



GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 26-January-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Declining trend in plantings expected to continue in 2023 first minor season
- Cereal import requirements forecast at below-average levels in 2022/23 marketing year
- High food inflation severely limits access to food

Declining trend in plantings expected to continue in 2023 first minor season

Planting of the 2023 first minor paddy season, accounting on average for about one-third of the annual production, is ongoing. Planted area is forecast to decrease for the fourth consecutive year and remain at below-average levels due to persistent lack of agricultural inputs. In Pinar del Rio, one of the four main rice producing provinces, the low level of sowings is also due to the [damages to the irrigation system](#) caused by Hurricane Ian in September 2022. Farmers reportedly used biofertilizers, amid the lack of chemical ones. Despite below-average rainfall amounts during the last quarter of 2022, conditions of germinating crops were overall good. In the February to March period, dry weather conditions are forecast in the western part of the country, likely constraining yield potential, while average precipitation amounts are expected in central and eastern areas.

The 2023 minor maize crop is at vegetative and flowering stages, and its conditions are generally good. The seasonal area sown is expected to be also below average.

Cereal import requirements forecast at below-average levels in 2022/23 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at a below-average level of 1.6 million tonnes, reflecting the declining population since 2019 and the low livestock production. Cereal imports in the 2021/22 marketing year were well below the average, as high international cereal prices curtailed the country's capacity to import.

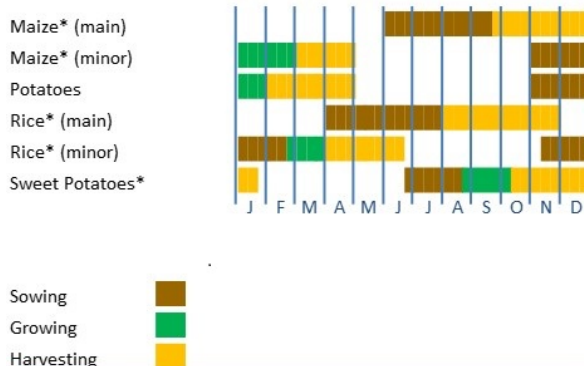
High food inflation severely limits access to food

Although the number of incoming tourists rebounded in 2022, increasing foreign currency reserves, the country's economy has recovered modestly in 2022 and remained below the

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Cuba

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	357	226	210	-7.0
Maize	298	239	230	-3.6
Total	655	464	440	-5.3

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

pre-pandemic level. After unifying the dual exchange rates in January 2021, which resulted in the devaluation of the country's currency by 96 percent, inflation soared in 2021 and, at a lesser extent, in 2022. Annual inflation rates of food items were officially estimated at [114 percent](#) in 2021 and [63 percent](#) in November 2022. High food prices have severely eroded the purchasing power of vulnerable households, limiting their access to food.

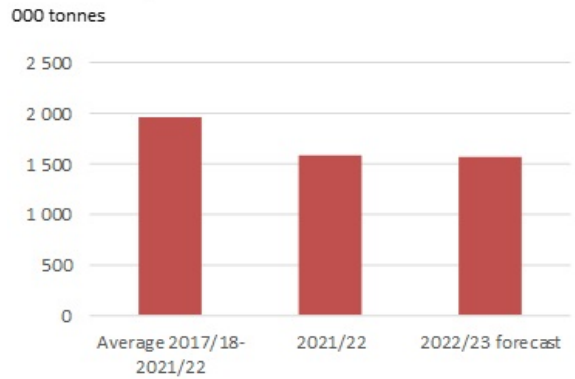
Availability of food in local markets has been declining since 2019 due to the low level of domestic production and imports. In addition, the country's capacity to import essential food and fuel commodities was constrained by the high level of international prices, with compounding effects on domestic supply.

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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/>.

Cuba

Cereals Imports



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



GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 08-June-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of 2022 minor season paddy and maize crops underway
- Cereal import requirements anticipated at low levels in 2021/22 marketing year
- High food inflation constrains access to food

Harvesting of 2022 minor paddy and maize crops underway

The harvest of the 2022 first minor season paddy and maize crops is ongoing. Production is expected at a below-average level for the third consecutive year, due to low plantings stemming from lack of agricultural inputs. Domestic production of fertilizers in 2021 was 80 percent below the previous five-year average and fertilizer imports in 2021 remained at low levels. The output of the 2022 minor season crops is expected to increase slightly from the record low level obtained in 2021, supported by favourable weather conditions.

Planting operations of the main paddy crop, which accounts for 70 percent of the annual production, are in progress. Weather forecasts point to average rainfall amounts during the June-August period, with positive effects on yields. The area sown is expected to remain at a below-average level.

Cereal import requirements anticipated at low levels in 2021/22 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are expected at low levels of 1.9 million tonnes, reflecting the declining population since 2019 and low livestock production. Imports of maize, which account for the largest share of cereal imports, are anticipated at 760 000 tonnes, more than 10 percent below the previous five-year average. A below-average level of wheat imports is also expected as high international prices result in weak domestic demand.

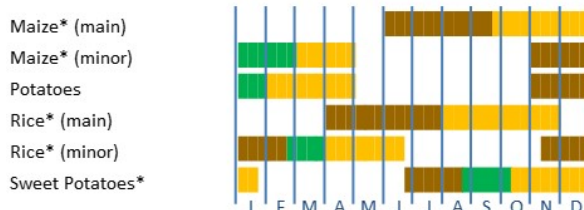
High food inflation constrains food access

The adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the country's economy, which was already affected by stricter international sanctions imposed since 2017. After declining by 11 percent in 2020, the Gross domestic product (GDP) had a modest recovery in 2021. At the beginning of 2021, the dual exchange rate system was unified, resulting in a sharp devaluation of the Cuban peso and high inflation. According to

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Cuba

Cereal Production

	2016-2020	2020	2021	change
	average			estimate
000 tonnes				
percent				
Rice (paddy)	414	267	226	-15.2
Maize	331	257	239	-7.2
Total	746	524	465	-11.2

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

official sources, the annual inflation rate of food items was 40 percent in April 2022. Access to food of the most households is likely to be severely affected.

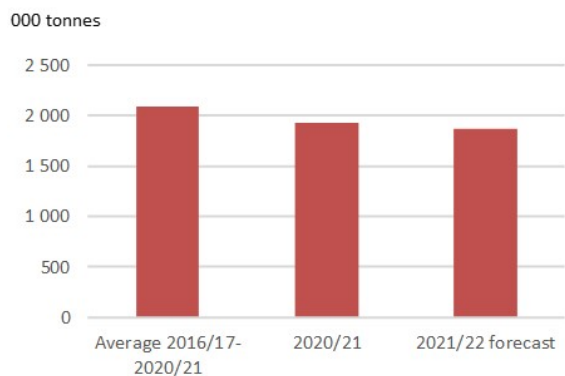
Availability of food has been declining due to the low level of domestic production and imports. High international prices of mostly imported goods, including maize, wheat, vegetable oils and fuel, are likely to constrain the country's capacity to purchase food commodities in international markets, with compounding effects on domestic supply.

However, an increase in incoming tourists in 2022 is likely to improve economic conditions by rehabilitating the tourism sector and inducing hard currency. In addition, the United States of America announced, in mid-May, to loosen some sanctions, including the removal of the maximum threshold of remittances for families and the approval of donations to non-family members.

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Cuba

Cereals Imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 13-July-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Area sown with cereal crops expected at below-average level in 2021
- Cereal import requirements forecast at low levels in 2021/22 marketing year
- Food insecurity likely to worsen in 2021 by effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Area sown with cereal crops expected at below-average level in 2021

Planting of the 2021 main season paddy crop is nearing completion, supported by increased rainfall amounts since June. Abundant rains also benefitted early planted crops at development and flowering stages. Precipitation amounts in the July-September period is forecast at average levels, boosting prospects for yields. However, there is a high likelihood of an above-average Atlantic hurricane season between June and November 2021, which could have negative consequences on crops, if hurricanes make a landfall. Tropical storm “Elsa” passed through the country between 4 and 6 July, bringing torrential rains. Although localized losses of beans, maize and rice crops were reported, official estimates suggest that agricultural production was not severely affected. Rains brought by “Elsa” increased water levels in reservoirs to 66 percent on average, which is expected to guarantee the supply of irrigation water to paddy crops. The planted area with the main season paddy crop is expected at below-average levels due to low availability of agricultural inputs and fuel, following the tightening of international sanctions. The area sown with the minor season paddy crop, harvested in the second quarter of 2021, was officially estimated also at a below-average level and about 30 percent lower than the official target.

Harvesting of the 2021 main season maize crop is ongoing and production is forecast at a below-average level. This is due to a reduction of the area sown, exacerbated by dry weather conditions in April and May that have affected late planted crops at critical flowering and grain filling stages.

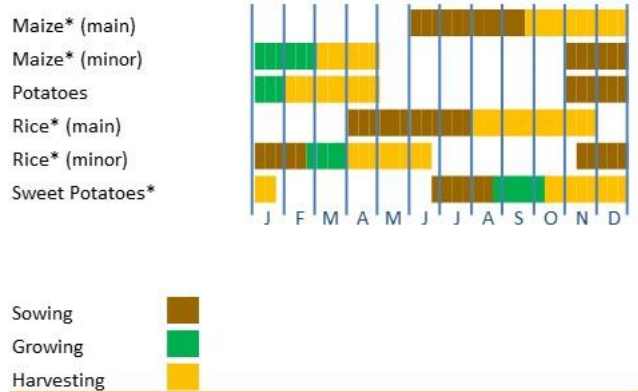
Cereal import requirements forecast at low levels in 2021/22 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2 million tonnes, slightly below the average level mainly reflecting the decline of population since 2018. Imports of maize, which account for the largest share of

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Cuba

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	415	318	312	-1.9
Maize	320	230	220	-4.3
Total	735	548	532	-2.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cuba - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

June 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

imports, are forecast at 800 000 tonnes, more than 5 percent below the five-year average. This also reflects the weak demand by the national feed industry due to a declining livestock production.

