contrast, reflecting the adequate supplies from imports, prices of rice and beans declined in October. Prices of both commodities were below their levels from a year earlier.



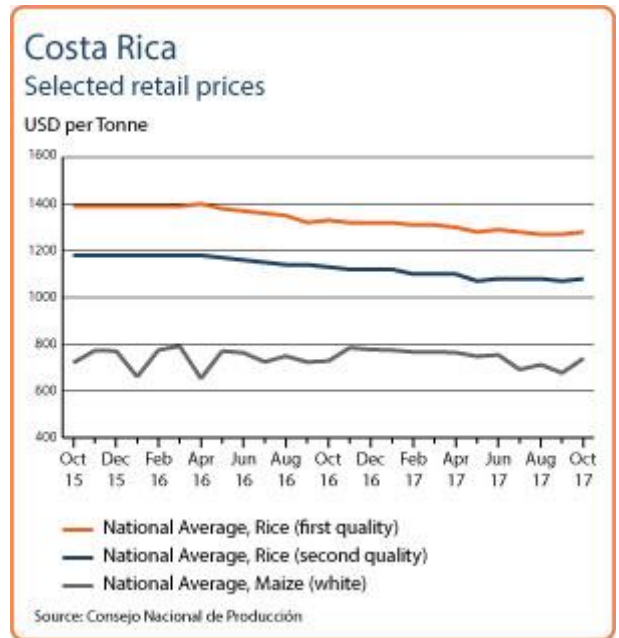
Costa Rica
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	209	200	190	-5
Maize	12	9	10	11
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	221	209	200	-4

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



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GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 6-July-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 forecast above last year's level
- Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year expected to remain relatively high
- Rice and maize prices unchanged in June

Cereal production in 2017 forecast above last year's level

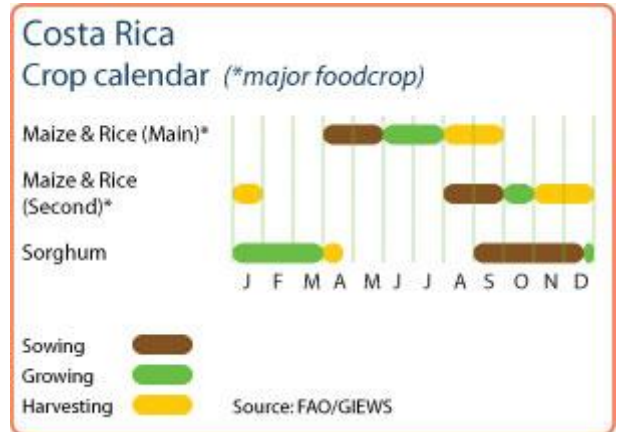
Planting of the main 2017 cereal crops, mostly rice, concluded in May. Plantings of both rice and maize are initially forecast to remain essentially unchanged from last year's level, reflecting ample availabilities in the market of both crops. Planting operations benefitted from adequate precipitation levels and growing conditions for the remaining of the season are deemed to be optimal as the probability of El Niño event developing this year has significantly diminished. FAO's initial forecast puts the 2017 cereal crop at 216 000 tonnes, 3 percent above last year's level. This forecast assumes that normal weather conditions prevail for the rest of the year and that plantings, particularly for rice, remain as expected.

Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year expected to remain relatively high

Cereal imports, mainly maize and wheat, in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.2 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from last year's high level. The high level of imports mainly reflects a strong demand for feed maize.

Rice and maize prices unchanged in June

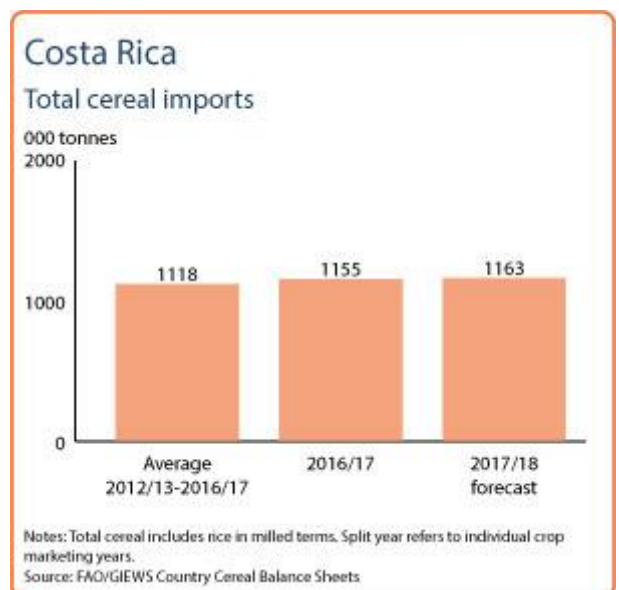
Rice prices in June remained virtually unchanged from the previous month and below last year's level, reflecting imports and carryover supplies from the 2016 crop. Maize prices were also unchanged in June, but were moderately above year earlier levels in anticipation of the 2017 harvest which will start in late August.



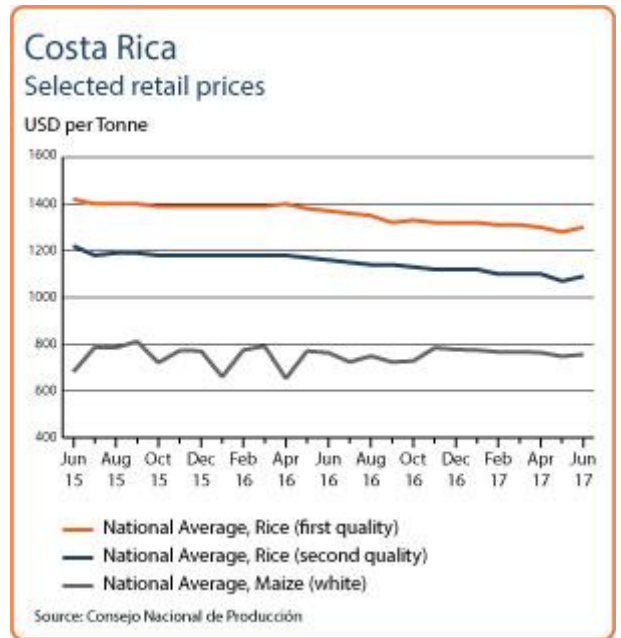
Costa Rica
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	209	200	205	2
Maize	12	9	10	11
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	221	209	216	3

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



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GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 14-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase but remains below average
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year expected to remain relatively high
- Rice and maize prices unchanged in October and below last year's level

Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase but remains below average

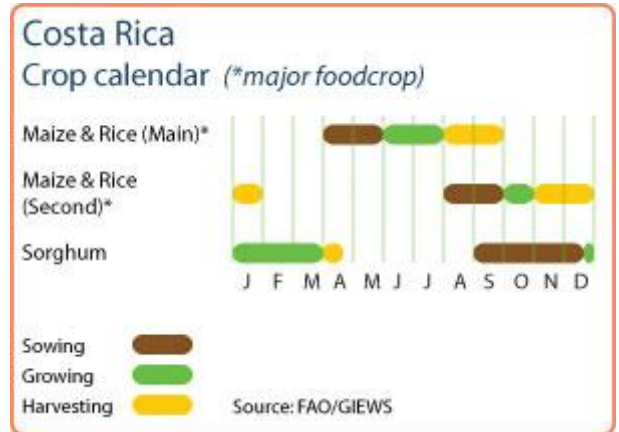
Cereal production in 2016 is forecast at 214 000 tonnes, some 8 percent up from last year's drought-reduced level but still below the five-year average. The harvest of the first main cereal season concluded in September and early estimates point to a good output. Planting of the secondary season concluded in early October under favourable weather conditions. Planting of the minor third season, mostly in Atlantic regions, was delayed by Hurricane Otto. Preliminary assessments point to localized damages to crops due to the Hurricane. The Hurricane, which made landfall on 25 November, caused severe flooding and some 3 300 people were evacuated in the departments of Limon, Heredia and Alajuela in northern Costa Rica. FAO still anticipates that rice production (paddy equivalent) will increase by 8 percent above last year's level to 205 000 tonnes. Aggregate maize production (first and second season) is forecast to increase by some 12 percent from last year and reach 9 000 tonnes, a downward revision of 1 000 tonnes from the previous forecast reflecting lower-than-anticipated plantings. However, at the forecast levels, rice and maize outputs would be below the five-year average reflecting reduced plantings for the first season due to the late start of the rainy season.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year expected to remain relatively high

Cereal imports, mainly maize and wheat, in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at about 1.2 million tonnes, close to last year's high levels supported by strong demand from the feed industry for maize and the less-than-average cereal output in 2016.