Food insecurity likely to worsen in 2021 by effects of COVID-19 pandemic

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the United Nations estimates a [negative Gross domestic product \(GDP\) growth of 8.5 percent in 2020](#), reflecting the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy. The tourism sector was severely affected in 2020, when the number of tourists declined [by 75 percent year on year](#), which reduced foreign exchange earnings. This also resulted in job and income losses and worsening of livelihoods. Although the GDP is forecast to increase by 3 percent in 2021, the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to restrain the access to food of the most vulnerable households.

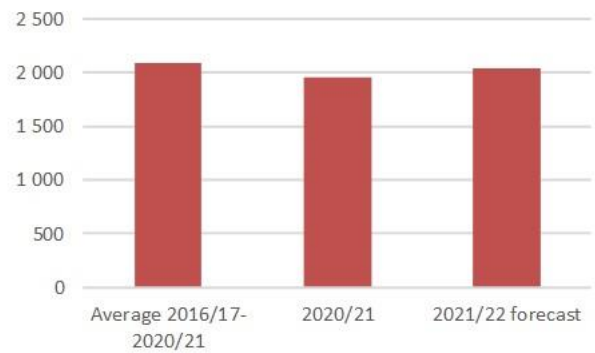
High food-import dependency, together with elevated international food and shipping prices, are expected to reduce food availability, with negative consequences on the overall food security situation. In May 2021, the government announced that the availability of bread is expected to [decline by one-third](#) in the capital, Havana, during the May-July period compared to the first four months of the year.

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Cuba

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 Cuba

Reference Date: 25-January-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production forecast at well below-average level in 2020
- Planting operations of first 2021 paddy crop ongoing
- Cereal import requirements forecast at low levels in 2020/21 marketing year

Cereal production estimated at well below-average level in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 second maize and paddy crops concluded in December and production is estimated a below-average level due to low plantings and excessive rainfall amounts in early November that affected ripening crops. Production of the aggregate 2020 maize and paddy crops, including the below-average output of the main season crops harvested earlier in the year, is anticipated at a record low level. This mainly reflects a reduced area sown, which has been generally at a well below-average level since 2017 due to the low availabilities of agricultural inputs and fuel, following the tightening of the international sanctions and economic hardship.

Planting operations of first 2021 paddy crop ongoing

Planting of the 2021 main season paddy crop started in mid-November with some delay due to saturated soil moisture and will continue until end-February. Due to the unfavourable weather conditions at the start of the planting time, planted area is forecast to remain at a below-average level. Availability of fuel is reported to have improved compared to the previous year. Weather forecasts indicate a high probability of below-average precipitations in the February-April period, which coincides with the flowering and grain-filling stages, raising concerns on yield potential.

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

Despite the low production gathered in 2020, cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at a low level of 1.95 million tonnes. The country's capacity to import has been further curtailed by the imposition of more strict international sanctions. Imports of maize, which account for the largest share of the imports, are forecast at 750 000 tonnes, more than 10 percent below the five-year average.

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Cuba

Cereal Production

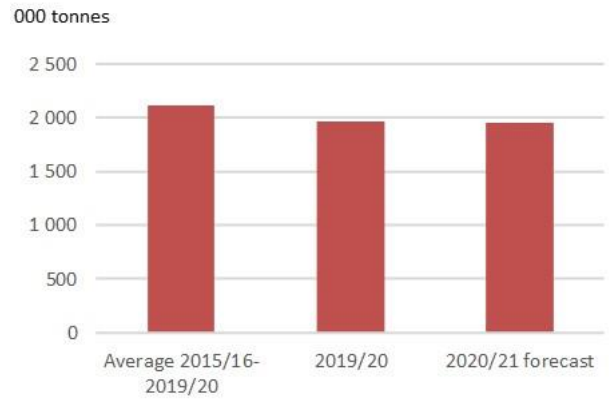
	2015-2019		2020	change
	average	2019	estimate	2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	437	378	370	-2.1
Maize	359	307	295	-3.9
Total	795	685	665	-2.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cuba

Cereals Imports



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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 Cuba

Reference Date: 03-June-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production forecast at below-average level in 2020
- Cereal imports forecast to continue to decline in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal production forecast at below-average level in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 main season rice crop is ongoing under favourable dry weather conditions. Production is anticipated at a below-average level due to reduced plantings, instigated by low availabilities of mostly imported agricultural inputs and fuel following the tightening of international sanctions. Planting of the minor season rice crop is also underway. Weather forecasts point to average to above-average rainfall amounts in the June-August period, with likely positive effects on crop development.

Harvesting of the main season maize crop has just started and is expected to continue until end-September. Despite the high demand for maize by the swine industry, the output is expected at a below-average level. The planted area continued at low levels due to the shortage of agricultural inputs. In addition, reduced rainfall amounts in the March-April period lowered yields of the early-planted crops that were at the critical grain-filling stage. The expected improved precipitation from June is likely to support crop development of the late-planted crops.

Amid the low availabilities of inputs and fuel, the Government is promoting the use of animal traction, the cultivation of short-cycle crops and the local production of seeds. As a result of these initiatives, the aggregate cereal production is forecast to slightly recover from the reduced harvest in 2019 but remain below the average level.

Cereal import requirements forecast to continue to decline in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to decline for the third consecutive year, mainly reflecting a declining population since 2018. The country's capacity to import is curtailed by more strict international sanctions imposed on the country. Imports of maize, which account for the largest share of the imports, are forecast at 780 000 tonnes, more than 10 percent below the five-year average.

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Cuba

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	437	378	410	8.5
Maize	365	307	320	4.2
Total	802	685	730	6.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

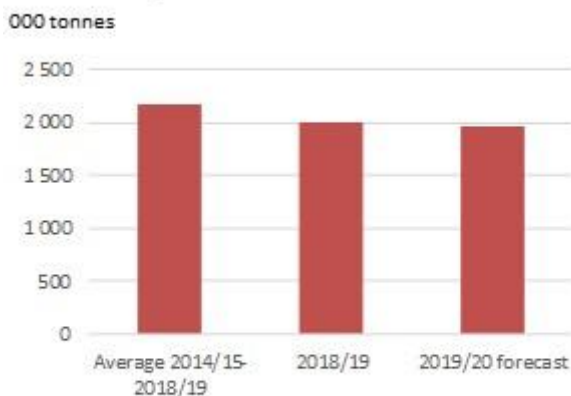
COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In early May 2020, the restrictions on movement established in late March were lifted and the large commercial centres that had been closed during the confinement period re-opened to the public. The Government decided to allocate some quotas of fuel, previously intended for the tourism sector that is now severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, to agricultural activities. The Government also plans to provide finance to employees of the companies that have been affected by the pandemic and expand the coverage of food supply centres.

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Cuba

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 Cuba

Reference Date: 25-November-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production expected at near-average level in 2019
- Cereal imports forecast at well below levels in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal production expected at near-average level in 2019

Harvesting of the 2019 minor season rice crop is ongoing under favourable conditions. Despite the negative effects of low availabilities of agricultural inputs following the strengthening of international sanctions, the aggregate 2019 rice production, including the main crop harvested in the second quarter of 2019, is expected at an average level due to favourable weather conditions.

Harvesting of maize takes place throughout the year and about 20 percent of the crops are still to be harvested. The annual area sown has declined for the second consecutive year, mainly reflecting the difficult access to agricultural inputs and fuel. However, the 2019 maize output is estimated to be only slightly lower than the five-year average as abundant rainfall in the first half of 2019 benefitted yields.

Cereal imports forecast at well below levels in 2019/20 marketing year

Maize imports in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) declined sharply, mostly reflecting more strict international sanctions imposed on the country. Maize imports, which account for the largest share of imports, were more than 60 percent below the five-year average. Despite a sustained demand by the domestic feed industry, cereal imports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to continue being low due to the sanctions in place.

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Cuba

Cereal Production

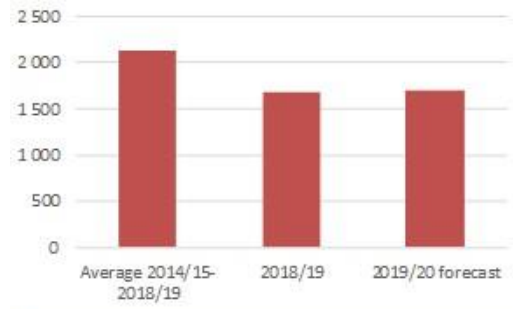
	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	476	461	500	8.5
Maize	383	346	340	-1.7
Total	860	807	840	4.1

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

Cuba

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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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 Cuba

Reference Date: 31-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improving yields are expected for 2019 rice main crop
- Cereal imports anticipated at above-average level in 2018/19 marketing year

Improving yields are expected for 2019 rice main crop

Harvesting of the minor season crop is ongoing in the main producing Granma region under favourable conditions on account of reduced rainfall in April. At the same time, good rains in the rest of the country improved conditions for planting of the main season crop. Further, sufficient sunlight and elevated temperature contributed to development of the crop. Consequently, production prospects for the 2019/20 season are anticipated to be positive, compounded by adoption of improved quality maize seeds.

The 2018 cereal production is officially estimated at 806 000 tonnes, 12 percent below the five-year average. It mainly reflects the decline in maize plantings and the effects of excessive rainfall in May on main maize and rice crops.

Cereal imports anticipated at above-average level in 2018/19 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at above-average level of 2.3 million tonnes, mainly reflecting a decline in outputs of maize and rice in 2018 and sustained demand by the poultry and swine industry.