Rice and maize prices unchanged in October and below last year's level

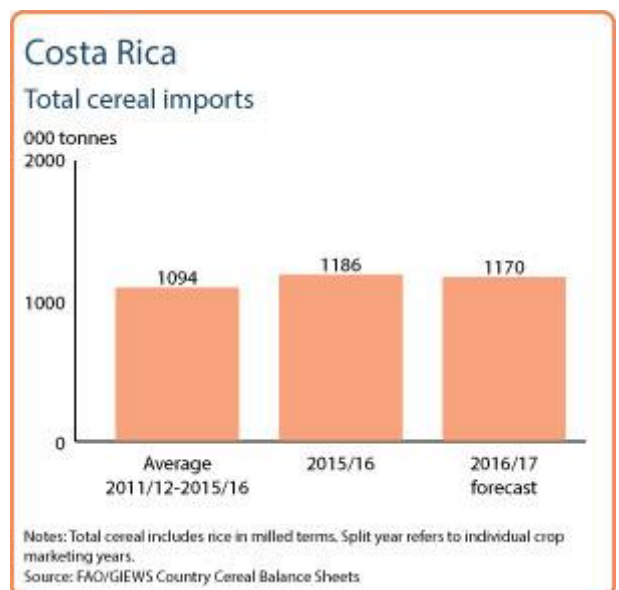
Rice prices in October remained unchanged from the previous month and from a year earlier reflecting ample availabilities from



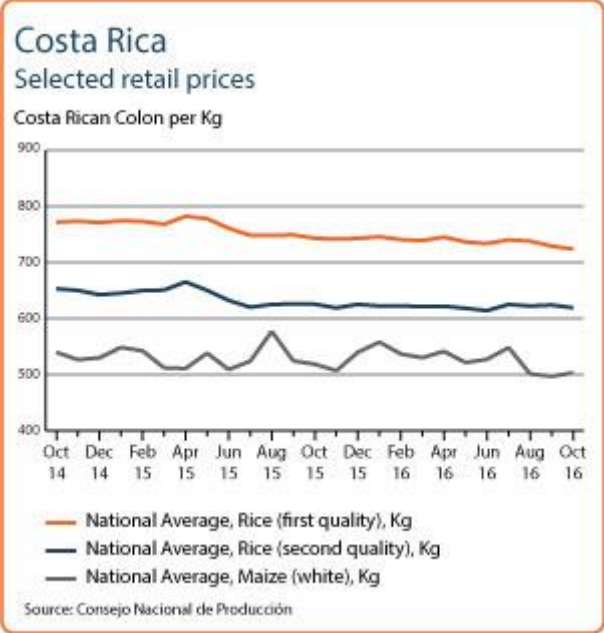
Costa Rica
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	222	190	205	8
Maize	13	8	9	12
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	235	198	214	8

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



the first season crop, which concluded in October, and imports. Maize prices were also relatively stable in October and below their year-earlier levels reflecting the recent main season harvest.





GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 25-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase but remains below average
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year expected to remain relatively high
- Rice prices unchanged in August and at low levels, maize prices decline

Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase but remains below average

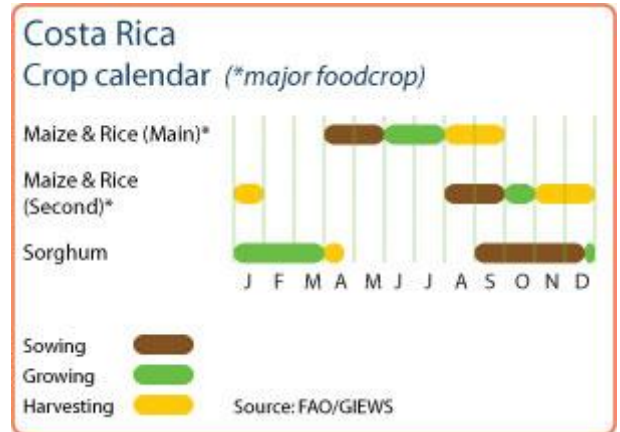
Cereal production in 2016 is forecast at 215 000 tonnes, some 9 percent up from last year's drought-reduced level but still below the five-year average. The harvest of the first main cereal season concluded in September and early estimates point to a good output. Planting of the secondary season concluded in early October under favourable weather conditions. Aggregate maize production (first and second season) is anticipated to increase by some 25 percent from last year and reach 10 000 tonnes. Rice production (paddy equivalent) is forecast at 205 000 tonnes, 8 percent above last year's level. However, at the forecasted level, rice and maize outputs would be below the five-year average reflecting reduced plantings for the first season, due to the late start of the rainy season.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year expected to remain relatively high

Cereal imports, mainly maize and wheat, in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to remain close to last year's high levels, supported by strong demand from the feed industry for maize and the less-than-average cereal output in 2016.

Rice prices unchanged in August and at low levels, maize prices decline

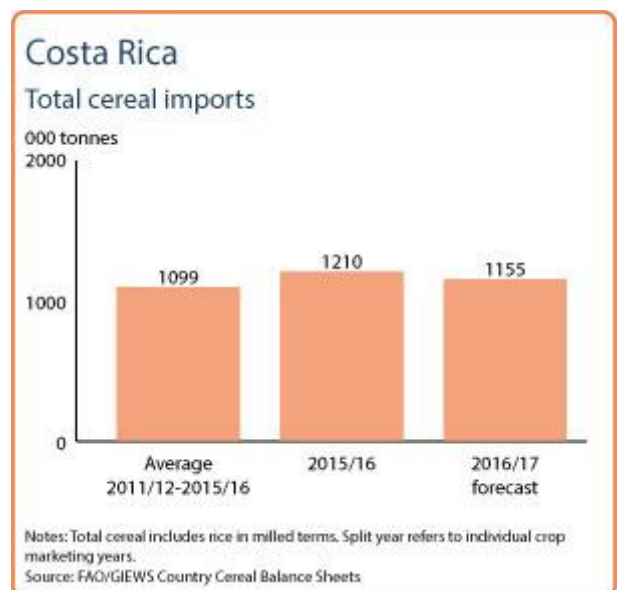
Rice prices in August remained unchanged from the previous month and from a year earlier reflecting ample availabilities from imports and the recently concluded harvest. By contrast, maize prices declined sharply in August and were well below their year-earlier level reflecting the recent main season harvest.



Costa Rica Cereal production

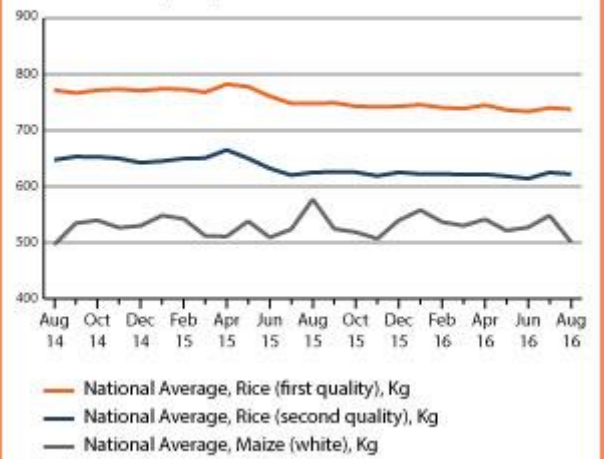
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	222	190	205	8
Maize	13	8	10	25
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	235	198	215	9

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



Costa Rica Selected retail prices

Costa Rican Colon per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción



GIEWS Country Brief Costa Rica

Reference Date: 17-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase but remain below average
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year expected to remain relatively high
- Rice prices unchanged in July and at low levels, maize prices increase

Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase but remain below average

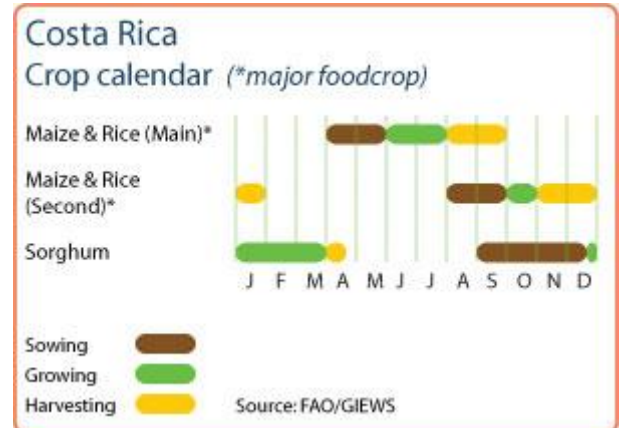
Cereal production in 2016 is forecast at 215 000 tonnes, some 3 percent up from last year's drought-reduced level but still below the five-year average. The harvest of the first main cereal season will begin towards the end of August. According to remote sensing data for the month of July, vegetation growth appears to have progressed normally through the season so far, despite lower-than-average levels of rainfall. Maize production is anticipated to increase by some 25 percent from last year and reach 10 000 tonnes. Rice production is forecast at 205 000 tonnes, 2 percent above last year's level. However, at the forecasted level, rice and maize outputs would be below the five-year average, reflecting reduced plantings for the first season, due to the late start of the rainy season. Aggregate 2016 output of both crops may yet be revised depending on prospects for the second season, plantings for which may increase reflecting a recovery in rainfall levels at the end of July and greater availability of water for irrigation.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year expected to remain relatively high

Cereal imports, mainly maize and wheat, in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to remain close to the last year's high levels, supported by strong demand from the feed industry for maize and the less-than-average cereal output in 2016.

Rice prices unchanged in July and at low levels, maize prices increase

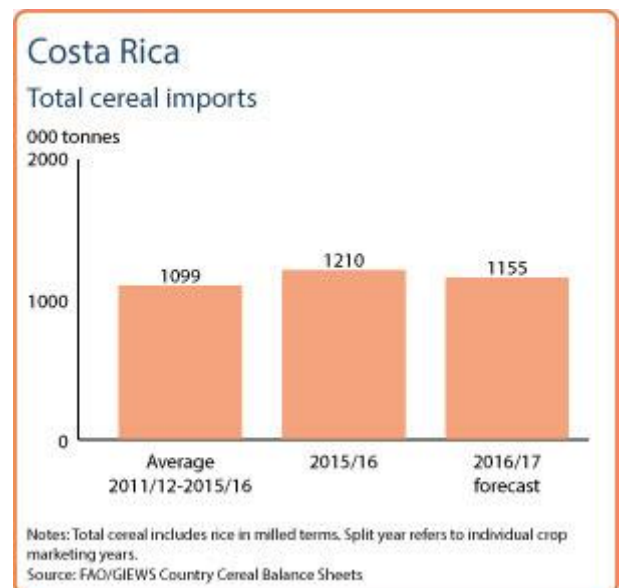
Rice prices in July remained unchanged and well-below their level a year earlier, reflecting ample availabilities from imports. By contrast, maize prices increased almost 5 percent in July and were well above their year-earlier level reflecting tight supplies from the reduced 2015 harvests and high demand from the feed sector.



Costa Rica Cereal production

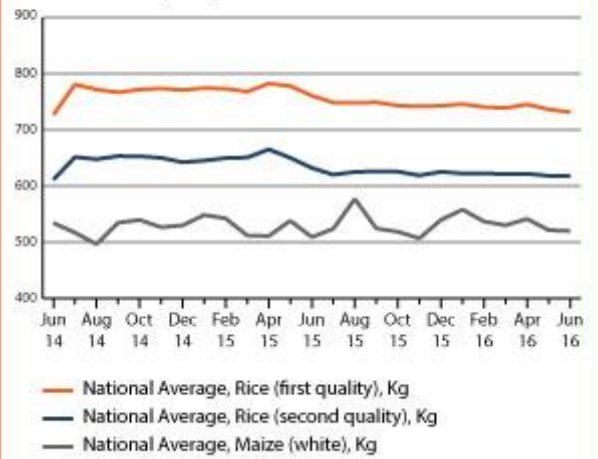
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	224	200	205	2
Maize	13	8	10	25
Total	237	208	215	3

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



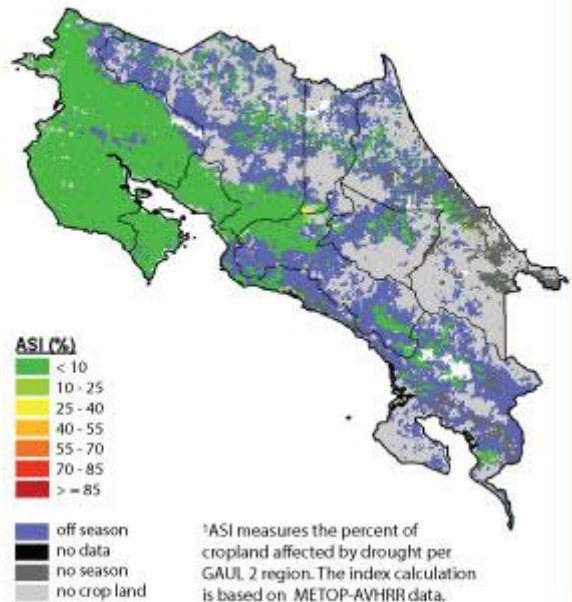
Costa Rica Selected retail prices

Costa Rican Colon per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Costa Rica - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹ from start of season 1 to dekad 3 July 2016



Reference Date: 14-March-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2013 recovers from the previous year's reduced output
- Cereal imports expected to remain firm in 2013/14 marketing year
- Cereal prices at low levels

Cereal production in 2013 recovers from the previous year's reduced output

The 2013 cereal production is officially estimated at 248 000 tonnes, 9 percent higher than the reduced level in 2012, but still below the past five year-average. The recovery in 2013 mainly reflects an increase in rice production, as a result of higher plantings.

Sowing of the 2014 main cereal season crops will begin in late April.

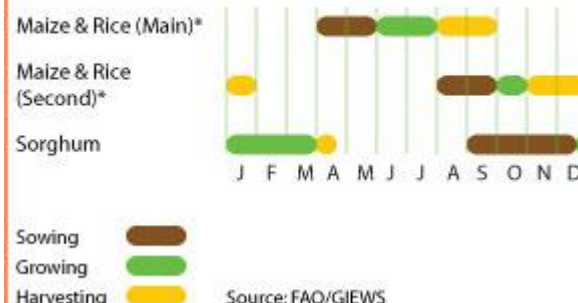
Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year expected to remain firm

Cereal imports, mainly maize, in the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to remain close to last year's high levels, supported by strong demand from the feed industry.

Cereal prices at low levels

Rice and maize prices have declined in the past few months and in February were below their levels at the same time a year earlier, following the recovery in 2013 production.