Cuba

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Cuba

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	519	405	460	13.7
Maize	399	374	346	-7.5
Total	918	779	806	3.5

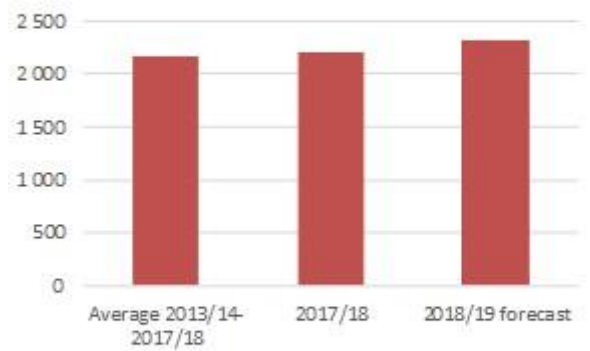
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cuba

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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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 Cuba

Reference Date: 14-December-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below average cereal production estimated in 2017
- Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year
- Hurricane Irma impacts food security in eastern provinces of Cuba

Cereal production in 2017 virtually unchanged from a year earlier

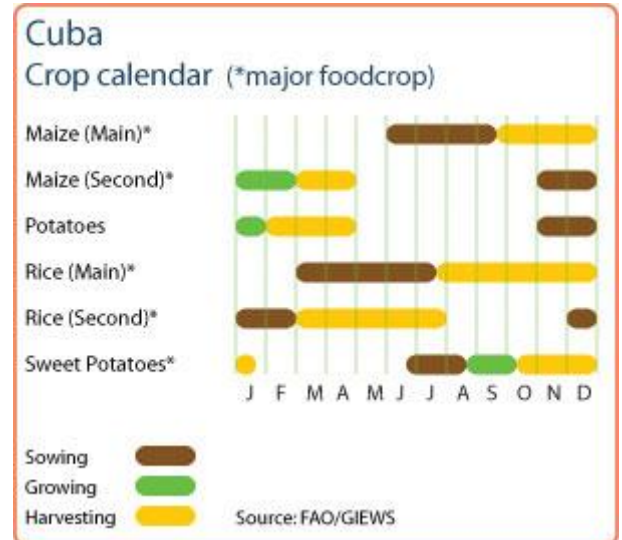
Cereal production for 2017 is estimated at 910 000 tonnes, virtually unchanged from last year and well below the five-year average. The stagnant output mainly reflects maize crop losses due to the impact of Hurricane Irma, a category 5 event, which hit the country in early September. Maize production is estimated at 390 000 tonnes, 3 percent below last year's level and well below the country's five-year average. Rice output for 2017 is estimated to increase marginally to 520 000 tonnes, still below average, mainly reflecting problems with water availabilities as irrigation reservoir levels had not fully recovered from the drought events in 2015 and 2016.

Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2.1 million tonnes, some 8 percent below last year's record level but close to the average. The decline mainly reflects anticipated lower deliveries of rice.

Hurricane Irma impacts food security in eastern provinces of Cuba

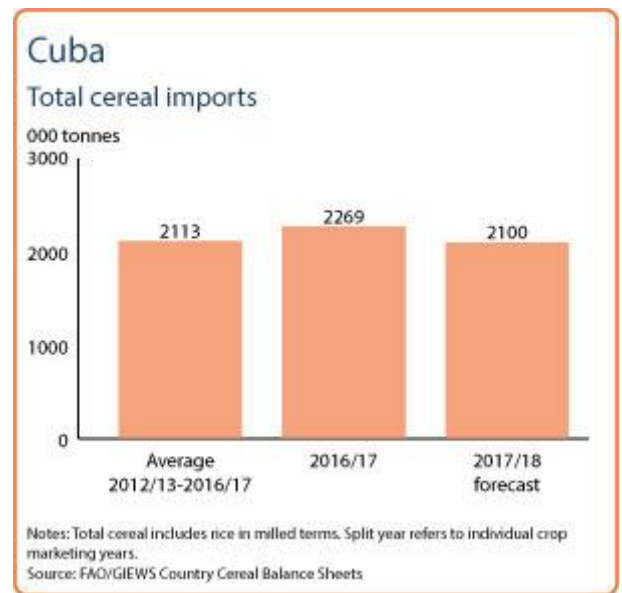
Hurricane Irma, which made landfall in the first week of September, caused significant losses of crops, particularly fruit trees and horticultural production. Livestock was also severely impacted. The storm severely affected 50 500 hectares of crops and killed 145 000 head of cattle in 22 municipalities across the eastern provinces of Camaguey, Ciego de Avila and Matanzas, Sancti Spiritus. In total, 647 000 people are receiving food assistance from WFP and the Government to cover their dietary needs from mid-October 2017 until the end of February 2018. In addition, the Government is providing assistance to rebuild homes and infrastructure in the most affected areas.



	2012-2016	2016	2017	change
	average		forecast	2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	566	514	520	1
Maize	396	404	390	-3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	962	918	910	-1

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

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GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 03-July-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

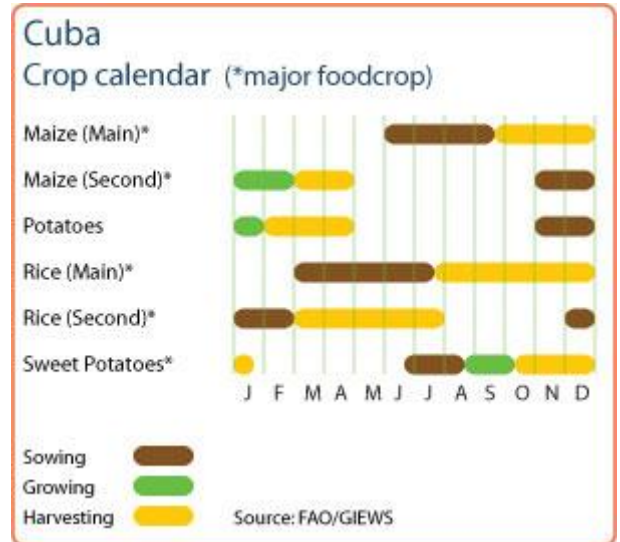
- Cereal production in 2017 forecast at average level
- Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal production in 2017 forecast at average level

Planting of the main 2017 cereal season is virtually concluded. Favourable precipitation levels benefitted planting operations. Maize output in 2017 is anticipated to increase significantly from last year's production which was affected by Hurricane Matthew late in the season, particularly since sowings are anticipated to remain high. The rice output is also anticipated to increase significantly in 2017 favoured by investments on irrigation and drainage infrastructure promoted by the country's import substitution drive, combined with improved growing practices, including precision farming. The 2017 cereal output is initially forecast by FAO at an average of 950 000 tonnes, about 9 percent above the previous year's level.

Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2.1 million tonnes, some 8 percent below last year's high level. The negative effects of severe dry weather and Hurricane Matthew on domestic crop production caused cereal imports to increase significantly in the previous two years. Both rice and maize imports are anticipated to decline, mainly reflecting the anticipated good outputs for 2017.

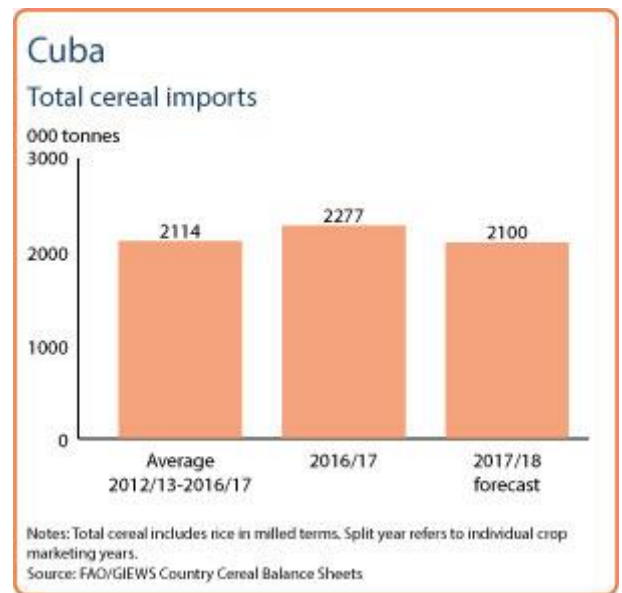


Cuba
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	556	465	520	12
Maize	396	404	430	6
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	953	870	950	9

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

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GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 03-July-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

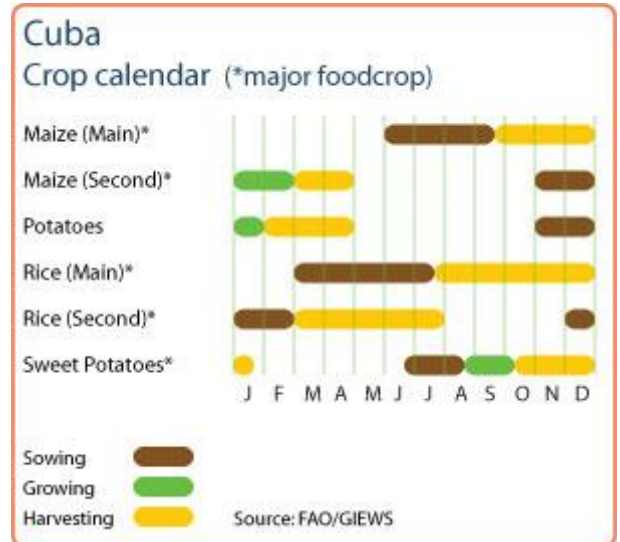
- Cereal production in 2017 forecast at average level
- Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal production in 2017 forecast at average level

Planting of the main 2017 cereal season is virtually concluded. Favourable precipitation levels benefitted planting operations. Maize output in 2017 is anticipated to increase significantly from last year's production which was affected by Hurricane Matthew late in the season, particularly since sowings are anticipated to remain high. The rice output is also anticipated to increase significantly in 2017 favoured by investments on irrigation and drainage infrastructure promoted by the country's import substitution drive, combined with improved growing practices, including precision farming. The 2017 cereal output is initially forecast by FAO at an average of 950 000 tonnes, about 9 percent above the previous year's level.

Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2.1 million tonnes, some 8 percent below last year's high level. The negative effects of severe dry weather and Hurricane Matthew on domestic crop production caused cereal imports to increase significantly in the previous two years. Both rice and maize imports are anticipated to decline, mainly reflecting the anticipated good outputs for 2017.