Costa Rica Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

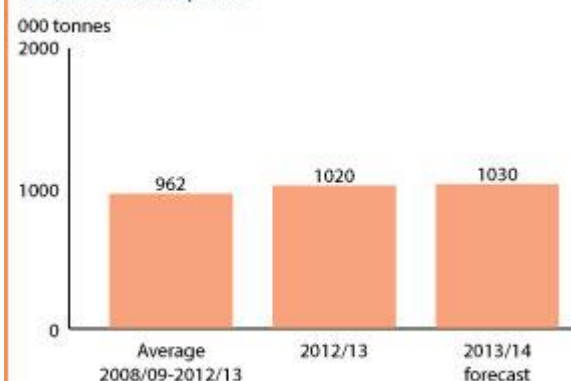


Costa Rica Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	254	214	230	7
Maize	18	13	18	38
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	272	227	248	9

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

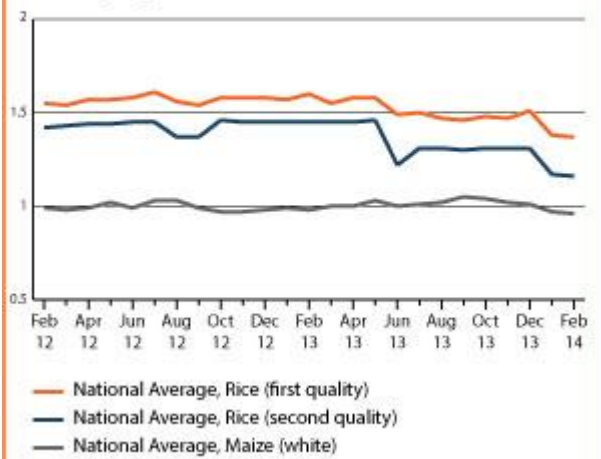
Costa Rica Total cereal imports



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

Costa Rica Selected retail prices

US Dollar per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Reference Date: 07-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 rice production recovers but still below average
- Cereal imports remain at high levels
- Rice prices declining

2013 rice crop production recovers but still below average

Harvesting of the 2013 main season rice crop, which accounts for more than 60 percent of aggregate production, is underway. Favourable rains since the beginning of the season in the main growing areas of Chorotega and Brunca in the North and South Pacific regions benefited crop development. Planting of the second crop is underway under favourable weather conditions.

The 2013 rice aggregate production, first and second seasons, is forecast at 230 000 tonnes, some 7 percent up from last year's reduced level due to higher yields, but still below the 2011 record output reflecting low level of plantings.

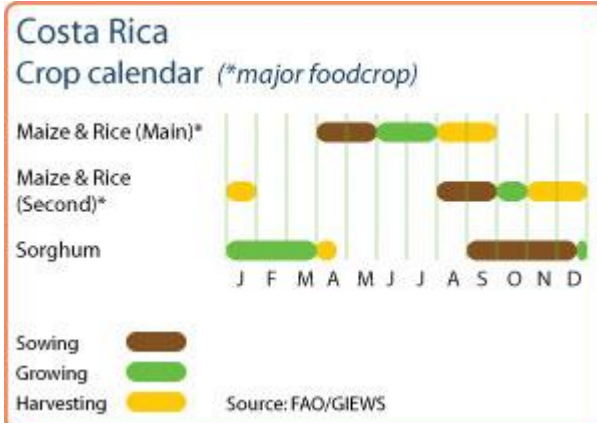
Cereal imports still at high levels

Cereal imports in the 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are estimated higher than the previous year's high level and the country's five-year average. This mainly reflects increased rice purchases following reduced production levels, as well as high maize imports to satisfy sustained demand for animal feed.

Imports of beans, another major staple crop in the country are estimated at 40 000 tonnes, slightly up from the previous year's level but still some 5 percent lower than average.

Rice prices declining

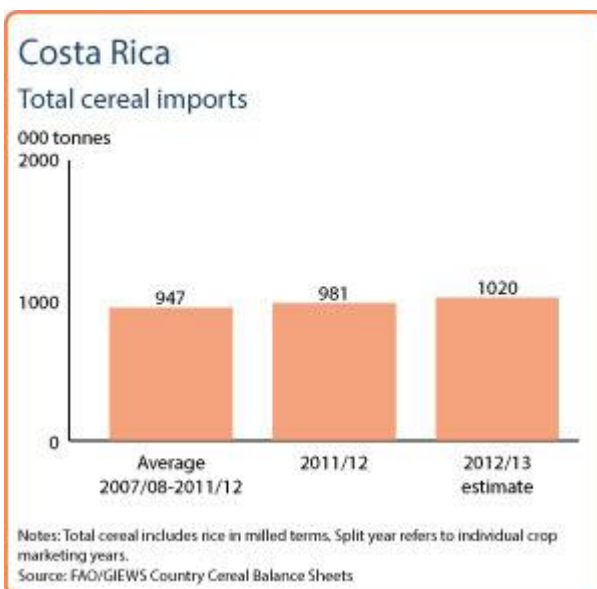
Rice prices in June decreased by some 6 percent from the previous month, reflecting larger market supplies from the current harvest and were lower than at the same time a year ago. Prices of beans were relatively stable in June and were 5 percent lower than their levels of a year earlier, mainly reflecting higher imports and reduced import prices. Maize prices have remained stable over the past twelve months and in June were at similar levels than a year earlier.



Costa Rica Cereal production

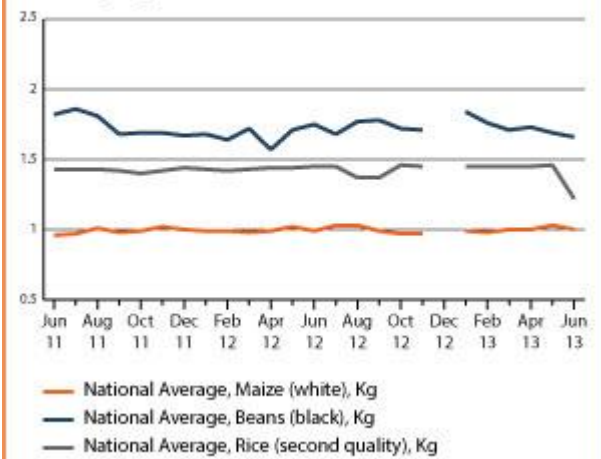
	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	254	214	230	7
Maize	18	13	18	38
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	272	227	248	9

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



Costa Rica Selected retail prices

US Dollar per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Reference Date: 09-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Sharp decline of the 2012 rice crop production expected
- Cereal imports at high levels
- Cereal prices stable

Sharp decline of the 2012 rice crop production expected

Harvesting of the 2012 main season rice crops, which represents more than 60 percent of the aggregate production, is underway. In the key producing regions of Chorotega and Brunca, rains during the growing period were below average and this is expected to have had a negative impact on yields. The area planted is estimated to be some 30 percent lower than in the same season last year, mainly as a result of the Government's decision to reduce plantings due to marketing difficulties in the past few years. Sowing of the second season is about to start and a reduction in the area planted is anticipated.

The 2012 aggregate production (first and second crops) of the main (paddy) rice crop is estimated at 175 000 tonnes, 30 percent below the level in 2011.

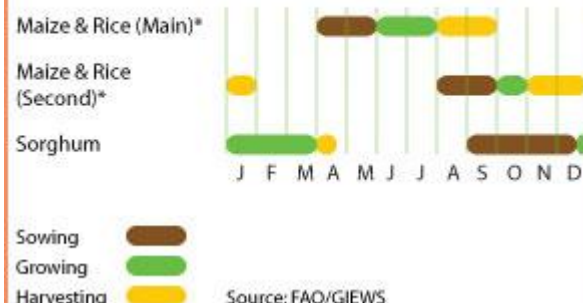
Cereal imports at high levels

Cereal imports in the 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 1 million tonnes, 7 percent higher than the average of the past five years. This reflects an increase in imports of rice, following the expected reduction in 2012 production and relatively high imports of maize, which is produced in small quantities, to satisfy growing demand for animal feed.

Rice prices close to their levels of year ago

Rice prices have remained stable over the past twelve months, and in June were about at the same level of last year. Prices of beans increased by 12 percent in May and June mainly reflecting higher import prices, as the country heavily depends on imports to cover its bean consumption requirements. However, prices in June were still 4 percent below their levels of a year earlier.