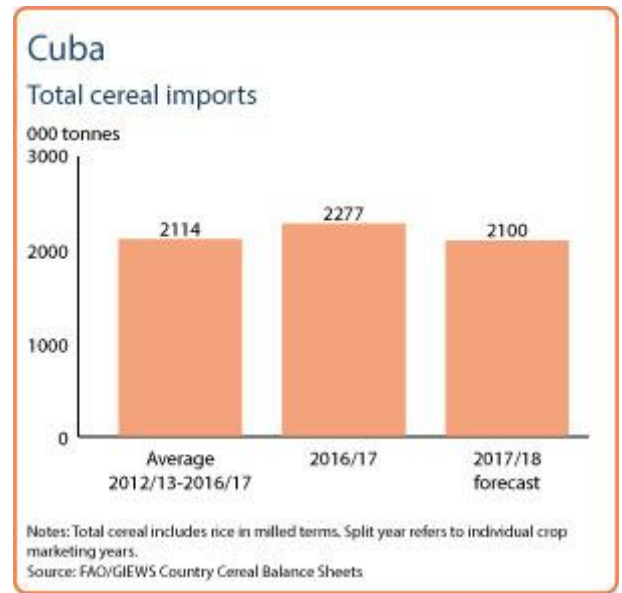


Cuba
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	556	465	520	12
Maize	396	404	430	6
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	953	870	950	9

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

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.





GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 30-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

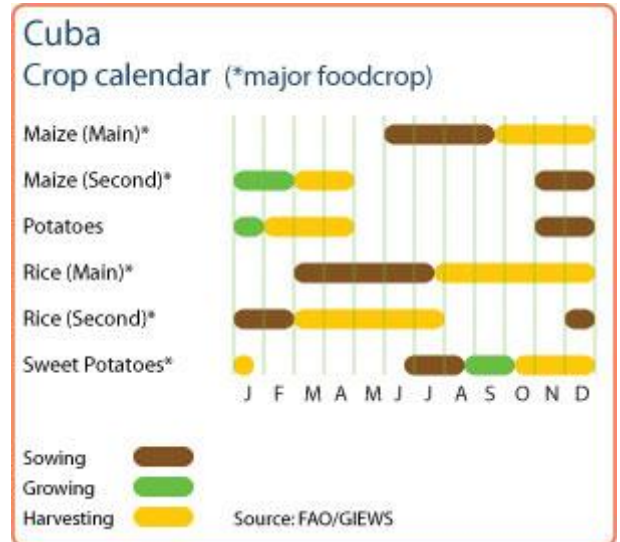
- Cereal production in 2017 forecast at average level
- Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal production in 2017 forecast at average level

Planting of the main 2017 cereal season is virtually concluded. Favourable precipitation levels benefitted planting operations. Maize output in 2017 is anticipated to increase significantly from last year's production which was affected by Hurricane Matthew late in the season, particularly since sowings are anticipated to remain high. Rice output is also anticipated to increase significantly in 2017 favoured by investments on irrigation and drainage infrastructure promoted by the country's import substitution drive, combined with improved growing practices, including precision farming. The 2017 cereal output is initially forecast by FAO at an average of 950 000 tonnes, about 9 percent above the previous year's level.

Cereal imports anticipated to decline in 2017 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2.1 million tonnes, some 8 percent below last year's high level. The negative effects of severe dry weather and Hurricane Matthew on domestic crop production caused cereal imports to increase significantly in the previous two years. Both rice and maize imports are anticipated to decline, mainly reflecting the anticipated good outputs for 2017.



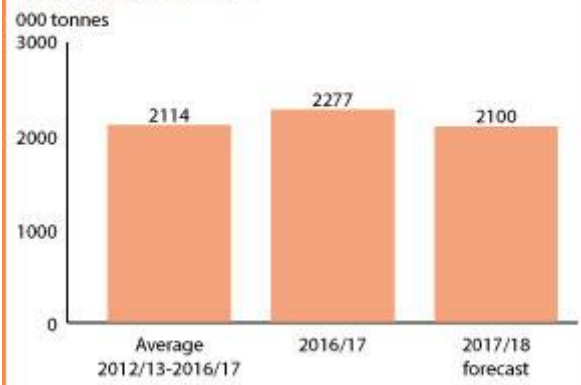
Cuba
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	556	465	520	12
Maize	396	404	430	6
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	953	870	950	9

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

Cuba

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



GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 22-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 expected to recover from last year's drought-reduced level
- Horticultural output severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew at beginning of October
- Cereal imports anticipated to remain high in 2016/17 marketing year
- Food security response to Hurricane Matthew

Cereal production in 2016 recovers from last year's drought-reduced level

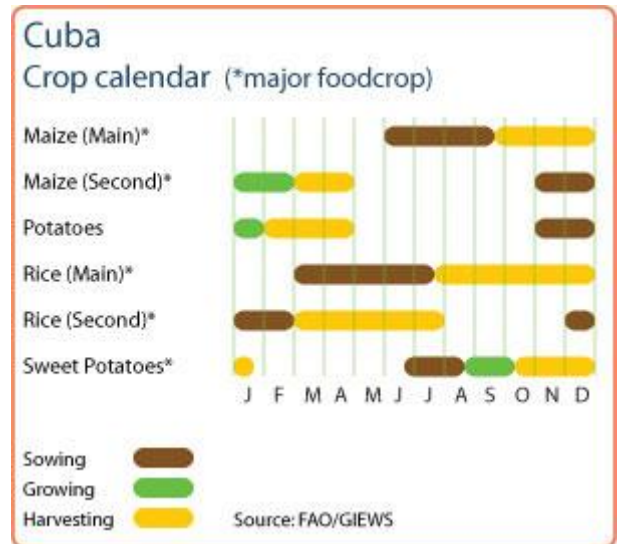
Cereal production in 2016 is estimated at 880 000 tonnes, 13 percent above last year's drought-reduced level but still below the five-year average. The increase in production mainly reflects the significant recovery in rice output as a result of increased plantings and better water availability due to the dissipation of the El Niño phenomena. The maize output had a smaller increase as it was impacted by Hurricane Matthew, which made landfall on 2 October in the eastern provinces of Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas, and preliminary estimates point to a 10 000 tonnes reduction in output. However, the three provinces affected only represent 6 percent of the national cereal output and less than 1 percent of the rice output.

Horticultural output severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew

The three most affected provinces by Hurricane Matthew, Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas received between 60 to 80 percent more rainfall than the long-term average for the first ten days of October, when the Hurricane made landfall. High winds also caused severe damages. Although losses have not yet been fully quantified, preliminary reports point to severe impacts to horticultural output as well as the destruction of plantain trees in all three provinces. The horticultural and plantain output for these three regions significantly contributes to the national supply of these crops. Latest official data for 2014 show that the three provinces produced some 2.5 million tonnes of horticultural products, including 7 percent of the national tomato crop and 17 percent of the national plantain output.

Cereal imports anticipated to remain high in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2.1 million tonnes, relatively unchanged from last



Cuba
Cereal production

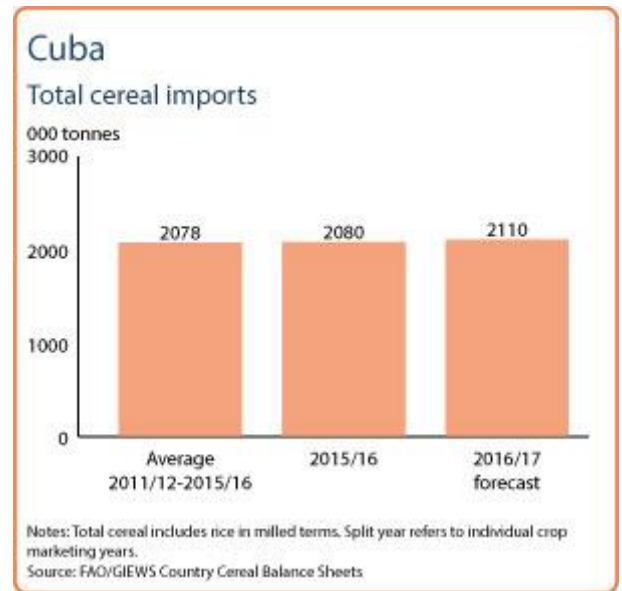
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	577	418	500	20
Maize	386	363	380	5
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	963	781	880	13

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

year's high level. The increase mainly reflects the expected higher rice imports as a result of the lower-than-average harvest and high demand. Maize imports are also anticipated to increase marginally, reflecting high local demand.

Food security response to Hurricane Matthew

WFP is directly assisting 180 000 people in the most affected provinces of Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas, with an initial food distribution of 1 600 tonnes, consisting mainly of rice and beans. FAO is directly assisting 157 000 people in Guantanamo Province, the most affected, with inputs to quickly reactivate agricultural activities. FAO is also mobilizing internal resources of USD 920 000 to assist farmers in all provinces and issued a Flash Appeal on 26 October for an additional USD 1 million. FAO anticipates to assist a total of about 240 000 people with the funds already allocated and the additional funds being requested.





GIEWS Country Brief Cuba

Reference Date: 17-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

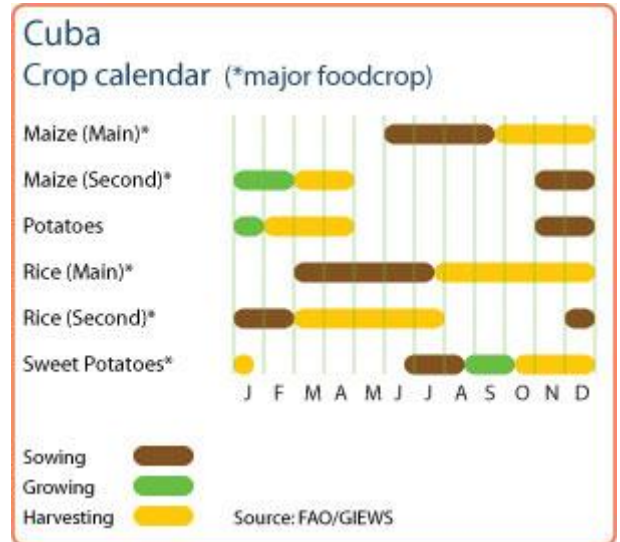
- Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase from last year's drought-reduced level but remains below average
- Cereal imports anticipated to increase in 2016/17 marketing year reflecting continuing tight domestic availability

Cereal production in 2016 forecast to increase from last year's drought-reduced level

The harvest of the main cereal season will begin from late August. Prospects for this year's crop have improved as rainfall levels recovered in June with the dissipation of the El Niño phenomena. Despite some early season dryness, as of late July, latest remote sensing data indicates that the season has progressed normally and none of the crop area was affected by drought. Cereal production in 2016 is forecast at 890 000 tonnes, 14 percent above last year's drought-reduced level but still below the five-year average. Rice production for 2016 is forecast at 500 000 tonnes, a 20 percent increase from last year's reduced level but also still below the five-year average. While plantings of rice increased from 2015, they were still somewhat constrained by lower-than-normal precipitation and difficulties in accessing inputs during the sowing period. Maize production is forecast to increase 7 percent and reach 390 000 tonnes, above the five-year average, as both plantings and yields are anticipated to recover from the previous year's drought-reduced levels.

Cereal imports anticipated to increase in 2016/17 marketing year reflecting continuing tight domestic availability

Cereal imports for the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase moderately to 2.1 million tonnes. The increase mainly reflects expected higher rice imports as a result of the lower-than-average harvest and high demand. Maize imports are also anticipated to increase marginally, reflecting high local demand.



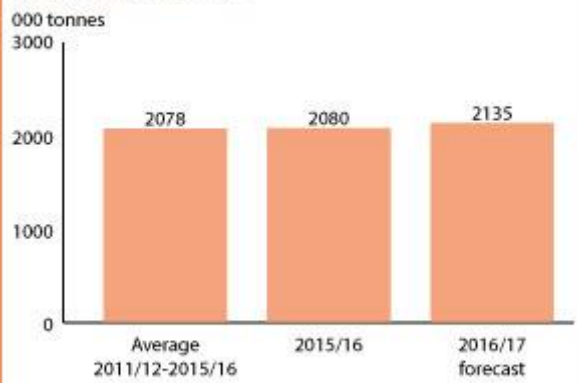
Cuba
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	575	418	500	20
Maize	376	363	390	7
Total	951	781	890	14

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

Cuba

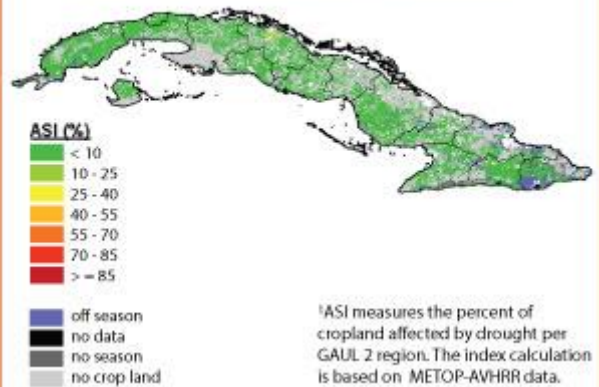
Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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



Reference Date: 30-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

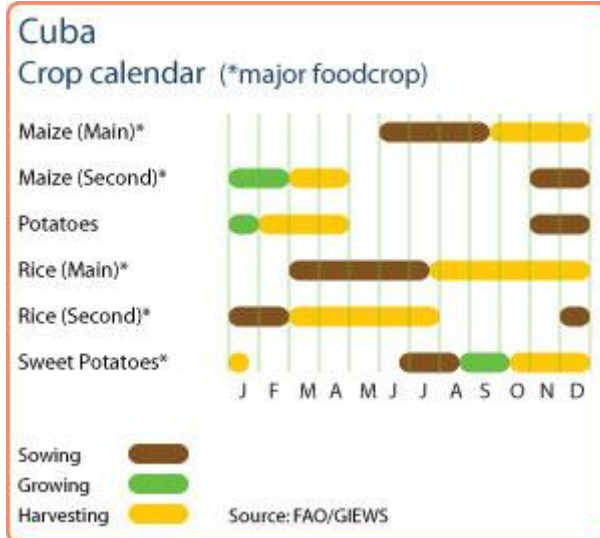
- Uncertain prospects for the main 2015 season rice crop
- Cereal imports are forecast to decrease slightly during the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)

Uncertain prospects for the main 2015 season rice crop

Planting of the main 2015 first season rice crop, accounting for between 60 and 70 percent of the annual production, is underway. However, concerns persist over the availability of water to irrigate crops. Sowing operations are already reported to have been hindered by limited supplies of water in major reservoirs, particularly over the eastern-most provinces of the country. As a result, FAO's first and preliminary 2015 rice production forecast, which assumes an average second season crop, points to output remaining stable around the 2014 level of 630 000 tonnes (422 000 tonnes, milled basis).

Cereal imports are forecast to decrease slightly during the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)

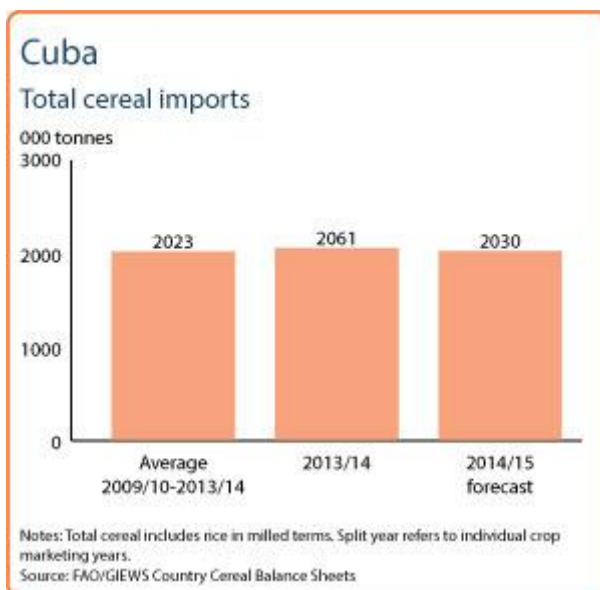
The country imports three-fourths of its cereal consumption, mainly wheat which is not produced locally. Preliminary forecasts for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) point to a decrease of cereal imports of 1.5 percent from the last year's level, but still close to the country's five-year average. This mainly reflects a drop in maize imports as a result of the high 2014 production.



Cuba Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	593	630	632	0
Maize	385	460	450	-2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	978	1,090	1,082	-1

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



Reference Date: 10-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

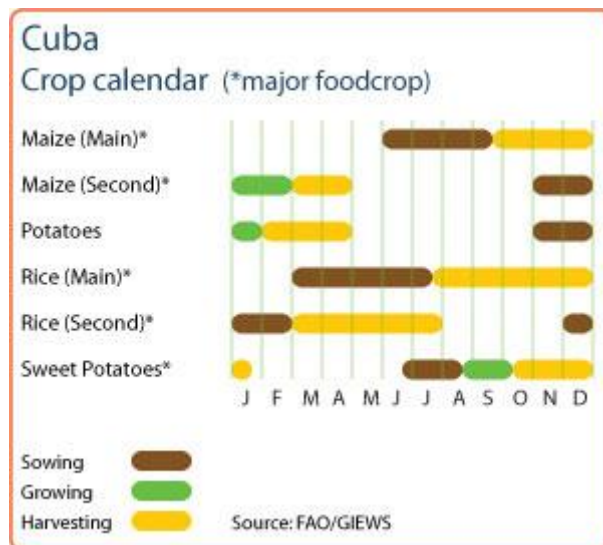
- Record 2014 cereal production is anticipated
- Cereal imports are forecast to decrease slightly during 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)

Record 2014 cereal production is anticipated

The 2014 main season harvests for maize and rice concluded in December. Aggregate 2014 rice production (first and second seasons) is anticipated to increase 4 percent from last year's good harvest and reach 700 000 tonnes. The production increase is a result of higher sowings during both seasons. The 2014 aggregate maize production (first and second season) is estimated to have reached a record of 460 000 tonnes, 8 percent up from last year's good output. The production increase mainly reflects an upward revision of early estimates of the area sown during the year. Total 2014 cereal production is expected to reach almost 1.2 million tonnes, an increase of 6 percent from last year and its highest level in ten years.

Cereal imports are forecast to decrease slightly during 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)

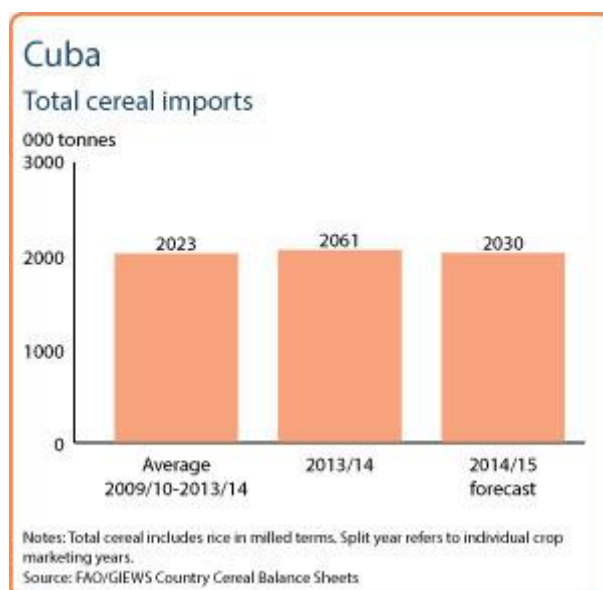
The country imports three-fourths of its cereal consumption, mainly wheat which is not produced locally. Preliminary forecasts for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) point to a decrease of cereal imports of 1.5 percent from last year's level but still close to the country's five-year average. This mainly reflects a drop in maize imports as a result of the high 2014 production.