Costa Rica Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

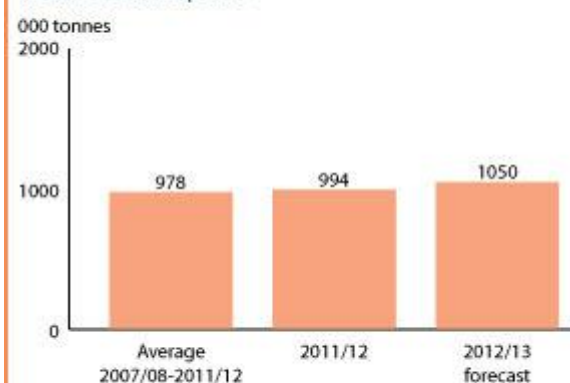


Costa Rica Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	249	250	175	-30
Maize	19	20	19	-5
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	268	270	194	-28

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

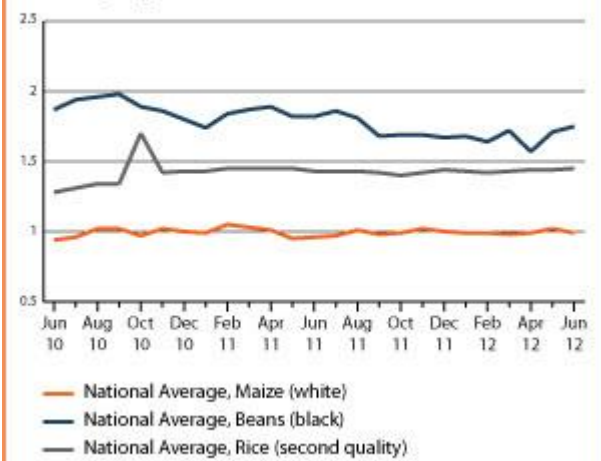
Costa Rica Total cereal imports



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

Costa Rica Selected retail food prices

US Dollar per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Reference Date: 27-February-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2011 rice and maize harvests expected to be satisfactory
- Cereal imports remain at high levels
- Cereal prices stable

2011 rice production above average

Harvesting of the 2011 second season main crops was completed in January. Cropping activities are minimal in February and March as sowing of the 2012 first season crops will start in April/May.

Despite torrential rainfall last October affected the second season crops, total cereal production (first and second crops) in 2011 is estimated at around 290 000 tonnes, 12 percent above the average of the last five years, but 5 percent below last year's bumper harvest. Total production (first and second crops) of the main (paddy) rice crop is estimated at 270 000 tonnes. This good level of production is the result of beneficial rainfall in June and July that favoured the main season crops, accounting for about 70 percent of total annual production. In addition, the setting of subsidized producer prices in recent years has led to increases in the area planted and has consequently boosted output.

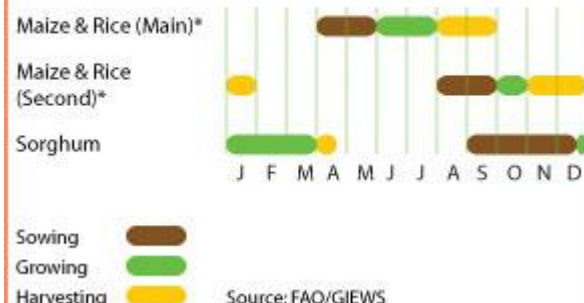
Cereal imports remain high

Despite the strong cereal production in 2011 and 2010, grain imports in the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at the relatively high level of 1 million tonnes, about the same as in the previous season. This reflects an increase in imports of maize, which is produced in small quantities, to satisfy growing demand by the animal feed industry. In general, the country continues to depend on imports of yellow maize, wheat and soya which are obtained mainly from the United States. In the case of red and black beans, the country produces about 25 percent of national consumption, and imports the difference — black beans mostly from the People's Republic of China, and red beans from other Central American countries. Domestic production of white maize supplies just over 30 percent of national consumption, with the difference imported from United States.

Basic food prices close to their levels of year ago

Rice prices have remained nearly unchanged since early 2011, and in December were about at the same level of 12 months earlier. The prices of black beans, the variety mostly produced and consumed in Costa Rica, fell sharply in the second half of 2011 with the second season harvest, and in December were 7 percent below their levels of a year earlier.

Costa Rica Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

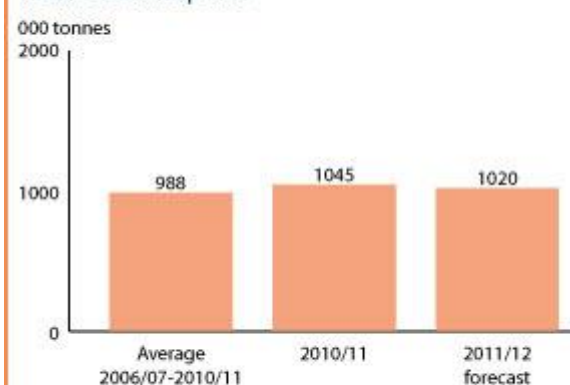


Costa Rica Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	241	285	270	-5
Maize	18	20	20	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	259	305	290	-5

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

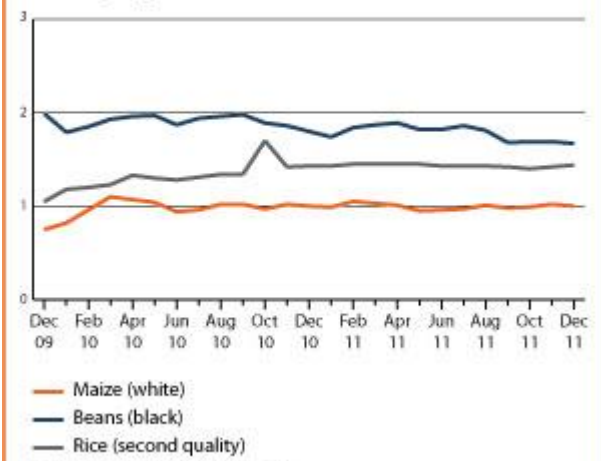
Costa Rica Total cereal imports



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

Costa Rica Selected retail prices

US Dollar per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Reference Date: 28-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Main 2011 rice and maize crop estimated satisfactory
- Cereal imports remain at high levels
- Cereal prices stable

Early estimates indicate good production of the main rice and maize crops in 2011

Harvesting of the main rice and maize crops is nearing completion, and provisional estimates put cereal production at around 290 000 tonnes, 12 percent above the average for the last five years, although 5 percent below last year's bumper harvest. Paddy crop production for 2011 is estimated at 270 000 tonnes, following abundant rainfall which benefited main 2011 rice season crop during the growing period in June and July. In the case of rice, the good level of production also reflects the setting of subsidized producer prices, which has increased the number of producers and areas planted, and consequently boosted output over the last few years. In late August, however, the government agreed a new rice policy in which rice support prices will be phased out under its WTO commitments. This is likely to cause a sharp cutback in rice production and increased imports over the next few years.

Cereal imports increasing

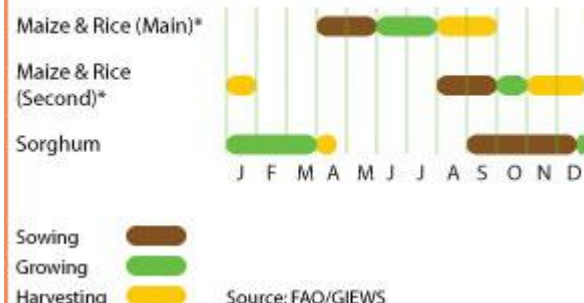
Despite the good level of cereal production in 2011 and 2010, cereal imports in the 2011/2012 (July/June) marketing season are expected to be relatively high at 1 million tonnes - 3 percent above the previous year's level. This is due to an increase in maize imports, very little of which is produced in Costa Rica, to satisfy growing demand from the feed industry.

Basic food prices around the levels of a year ago

Rice prices have not changed since early 2011, although in August they were 7 percent above their level the same month last year. Prices of black beans, the variety mostly produced and consumed in the country, fell by 3 percent from July to August, when they were 8 percent below their levels of a year ago. The market is importing beans from China, as the next crop will be harvested in February 2012. Although retail prices of white maize rose by 6 percent between May and August, in August they were at the same levels of a year ago.

Annual inflation as of August 2011 was estimated at 5.25 percent, the second lowest level for a decade at this time of the year.