Cuba Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	580	673	700	4
Maize	354	426	460	8
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	934	1,099	1,160	6

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



Reference Date: 07-August-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

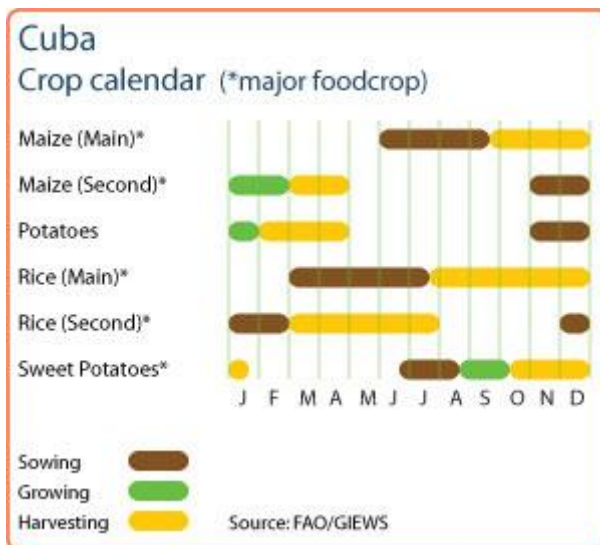
- Favourable prospects for the 2014 cereal crop
- Cereal imports in the 2014/15 (July/June) marketing year forecast slightly below last year

Favourable prospects for the 2014 cereal crop

Harvesting of the 2014 main season rice crop is currently underway and will be completed by the end of December. Following a good secondary season output and assuming average yields for the crops of the main season still to be harvested, the aggregate 2014 rice production is expected to reach 700 000 tonnes, 4 percent up from last year's bumper level and well above the average of the previous five years. The increase is mainly attributed to a 4 percent expansion in plantings. The 2014 main season maize production, to be harvested from late September, is forecast to increase as a result of projected higher yields following favourable weather conditions. Total cereal production is preliminarily forecast at 1 million tonnes, 4 percent up from last year and 15 percent above the five-year average.

Cereal imports in the 2014/15 (July/June) marketing year forecast slightly below last year

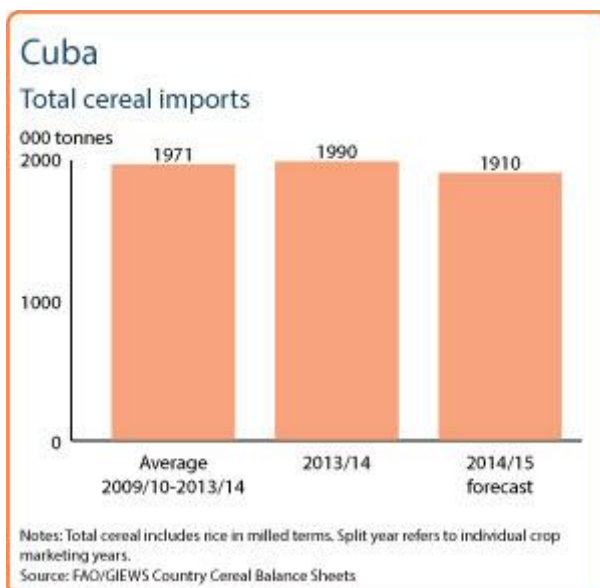
The country normally imports three-quarters of its cereal consumption requirements, mainly wheat (which is not produced domestically) and rice. Preliminary forecasts point to cereal imports of 1.9 million tonnes for the 2014/15 (July/June) marketing year, which is 4 percent down from last year and slightly below average. The decrease reflects tentative forecast of lower maize and rice imports reflecting this year's expected higher output.



Cuba Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	580	673	700	4
Maize	308	305	322	6
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	888	978	1,022	4

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



Reference Date: 12-March-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for the 2014 secondary season cereal crops are favourable
- Cereal imports in 2013/14 (July/June) marketing year to remain at last year's levels

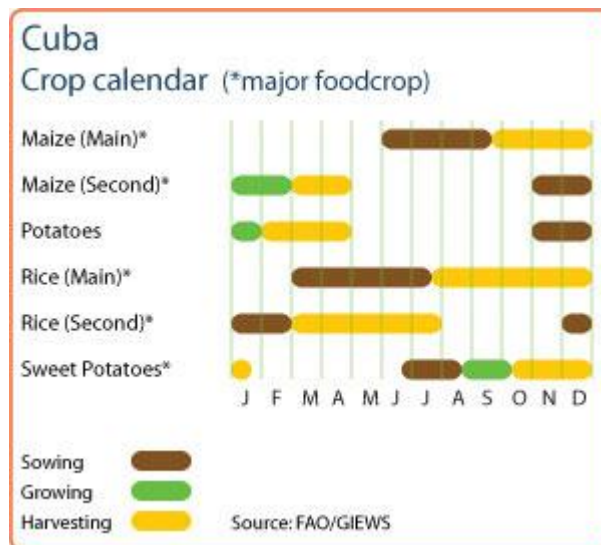
Prospects for the 2014 secondary season cereal crops are favourable

Harvesting of the 2014 secondary season cereal crops, rice and maize is underway. Prospects are favourable as a result of good weather conditions during the season coupled with improved input supplies, following the Government's efforts to support cereal production.

Official estimates of the 2013 cereal production point to an increase of 7 percent from last year's level to 955 000 tonnes. The increase reflects higher rice output and a strong recovery in maize production, following increased plantings, Government's support programmes and technical cooperation agreements with Viet Nam and Brazil contributed to the general increase in cereal production.

Cereal imports in 2013/14 (July/June) marketing year to remain at last year's levels

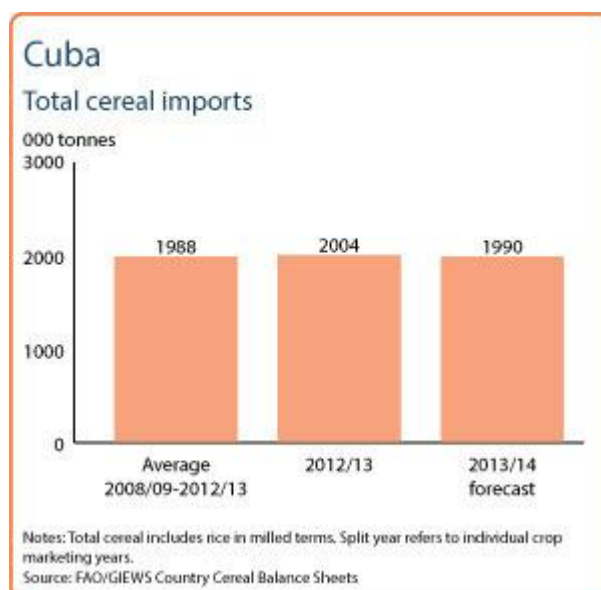
The country normally imports three-quarters of its cereal consumption requirements, mainly wheat (which is not produced domestically) and rice. In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), imports of wheat are forecast to remain at their average level of 800 000 tonnes. By contrast, rice imports are forecast slightly down from last year, at 390 000 tonnes following the 2013 good production.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	532	642	650	1
Maize	312	253	305	21
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	845	895	955	7

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



Reference Date: 10-December-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

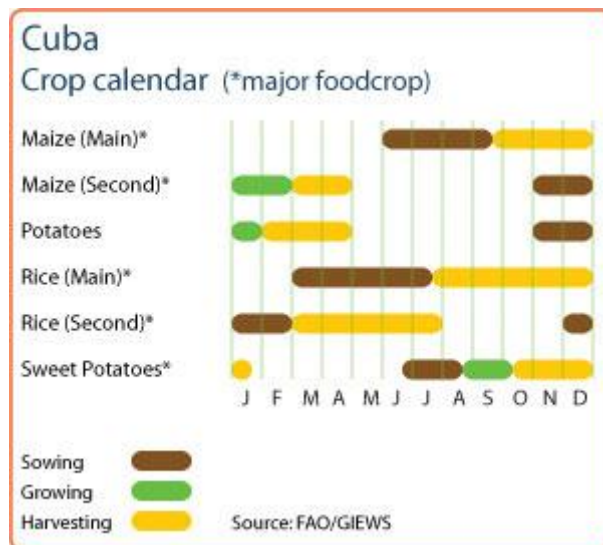
- The 2013 rice production firm at high levels
- Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2013/14 marketing year

The 2013 rice production firm at high levels

Harvesting of the 2013 main season rice crop was recently completed. Earlier forecasts were revised upward and aggregate 2013 rice production, including the main and secondary season which was harvested in July, is estimated to reach 650 000 tonnes (434 000 tonnes, milled basis) slightly up from last year's bumper crop. This reflects an increase in yields and area planted. In recent years the Government has supported the rice sector by facilitating access to agricultural inputs and machinery, as well as through the Viet Nam-Cuba cooperation (2010-2015), which aims to increase rice productivity. In addition to the assistance received from Vietnam, Cuba is also expected to benefit from technical support from Brazil under a cooperation agreement signed this year.

Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2013/14 marketing year

The country normally imports three-quarters of its cereal consumption requirements, mainly wheat (which is not produced domestically) and rice. In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), imports of wheat are forecast to remain at their historical level of 800 000 tonnes. By contrast, rice imports for the same period are forecast slightly down from last year at 390 000 tonnes following the 2013 good production.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	532	642	650	1
Maize	336	371	380	2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	868	1,013	1,030	2

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

Reference Date: 15-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production is forecast to increase in 2013
- Cereal imports to remain high in 2012/13 (July/June)
- Food security of population affected by hurricane Sandy remains difficult

The 2013 rice production expected to increase on last year

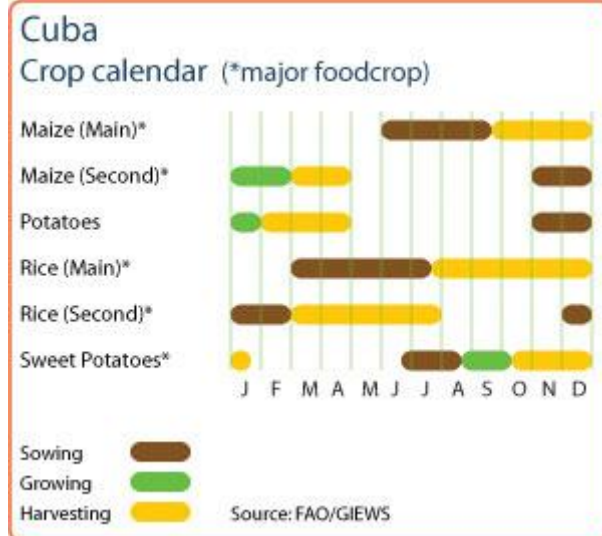
Planting of the 2013 main season rice crop, for harvest in July to December, is underway. Weather conditions so far have been generally favourable. Production is expected to reach 600 000 tonnes, slightly up on the 2012 record level, following an increase in planted area and improved input availability. The Government has introduced a series of measures to increase rice production and reduce imports, which include investments in agricultural inputs and equipment, coupled with the distribution of improved seed varieties. The Viet Nam-Cuba cooperation (2010-2015) which aims to increase rice productivity is also expected to boost this year's output just as in 2012.