Costa Rica Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

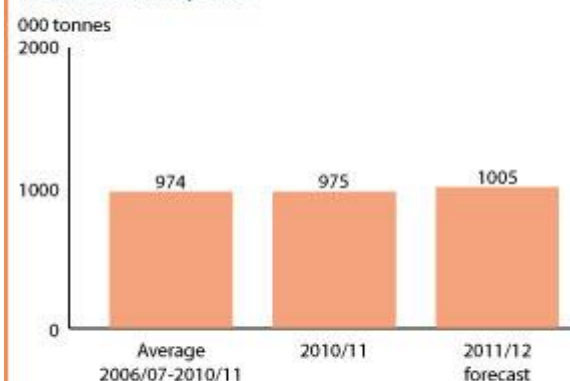


Costa Rica Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	241	285	270	-5
Maize	18	20	20	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	259	305	290	-5

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

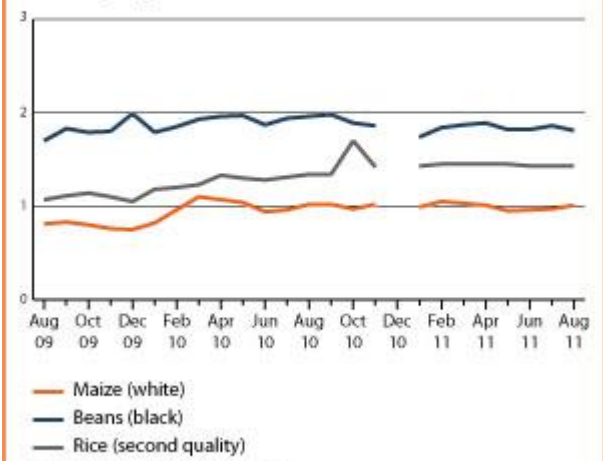
Costa Rica Total cereal imports



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

Costa Rica Selected retail prices

US Dollar per Kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Reference Date: 27-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Sowing outlook good for 2011 cereal crops
- 2010 maize and rice production increased but bean production decreased
- Imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) continue to increase
- Prices of beans increasing

Favourable prospects for the 2011 main season crops

Sowing of the main cereal crops of 2011 has begun. After the weakening of the La Niña phenomenon, from February to April, a return to normal conditions is forecast for the next few months. Normal rainfall throughout April and May in the main production area of Guanacaste maintained adequate soil conditions and favoured sowing operations.

2010 maize and rice production increased but bean production decreased

Abundant rainfall during the 2010 agricultural season, due to the passage of hurricanes, caused localized damage to crops but in general was beneficial to the production of rice and maize that are estimated to be respectively 6 and 11 percent higher than in 2009. However, the excessive humidity had a detrimental effect on bean crops and led to reduced yields.

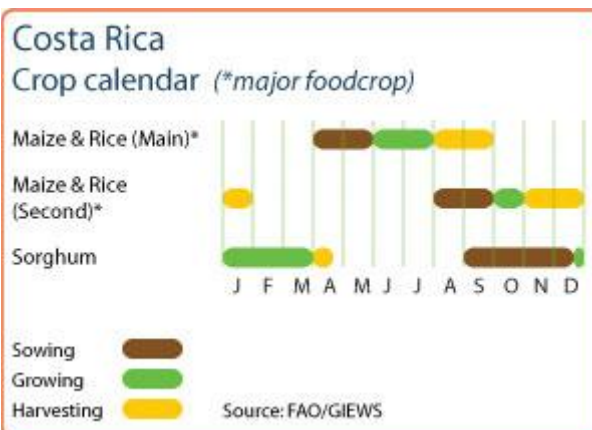
Increase in imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) continues

The country continues to depend on grains and rice imports. Yellow maize for animal feed, wheat and rice are mainly imported from the United States of America. National production of white maize only covers one-third of human consumption and the rest is also imported from the United States of America. It is estimated that in the 2010/11 (July/June) marketing year, cereal imports will reach 975 000 tonnes, which represent an increase of just under 5 percent compared to last year due to the sustained increase in demand.

The country continues to depend on imports of all grains. Similarly, the country only produces one-quarter of the annual consumption of beans and imports red and black beans from China and neighbouring countries, particularly Nicaragua.

Prices of beans increasing

Prices of red and black beans, which fell slightly at the end of 2010 with the second season harvest, increased again from February 2011 due to the reduced 2010 yield (first, second and third seasons). Prices of rice, the basic product

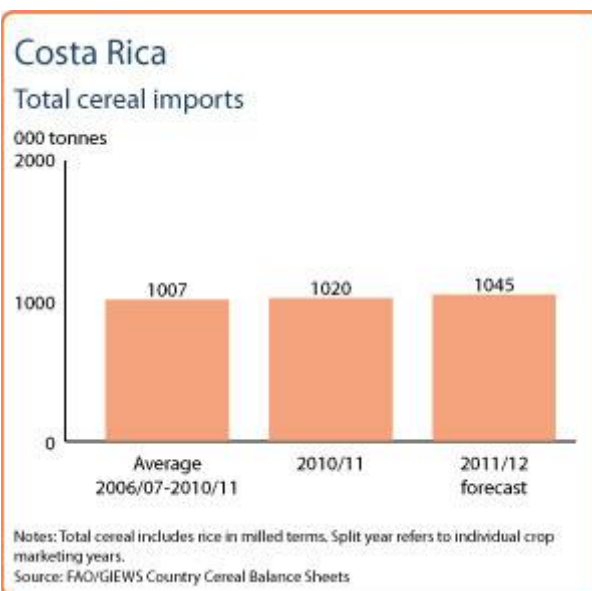


Costa Rica

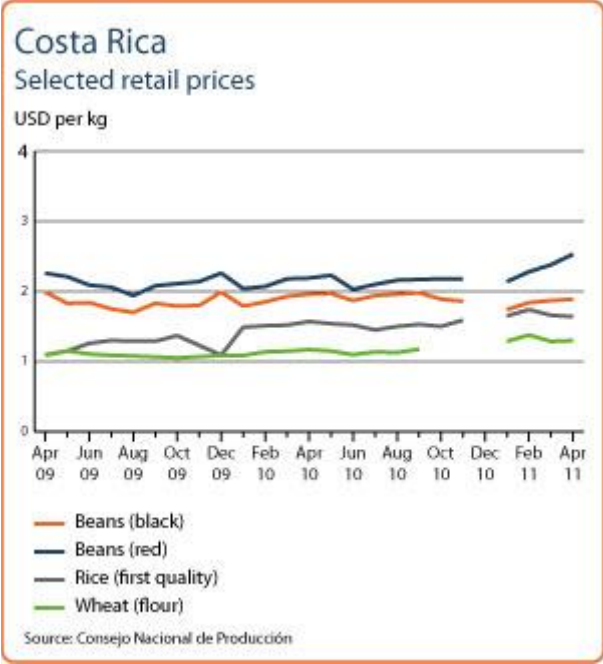
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	233	270	285	6
Maize	16	19	21	11
Total	249	289	306	6

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



in the national diet, that are regulated by the Government and fell in March and in April 2011, reached levels 5 percent higher than in April 2010. Prices of wheat flour also decreased over the last two months and in April were 11 percent higher than at the same time last year.



Reference Date: 9-March-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2010 second season bean production was affected by excessive rainfall
- The damage caused to bean crops due to excessive rainfall led to an increase in the price of red beans in local markets
- It is likely that the sowing of crops in the 2011 first season, which will take place in April/May, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon

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

The main crops from the 2010 second season have been harvested and minimal agricultural activities take place in March. It is predicted that the sowing of the crops of the first season of 2011, which will begin in April/May, will continue to remain affected by the La Niña phenomenon. Although the phenomenon has started to ease off, above average and irregular rainfall is predicted during the months in which the first season's crops are sown.

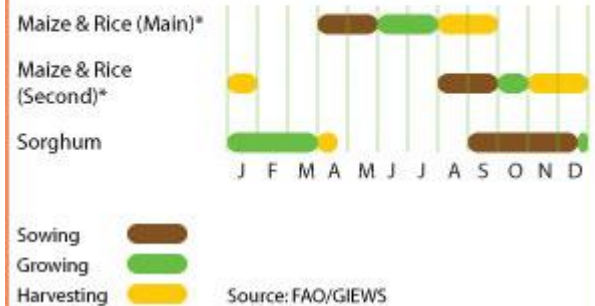
Rise in 2010 maize and rice production

In 2010 (first and second seasons), despite heavy rainfall caused by hurricane season, rice and maize crops benefited and production increased by 6 and 11 percent respectively compared to 2009. However, the excess humidity seriously damaged bean crops. The country continues to depend on imports of all grains. Yellow maize, wheat and soy are all mainly imported from the United States of America. As regards red and black beans, the country produces nearly 25 percent of national consumption and imports the remainder mainly from China (black beans) and from other countries of Central America (red beans). National production supplies just over 30 percent of white maize consumed and the remainder is imported from the United States of America.

Rise in prices of rice and beans

National prices of rice have risen gradually since November 2010, and in February 2011 were 15 percent higher than in the previous year. Prices of rice are set by the Government as it is the most consumed product in the country. Prices of red and black beans, that declined at the end of 2010 with the arrival of the second season crops rose again in February due to reduced yield and prospects of a low yield in the third harvest. The country has higher rates of consumption of black beans than red beans.

Costa Rica Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

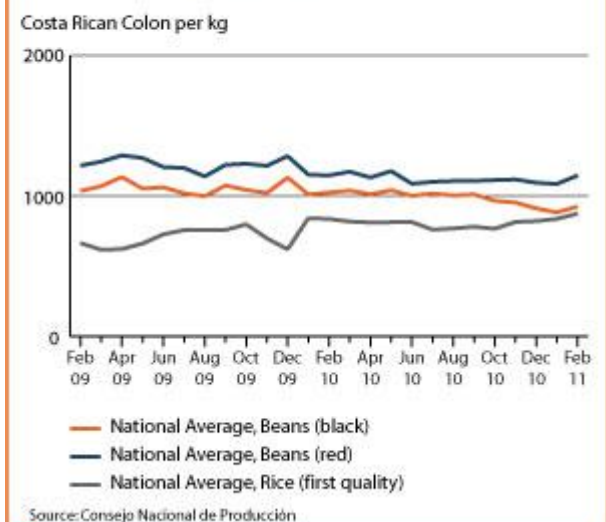


Costa Rica Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	233	270	285	6
Maize	16	19	21	11
Total	249	289	306	6

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

Costa Rica Selected retail food prices



Reference Date: 27-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Excess rainfall might affect second season planting
- Main season rice production expected to be a record
- Prices of staples increasing since January

Torrential rains prompted the government to declare a green alert

On 30 September 2010, the National Emergency Commission (CNE) declared a "green alert" for almost the entire country following the torrential rains that, in recent weeks, caused widespread damage. The alert mainly involves the northern departments lying along the Pacific coastal region and the Central Valley where, since January, precipitation levels have been significantly above average.

The torrential rains, which mainly occurred at the end of August, caused floods and landslides, the southeast of the capital city San Jose being the most affected. According to the National Production Council (CNP), prices of vegetables (particularly tomatoes and chilli that are mainly grown in the Central Valley region) have almost doubled since June following the excess water,

Rice production in 2010 is expected to be a record

Planting of the 2010 secondary season cereal and beans crops, for harvest from November, is nearing completion. The recent intense rainfall that affected some of the important farming areas, especially in the Pacific region, has increased soil moisture and, in parts, benefited planting.

Harvesting of the main season maize and rice crops is well advanced. Preliminary estimates indicate a record rice harvest, exceeding the already good performance of 2009.

The increase in rice production is stretching the capacity of the warehouses and the situation may be exacerbated with the completion of the harvest from the important cereal producing areas of the South and Upala regions.

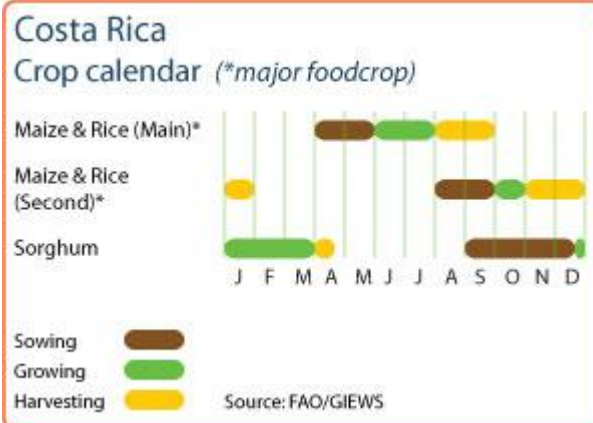
Rice imports expected to increase in 2010

Cereal import requirements in 2010 are estimated at almost one million tonnes, in line with average levels, mainly yellow maize for the poultry sector and wheat for bakery products.

Retail prices of major staples continue to increase

Since July, retail prices of rice have resumed their increasing trend which started in January 2010. The upward trend does not seem to reflect the expectations of a bumper rice harvest and rice quotations were in August more than 65 percent higher than the level of the same month in 2008.

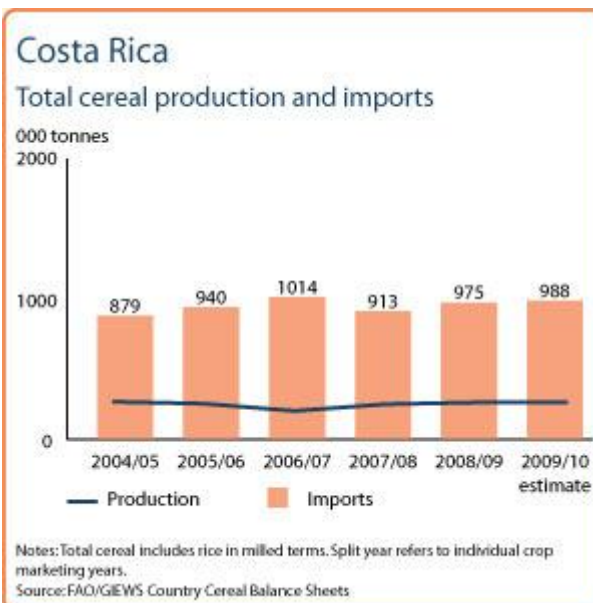
Black beans prices are also showing an upward trend since January 2010. Their retail price (national average) recorded in August 2010, was more than 15 percent higher than the level recorded in the same period



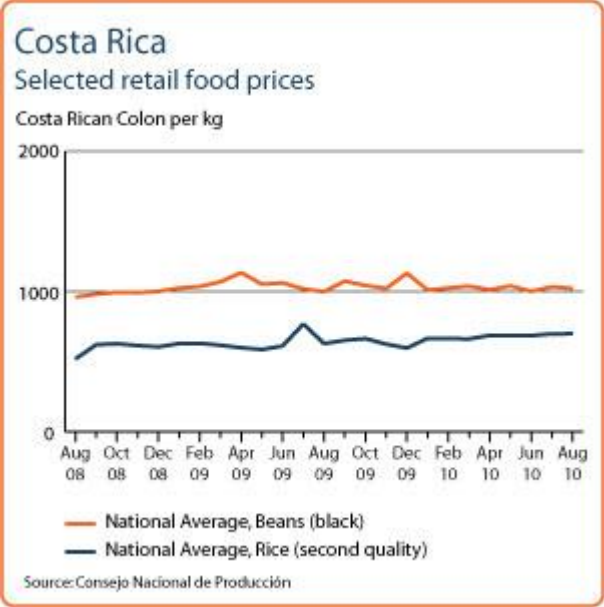
Costa Rica Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
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Maize	16	19	21	11
Total	249	289	306	6

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



in 2008 and 2009. Quotations continue to increase despite the agreement signed with the Democratic republic of China in February 2010, which guarantees a supply of 10 000 tonnes of black beans free of import duty. In addition, the government is planning to lift the import duty on red beans to supply adequately the domestic market in the next months.



Reference Date: 09-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable early forecast for 2010 rainy season
- Rice imports in 2009/10 are expected at high 150 000 tonnes
- Retail prices for rice and beans still increasing

Planting of 2010 first season is about to begin

Planting of the 2010 first season cereal and bean crops is about to start with the arrival of the first rains by mid-May in main cropping areas. The National Meteorological Institute forecast that rainfall in 2010 will be average to above average, with abundant precipitations especially in the second semester in Central Valley as well as Northern and Central Pacific provinces. In addition, the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season that will start on June 1st, is early forecast to be very active.

Harvesting of 2009 second cereal crop has been completed

Harvesting of the 2009 second season maize and paddy crops has been completed in February in all the mayor producing regions of Huetar Norte, Brunca and Chorotega. Due to a severe and prolonged dry spell (called *veranillo*) that affected yields of second season crops during August, 2009 aggregate cereal production is estimated at 202 000 tonnes, about 7 percent below previous year and 18 percent lower than the last five years' average.

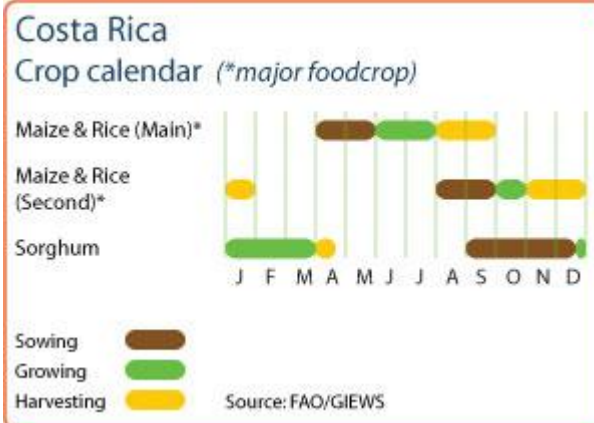
Rice imports increasing in 2009/10

For 2009/2010 marketing year, cereal import requirements are estimated at about average one million tonnes, mainly yellow maize for the poultry sector and wheat for bakery products. Rice imports are estimated at high 150 000 tonnes to compensate the reduction in 2009 production and to cover the increasing domestic demand.

Retail prices of major staples continue to increase

Retail prices of beans and rice (second quality) continue to increase with rice still 30 percent above the level of two years ago. As a result of the lower-than-expected domestic production, the country will have to import more rice from the international market (especially US).

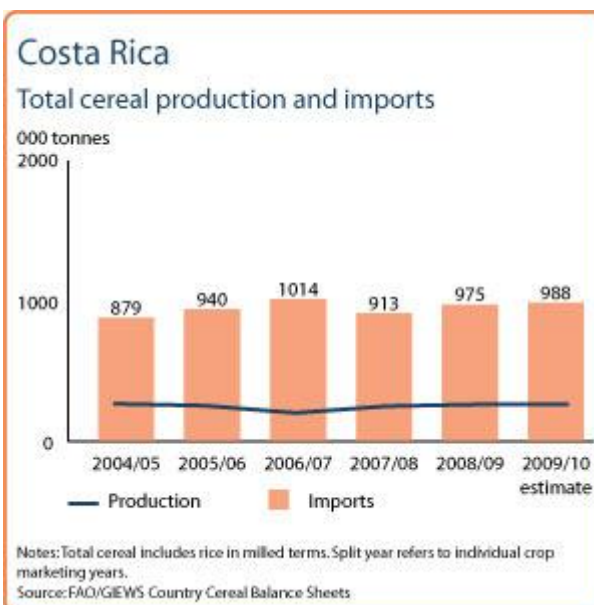
In addition, red beans prices are also showing a constant upward trend compared to March 2008. Their retail price (national average) recorded in March 2010, is almost 7 percent higher than the level of two years ago.



Costa Rica Cereal production

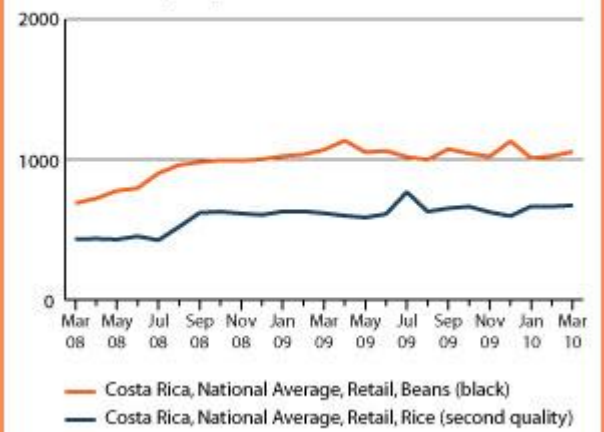
	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	224	200	185	-8
Maize	15	18	16	-11
Total	239	218	202	-7

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



Costa Rica Selected food prices

Costa Rican Colon per kg



Source: Consejo Nacional de Producción

Reference Date: 10-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A prolonged and hot dry spell could lower main crop yields
- Rice imports are forecast to increase up to 180 000 metric tonnes
- Retail prices for rice and beans still increasing

Prolonged dry spell affects crop yields

Farming producers of the coastal Pacific areas and of the Región Norte have been affected by an extremely severe and prolonged dry spell called *veranillo* with rainfall volumes below seasonal average.

The low rainfall levels recorded during the crop vegetative and maturing phases are likely to lower yields per hectare for the maize, beans and rice crops.

Harvesting of main maize crop is underway

Harvesting of the main maize crop is underway in all the mayor producing regions of Huetar Norte, Brunca and Chorotega.

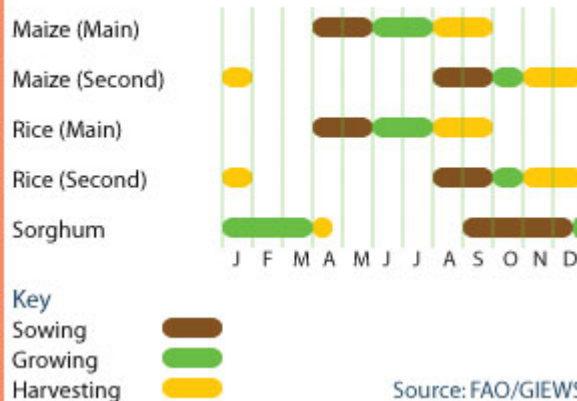
Planted area is slightly above 7 000 hectares, 30 percent of which is located in the Región Norte.

Increase in rice import requirements forecast for 2009

The decrease in the expected rice production and the loss caused by the drought, calculated at approximately 400 hectares in the Región Norte, will increase rice import requirements.

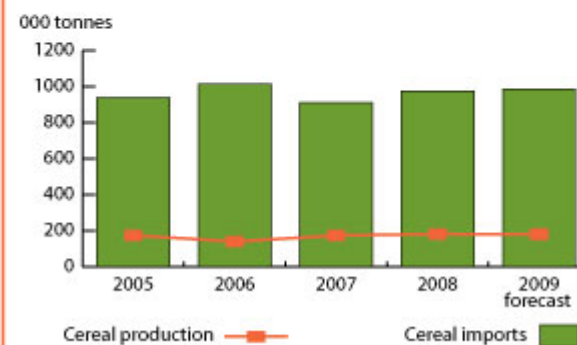
For 2009/2010 marketing year, import requirements are tentatively estimated at 160 000 tonnes compared to 115 000 tonnes imported during the previous commercial year.

Crop calendar Costa Rica



Cereal production and imports Costa Rica

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes	000 tonnes	000 tonnes	percent
Rice (milled)	156	164	164	0%
Maize	15	18	17	-5.6%
Total Cereals	171	183	181	-1.1%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Retail prices of major staple continue to increase

Retail prices continue to increase with rice still 40 percent above the level of two years ago. Due to lower-than-expected production, the country will have to import more rice from the international market (especially US) where rice prices are skyrocketing since last year.

Government announced that almost 160 000 tonnes of rice will enter the country free of import duty.

In addition, black beans prices are also showing a constant upward trend compared to September 2007. Their retail price (national average) is USD 1.66/kg compared to USD 1.20/kg two years ago.