Cereal imports to remain high in 2012/13

The country normally imports three-quarters of its consumption requirements of cereals, mainly wheat (which is not produced domestically) and rice. In the 2012/13 marketing year (July/June), imports of wheat are forecast to remain at their average level of 800 000 tonnes. Rice imports for the same period are forecasted at 400 000 tonnes.

Food security situation of population affected by hurricane Sandy remains difficult

In late October 2012, hurricane Sandy affected some 2.6 million people and caused severe damages to food crops and agricultural infrastructure, particularly in the eastern provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguín and Guantánamo. In order to mitigate the hurricane impact, the Government set up safety net programmes for the most affected and requested additional international assistance. An Emergency Operation (EMOP) was jointly approved on 13 February 2013 by FAO and WFP for emergency assistance for a total of 563 000 people affected by hurricane Sandy in the Provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguin and Guantanamo for a period of seven months (1 February to 31 August 2013). Despite a general improvement, the food security situation still remains difficult in the most affected areas.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	520	580	600	3
Maize	336	371	380	2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	856	951	980	3

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

Reference Date: 13-Jul-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2012 rice production forecast to increase from last year
- Imports to remain at high levels in 2012/13

2012 rice production forecast to increase from last year

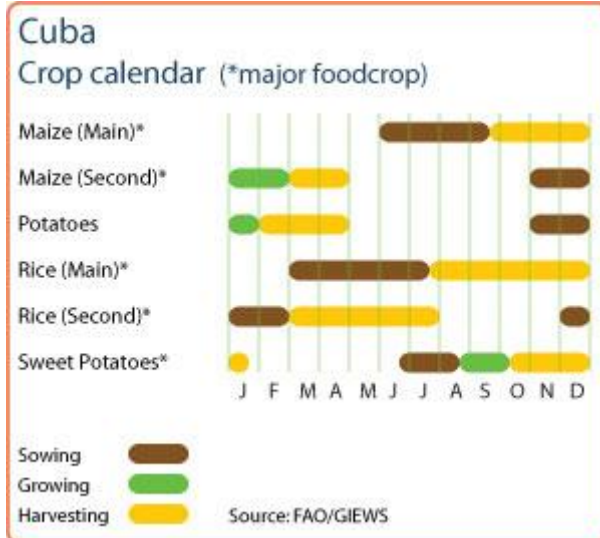
Sowing of the 2012 main season rice crop is underway, under generally favourable weather conditions. Production is forecast at 510 000 tonnes, up by 11 percent on the 2011 levels, following a series of policy measures to increase rice production and reduce imports. In May this year, the Government announced an investment of USD 450 million on agricultural inputs and equipment for the next five years, starting with USD 108 million in 2012. The increase forecast in rice output also reflects greater private-sector cultivation of previously unused land. In addition, the area planted under the Vietnam-Cuba cooperation project to develop rice production (2010-2015) is set to rise to about 30 000 hectares from 7 600 hectares last year, following the good results obtained in 2011, with average yields of 4.7 tonnes per hectare against the national average of 2.6 tonnes per hectare.

Imports to remain at high levels in 2012/13

The country normally imports some three-quarters of its consumption requirements of cereals, mainly wheat which is not produced domestically, and rice. In 2012/13 marketing year imports of rice and wheat are forecast at average levels of 500 000 tonnes and 800 000 tonnes respectively.

Cholera cases reported in parts

A cholera outbreak has killed three people and more than 80 people were infected in the past two weeks in the south-eastern province of Granma, with some cases confirmed elsewhere in the country. The Government is providing preventative treatment to about 1 000 people in an effort to contain the spread of cases.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	471	460	510	11
Maize	336	355	371	5
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	807	815	881	8

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

Reference Date: 27-February-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2011 rice production above average
- Basic food prices up by 20 percent in 2011

2011 rice production above average

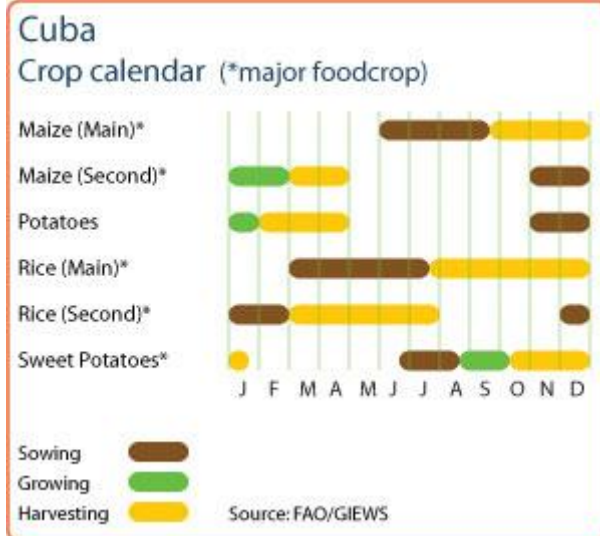
Harvesting of the 2011 main season rice crop was completed in December last year. Production is estimated at 510 000 tonnes of rice, up by 12 percent on the 2010 levels, following government measures taken to liberalise and promote production, in an attempt to reduce food imports. The measures adopted include bringing previously unused land into cultivation, the distribution of fertilisers and seed varieties adapted to each type of soil, and an increase in the price of rice. The increase in rice output also reflected greater private-sector production. In the largest producer province, Granma, the rice crop doubled its previous year's level, thanks to new private farms and service cooperatives.

Agricultural services such as mechanical picking, which for several years was a State monopoly, are being transferred to private cooperatives. Last December, the Government announced that farmers would be allowed to sell their products directly to businesses of the tourist industry, without having to market them through a State firm, as an economic stimulus measure.

The country imports over half of all the rice it consumes, mainly from Viet Nam. As a result of the good production level in 2011, imports are set to fall by 5 percent in the 2011/12 marketing season (January/December) to a level of 570 000 tonnes.

Food prices rise

Official data published in January 2012 show that the index of food prices rose by 19.8 percent in 2011. The price of meat rose by 8.7 percent, whereas the prices of other agricultural products increased by up to 24.1 percent.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	466	454	510	12
Maize	327	330	363	10
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	793	784	873	11

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

Reference Date: 20-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Sowing of the main 2011 rice season delayed due to lack of rainfall
- 2010 rice production significantly lower than that of 2009
- 2010/11 sugarcane harvest estimated to be the lowest in a decade

Sowing of the main 2011 rice season delayed due to dry weather

Cuba's rainy season usually begins in May but no rainfall was recorded by the middle of the month, and in April average rainfall was insubstantial. Havana and Pinar del Rio, on the west of the island, are the provinces most affected by dry weather. It is possible that the Government's plans to boost production for this season by increasing the sown area and providing more access to agricultural machinery may not be implemented if lack of rains persists.

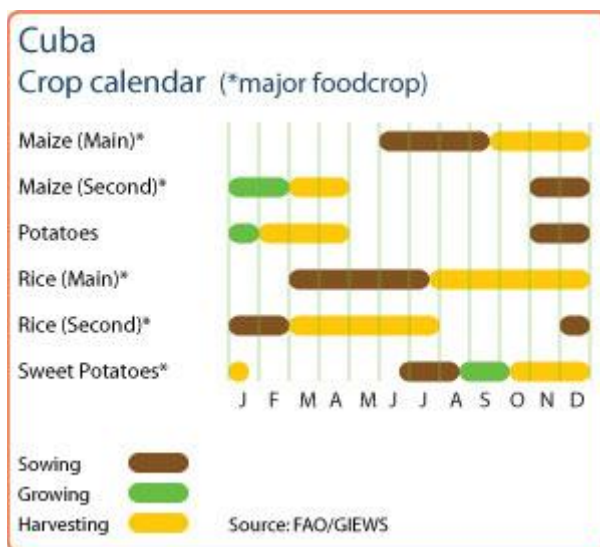
Less rice produced in 2010 due to insufficient rainfall

Rice (paddy) production in 2010 was estimated at 495 000 tonnes, 12 percent below the good level reached last year but still above the average for the last five years. The reduced harvest was due to the general shortage of rainfall during the first stage of the agricultural season, with the exception of the province of Granma - the country's largest producing area.

The prolonged dry weather during the first half of last year had a detrimental effect on other food crops, particularly bean crops, and on livestock. The 2010/11 sugarcane harvest is almost complete and it is estimated that production will be the lowest in a decade. In general, it is estimated that the agricultural and livestock yields for 2010 fell by 7.5 percent compared to 2009.

Commercialization of imported rice permitted

After the reduced 2010 rice production, the Government permitted the inclusion of imported rice on the list of products that can be sold on the parallel market. According to the new provision, imported rice will be sold at 5 pesos per pound (USD 0.216/kg) while locally produced rice will remain at 3.5 pesos per pound (USD 0.151/kg) via the rationing system.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	483	540	524	-3
Maize	327	330	363	10
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	810	870	887	2

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

Reference Date: 10-November-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2010 rice production expected to fall
- Aggregate agricultural/livestock production will fall in 2010 following the drought in the first of the year

Severe downpours caused by the tropical storm Paula in October

Heavy downpours and strong winds caused by the tropical storm in mid-October seriously damaged infrastructure. But the abundant rainfall helped to improve soil humidity levels that had been affected by the long dry period in the first half of the year.

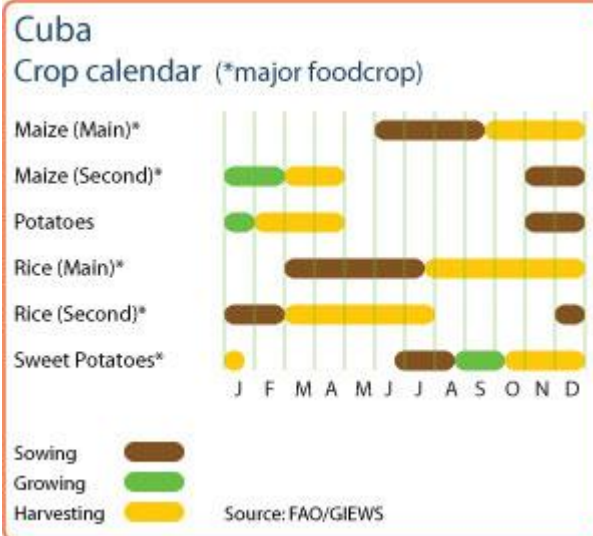
2010 rice output is expected to fall below the 2009 good harvest

The 2010 main cereals harvest is now in progress. Preliminary estimates indicate a 4 percent fall from last year's comparatively high production levels, due to the serious shortage of rainfall in the first few months of the cropping season. However production is forecast to remain above the average of the past five years thanks to the good harvest in the main production province of Granma, which is only slightly affected by the lack of rainfall.

Crop and livestock production is lower in 2010

Because of the prolonged drought from September 2009 to June 2010 in the first half of 2010 total agricultural and livestock production fell by 7.5 percent compared with the same period in 2009. Beans have been among the most seriously affected crops. This year's sugar harvest is also expected to be the lowest this century.

Because of this fall in output, the government has cut sugar rations by 20 percent per month from the previous five pounds (2.27kg).



Cuba Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	448	564	540	-4
Maize	336	360	330	-8
Rye	0	0	0	0
Total	784	924	870	-6

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

Reference Date: 24-August-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rainfall resume following a prolonged dry spell
- However, cereal production is expected to decline compared to last year's bumper crop
- Concern rises over the supply and price of staples

Recent precipitation brought some relief following prolonged dry weather

The 2010 rainy season started in May with rainfall well below average levels. Prolonged drought conditions that persisted since September 2009 resulted in severe water deficits over more than 44 percent of the national territory. The most affected provinces were: Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Camaguey, Las Tunas and Pinar del Rio.

At the beginning of July 2010, overall rainfall resumed to seasonal levels and towards the end of the month, precipitation values exceeded the average due to the influence of seasonal tropical storms. The increased humidity created favourable conditions for short cycle crops although dryness persisted in parts of Pinar del Rio province, in the North of Sancti Spiritus and Ciego de Avila, and over all of Las Tunas province and the Oriente of the country.

Agricultural production expected to decline in 2010 compared to last year

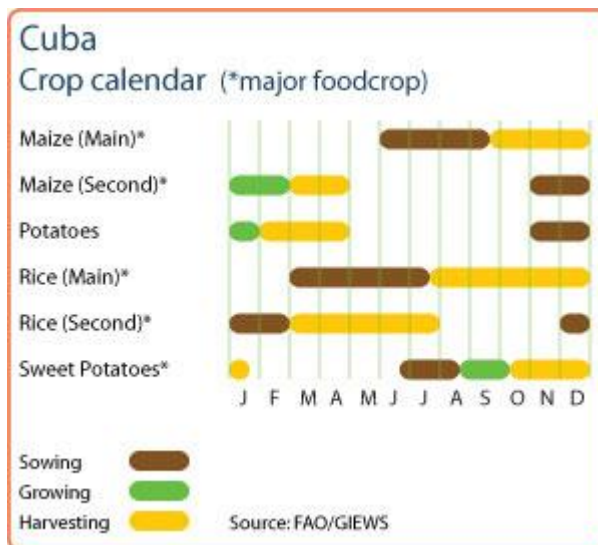
Preliminary estimates for the rice crop, being harvested, indicate a slight decrease in production compared to last year's bumper harvest. However, the output is still expected to be well above average, as the Granma province, which is a key farming area, experienced only moderate water deficits.

Official reports indicate that, during the first six months of 2010, overall agricultural production, including crops and livestock, saw a 7.5 percent decline year on year with bean production being the most affected. In addition, this year's sugar harvest was the worst in more than a century. This prompted the government to reduce the quota of sugar rations to consumers by 20 percent from their level of five pounds (2.27 kg) per person per month.

Concern over likely shortage of staples

Following the prolonged drought conditions and the estimated drop in agricultural production, concern over scarcity in food commodities grows.

In an effort to support and revive agricultural production the government introduced a change in fertilizer and agricultural input marketing conditions from the previous system in which farmers acquired agricultural inputs only through state-granted vouchers.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	448	564	540	-4
Maize	336	360	330	-8
Rye	0	0	0	0
Total	784	924	870	-6

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

Reference Date: 06-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Moderate water deficits affecting western provinces.
- Rice harvest expected to reach record output.

Dry weather conditions reported throughout the island

Since September 2009, the provinces of La Habana, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba reported moderate to extreme dry weather conditions. The 2010 rainy season is expected to start in May, bringing some relief to this critical weather situation.

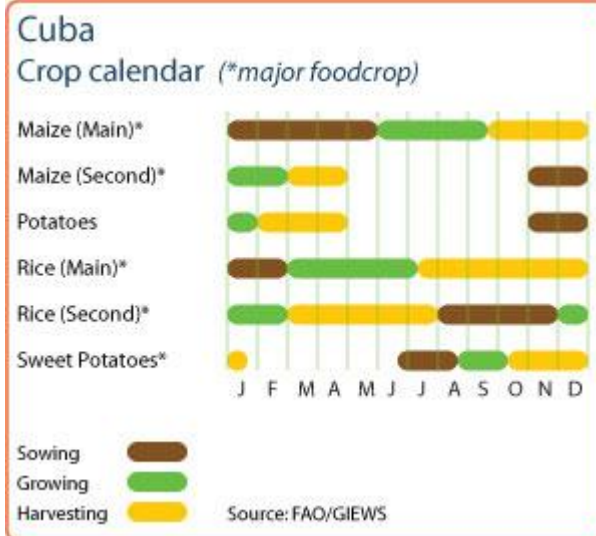
Favourable estimates for 2009 rice production

Reports of rain recorded in the recent decades continued to be poor in most rice-growing areas of the country. However, aggregate production of 2009 paddy rice is estimated at the record level of approximately 500 000 tonnes, about 15 percent above 2008 already good production. In fact, the effects of dry weather conditions are being mitigated by constant irrigation applications in key agricultural areas, as in the province of Granma, and area planted has been notably increased thanks to governmental measure aiming to reduce the country's food import bills.

Governmental efforts to revive sugar cane industry

Sugar cane harvest is well advanced and is scheduled to end in May. With 700 000 hectares currently dedicated to this crop, an extremely low output of approximately of 1.2 million tonnes of raw sugar (unofficial estimates point to a 2008/09 raw sugar production of 1.3 million tonnes last year) is expected mainly on account of lack of inputs.

However, international sugar prices, driven up by ethanol demand, renewed Cuba's interest in reviving the sugar cane industry.



Cuba
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	433	436	500	15
Maize	343	310	360	16
Rye	0	0	0	0
Total	777	746	860	15

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

Reference Date: 09-October-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The rise of El Niño will produce a “milder” hurricane season
- Support to rice production expected to decrease import requirements
- First season maize production also expected to increase yields

A “milder” hurricane season is expected

The hurricane season begins in June and ends in November. In Cuba, the months of highest activity are usually October, September and August. This year the cyclone activity seems to be reduced due to the presence of El Niño which effect is expected to intensify towards the end of the year. The reduction of cyclone activity will result in storms of less intensity and not as destructive as in the last three years.

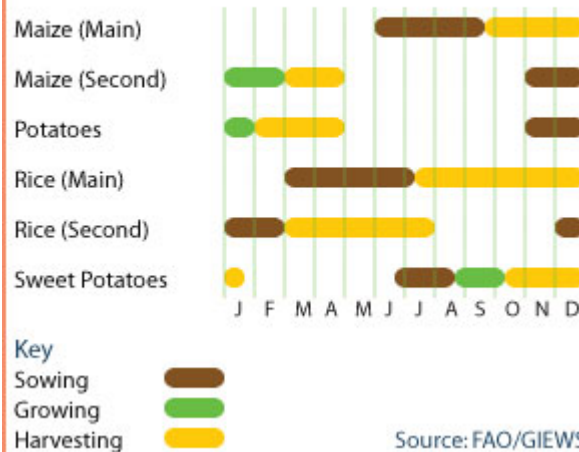
Government policies to boost rice production

Government policies are expected to boost rice production in 2009. Harvesting of the important 2009 main paddy crop is underway and production is estimated at a record level of about 334 000 tonnes well above 2008 already good production (291 000 tonnes of milled rice). The favourable production prospects are supported by an increase in area planted, almost 30 percent compared to 2008, and by the implementation of Government policies to boost domestic staple food production. As announced by official sources, the import costs of beans and rice are expected to decrease by 50 percent in five years. The Government intervention will also provide support to farmers for leasing unproductive state lands.

Good yield for maize production in 2009

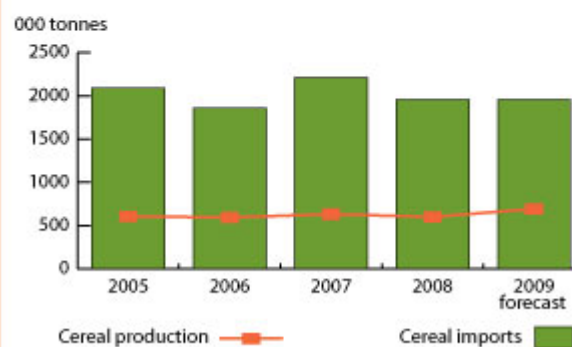
Above average yields are expected for the first season maize crop for which harvesting operations started recently. Tentative forecast for 2009 maize crop points to approximately 360 000 tonnes, a good result compared to that obtained in 2008 where the production was affected by a severe hurricane season.

Crop calendar Cuba



Cereal production and imports Cuba

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	343	310	360	16.1%
Rice (milled)	289	291	334	14.8%
Total Cereals	632	601	694	15.5%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets