



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of the Niger

Reference Date: 07-August-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Timely start of 2023 cropping season
- Prices of coarse grains lower year-on-year
- High levels of acute food insecurity during 2023 lean season

Timely start of 2023 cropping season

Following a timely onset of the seasonal rains, planting of the 2023 cereal crops started in mid-June and was concluded in July. Cumulative rainfall amounts since the start of the season have generally been average to above average in most producing areas, supporting crop establishment and development. However, in parts of Dosso, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions, an erratic distribution of rains has resulted in water deficits, damaging seedlings in localized areas.

Persistent insecurity in Tillabéri, Tahoua, Diffa and Maradi regions continues to limit people's engagement in agricultural activities, which is likely to cause localized production deficits. Furthermore, there are concerns regarding farmers' constrained access to fertilizer due to high prices, in particular in Maradi Region.

Beneficial rainfall in July led to an improvement of pastures in most pastoral areas. However, some areas with good grazing conditions remain inaccessible due to insecurity and, consequently, animals are concentrated in safer areas. In addition, livestock theft is a persisting problem, especially in areas along the border with Mali and Burkina Faso.

Weather forecasts for August and September point to above-average rainfall amounts across the country, which could benefit crop development, but also heighten the risk of flooding.

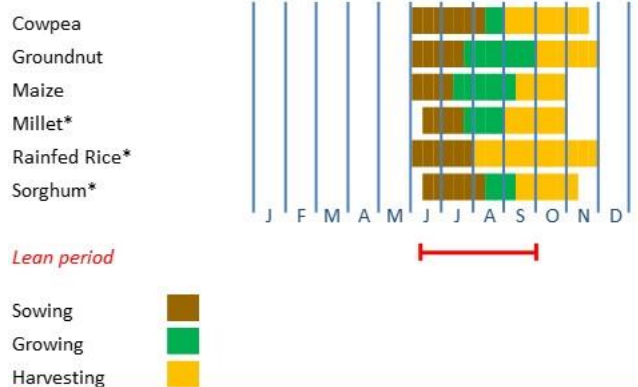
Prices of coarse grains lower year-on-year

Wholesale prices of locally produced millet registered seasonal increases of up to 15 percent between January and June 2023 across the country, while prices of sorghum followed mixed trends. The highest increases in sorghum prices were recorded in markets of Maradi and Zinder regions, where prices rose by about 15 and 40 percent, respectively, reflecting strong local demand. In June 2023, prices of both millet and sorghum were between 5 and 20 percent, respectively, below their year-earlier levels, underpinned by the sharp year-on-year increase in cereal

Niger

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Niger

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 314	2 147	3 657	70.4
Sorghum	1 856	1 207	2 101	74.0
Rice (paddy)	119	134	144	7.7
Others	11	10	15	58.7
Total	5 300	3 498	5 917	69.2

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

production in 2022.

High levels of acute food insecurity during 2023 lean season

According to the March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, approximately 3.28 million people (13 percent of the country's population) are projected to face acute food insecurity during the June to August 2023 lean season period, including over 150 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This would be a significant improvement on the situation in 2022, when 4.4 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. The overall decline in the number of acutely food insecure people mostly reflects the sharp upturn in cereal production in 2022 compared to the below average previous year's level.

Persisting insecurity remains the key driver of acute food insecurity. Non-state armed groups, security forces and self-defence militias in recent months were increasingly involved in looting, cattle thefts, kidnapping and targeted killings, particularly in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions. Poor security conditions have severely disrupted markets and livelihoods, and continued to cause large population displacements across the country. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (NHCR), about 358 000 people were internally displaced by the end of June 2023, an increase of about 35 percent compared to the same period of the previous year.

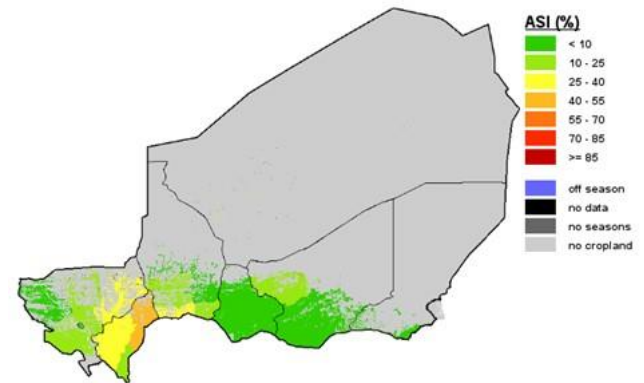
The military takeover, which occurred on 26 July 2023, could worsen insecurity across the country and aggravate the already severe food security conditions. A close monitoring of the situation is warranted.

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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/>.

Niger - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

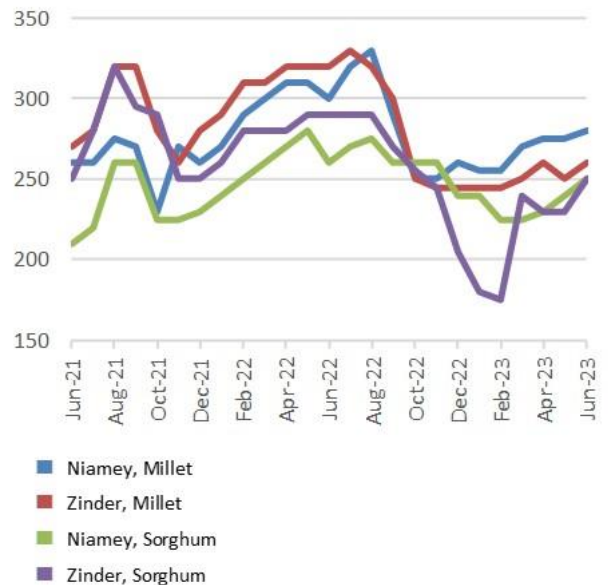
from start of season 1 to dekad 3, July 2023



Niger

Wholesale prices of selected cereals

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg





GIEWS Country Brief

The Niger

Reference Date: 07-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2022 affected by floods, pests and conflicts
- Cereal import requirements not likely to be met in 2021/22 marketing year
- Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends and were higher year on year
- Food insecurity at unprecedented levels in 2022

Cereal production in 2022 affected by floods, pests and conflicts

Harvesting of the 2022 main season cereal crops is ongoing and it is expected to be concluded in November. The rainy season had a timely start in June, enhancing planting activities. Between July and September, however, an erratic distribution of rains led to below-average vegetation conditions in western regions of Tillaberi and Dosso, and eastern region of Diffa. Torrential rains resulted in severe flooding events, mostly in August and September, that caused localized crop losses, the disruption of agricultural livelihoods and damages to food stocks. Persisting armed conflicts, mostly concentrated in western Liptako-Gourma Region and in eastern Lake Chad Bassin, hampered agricultural activities and restricted farmers' access to the fields, limiting the extent of the planted area with cereal crops. In addition, reports from the country indicate that about 48 000 hectares of crops were affected by pest attacks, mostly grasshoppers.

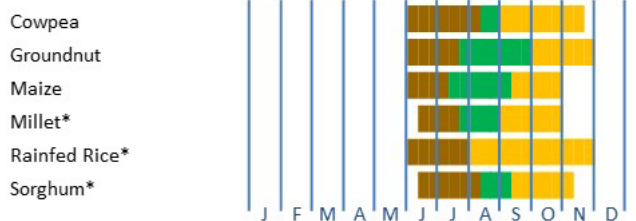
In order to boost crop production and support agricultural livelihoods, which have been undermined by poor cereal harvests in 2021 and by high international prices of energy and agricultural inputs, the government has implemented an emergency plan between November 2021 and March 2022 and a support plan for the vulnerable households for the remainder of 2022. This includes the distribution of improved seeds and agrochemicals at subsidized prices.

The national cereal production in 2022 is preliminarily forecast at 4.7 million tonnes, above the reduced output harvested in 2021, reflecting the beneficial effects of abundant rains in large cropping areas and the distribution by the government of fertilizers and pesticides. At this level, however, production is about 10 percent below the five-year average, due to localized production shortfalls caused by floods, pest infestations and conflicts.

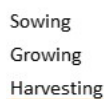
Niger

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWS NET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 308	2 180	2 900	33.0
Sorghum	1 839	1 240	1 700	37.1
Rice (paddy)	113	110	115	4.5
Others	17	15	16	8.1
Total	5 277	3 545	4 731	33.4

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

Unfavourable weather conditions have also led to below-average forecasts of forage production in large pastoral areas of the country, which, together with worsening insecurity and conflicts, is likely to affect livestock body conditions and production.

Cereal import requirements not likely to be met in 2021/22 marketing year

The country relies on imports, mostly of rice, to meet its domestic cereal requirements. In the 2021/22 marketing year (November/October), cereal import requirements are estimated at 735 000 tonnes, about 20 percent above the previous year and over 30 percent above the five-year average, mostly due to the sharp production shortfall of coarse grains in 2021.

However, the country is not likely to meet the entire import requirements due to limited crossborder trade flows, underpinned by lingering logistical bottlenecks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, poor security conditions and export bans of grains and cereal products in neighbouring countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Algeria.

Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends and were higher year on year

Prices of locally produced millet and sorghum were stable in August in most markets, while they increased for a second consecutive month in Tillaberi and Niamey. On average, prices of coarse grains were 10 percent above their year-earlier levels. In Tillaberi, however, prices were up to 40 percent higher, reflecting below-average availabilities stemming from the reduced cereal output in 2021 as well as conflict-related market disruptions.

Acute food insecurity at unprecedented levels in 2022

According to the March 2022 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, about 4.4 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) and in need of humanitarian assistance during the June-August 2022 period, including 425 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) this figure is well above the 2.3 million people estimated to be acute food insecure during the same period in 2021. This is the highest number on record since the start of the CH analysis in 2014 and the first time that two departments in the conflict-affected Tillaberi Region are classified in Phase 4 (Emergency). The sharp increase in acute food insecurity levels reflects worsening violence and conflicts, reduced cereal outputs in 2021 and high food prices.

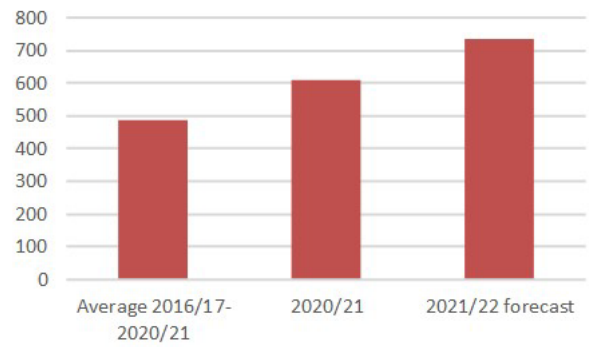
Persisting conflict and insecurity, mostly concentrated in Liptako Gourma Region, Lake Chad Basin and central parts bordering Nigeria, continued to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance and caused large population displacements. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of August 2022, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at about 350 000, mostly located in the regions of Diffa, Tahoua and Tillaberi. The country also hosts about 295 000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Mali.

Despite the ongoing cereal harvests, which are likely to improve food availability, high levels of acute food insecurity are expected to persist in the second half of 2022. Food availability and access are likely to remain limited by conflict-related market disruptions and high food prices, exacerbated by the unfolding effects of the war in Ukraine on international trade and commodity prices. In

Niger

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

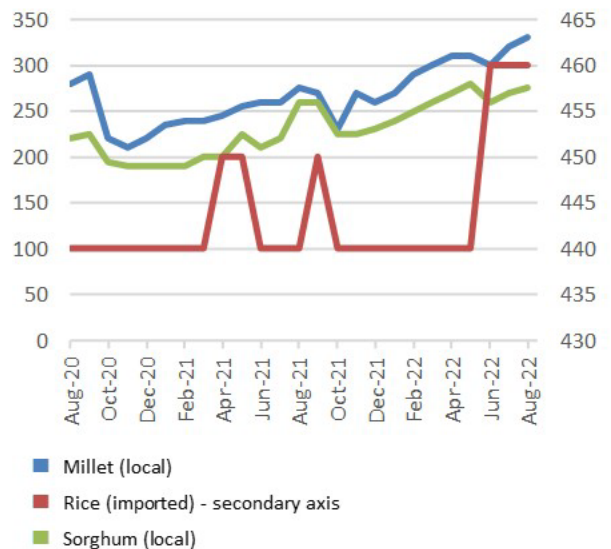


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg



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

addition, according to national authorities, floods have affected, as of late September 2022, nearly 250 000 people, mostly in the Maradi Region, increasing the risk of a deterioration of food insecurity. Weather forecasts indicate that abundant rains are expected until the end of October in southwestern parts of the country, increasing the likelihood of more floods. New CH estimates of the number of people facing acute food insecurity in the last quarter of 2022 are expected to be released next November by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

In order to support the food security conditions of the most vulnerable households, including those affected by the poor agricultural outputs in 2021 and by floods since June 2022, and to prevent further increases in food prices, the government has delivered food aid and sold cereals at subsidized prices between February and September.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Niger

Reference Date: 02-February-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production estimated well below average in 2021
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2021/22 marketing year (November/October)
- Prices of coarse grains at high levels
- Prevalence of food insecurity projected to increase sharply in 2022

Cereal production estimated well below average in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 cereal crops concluded in December. The aggregate cereal production in 2021 is officially estimated at 3.5 million tonnes, nearly 40 percent below the five-year average. The sharp production shortfall is mostly due to the combined effects of unfavourable weather conditions, pest attacks and the deterioration of the security situation that resulted in a significant decline of yields and plantings.

The uneven temporal distribution of seasonal rains hampered the establishment and development of millet and sorghum crops across the main producing areas in the western and central parts of the country. The early cessation of rains in September negatively affected crops at critical flowering and grain filling stages, resulting in a sharp decline of yields. Pest attacks also contributed to the poor production outcome. Furthermore, increased violence in the Liptako-Gourma area and the Lake Chad Basin, limited access to fields and constrained the availability of inputs and labour, forcing many households to reduce the planted area and/or abandon their crops in the fields.

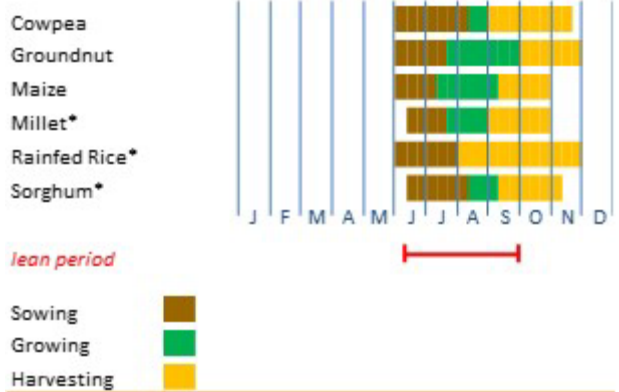
The unfavourable weather conditions also resulted in a deterioration of grasslands conditions and intense bushfires destroyed localized areas of pasture. The reduced availability of pastures and forage led to an earlier-than-normal transhumance towards croplands, which resulted in an increase in intercommunal conflicts. The upsurge of violence throughout 2021 continued to limit the access to pastoral resources, curbing local production and raising the likelihood of an early start of the pastoral lean season in 2022 that usually starts in mid-March.

As part of the Emergency Plan launched by the country, FAO is supporting about 36 500 households with the provision of agricultural inputs for off-season crops, animal feed and vaccination for boosting livestock body conditions and cash transfers targeting rural households involved in the restoration of

Niger

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 649	3 445	2 180	-36.7
Sorghum	1 952	2 011	1 240	-38.3
Rice (paddy)	120	110	132	20.0
Others	18	16	15	-2.6
Total	5 739	5 582	3 568	-36.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

firebreaks.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2021/22

The country relies on cereal imports to cover its consumption needs and, in the previous five years, imported on average 475 000 tonnes, mostly of rice and wheat. Reflecting the substantial shortfall in domestic production of coarse grains in 2021, a large drawdown of stocks and increased needs for external supplies are estimated in order to prevent a significant decrease in the food consumption. Therefore, in the 2021/22 marketing year (November/October), the cereal import requirements are estimated at about 740 000 tonnes, 20 percent above the previous year and about 55 percent above the five-year average.

The country, however, might not be able to meet the entire import requirements as trade flows are likely to be constrained by cross-border restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability in the subregion as well as export bans of cereals in neighbouring countries.

Prices of coarse grains at high levels

Following declines in September and October, underpinned by the start of the main harvest, prices of locally produced sorghum and millet generally levelled off or increased in November and December 2021. In December, average prices of local sorghum and millet were about 25 percent higher than a year before, largely reflecting the effects of the reduced cereal output in 2021, the increased transportation costs and the disruption of markets due to the deterioration of security conditions. Prices of imported rice remained virtually unchanged in recent months and, as of last December, they were slightly below the values of one year earlier, reflecting overall adequate supplies.

Prevalence of food insecurity projected to increase sharply in 2022

The food security situation continued to deteriorate in 2021, reaching alarming levels particularly in conflict-affected Liptako-Gourma and Lake Chad Basin areas. The frequency and severity of intercommunal disputes and violent incidents by non-state armed groups increased in 2021 compared to the previous year. The upsurge of violence has disrupted agricultural livelihoods, labour migration and the delivery of humanitarian food assistance, constraining availability of and access to food. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of December 2021, the number of internally displaced persons was estimated at about 265 000. Due to conflicts in neighbouring countries, the country also hosts about 250 000 refugees, mostly from Nigeria and Mali.

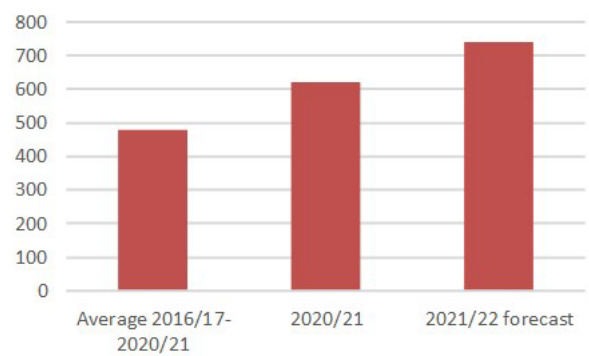
According to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé (CH)" analysis, about 2.56 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the post-harvest period, between October and December 2021. This level is well above the 1.23 million people assessed to be food insecure during the same period in 2020 and it reflects the worsening situation in terms of food access and availability. Of particular concern, about 140 000 people were estimated to be in CH Phase 4 (Emergency), well above the 62 000 people estimated in 2020.

In the upcoming lean season period, between June and August 2022, a projected 3.62 million people are at risk to face

Niger

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



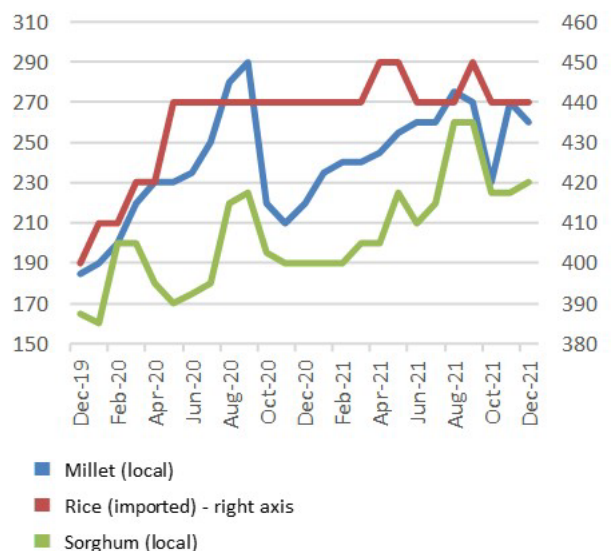
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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

food insecurity, of which 300 000 in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This is a 40 percent increase compared to the current post-harvest period, underpinned by the reduced cereal production in 2021, high food prices and the high likelihood of persisting disruptions of markets and agricultural activities amid increasing insecurity.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 11-November-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production forecast at reduced level in 2021
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2021/22 marketing year (November/October)
- Prices of coarse grains declined in October with arrival of newly harvested grains
- Increased prevalence of food insecurity in 2021 in conflict-affected areas

Cereal production forecast at reduced level in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 cereal crops is underway and is expected to conclude by the end of November. The aggregate cereal production in 2021 is forecast to decrease compared to the estimated near-average output of 5.8 million tonnes in 2020, mostly due to the combined effects of unfavourable weather conditions and a deterioration of the security situation that resulted in a significant decline of yields and plantings.

Although seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts were average to above average across vast parts of the country, an erratic distribution of rains caused delays in planting operations and affected the establishment of cereal crops. In particular, an early cessation of seasonal rains in key producing western, southern and eastern parts, combined with pest attacks in several districts, negatively affected crops during critical flowering and grain filling stages, and these factors are attributed to causing the expected reduction in yields. Torrential rains and floods, notably in parts of central Maradi and Zinder regions, also caused localized crop losses that have further contributed to the poor production outlook.

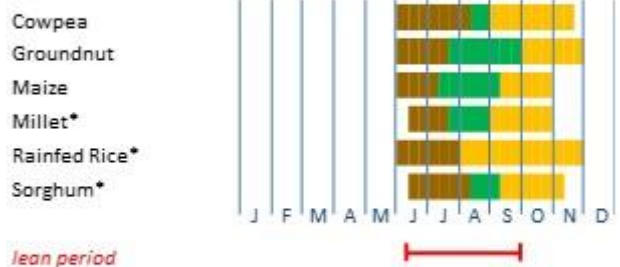
Furthermore, a deterioration of the security situation in the country, mostly due to increased violence in the Liptako-Gourma area and the Lake Chad Basin, limited access to fields and constrained availability of inputs and labour. This resulted in many households reducing the planted area and/or abandoning their crops in the fields.

Adequate rainfall amounts in July and August resulted in favourable conditions of pastures, which enhanced livestock body conditions and production of animal products in some parts of the country. However, the early cessation of the rains in September resulted in stressed vegetation conditions in some pastoral areas in central and eastern parts of the country. Intense bushfires

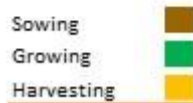
Niger

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019 percent
	000 tonnes			
Millet	3 641	3 270	3 509	7.3
Sorghum	1 934	1 897	2 132	12.4
Rice (paddy)	124	120	115	-3.7
Others	24	17	16	-4.2
Total	5 724	5 303	5 772	8.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

destroyed more than 300 000 hectares of pasture, with a significant decline in forage production. The upsurge of violence throughout 2021 in the areas already affected by conflict has continued to limit the access to pastoral resources and has disrupted transhumance movements, curbing local production prospects.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2021/22

The country heavily relies on imports to cover its consumption needs of cereals that grow especially due to demographic trends. In the 2021/22 marketing year (November/October), cereal import requirements, mostly rice, are anticipated at 570 000 tonnes, nearly 5 percent above the previous year and about 20 percent above the five-year average.

However, import flows are likely to be constrained by several factors, including the lingering cross-border restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, export bans of cereals in neighbouring countries, mainly Benin, Burkina Faso and Nigeria, and reduced exportable supplies in Mali.

Prices of coarse grains declined in October with arrival of newly harvested grains

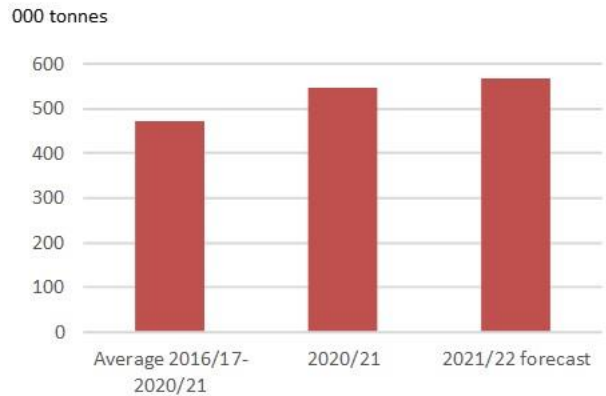
Prices of locally produced coarse grains, mainly sorghum and millet, declined in October compared to previous months, reflecting the arrival to the markets of the newly harvested grains and the subdued demand by farming households that stopped resorting to markets and relied on their own crop production. However, the unfavourable production prospects in 2021 limited the seasonal downward pressure. In October, prices were still well above their year-earlier values, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas, reflecting persistent disruptions of markets and agricultural activities. Prices of imported rice eased in October and were generally near their year-earlier values, reflecting overall adequate supplies.

Increased prevalence of food insecurity in 2021 in conflict affected areas

The food security situation has deteriorated in 2021, particularly in the eastern Diffa and Zinder, central Maradi, and western Tahoua and Tillaberi regions. Since early 2021, inter-communal disputes and violent incidents by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) have increased compared to the previous year, further displacing populations. According to the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of September 2021, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at about 280 000, above the estimated 266 000 a year before. Due to conflicts in neighbouring countries, the country also hosts about 250 000 refugees, mostly from Nigeria and Mali. The upsurge of violence has disrupted agricultural livelihoods, labour migration and the delivery of humanitarian food assistance, particularly in the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions, constraining availability of and access to food especially for IDPs, refugees and poor households. Moreover, COVID-19 containment measures curbed income-generating activities and reduced remittances, further constraining households' purchasing power. According to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 2.3 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) between June and August 2021, well above the 1.6 million people assessed to be food insecure between March and May 2021. Of particular concern, about 215 000 people were

Niger

Cereals Imports

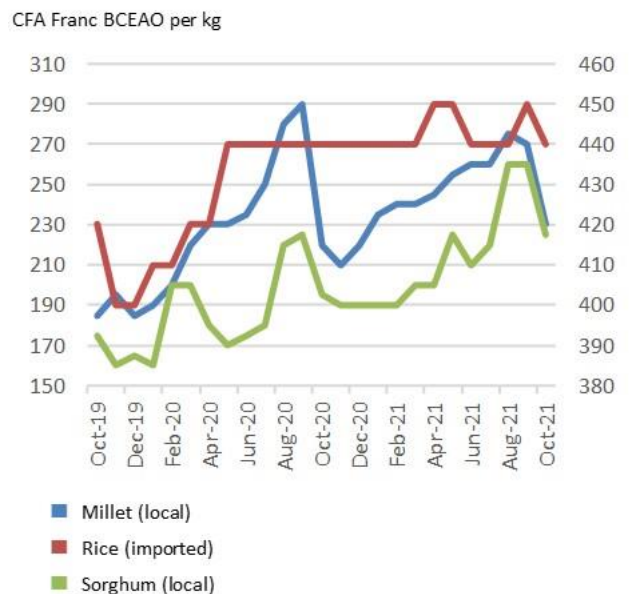


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



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

projected in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) , up from the estimated 102 000 people between March and May 2021.

Reflecting the anticipated below-average cereal production in 2021, coupled with persisting disruptions of markets and agricultural activities and high food prices, the food security situation is likely to deteriorate in the coming months. An ongoing “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis is expected to provide shortly an update of the current food security situation.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 05-January-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near-average cereal output expected in 2020
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21
- Improved supplies from recently harvested crops exert downward pressure on prices in most markets
- Continued assistance needed for most vulnerable households

Near-average cereal output expected in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 main season crops, including millet, sorghum, rice (paddy) and maize, was almost completed in December and production is expected at near-average levels. Abundant rainfall amounts in 2020 benefitted crop development across the country. However, flooding and attacks of Fall Armyworms (FAW) caused localized losses of crops. The persisting conflict in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions also continued to impact agricultural activities and hampered access to land, leading to localized production shortfalls. Overall, the 2020 national cereal production is estimated at about 5.8 million tonnes.

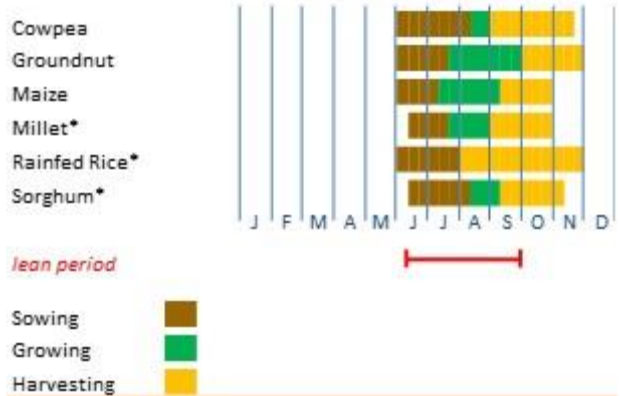
The pastoral situation is overall satisfactory, with abundant quality pasture and water resources for livestock in several areas of the country. In addition, crop residues from the main harvest are contributing to improve livestock body conditions and enhance animal market value. However, the persisting civil conflict in Diffa, Tahoua, Tillabery and Maradi regions continues to limit grazing land and hamper access to pastoral resources. Moreover, the clustering of animals in secure areas is resulting in the rapid degradation of available fodder and water resources as well as increasing tensions between farmers and herders with a severe impact on the livelihoods of the affected households. The animal health situation is overall stable, with only seasonal outbreaks of epizootic diseases such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats and Foot and Mouth (FMD) in cattle, mainly in Agadez, Zinder and Tahoua regions.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21

To cover its domestic cereal requirements, the country relies on imports, particularly rice that account for approximately 70 percent of the total cereal imports. Since August 2019, the flow of imports of cereals from Nigeria (the main source) has drastically reduced because of the border closure. Imports of

Niger

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 701	3 569	3 850	7.9
Sorghum	1 958	1 970	1 922	-2.4
Rice (paddy)	124	120	91	-23.9
Others	31	23	26	14.0
Total	5 815	5 680	5 889	3.7

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

cereals from other neighbouring countries (Benin, Mali) have also decreased in volume, while costs and time of transportation have increased since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 preventive measures. Despite the near-average 2020 cereal production, import requirements for the 2020/21 marketing year (November/October) are expected at an above-average level of 700 000 tonnes as traders aim to replenish their stocks.

Improved supplies from recently harvested crops exert downward pressure on prices in most markets

The supply of major commodities is generally satisfactory in most markets in the country with the arrival of recently harvested crops. The demand is overall weak during the harvest period due to self-consumption by most agricultural and agro-pastoral households and the closure of the border that prevents Nigerian traders to purchase in the local markets. Prices of coarse grains started to decline in September but remained always above the level of a year earlier, mainly due to localized production deficits, the effects of anti-COVID-19 measures and the persistent insecurity in parts of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabery regions.

In November 2020, the animal-to-cereals terms of trade slightly improved compared to the previous months as the market value of animals was enhanced by the overall good pastoral conditions, while cereal prices were declining at the beginning of the harvest. However, the terms of trade are significantly down compared to year-earlier levels on most markets due to low export demand as a result of the continued depreciation of the local currency, the closure of Nigeria's borders in connection with restrictive trade measures and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued assistance needed for most food insecure households

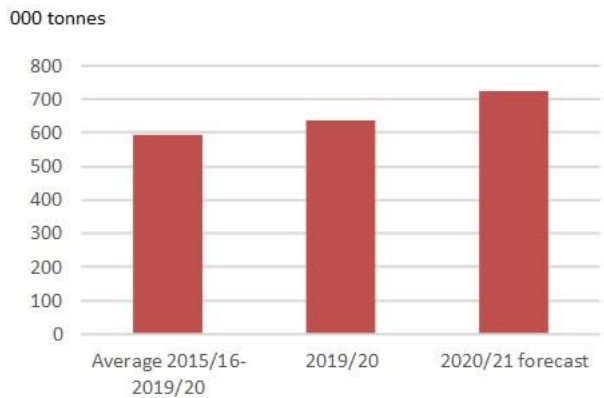
According to the November 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, the aggregate number of severely food insecure people (CH Phase 3: "Crisis" and above) is estimated at about 1.2 million during the October-December 2020 period, including about 61 000 people in severe food insecurity (CH Phase 4). The number is expected to increase to 1.7 million people between June and August 2021, during the peak of the next lean season, if no mitigation actions are taken.

In recent months, the increase in security incidents continued to cause large population displacements in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua regions. This has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, diminishing livelihood opportunities of households and their food security. Most displaced households lost their livelihoods and rely on external assistance to cover their basic food needs. As of October 2020, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) reported that over 257 000 people have been displaced in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions. In addition, the country hosts approximately 230 000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Mali.

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Niger

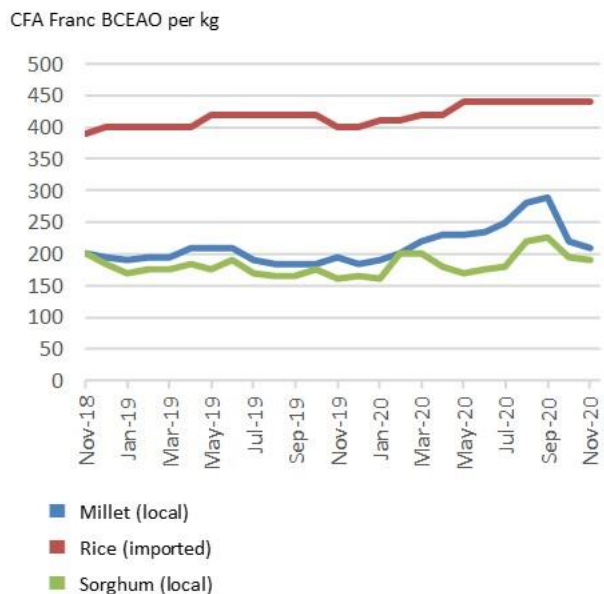
Cereals Imports



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.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



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



GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 13-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly above-average cereal output expected in 2020 due to favourable moisture conditions
- Average cereal harvest estimated in 2019
- In September, food prices increased in most markets
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable populations

Slightly above-average cereal output expected in 2020 due to favourable moisture conditions

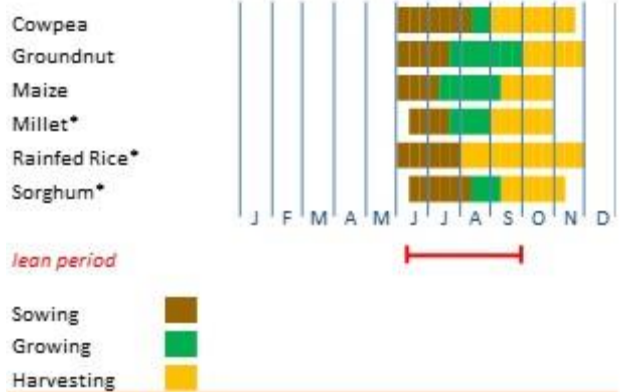
The 2020 main season crops (maize, millet, sorghum and rice) are currently being harvested across the country and production is expected to be slightly above average. Planting of the 2020 coarse grain crops started in June with the timely onset of the rains. Abundant seasonal precipitation amounts throughout the season in most parts of the country, favoured crop germination, establishment and development (see ASI image). However, periods of heavy rains resulted in localized flooding in August and September in Niamey District, areas bordering the Niger Valley and in other regions of the country, causing human casualties, loss of livelihoods and damage to crops, livestock and infrastructures. Actually, 500 000 persons are affected with 69 deaths, the loss of more 28 000 hectares of cropland, 3 000 hectares of irrigated perimetres destroyed and the loss of 18 700 ruminants. In addition, persistent conflict continues to disrupt agricultural activities in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions. Furthermore, localized outbreaks of Fall Armyworm (FAW) and desert locust were reported across several areas of the country, while stemborers affected crops in Bosso, Guidan Rounndji and Tibiri districts.

The abundant rainfall amounts allowed the replenishment of most water points to a satisfactory level and benefited the growing conditions of pasture, which is at maturity stage across most grazing areas of the country. The availability and accessibility of pasture and water have improved animal body conditions and enhanced their market value. However, access to pasture remains difficult in Diffa, Tahoua, Tillabery and Maradi regions due to persistent insecurity. In these regions, animals are clustering in safe areas, resulting in the rapid degradation of fodder and water resources as well as increasing tensions between herders and farmers. The animal health situation is overall stable with only seasonal outbreaks of epizootic diseases as the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats and

Niger

Crop Calendar

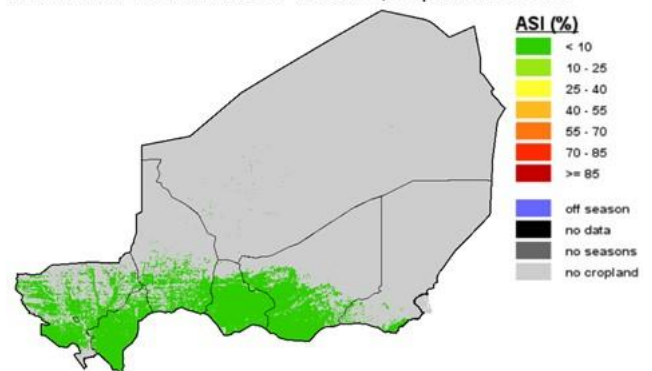
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, September 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

the Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) in cattle, mainly in Agadez, Zinder and Tahoua regions.

Average cereal harvest estimated in 2019

Favourable rainfall in 2019 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The national cereal production in 2019 is estimated at a near-average level of about 5.3 million tonnes. Several localities recorded production declines due to pockets of drought at the start (May-June) and the end of the season (September), resulting in crop damages which required some replanting.

To cover the domestic cereal requirements, the country relies on cereal imports including rice, which account to approximately 70 percent of the total cereal imports. Despite the average 2019 cereal production, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are expected at an above-average level of 700 000 tonnes as traders aim to replenish their stocks.

In September, food prices increased in most markets

Market supply remains generally low due to seasonal, declining domestic availabilities. At the same time, the demand for cereals is low in most markets due to the weak households' purchasing power. Prices of millet and sorghum increased in most markets in September due to the seasonal depletion of traders' stocks during the lean season and the closure of the border with Nigeria, the main source of these crops. Prices of imported rice were relatively stable since May 2020, but they remained at high levels and higher year on year. Prices of staple cereals are relatively higher in the conflict-affected areas of Diffa, Tahoua, Maradi and Tillabery regions due to persistent insecurity.

The closure of the borders with Nigeria continues to affect negatively the trade of live animals. Despite the improvement of animal body conditions in August, prices of livestock remain below average due weak international demand and limited transhumance opportunities across neighbouring countries. The animal-to-cereals terms of trade are generally unfavourable to pastoralists as prices of animals are declining, while cereal prices are increasing.

Continued assistance needed for food insecure populations

According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, the aggregate number of severely food insecure people (CH Phase 3: "Crisis" and above) is estimated at about 2 million during June-August 2020, well above the 1.2 million people that were estimated to be food insecure in the same period in 2019. However, the current situation is likely to be worse than previously expected due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures implemented to contain it. A COVID-19 impact assessment carried out in April 2020 by several institutions showed that about 5.6 million people remain food insecure, including 2.7 million in severe cases (CH Phase 4).

The attacks by armed groups in recent months have resulted in massive population displacements in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua regions, leading to widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities. This situation led to the declaration of a state of emergency by the Government in new areas of Tillabery

Niger

Cereal Production

	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes		percent
Millet	3 270	3 461	5.8
Sorghum	1 894	1 979	4.5
Rice (paddy)	120	21	-82.4
Others	11	12	9.1
Total	5 295	5 473	3.4

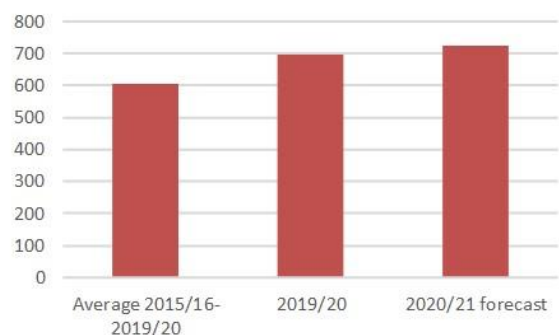
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Niger

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



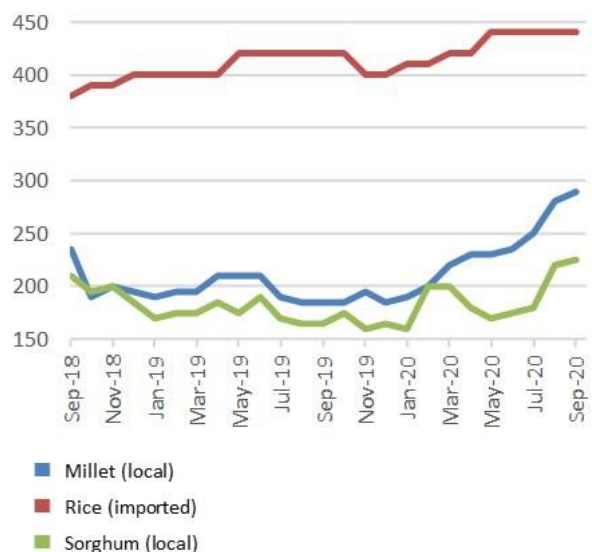
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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

Region, limiting people movements, which have adverse effects on households' livelihoods. Most displaced households lost their livelihoods and rely on external assistance to cover their basic food needs. As of August 2020, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) reported that over 265 500 people have been displaced in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions. In addition, the country hosts approximately 229 000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Mali.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 13-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly above-average cereal output expected in 2020 due to favourable moisture conditions
- Average cereal harvest estimated in 2019
- In September, food prices increased in most markets
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable populations

Slightly above-average cereal output expected in 2020 due to favourable moisture conditions

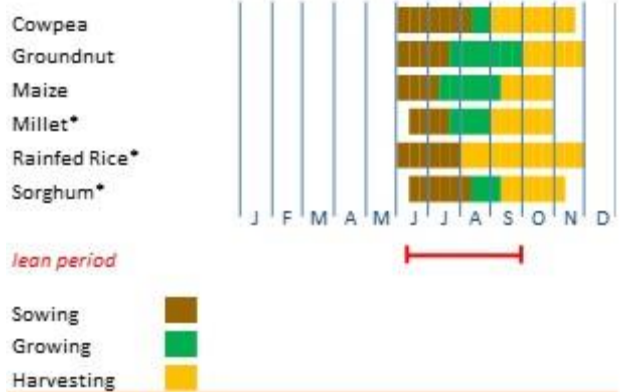
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Niger

Crop Calendar

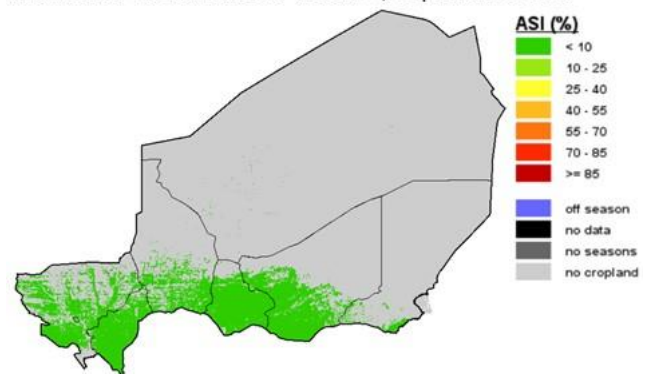
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, September 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

the Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) in cattle, mainly in Agadez, Zinder and Tahoua regions.

Average cereal harvest estimated in 2019

Favourable rainfall in 2019 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The national cereal production in 2019 is estimated at a near-average level of about 5.3 million tonnes. Several localities recorded production declines due to pockets of drought at the start (May-June) and the end of the season (September), resulting in crop damages which required some replanting.

To cover the domestic cereal requirements, the country relies on cereal imports including rice, which account to approximately 70 percent of the total cereal imports. Despite the average 2019 cereal production, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are expected at an above-average level of 700 000 tonnes as traders aim to replenish their stocks.

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The closure of the borders with Nigeria continues to affect negatively the trade of live animals. Despite the improvement of animal body conditions in August, prices of livestock remain below average due weak international demand and limited transhumance opportunities across neighbouring countries. The animal-to-cereals terms of trade are generally unfavourable to pastoralists as prices of animals are declining, while cereal prices are increasing.

Continued assistance needed for food insecure populations

According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, the aggregate number of severely food insecure people (CH Phase 3: "Crisis" and above) is estimated at about 2 million during June-August 2020, well above the 1.2 million people that were estimated to be food insecure in the same period in 2019. However, the current situation is likely to be worse than previously expected due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures implemented to contain it. A COVID-19 impact assessment carried out in April 2020 by several institutions showed that about 5.6 million people remain food insecure, including 2.7 million in severe cases (CH Phase 4).

The attacks by armed groups in recent months have resulted in massive population displacements in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua regions, leading to widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities. This situation led to the declaration of a state of emergency by the Government in new areas of Tillabery

Niger

Cereal Production

	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes		percent
Millet	3 270	3 461	5.8
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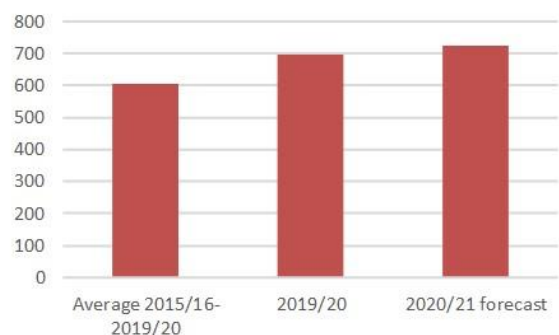
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Niger

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



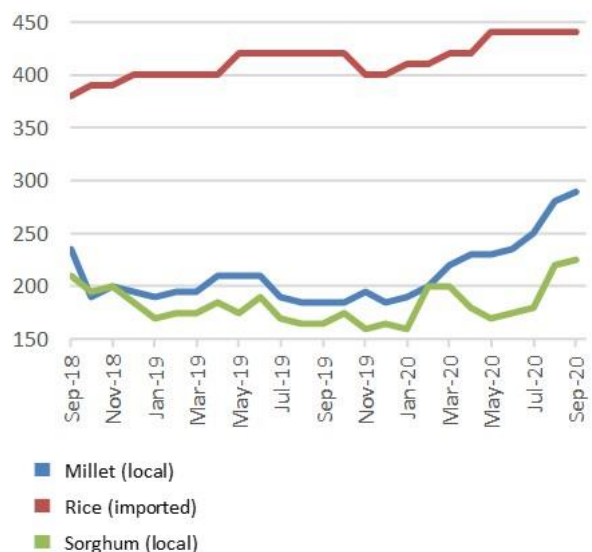
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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

Region, limiting people movements, which have adverse effects on households' livelihoods. Most displaced households lost their livelihoods and rely on external assistance to cover their basic food needs. As of August 2020, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) reported that over 265 500 people have been displaced in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions. In addition, the country hosts approximately 229 000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Mali.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 03-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average cereal production harvested in 2019
- Cereal import requirements forecast above-average level
- Stable prices due to adequate food availabilities
- Food insecurity rising in 2020 as conflicts impinge food access for most vulnerable households

Average cereal production harvested in 2019

Seasonal dry weather conditions are prevailing in most areas of the country and planting of the 2020 crops is expected to begin in May-June with the normal onset of the rains.

Harvesting of the major crops, including millet, sorghum and rice (paddy), was completed in November 2019. Overall, the 2019 national cereal production is estimated at 5.6 million tonnes, 7 percent below the 2018 output and similar to the five-year average. Despite an average production at the national level, several localities recorded production declines due to pockets of drought at the start (May-June) and the end of the season (September) and to strong winds which buried the newly planted millet crops, resulting in additional costs for replanting.

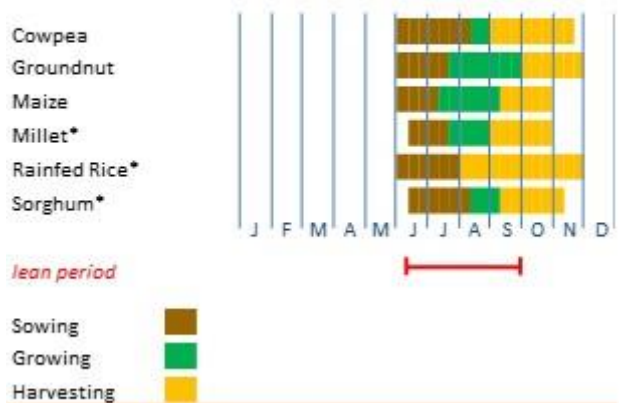
In pastoral areas, insufficient rains during June-September 2019 resulted in a significant forage deficit, estimated at about 11.3 million tonnes of dry matter. The regions of Tillabery and Tahoua have recorded the largest fodder deficits, over 2 million tonnes. The situation was also aggravated by armed and community conflicts, theft and banditry, disrupting live livestock movements, increasing their concentration in accessible areas and causing the rapid degradation of fodder and water resources in these areas. As a result, an earlier-than-normal and harsh lean season is expected in pastoral areas that recorded a poor performance of the rains.

Cereal import requirements forecast at above-average level

Imports fulfill about 10 percent of the national cereal domestic utilization. Rice is mainly/exclusively used for human consumption and it accounts for about 70 percent of total cereal imports. Cereal import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are forecast at an above-average level of 700 000 tonnes, reflecting the need for traders to replenish their stocks.

Niger

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 652	3 856	3 569	-7.5
Sorghum	1 849	2 099	1 970	-6.2
Rice (paddy)	121	116	114	-1.3
Others	39	24	23	-3.8
Total	5 661	6 095	5 675	-6.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Stable prices in most markets

The supply of major food commodities (millet, sorghum and rice) was generally satisfactory in most markets, due to the commercialization of recently harvested crops and sustained cross border trade flows. The demand is progressively increasing for households due to the seasonal depletion of their stocks and for local traders and private operators (seed producer organizations) aiming to replenish their stocks. Prices of coarse grains rose slightly in February and were higher, year on year, due to the disruption of trade flows following the border closure with Nigeria and persistent civil insecurity. Similarly, the conflict continued to affect trade flows in some areas of Tahoua, Tillabery and Diffa regions, limiting market availabilities and putting upward pressure on food prices.

In most livestock markets, the supply of animals is adequate with declining prices in February 2020 compared to previous months due to low export demand. The livestock-to-cereals terms of trade are generally worsening for pastoralists due to the stable cereal prices. However, the market value of the animals is expected to seasonally deteriorate between March and June in the areas affected by fodder deficits or limited access to fodder resources due to insecurity. In addition, the closure of the border with Nigeria is increasing the road harassment related to the export of livestock and cash crops to Nigeria (the biggest outlet market).

Food insecurity rising in 2020 as conflicts impinge food access for most vulnerable households

Food security conditions worsened in early 2020, particularly along the border with Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali as well as within the regions of Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua. According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, the aggregate number of severely food insecure people (CH Phase 3: "Crisis" and above) is estimated at about 1.6 million, up from 742 000 estimated in March 2019. If appropriate measures and responses are not implemented, this number is projected to increase to nearly 2 million during the next lean season (June-August 2020), well above the 1.2 million food insecure people that were estimated for the period June-August 2019. The deterioration in the food situation and the increase in the number of food insecure population is due to the combination of the effects of adverse climate events (droughts and floods) on cereal and fodder production and persisting insecurity.

In addition, the repeated attacks by armed groups have contributed to an increase in population displacements and the disruption of household livelihoods and marketing activities.

As of January 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that over 196 000 people have been displaced in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua regions, and 3 000 along the border with Burkina Faso. In addition, the country hosts approximately 222 000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Mali.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

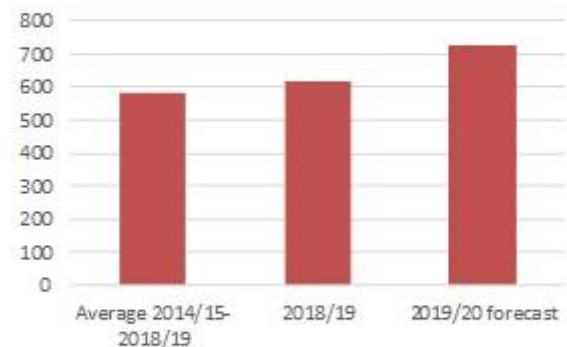


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Niger

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.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Government has decreed a total country lockdown and a nation-wide confinement up to 13 April 2020 and a curfew in Niamey, the city most affected by the virus. The Government has also taken some sanitary, social and economic measures. The measures include credit facilities for traders that are interested to pay custom services to get access to imported goods. Credit is subject to the provision of a bank guarantee and it will be available for the next three months. Official restrictions on population movements, combined with heightened levels of fear, have led many individuals to avoid leaving their homes. Income-earning opportunities are diminishing and field reports indicate cases of hoarding in several local markets.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 07-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for 2019 crops due to adequate cumulative rainfall amounts
- Cereal import requirements forecast at above-average level
- Stable prices due to adequate food availabilities
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable populations

Favourable prospects for 2019 crops due to adequate cumulative rainfall amounts

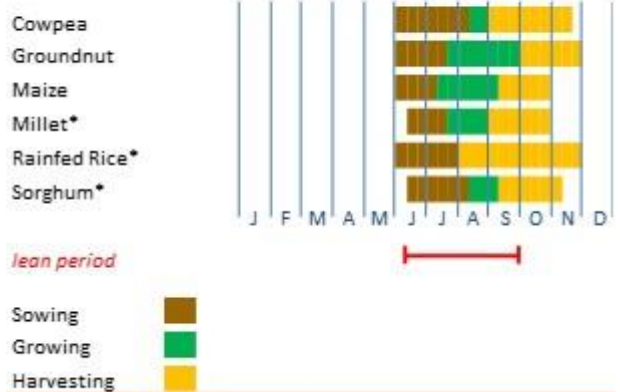
Harvesting of the 2019 coarse grain crops (millet and sorghum), started in September and production prospects are generally favourable. The rainy season (month-to-month) was characterized by a timely onset at the end of April, which allowed planting of millet and sorghum crops in the south and western parts of the country, which represent the main producing areas. From May to July, rains were generally adequate and sowing continued progressively to the most northern agro-pastoral zones. However, in localized areas, long dry spells delayed planting operations or caused germination failures. In addition, strong winds in the Departments of Dakoro (Maradi Region), Tanout (Zinder Region), Tchintabaraden and Abalak (Tahoua Region) also buried the newly planted millet crops and some replanting was needed. In August, rains have been regular and abundant across most areas, improving vegetation conditions and lifting crop prospects.

Despite localized production shortfalls due to below-average rainfall amounts in parts of Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa regions, the 2019 aggregated cereal crop production is estimated at above-average levels of 5.8 million tonnes.

The pastoral situation in September 2019 is marked by a gradual generalized improvement of the vegetation compared to the previous months, with the exception of some areas in Tahoua and Maradi regions that experienced drought conditions during July and August. Overall, livestock body condition, market value and milk production are currently satisfactory, mainly due to subsidized sales of animal feed by the Government.

Niger

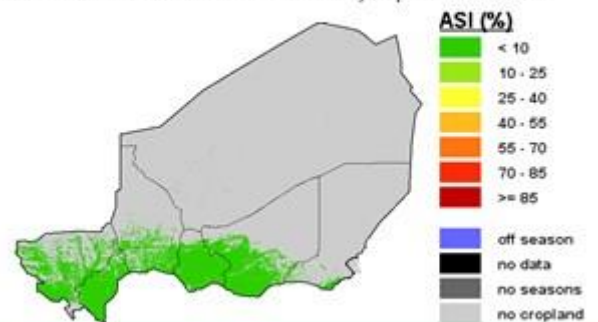
Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 1, September 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Cereal import requirements forecast at above-average level

Imports cover about 10 percent of the national cereal domestic utilization and rice accounts for about 70 percent of total cereal imports. Despite the above average 2019 production, cereal import requirements for the 2019/20 (November/October) marketing year are forecast at an above average of 700 000 tonnes as traders aim to replenish their stocks.

Stable prices in most markets

In September, the supply of major food commodities (millet, sorghum and rice) was generally satisfactory due to adequate food availabilities from the past harvest and regular internal and cross border trade flows. In most markets, prices of coarse grains were stable and lower than a year earlier. By contrast, marketing activities remain disrupted in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions as a result of persisting civil conflict and the ongoing declared state of emergency.

In most livestock markets, the supply of animals is adequate with increasing prices compared to previous months due to good body condition. The terms of trade "grain/livestock" are in general favourable to pastoral households.

Continued assistance needed for food insecure populations

The armed conflict along the border with Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali as well as within the regions of Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua continues to constrain food security conditions for the local populations. The threat of attacks remains high and continues to disrupt livelihoods, including access to grazing lands for pastoralists. The spreading conflict resulted in population displacement, increasing the dependency on food assistance. As of September 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that over 109 000 people have been displaced in Diffa Region, 78 000 in Tillabery and Tahoua regions. In addition, the country hosts approximately 218 300 refugees, mainly from Nigeria (161 000) and Mali (56 000).

According to the March 2019 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 1.2 million people were estimated to be in need of food assistance from June to August 2019, with an increase from 803 000 people estimated in June to August 2018. The significant deterioration in food security is due to persisting conflict that continued to hamper livelihoods in the Liptako-Gourma Region, the border with Nigeria and in the Lake Chad Basin. In addition, flash floods from July to September 2019 have resulted in disruption of livelihood and loss of livestock.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 650	3 847	3 800	-1.2
Sorghum	1 849	2 099	1 900	-9.5
Rice (paddy)	123	125	120	-3.8
Others	39	24	42	77.2
Total	5 661	6 095	5 862	-3.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

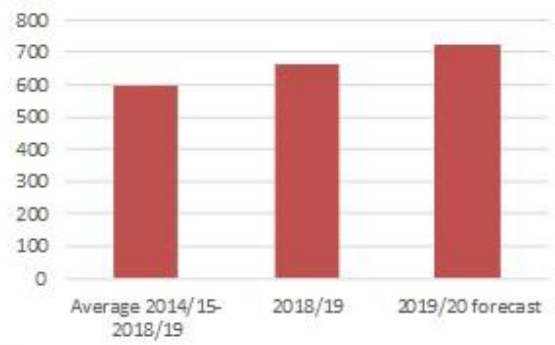


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Niger

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.



GLEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 13-June-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allow timely start of 2019 cropping season
- Above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2018
- Strong economic growth and low food inflation rate
- Stable prices due to adequate food availabilities
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable populations

Favourable moisture conditions allow timely start of 2019 cropping season

Planting of the 2019 coarse grain crops (millet and sorghum), to be harvested from September, started on time in June in the main producing areas of the country and is expected to continue until end-July. Adequate rainfall since late May 2019 resulted in favourable moisture conditions for planting and crop establishment. However, the national weather forecast in 2019 points to a winter season (June to October) with below-average rainfall amounts, which are expected to have a negative impact on yields.

In the pastoral areas, the rainy season is expected to start in July. The situation is currently characterized by a scarcity of pasture, a drying up of the surface water points, the emergence of epizootic diseases and the degradation of animal body conditions.

Above-average cereal output gathered in 2018

Favourable rainfall in 2018 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The 2018 aggregate cereal output is estimated at 6 million tonnes, about 3 percent higher than 2017's output and 15 percent above the five-year average. Major year on year production increases have been registered for rice (paddy), about 19 percent higher than in 2017.

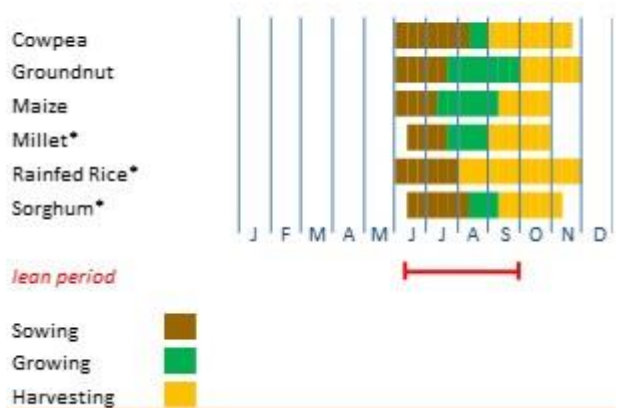
Despite the above-average domestic production, import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year are set at 680 000 tonnes, about 17 percent above the average as traders aim to replenish their stocks.

Strong economic growth and low food inflation rate

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is forecast to remain strong at about 5.4 percent in 2019,

Niger

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 465	3 790	3 847	1.5
Sorghum	1 693	1 994	2 099	5.3
Rice (paddy)	107	105	125	19.0
Others	39	18	24	34.8
Total	5 304	5 907	6 095	3.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

similar to 2018, despite the security challenges. Growth is expected to be supported by a strong activity in the construction sector, including irrigation projects, power and road-building projects as well as the rise in the agricultural sector. The food inflation is overall minimal, averaging 1.1 percent from 2011 until 2019, reflecting relatively stable domestic food prices. Inflation in 2019 is expected to remain well below the UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) convergence rate of 3 percent.

Stable prices in most markets

Although the start of the lean season is approaching, food availability is generally satisfactory, except in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions due to persisting civil conflict and the declared state of emergency. Food prices were stable in May 2019 due to adequate food availabilities from the past cropping season and regular internal and cross border trade flows. In most markets, prices of coarse grains were lower than a year earlier and the five-year average.

In most livestock markets, the supply of small ruminants (sheep and goats) is higher than the demand, while the supply of large ruminants (cattle and camels) remains low. Consequently, in May 2019, prices for small ruminants were down, while prices for large ruminants were slightly up compared to the previous quarter (January-April). The terms of trade "grain/livestock" are against the pastoralist households.

Continued assistance needed for food insecure populations

The unprecedented levels of insecurity and conflict in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua regions have led to the worsening of food security conditions and the escalation of humanitarian needs. The spreading conflict resulted in population displacement as well as the disruption of market activities and seasonal livelihoods. This makes access to income opportunities and food more difficult and compounding high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. As of March 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that over 104 000 people have been displaced in Diffa Region and 70 000 in Tillabery and Tahoua regions. In addition, the country hosts approximately 174 300 refugees, mainly from Nigeria (119 000) and Mali (55 000).

According to the March 2019 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 743 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2019, with a decrease from 787 000 people estimated in March to May 2018. This number is expected to increase further to over 1.2 million people during the peak of the lean season (June to August 2019) if no mitigation actions are taken.

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Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

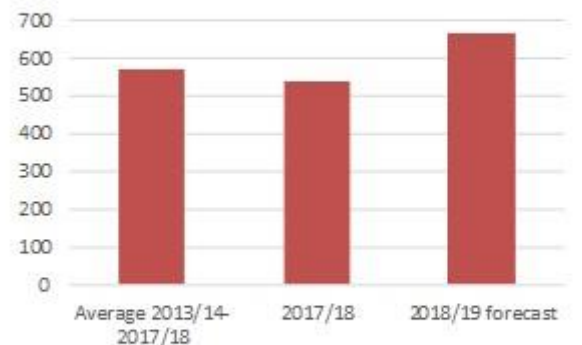


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Niger

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 The Niger

Reference Date: 11-January-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2018
- Imports will slightly increase despite above-average production
- Prices of coarse grains declining following seasonal trends
- Continued assistance needed for vulnerable populations

Above-average cereal output gathered in 2018

Harvesting of major crops, including millet, sorghum and rice (paddy), has almost completed in January. Overall, the 2018 national cereal production is estimated at 5.9 million tonnes. The production is 12 percent above the average and similar to 2017's output.

The pastoral situation is overall satisfactory as the fodder balance sheet shows a surplus of about 3.3 million tonnes dry matter after four years of deficits. In fact, the available feed (real) in 2018 is fixed at 30 million tonnes of dry matter and it exceeds the national livestock feed requirements that are estimated at 26.7 million tonnes. However, reports from the field indicate a loss of 438 872 tonnes of dry matter due to the burning in November 2018 of 253 175.40 hectares in Tahoua and Diffa regions. In 2018, movements and concentrations of animals followed normal patterns. The animal health situation is generally stable, with no major disease outbreaks recorded, contributing to the satisfactory livestock body conditions and improved market value.

Slightly increasing import requirements in 2018

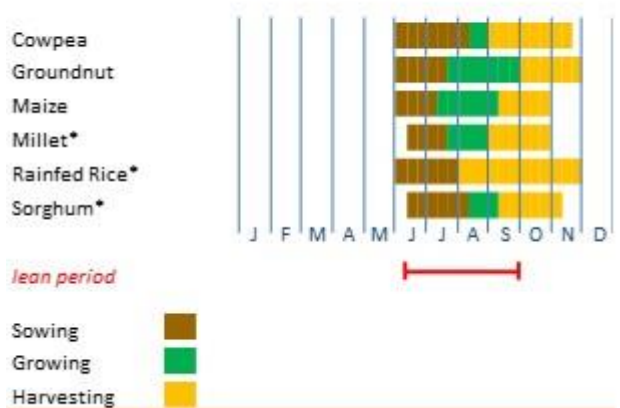
Imports fulfill about 10 percent of the national cereal domestic utilization. Rice, for human consumption, accounts for about 70 percent of the total cereal imports. Despite the similar level of total domestic production compared to the previous year, import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year are expected to increase slightly compared to the previous year as traders aim to maintain their stocks to an optimum level.

Declining cereal prices in most markets

Market supply is globally satisfactory except in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions due to persisting civil conflict and the state of emergency. Food prices were declining in November 2018 compared to the previous month as a result of the ongoing

Niger

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Niger

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 465	3 790	3 826	0.9
Sorghum	1 693	1 994	2 008	0.7
Rice (paddy)	107	105	112	6.7
Others	39	18	23	29.6
Total	5 304	5 907	5 969	1.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

harvests and regular internal and external trade flows. In most markets, prices of coarse grains were lower than a year earlier and the five-year average.

Continued assistance needed for food insecure populations

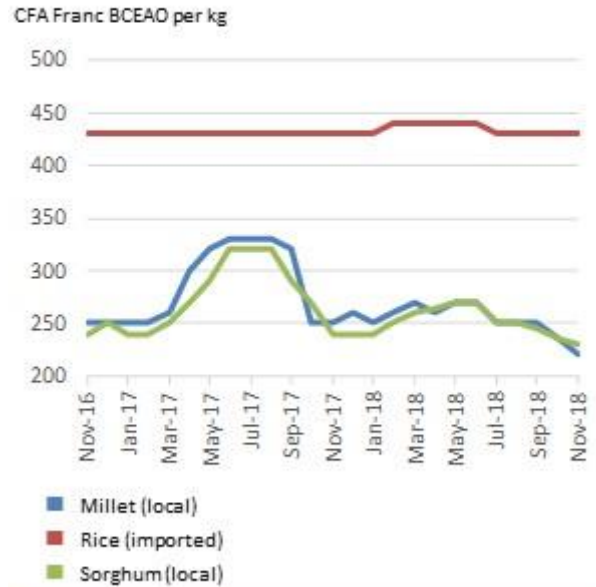
Insecurity continues to result in population displacement, disruption of market activities and seasonal livelihoods in Diffa Region following the Boko Haram conflict and in Tillabery and Tahoua regions due to the presence of armed groups. The insecurity and the effects of the state of emergency will continue to hinder the movement of people and goods and access to some markets and areas with high pastoral production potential. This may result in food and nutritional difficulties for poor and very poor households. According to the Regional Bureau of Civil Status, Migration and Refugee Affairs, as of November 2018, about 300 000 people were displaced, of which about 104 000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were living in camps in Diffa and 51 900 IDPs in Tahoua and Tillabery regions. These populations remain heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs.

According to the November 2018 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 604 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance from October to December 2018, doubling the caseload of one year earlier. This number is expected to increase further to over 1.2 million people during the lean season (June to August 2019) if no mitigation actions are taken.

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Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



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



GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 18-June-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2018 cereal crops started on time in main farming areas under favourable conditions
- Average cereal harvest gathered in 2017
- Prices of coarse grains lower compared to 2017 due to increased supply
- Continued assistance needed, including for refugees

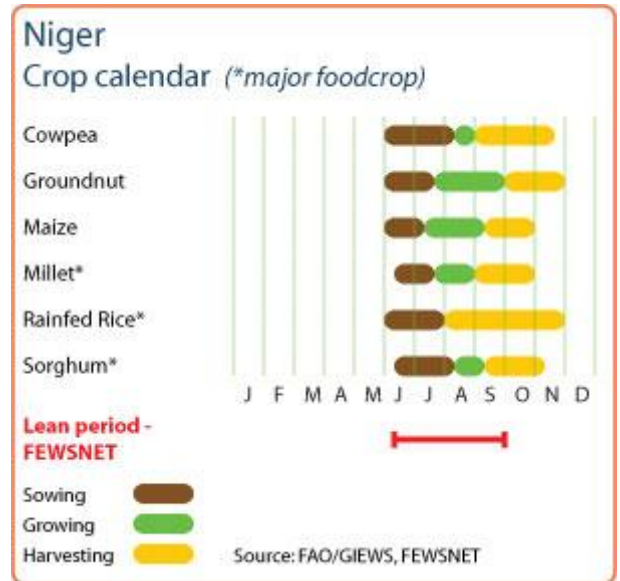
Planting of 2018 cereal crop started under favourable conditions

Planting of the 2018 coarse grain crops (millet and sorghum), to be harvested from September, started on time in May in the main production zones (Maradi, Dosso, Zinder, Tillabery, Tahoua regions) of the country and is expected to continue until July. The agricultural season is progressing normally, with the seasonal accumulation of rainfall since mid-May 2018 resulting in favourable moisture conditions for planting and crop development. In the pastoral areas of Northern Maradi and Zinder and in Tahoua, the rainy season is expected to start normally in July, although some scattered rains in May and early June favoured the localized germination and emergence of grasses providing pasture for small ruminants.

Average harvest gathered in 2017

The 2017 agro-pastoral season was characterized by an early installation of rain in the third dekad of April. Although average to above average in terms of quantity, rainfall throughout the season remained poorly distributed. Long dry spells aborted or delayed plantings in July in Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions, while strong winds uprooted young millet plants in June in Tahoua Region resulting in re-planting in June-July. Overall, the national cereal production was estimated at 5.8 million tonnes. The production was 11 percent up from the average and 7 percent up from last season's good output. Production of millet was up from 10 percent, while sorghum output decreased by 6 percent compared to 2016.

The country fodder balance sheet is short of more than 10 million tonnes of dry matter, corresponding to about 40 percent of the total animal feed needs for livestock. Although almost all regions have been negatively impacted, the situation is most critical in Tahoua. The situation will likely persist until the end of July when the pasture situation is expected to improve with the progress of the rainy season.



Niger
Cereal production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 467	3 799	3 401	-10
Sorghum	1 683	1 942	1 662	-14
Rice (paddy)	107	105	112	7
Others	38	13	37	185
Total	5 295	5 859	5 212	-11

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

Imports fulfill about 10 percent of the national cereal domestic utilization. Rice, for human consumption, accounts for about 70 percent of the total cereal import. Despite a slight increase in total domestic production compared to the previous year, import requirements for the 2017/18 (November/October) marketing year are expected to increase slightly compared to the previous year and will remain almost 20 percent above the average.

Prices of coarse grains remain lower than last year in most markets

Prices of coarse grains remained higher in April in some markets, mainly due to the increased food demand for the Ramadan festive period and seasonal pastoralists' purchases. However, prices were lower than one year earlier due to adequate imports from neighbouring countries, including Nigeria.

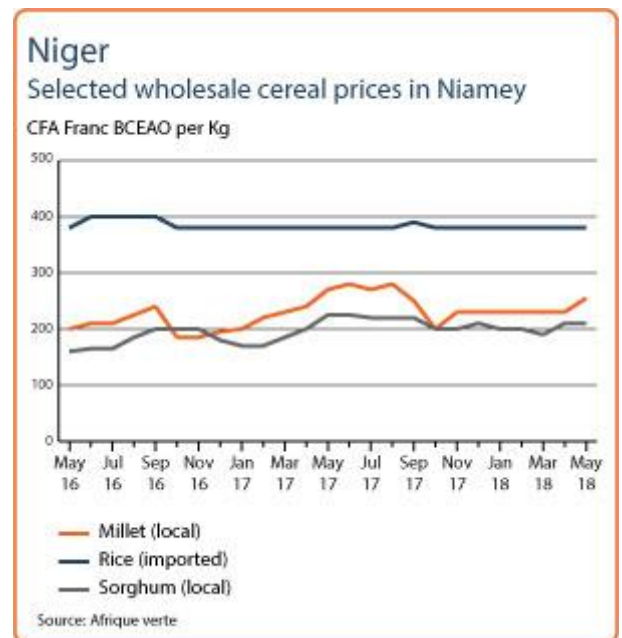
Despite improvements in security situation, continued assistance needed

In Tahoua and Tillabery regions, the civil insecurity persists with repeated terrorist attacks and internal population displacement. In Diffa Region, the situation has worsen since early June 2018 with new attacks on security personnel and civilian populations. Civil insecurity continues to hamper the movement of people and goods, opportunities of trade, the economic recovery and limit the access to humanitarian action.

According to the March 2018 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 787 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2018, with a significant increase from 301 000 people from October to December 2017. This number is expected to increase further at 803 000 people during the June to August period if no mitigation actions are taken.

According to the Regional Bureau of Civil Status, Migration and Refugee Affairs, as of October 2017, the country was hosting slightly over 250 000 displaced persons of which about 130 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are living in camps in Diffa Region. The number of IDPs has nearly remained unchanged for more than one year. These populations remain heavily depend on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 27-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

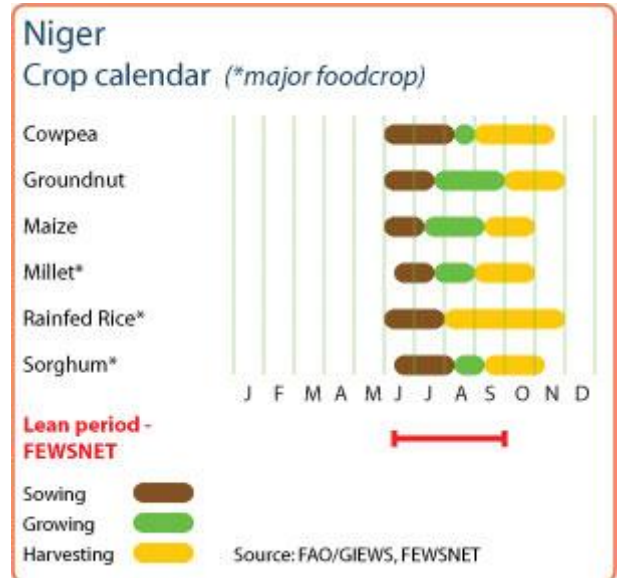
- Above-average cereal output expected in 2017
- Prices of coarse grains declined reflecting ongoing harvest, but remain above year-earlier levels
- Despite improvements in security situation, continued assistance still needed, including for refugees

Above-average cereal production expected in 2017

Harvesting of the maize and millet crops was completed in October, while those of cowpea, groundnut, rainfed rice and sorghum are still ongoing and will be completed by the end of November. The cropping season has been characterized by below average but well-distributed precipitation, albeit with some regional variations. Although localized incidents of dryness, violent winds, flooding and pest infestations have been reported, the situation is largely under control and the impact on crop production is expected to be limited. Agro-climatic conditions have also been generally favourable for the regeneration of pastures throughout the country, improving livestock body conditions, with the exception of pastoral regions of Diffa and Tahoua where pockets of dryness in August impeded biomass production.

Area under cultivation decreased in 2017, including for key cereals such as sorghum and millet, as persistent insecurity led to population displacement and emergency measures restricting access to fuel and fertilizers (to prevent inputs needed to create explosives), curtailed production capacity. The preliminary forecast of aggregate 2017 cereal output is put at about 5.5 million tonnes, 7 percent below the 2016 bumper levels, but about 6 percent above the five-year average.

Imports, which typically account for about 10 percent of total domestic cereal requirements, are forecast to increase by about 10 percent compared to last year and the five-year average to 618 000 tonnes, or about 11 percent of the total output, offsetting the reduction in local production. About 70 percent of the cereal imports is in rice.



Niger
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 467	3 886	3 690	-5
Sorghum	1 561	1 808	1 600	-12
Rice (paddy)	102	149	151	1
Others	14	14	14	0
Total	5 144	5 857	5 454	-7

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

Prices of coarse grains declined since September reflecting ongoing harvest, but remain above year-earlier levels

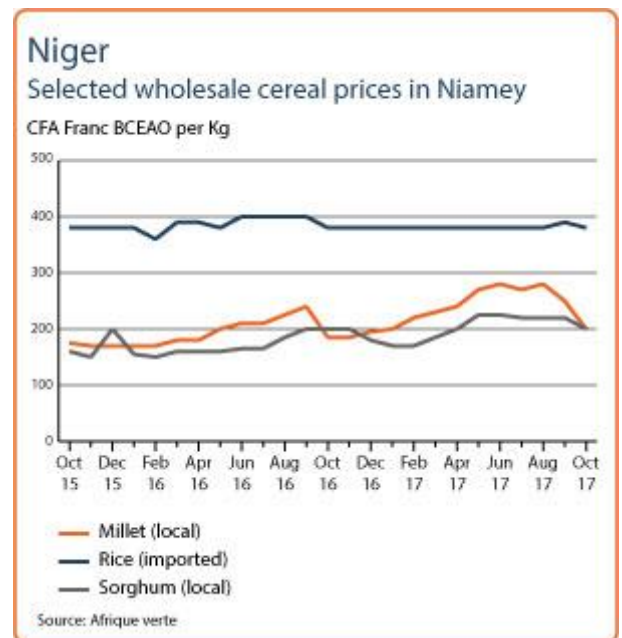
Prices of coarse grains declined in September and October 2017, reflecting positive harvest prospects. In Niamey, prices of local millet declined by 26 percent between July and October and those of local sorghum by 9 percent over the same period. However, prices in many markets across the country remain above the long-term average and that of 2016, due to strong demand from institutional bodies, which are replenishing their stocks. In the areas affected by the spillover effects of the Boko Haram insurgencies, market closures and disruption in the regular supply routes, led to an increase in consumer prices. Prices of livestock, a major export commodity, on the other hand, declined for the third consecutive year, reflecting weak demand from neighbouring Nigeria, where the weak local currency and low prices of oil, its key foreign exchange earner, have negatively impacted the economy. The slow recovery of macroeconomic conditions in Nigeria, combined with persistent insecurity wrought by Boko Haram insurgencies, has also reduced demand for cross border labour from Niger in towns in northern Nigeria such as Maiduguri, further impacting the purchasing power of Nigerien households.

Despite improvements in security situation, continued assistance still needed, including for refugees

The country hosts a large number of refugees due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Nigeria and Mali. As of October 2017, the two countries accounted for over 108 000 and 57 000 refugees living in the Niger, respectively, similar to a year earlier. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. In the Diffa Region, where the majority of the refugees from Nigeria reside, the ban on sales of red peppers, a major source of household export revenues, imposed by the Government in 2015 to stem Boko Haram's access to land and its proceeds, was just lifted in October 2017, reflecting the improving security situation.

Nevertheless, as of October 2017, in the Diffa Region, there were more than 129 000 IDPs, who have been struck by civil insecurity in recent years that resulted in the depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult also in several other parts of the country due to the lingering effects of the previous crises and the impact of recent years' erratic rains on crops and pastures in a number of regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. According to the last Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country in November 2017, about 796 000 people were estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, down from around 1.3 million in March 2017.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 23-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rains in 2016 facilitated crop development in most regions; bumper crop gathered for second consecutive year
- Coarse grain prices increased in recent months and remained above their year earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, especially for Nigerian and Malian refugees

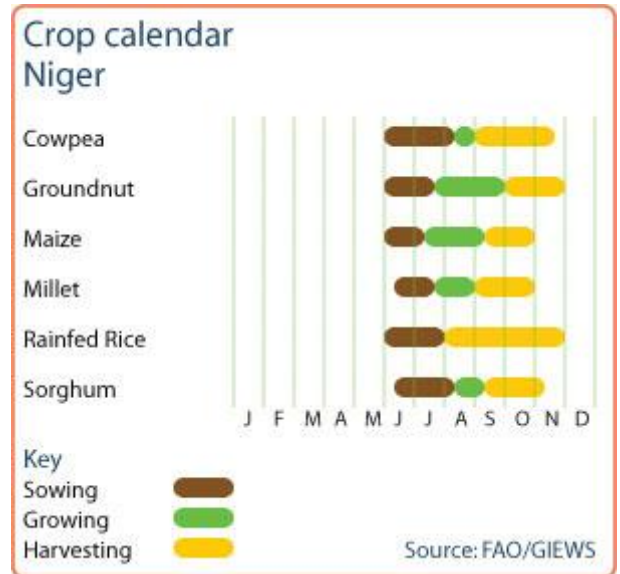
Bumper crop harvested in 2016

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crops was completed in November 2016. The cropping season was characterized by adequate precipitation and soil water reserves in most monitored rainfall stations. As a result, preliminary estimates put the aggregate 2016 cereal output at about 5.9 million tonnes, 9 percent above the 2015 bumper levels and about 25 percent above the five-year average. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, increased by 16 percent compared to 2015. Pastures have been regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

A bumper crop was gathered in 2015. The aggregate cereals production in 2015 was estimated at some 5.4 million tonnes about 11 percent above the 2014 output.

Coarse grain prices increased recently in most markets

The Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours, Nigeria and Benin, to cover its cereal requirements. Reflecting ample supplies following the recent harvests, coarse grain prices dropped steeply in October and November in most markets. The steep depreciation of the Nigerian Naira also made imported products cheaper in Niger. However, millet prices were on the increase since December 2016 and in February they were over 29 percent above their year-earlier levels. Prices reached high levels following the sharp increases in mid-2016 when seasonal trends were exacerbated by concerns about crop performance in some areas due to unfavourable weather. The strong demand from institutional bodies for the replenishment of their stocks have also put pressure on cereal prices in recent months.



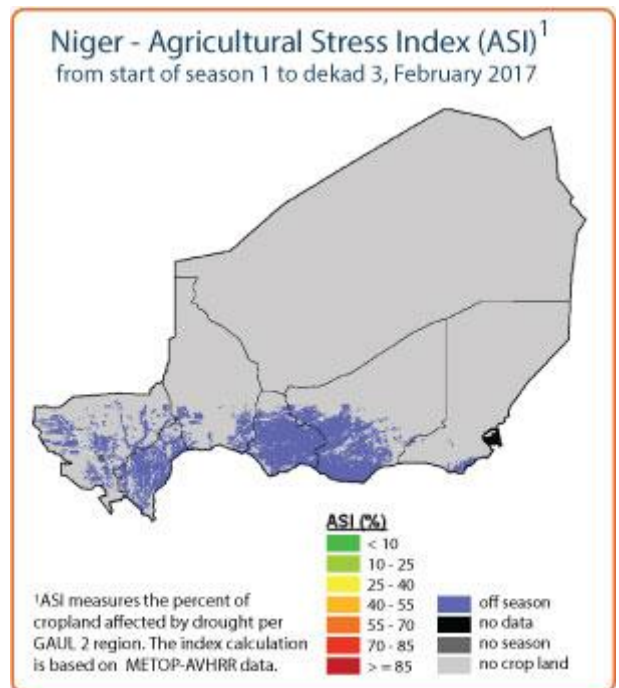
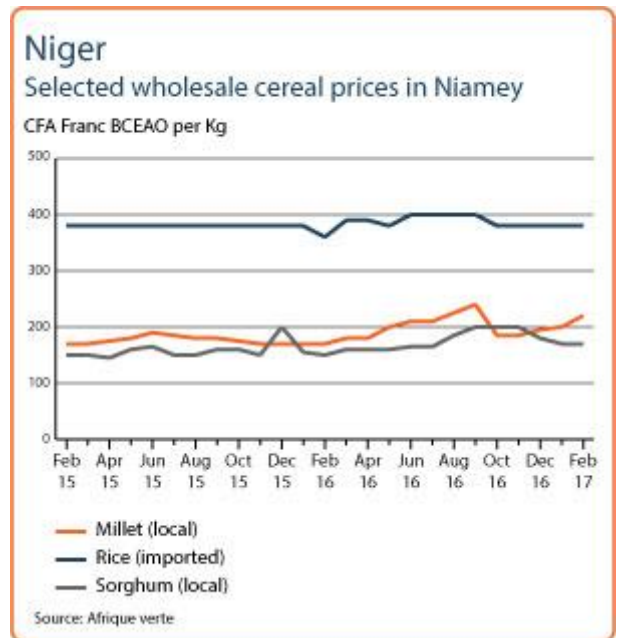
Niger Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 242	3 344	3 886	16
Sorghum	1 354	1 877	1 808	-4
Rice (paddy)	89	133	149	12
Others	14	12	13	8
Total	4 699	5 366	5 856	9

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

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people, including refugees

The Niger hosts a large number of refugees due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. As of February 2017, Over 119 000 people are estimated to have left Nigeria for the Diffa Region of the Niger; while an additional 61 000 Malian refugees are still living in the Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. Moreover, there are more than 121 000 IDPs in the country which has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in the depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult in several parts of the country due to the lingering effects of the previous crises and the impact of recent years' erratic rains on crops and pastures in some regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. About 327 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, according to the last analysis of the "Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.



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GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 17-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rains facilitated crop development in most regions; an average harvest expected following last year's bumper crop
- Coarse grain prices declined steeply but remained at levels above those a year earlier
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Nigerian and Malian refugees

Average harvest expected for 2016 cropping season

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crops is underway and will be completed by the end of November. The cropping season was characterized by adequate precipitation and soil water reserves in most monitored rainfall stations. As a result, preliminary estimates point to an average cereal harvest in 2016, although official production estimates are not yet available. Pastures have been regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

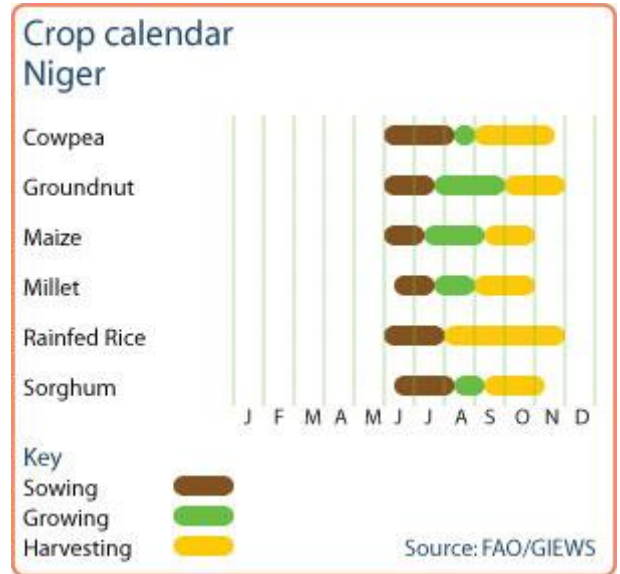
A bumper crop was gathered in 2015. The aggregate cereals production in 2015 was estimated at some 5.4 million tonnes about 11 percent above the 2014 output. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, increased slightly by 3 percent compared to 2014.

Coarse grain prices dropped steeply in most markets

The Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours, Nigeria and Benin, to cover its cereal requirements. Reflecting ample supplies following the recent harvests, coarse grain prices dropped steeply in October in most markets. The steep depreciation of the Nigerian Naira also made imported products cheaper in Niger. Millet prices in the capital, Niamey, declined by about 23 percent compared to the previous month. Prices, however, remained at levels above those a year earlier after sustained increases in the past months.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people, including refugees

The Niger hosts a large number of refugees due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. The influx of refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. As of August 2016, Over 114 000 people are estimated

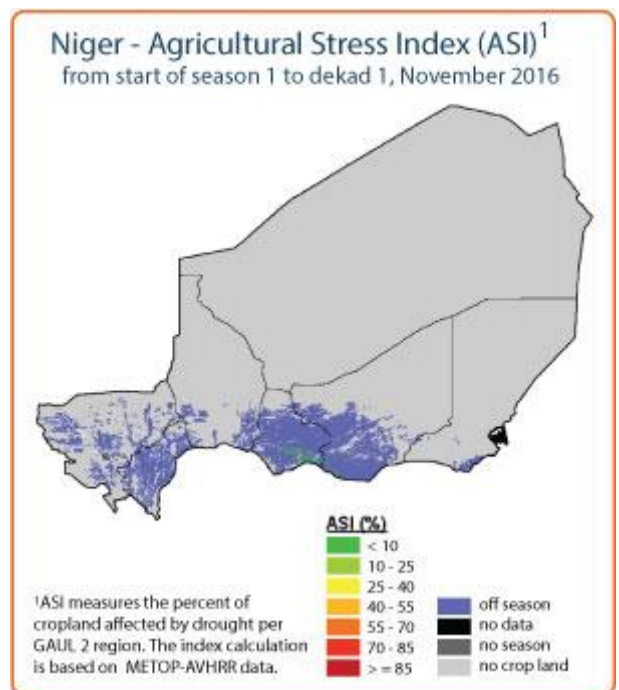
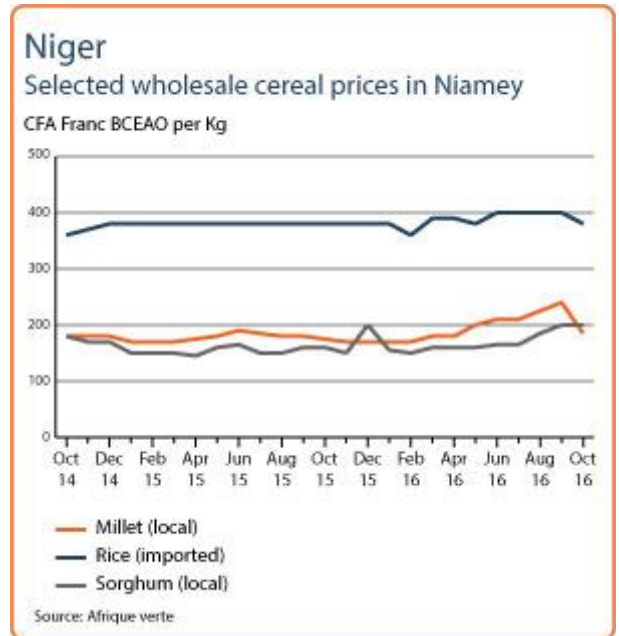


Niger Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 254	3 405	3 100	-9
Sorghum	1 362	1 917	1 393	-27
Rice (paddy)	81	93	100	8
Others	14	12	13	8
Total	4 711	5 427	4 606	-15

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

to have left Nigeria for the Diffa Region of the Niger; while an additional 60 000 Malian refugees are still living in the Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. Moreover, there are more than 167 000 IDPs in the country which has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in the depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult in several parts of the country due to the lingering effects of the previous crises and the impact of recent years' erratic rains on crops and pastures in some regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. Over 833 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, according to the last analysis of the "Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.





GIEWS Country Brief The Niger

Reference Date: 29-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rains so far have facilitated plantings and crop development in most regions
- Millet prices up on previous year
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Nigerian and Malian refugees

Good rains since beginning of cropping season provided adequate soil moisture reserves

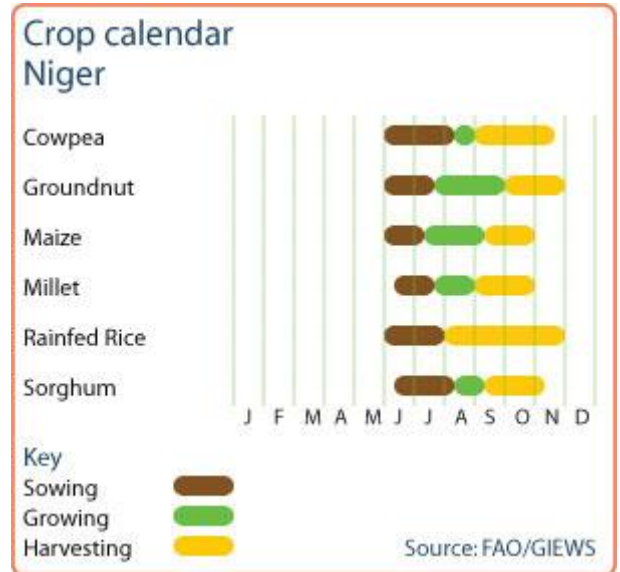
Rainfall has been adequate since the start of the growing season, allowing land preparation and plantings to progress. Cumulative rainfall as of early July was above average in 60 percent of the meteorological stations, and 91 percent of villages had finished their plantings by the first dekad of July, compared to about 68 percent last year. Crops are emerging and already tillering/leafing in several regions. Pastures have improved significantly in the main agro-pastoral and pastoral zones. An above-average crop was gathered in 2015. The aggregate cereals production in 2015 was estimated at some 5.4 million tonnes about 11 percent above the 2014 output and 14 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, increased slightly by 3 percent compared to 2014.

Cereal prices showed seasonal increases in most markets

The Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours Nigeria and Benin to cover its cereal requirements. Reflecting ample regional supplies, cereal markets have been well supplied and prices remained mostly stable until April 2016. However, cereal prices showed seasonal increases in most markets in May and June. As a result, millet prices in Niamey in July 2016 were 14 percent above their year-earlier levels.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people, including refugees

The Niger hosts a large number of refugees due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. The influx of refugees increased dramatically over the past few months

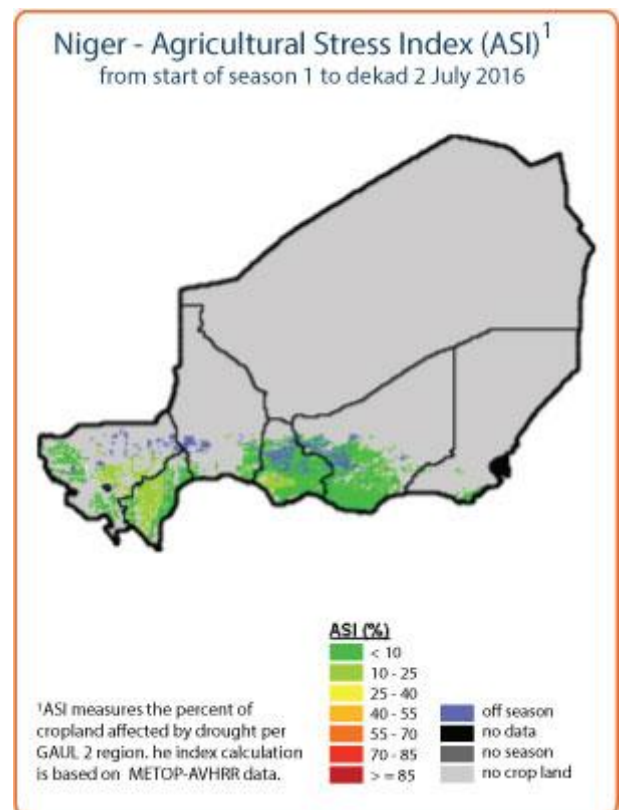
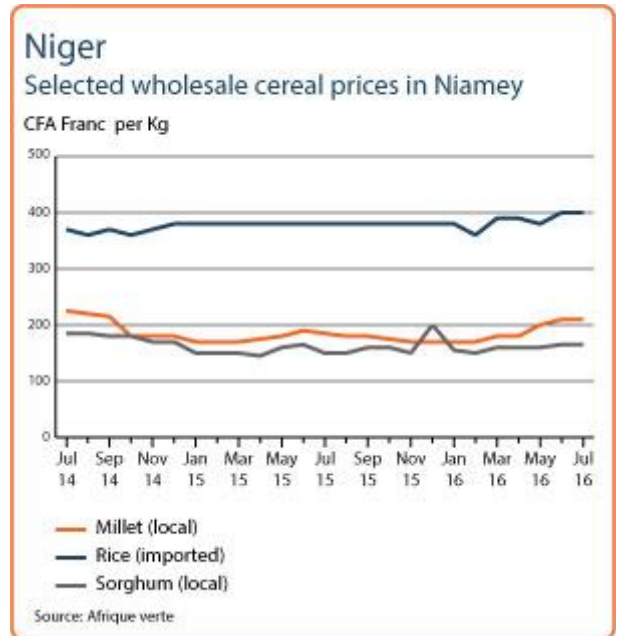


Niger
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3,373	3,322	3,405	2
Sorghum	1,279	1,426	1,917	34
Rice (paddy)	82	104	93	-11
Others	15	20	12	-40
Total	4,749	4,872	5,427	11

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

following the deterioration of the security situation in north eastern Nigeria. Over 114 000 people are estimated to have left Nigeria for the Diffa Region of the Niger; while an additional 60 000 Malian refugees are still living in the Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. The Niger has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in the depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult in several parts of the country due to the lingering effects of the previous crises and the impact of recent years' erratic rains on crops and pastures in some regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. Over 657 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, according to the last analysis of the "Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.



Reference Date: 09-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary forecast for 2015 harvest points to average cereal production
- Pastures and livestock conditions generally good in most parts of the country
- Cereal prices stable reflecting adequate regional supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Nigerian and Malian refugees

Cereal production affected by irregular rains in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 cereal crops was completed in November. Several parts of the country witnessed erratic and below-average rains until July that resulted in replanting in some regions. Although precipitation improved significantly from the last dekad of July over the main producing areas, the erratic rains affected coarse grain yields in several parts of the southern producing regions. As a result, early forecasts point to an average cereal harvest in 2015, although official production estimates are not yet available.

An above-average crop was gathered in 2014. The aggregate cereals production was estimated at some 4.8 million tonnes, about 14 percent higher than the 2013 output and 7 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, increased by 14 percent compared to 2013.

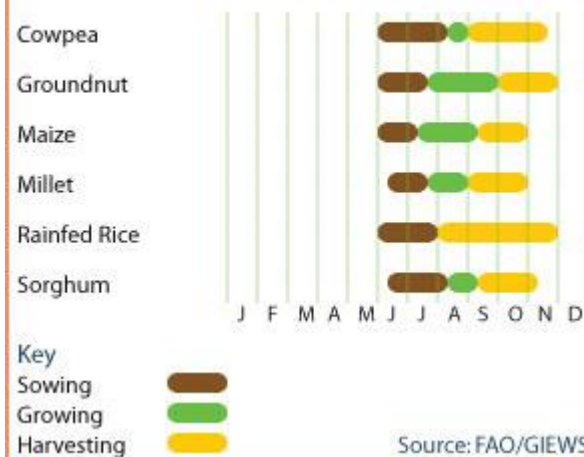
Cereal prices continued to remain stable in recent months

Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours Nigeria and Benin to cover its cereal requirements. Reflecting ample regional supplies, cereal markets have been well-supplied and prices remained mostly stable throughout 2015. The arrival of the new 2015 harvests put downward pressure on prices at the end of the year. Prices have been mostly stable in recent months. Both millet and sorghum prices in Niamey in January 2016 were similar to last year's level.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people, including refugees

Niger hosts a large number of refugees due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. The influx of refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. Over 100 000 people are estimated to have left Nigeria for the Diffa Region of Niger; while an additional 59 000 Malian refugees are still living in Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. Niger has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in the depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult in several parts of the country due to the lingering effects of the previous crises and the impact of recent years' erratic rains on crops

Crop calendar Niger



Niger

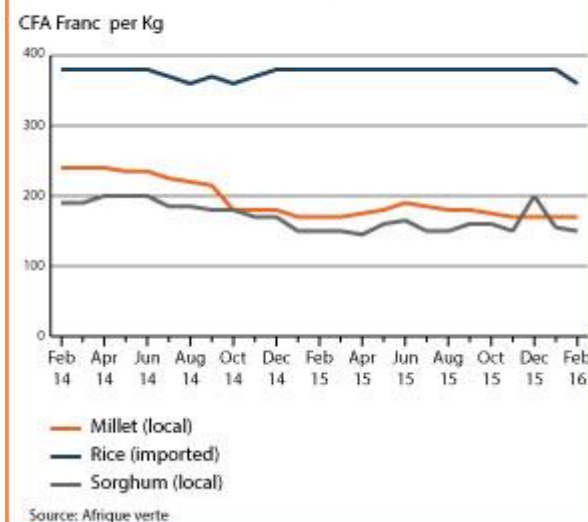
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014 percent
	000 tonnes			
Millet	3 373	3 322	3 200	-4
Sorghum	1 279	1 426	1 300	-9
Rice (paddy)	83	106	110	4
Others	15	20	13	-35
Total	4 749	4 874	4 623	-5

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

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



and pastures in some regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. Over 657 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above, according to the last analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.

Reference Date: 09-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary forecast for 2015 harvest points to an average cereal production
- Pastures and livestock conditions are generally good in most parts of the country
- Cereal prices stable or declining, reflecting adequate regional supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Nigerian and Malian refugees

Average cereal harvest expected this year

Harvesting of the 2015 cereal crops is nearly complete. Several parts of the country witnessed erratic and below-average rains until July that resulted in replanting in some regions. Although precipitation improved significantly from the last decade of July over the main producing areas, the erratic rains affected coarse grain yields in several parts of the southern producing regions. As a result, early forecasts point to an average cereal harvest in 2015, although official production estimates are not yet available.

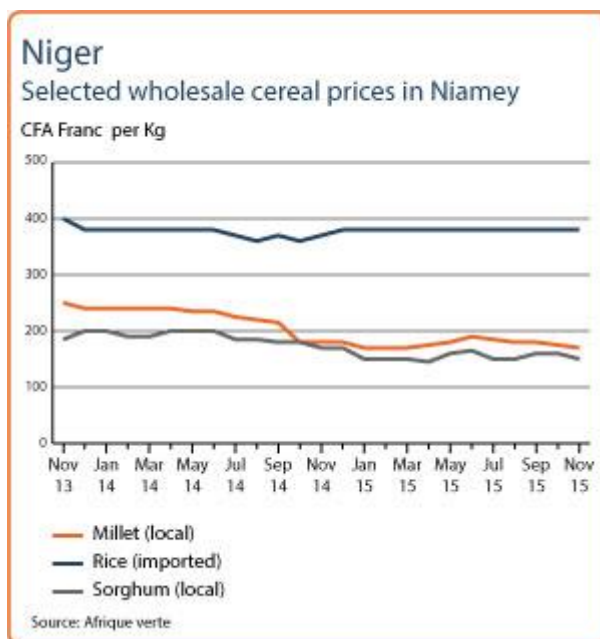
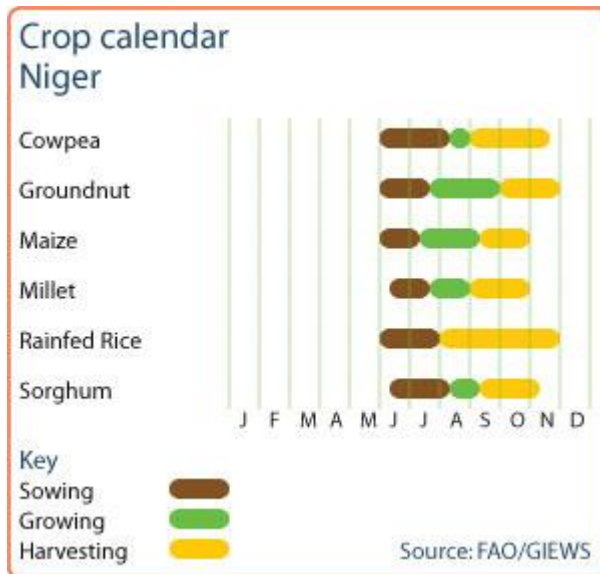
An above-average crop was gathered in 2014. The aggregate cereals production was estimated at some 4.8 million tonnes, about 14 percent higher than the 2013 output and 7 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, increased by 14 percent compared to 2013.

Cereal prices are on the decline, reflecting ample regional supplies

Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours Nigeria and Benin to cover its cereal requirements. Reflecting ample regional supplies, cereal markets have been well supplied and prices remained mostly stable throughout 2015. The arrival of the new 2015 harvests has put downward pressure on prices at the end of the year. Millet and sorghum prices in Niamey in November 2015 were 6 percent and 12 percent below last year's level, respectively.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people, including refugees

Niger hosts a large number of refugees, due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. The influx of refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. Over 105 000 people are estimated to have left Nigeria for the Diffa Region of Niger, while an additional 37 000 Malian refugees are still living in Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. Niger has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult in several parts of the country, due to the lingering effects of previous crises and the impact of recent years' erratic rains on crops and



pastures in some regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. Over 657 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above, according to the last analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.

Reference Date: 05-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary forecast for 2014 harvest points to reduced cereal production
- Pastures affected by irregular rains
- Cereal prices stable or declining, reflecting adequate regional supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed including for Nigerian and Malian refugees

A lower 2014 cereal production forecasted due to rainfall deficits

Harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops was completed in December. Several parts of the country witnessed erratic and below-average rains until July that resulted in replanting in some regions. Although precipitation improved significantly from the last dekad of July over the main producing areas, the erratic rains affected coarse grain yields and delayed harvesting activities in several parts of the southern producing regions, notably in Zinder, Diffa and Tillaberi. As a result, a reduced cereal harvest was forecast in 2014, although official production estimates are not yet available. Moreover, the erratic rains caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points' level in parts of the pastoral zones of the country.

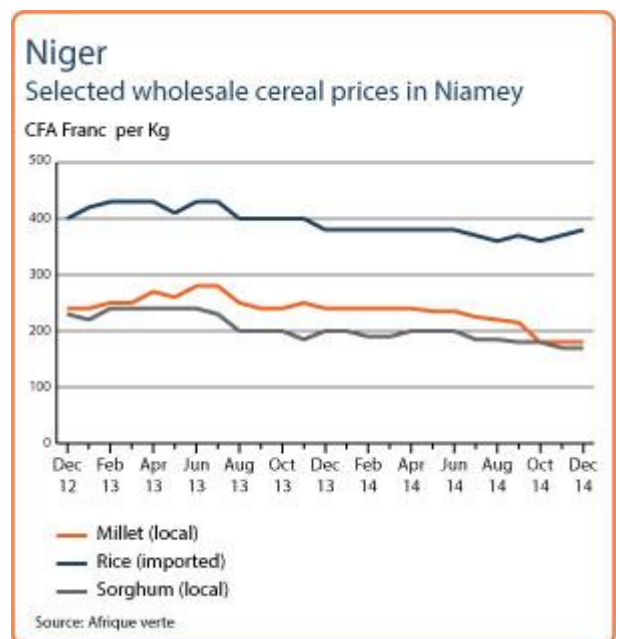
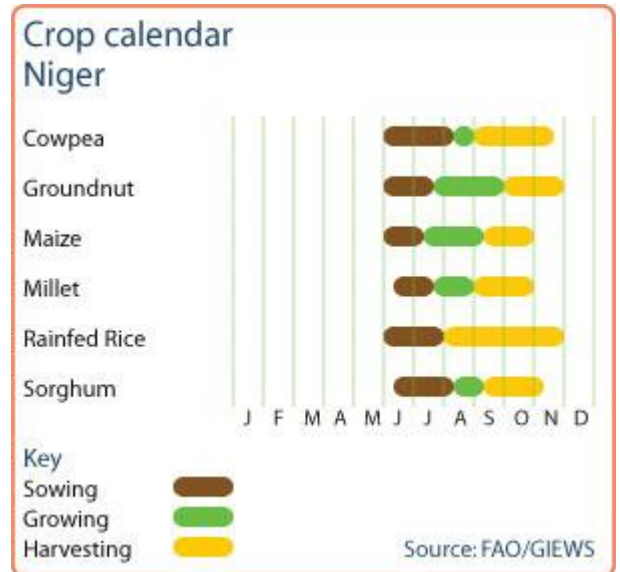
A below average crop was already gathered in 2013. The aggregate cereals production was estimated at some 4.3 million tonnes, about 19 percent lower than the 2012 output and 6 percent below the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, dropped by 19 percent compared to 2012.

Cereal prices are on the decline, reflecting ample regional supplies

Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours Nigeria and Benin to cover its cereal requirements. In spite of the reduced harvests gathered in Niger over the last two years, cereal markets have been well supplied and prices remained mostly stable throughout 2014, reflecting good crops in most neighbouring countries and ample regional supplies. The arrival of the new 2014 harvests has put downward pressure on prices at the end of the year. Millet and sorghum prices in Niamey in January 2015 were 29 percent and 25 percent below last year's level, respectively.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people including refugees

Niger hosts a large number of refugees, due to the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. The influx of refugees increased dramatically over the past few months following the deterioration of the security situation in northeastern Nigeria. Over 100 000 people are estimated to have left Nigeria for the Diffa region of Niger, as of late January 2015, while an additional 37 000 Malian refugees are still living in Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. Niger has been struck by successive



severe food crises in recent years that resulted in depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation has remained difficult in several parts of the country, due to the lingering effects of previous crises and the impact of last year's erratic rains on crops and pastures in some regions. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and enable them to have better access to food. Over 682 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) and above, according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Reference Date: 07-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates point to a significant decline in cereal production in 2013
- Pastures affected by irregular rains
- Cereal markets show sign of stabilizing
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed including for Malian refugees

2013 cereal production reduced by irregular rainfall

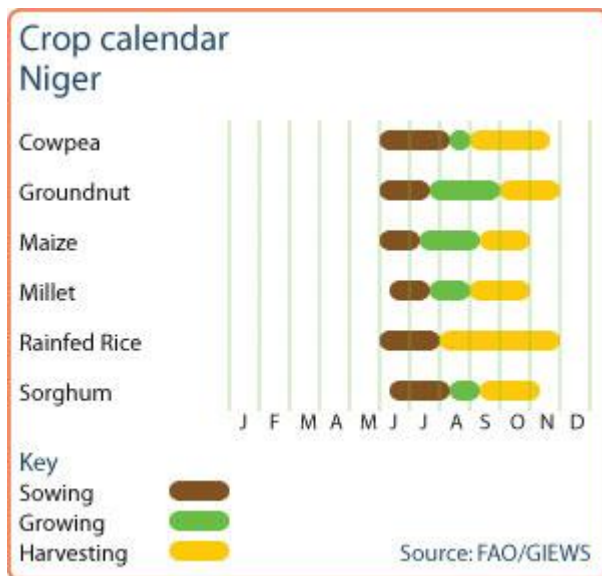
Harvesting of the 2013 cereal crops was completed in December. A delayed start and early end to rains caused serious damage to crops. Coarse grain yields were reduced and harvesting delayed in several parts of the southern producing regions (Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa and Tillabéri). Moreover, heavy rains led to substantial flooding in several regions in July and August.

A joint CILSS/FAO/FEWSNet/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission that visited the country in October 2013 estimated 2013 aggregate cereals production at some 4.3 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 19 percent lower than the 2012 output and 6 percent below the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, dropped by 19 percent compared to 2012. By contrast, the output of cowpea, the main cash crop, was estimated at 1.5 million tonnes compared with 1.1 million tonnes in 2011. Although the good cowpea harvests will have a positive impact on farmers' income, the food security effects of the reduced cereal crop can be substantial. The erratic rains also affected pastures in most regions, notably in Tillabéri.

In 2012, an above-average harvest was gathered owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. The 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 5.3 million tonnes, 47 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 26 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Cereal markets show signs of stabilizing

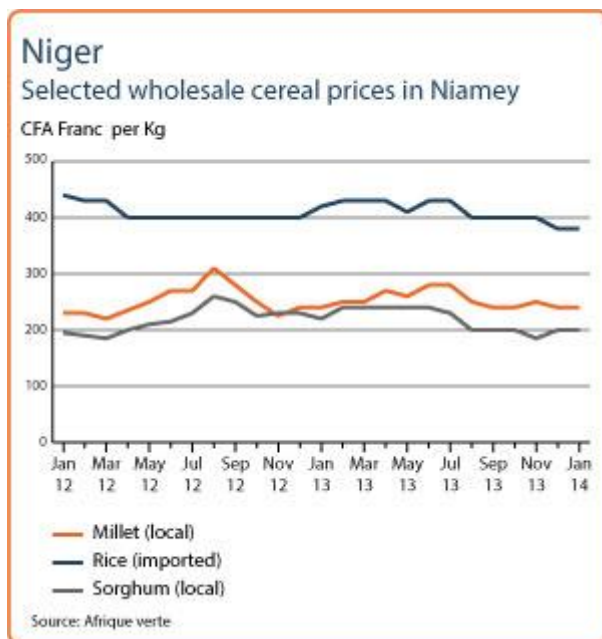
Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours Nigeria and Benin to cover its cereal requirements. Cereal markets have been disrupted last year in Nigeria due to insecurity and reduced supplies from the previous year's flood-affected crop, leading coarse grains prices to follow a sustained upward trend through August 2013 and limiting exports to neighbouring countries. As a result, in spite of the bumper crop gathered in Niger in 2012, millet prices in Niamey have remained relatively higher. However, the new 2013 harvests that were favourable, mainly in Nigeria and Benin, have pushed prices down across the subregion. Millet and sorghum prices declined in Niamey by 30 percent and 23 percent, respectively, between July and November driven mostly by increased imports from neighbouring Benin and Nigeria. Prices have been mostly stable since November 2013.



Niger Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 400	3 862	2 995	-22
Sorghum	1 120	1 376	1 287	-6
Rice (paddy)	86	77	40	-48
Others	21	15	10	-33
Total	4 627	5 330	4 332	-19

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



Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

Niger has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation remains difficult in parts, due to the lingering effects of previous crises and the impact of last year's erratic rains on crops and pastures in some regions. About 4.2 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity. Moreover, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Niger. As of November 2013, more than 50 000 Malian refugees were still living in Niger. These refugees represent an additional burden to a vulnerable country that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2012.

The United Nations and humanitarian partners recently launched a three-year Regional Strategic Response Plan (RSRP) to provide aid to millions of people in nine countries of the Sahel belt. The country plan for Niger is seeking to mobilise 391 million dollars to provide food and non-food assistance to over 7 million people across the country.

GIEWS Country Brief

Niger



Reference Date: 07-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Another above-average cereal harvest is anticipated this year
- Pasture conditions have also improved countrywide
- Cereal market affected by reduced supplies and insecurity in Nigeria
- Continued assistance is required to improve access to food and protect the livelihoods of food insecure and vulnerable people

Harvest prospects are favourable in spite of flooding in parts of the country

The late onset of the 2013 cropping season was followed by adequate precipitation and soil water reserves from July over the main producing areas. Satellite imagery analysis in early October indicates that good rains continued to fall over most of the country. Hence, the outlook for this year's cereal crops, for harvest from October is generally favourable. Pastures have been regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

Heavy rains, however, led to substantial flooding in several parts of the country in July and August. Tillabéry, Dosso, Maradi, Niamey and Tahoua are the most affected regions. The floods have caused serious damage to infrastructure and over 135 900 people are estimated to be affected. There has been also considerable localised damage to agriculture with over 5 000 ha of crops flooded, according to Government sources. However, overall crop prospects remain favourable with millet and sorghum crops in maturation stages.

In 2012, an above-average harvest was gathered owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 5.3 million tonnes, 47 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 26 percent above the average of the past five years.

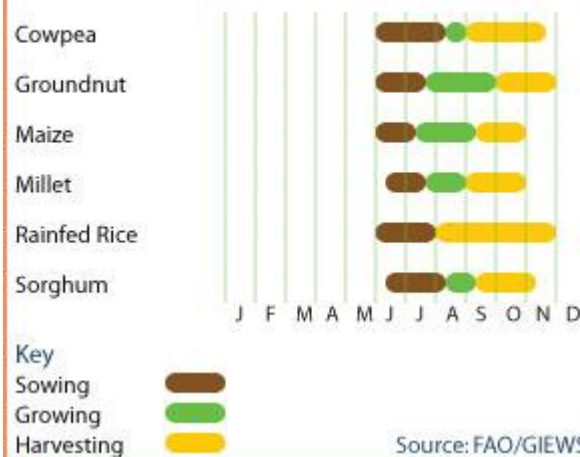
Cereal markets affected by reduced supplies and insecurity in Nigeria

Niger is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet, sorghum and maize) from its neighbours Nigeria and Benin to cover its cereal requirements. Cereal markets have been disrupted in Nigeria due to insecurity and reduced supplies from last year's flood-affected crop, leading coarse grains prices to follow a sustained upward trend in the past months and limiting exports to neighbouring countries. As a result, in spite of the bumper crop gathered in Niger last year, millet prices in Niamey have remained relatively higher. However, the beginning of the harvesting season in August has pushed prices down across the subregion. Millet and sorghum prices declined in Niamey by 14 percent and 17 percent, respectively, over the last three months driven mostly by increased imports from neighbouring Benin and Nigeria.

Continued assistance is still needed for vulnerable people

Niger has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years

Crop calendar Niger



Niger

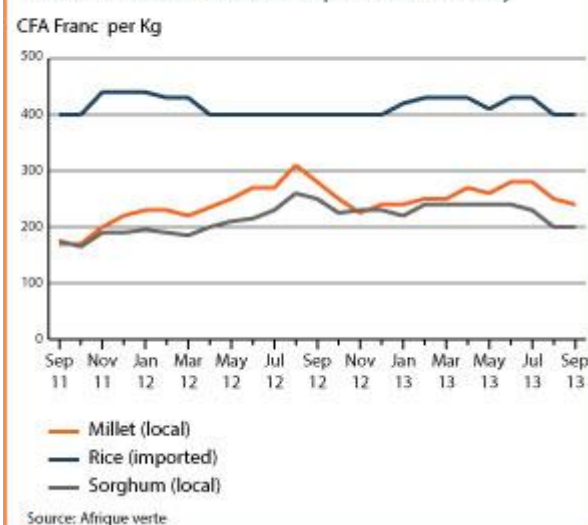
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3,166	2,761	3,862	40
Sorghum	961	770	1,376	79
Rice (paddy)	85	85	77	-9
Others	23	12	15	25
Total	4,235	3,628	5,330	47

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

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



that resulted in depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. In spite of last year's good harvests and adequate food supplies, the food security situation remains difficult in parts, due to high food prices and the lingering effects of previous crises. As a result, the Government has continued to implement emergency interventions to support vulnerable populations. These include safety-net interventions (including cash transfers, targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices), targeted distribution of inputs (including seeds, fertilizer and animal feed) and improving access to nutritional recuperation centres.

Reference Date: 21-November-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal harvest is anticipated this year; rangelands have also recovered well
- The food supply situation is expected to improve significantly during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October)
- However, the country's recent successive severe food crises have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets, savings, levels of indebtedness, and the health and nutritional status of the population
- Assistance needs to continue to improve access to food and protect the livelihoods of food insecure and vulnerable people

A bumper cereal harvest estimated following improved weather

Despite flooding in parts, adequate rainfall during the main cropping season together with improved distribution of key inputs, has resulted in a favourable cereal harvest in 2012. A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP/FEWSNET Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission that visited the country recently, estimated the 2012 aggregate cereals production at over 5.1 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 42 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 22 percent above the average of the past five years.

With the exception of a few localized areas, the rangelands have recovered well and the water points have been replenished.

The improved harvest position, coupled with favourable crop prospects in most neighbouring countries, is expected to lead to a much improved food availability during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October).

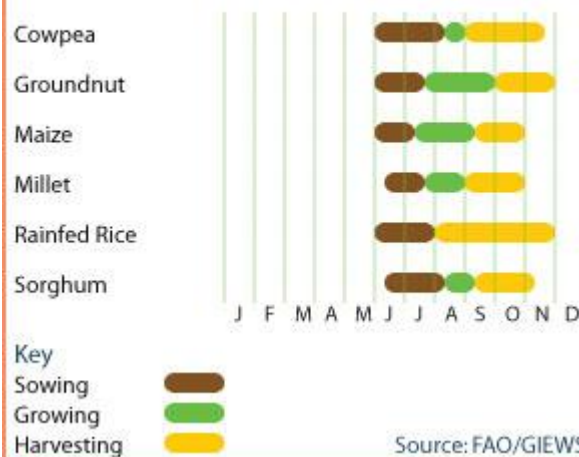
The nutrition situation has deteriorated in 2012

The recent food crises resulted in sharp drops in household incomes with substantial loss of assets and increased indebtedness. Consequently, the nutritional status of pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and other farming groups has deteriorated sharply. According to the most recent nutrition survey conducted in September 2012, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was estimated at 14.8 percent in July-August 2012, up from 12.3 percent last year. The GAM rate was higher than 16 percent in several regions including Maradi (16.2 percent), Tillabéry (16.6 percent) and Diffa (16.7 percent).

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

The Inter-agency Assessment Mission considers it a matter of urgency to improve household purchasing power and access to food that is available domestically by supporting off-season cropping and other income-generating activities. Support also needs to be given to the marketing of agricultural products through local purchases, where possible, and the replenishment of cereal banks and national food

Crop calendar Niger



Niger

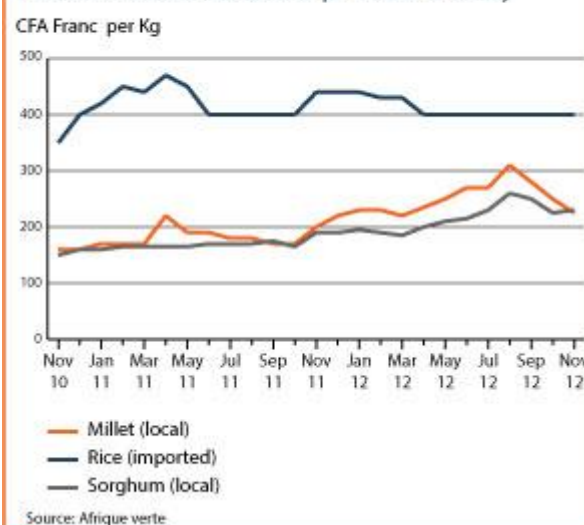
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3,166	2,761	3,702	34
Sorghum	961	770	1,355	76
Rice (paddy)	85	85	84	-1
Others	23	12	14	17
Total	4,235	3,628	5,155	42

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

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



security stocks. It is also essential to continue supporting the nutritional recuperation centres.

Reference Date: 20-July-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 cereal crops are uncertain
- Cereal prices remain firm at high levels.
- Conflicts in neighbouring countries are seriously impacting on food security
- Humanitarian assistance need to be continued and strengthened to prevent further deterioration in the food situation

Early crop prospects for the 2012 cereal crops are uncertain; concern remains over Desert Locust threat and irregular rains in parts.

The start of the rainy season was somewhat erratic with below average precipitation recorded in several areas through early July, notably in Dosso and Gaya regions in the western part of the country. Emerging crops will suffer water stress if rains do not improve in July and August. Pastures have started to regenerate in some areas but more regular rains are needed for a meaningful improvement in pasture conditions across the country. Moreover, Desert Locust continues to pose a serious threat to crops and pasture. Small immature groups and swarms which formed along the Algerian-Libyan border in May moved south and invaded northern Niger and Mali from late May to mid-June. Infestations were reported throughout northern Niger, mainly on the eastern side of the Tamesna Plains between Arlit and Agadez, in the Air Mountains, on the western edge of the Ténéré Desert, and near Bilma and the Djado Plateau. Desert Locusts have reportedly moved further south, reaching pastures in the northern cropping zones near Tanout. The food security and poverty impacts of severe Locust damage on a national scale would be disastrous, as the country already faces a serious food crisis.

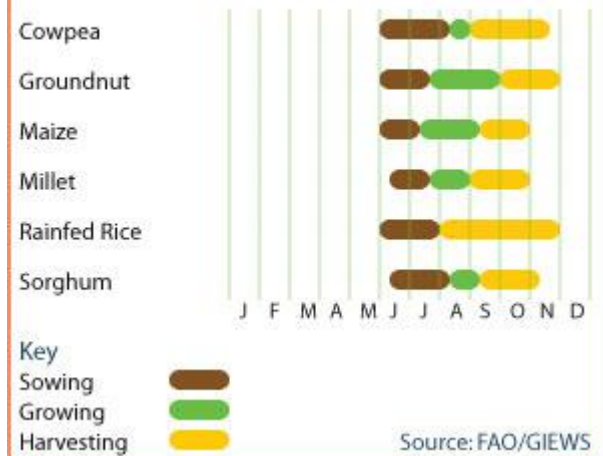
2011 coarse grains production reduced sharply following poor rainfall

Last year, erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing period as well as widespread pest attacks caused serious damage to crops. Coarse grain yields were reduced and harvesting delayed in several parts of the southern producing regions (Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa and Tillabéri). The most affected area is the Tillabéri region in the south-west of the country, which recorded the sharpest decrease in cereal production compared to the previous year (more than 40 percent). Moreover, the prolonged dryness caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points' level in the pastoral areas of Tillabéri.

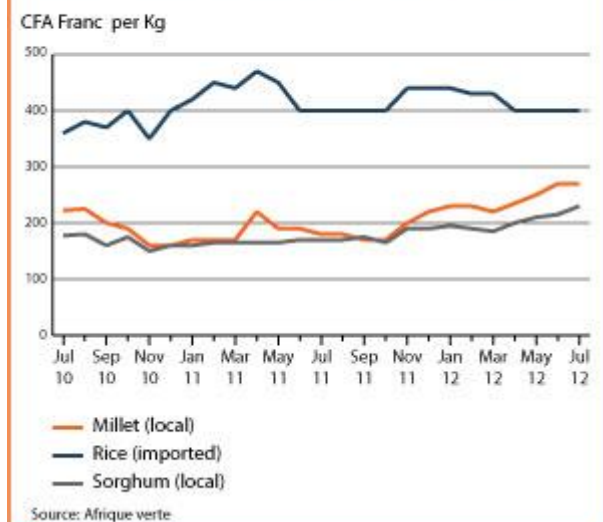
Following the release of the final 2011 cereal production figures, aggregate cereal production is estimated at of some 3.6 million tonnes, 31 percent less than previous year's record harvest and 15 percent below the average for the previous five years.

Prices remain firm at high levels due to reduced supplies

Crop calendar Niger



Niger Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



Coarse grains prices, which have recorded unseasonably sharp increases in all monitored markets from October 2011 to January 2012, remained firm and by early July 2012 record or near-record levels were observed across the country. In Niamey in early July, millet and sorghum prices were 69 and 44 percent higher, respectively, than the levels of the same month last year. The highest millet prices were observed in Tillaberi market (located in the region where the largest decline in cereal production was recorded) and in Agadez market located in the northern part of the country. Millet prices have doubled over the past year in both regions. By contrast, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Food insecurity exacerbated by large numbers of returnees and refugees

Niger has already been affected by a severe food crisis in 2009/10 that resulted in a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and the deterioration in the nutritional situation of the pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and other farming groups. Hence the rural population, having exhausted their coping strategies, are still very vulnerable to food production shocks. Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of refugees and returnees from neighbouring countries, which has practically eliminated remittances that in turn affected negatively the food security of the local communities, increasing the competition for local resources.

According to the UNHCR, about 52 000 people arrived from Mali as of mid-July, while about 96 000 Nigeriens arrived from Libya according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The displaced from Mali settled in the Tillaberi region in the West of the country, which is already facing food shortages, high cereal prices and high malnutrition rates. Additionally, about 10 000 Nigeriens have crossed back into Niger during January, fleeing increased violence in neighbouring Nigeria.

According to a household food insecurity vulnerability survey carried out by the Government and WFP in December 2011, about 6.4 million people (38 percent of the population), are estimated to be “food insecure” this year, of which about 1.3 million are “severely food insecure”.

In view of the current difficult food security situation, a new poor harvest due to insufficient rains or Desert Locust attacks would have very serious humanitarian implications.

Reference Date: 22-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates point to a large decline in coarse grains production in 2011
- Cereal prices remain firm at high level.
- Conflicts in neighbouring countries are seriously impacting on food security
- Urgent action needed to prevent further deterioration in the food situation

2011 coarse grains production reduced sharply following poor rainfall

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops was completed in December. Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing period as well as widespread pest attacks caused serious damage to crops. Coarse grain yields were reduced and harvesting delayed in several parts of the southern producing regions (Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa and Tillaberi). The most affected area is the Tillaberi region in the south-west of the country, which recorded the sharpest decrease in cereal production compared to the previous year (more than 40 percent). Moreover, the prolonged dryness caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points' level in the pastoral areas of Tillaberi.

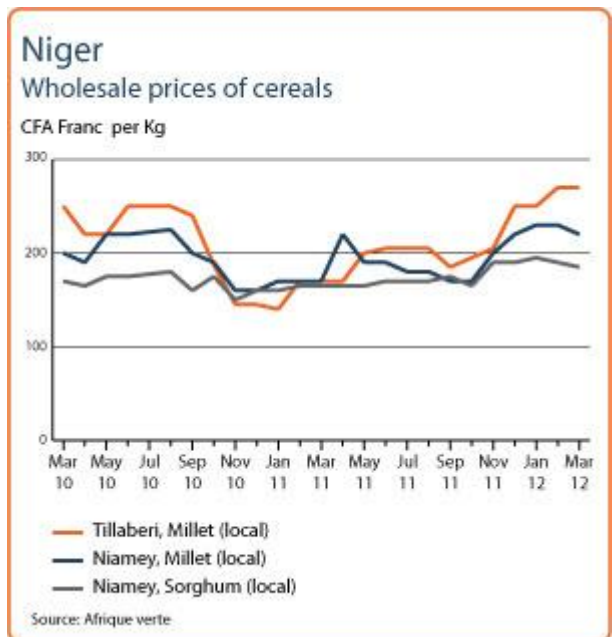
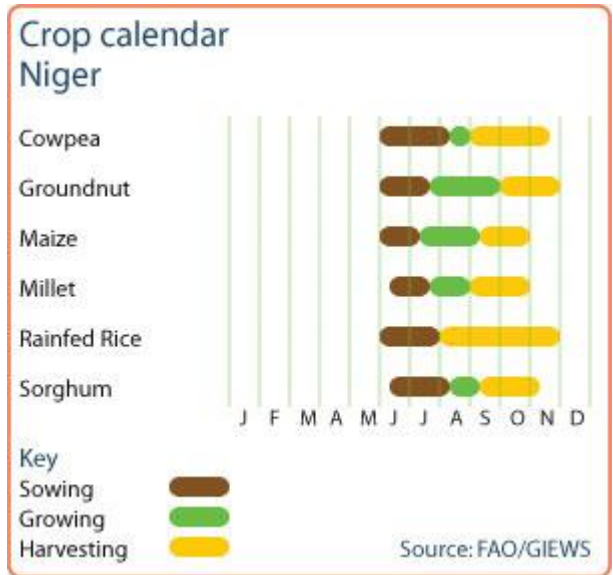
Following the release of the final 2011 cereal production figures, aggregate cereal production is estimated at of some 3.6 million tonnes, 31 percent less than previous year's record harvest and 15 percent below the average for the previous five years.

Prices remain firm at high levels due to reduced supplies

Coarse grains prices, which have recorded unseasonably sharp increases in all monitored markets from October 2011 to January 2012, remained firm since and by early March they were at record or near-record levels in the capital Niamey and in Tillaberi market (located in the region where the largest decline in cereal production was recorded). In Niamey, millet and sorghum prices increased between October and January by 35 and 18 percent, respectively, and currently they are 29 and 12 percent higher than the levels of the same month last year. In Tillaberi, prices of millet are the highest in the country, both in absolute terms (27 000 CFA per quintal) and compared to March 2011 (+59 percent). By contrast, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained mostly stable in recent months.

Food insecurity exacerbated by large numbers of returnees and refugees

Niger has already been affected by a severe food crisis in 2009/10 that caused a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and deteriorated the nutritional situation of the pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and other farming groups. Hence the rural population is still very vulnerable to food production shocks because their coping strategies have been exhausted. Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of



refugees and returnees from neighbouring countries, which has practically eliminated the remittances and has negatively affected the food security of the local communities, increasing the competition for local resources.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 96 000 Nigeriens arrived from Libya as of late January, while as of mid-March, according to OCHA, about 35 000 people arrived from Mali. The displaced from Mali (of which more than 4 000 individuals are Nigeriens) settled in the Tillaberi region in the West of the country, which is already facing food shortages, high cereal prices and high malnutrition rates. Additionally, about 10 000 Nigeriens, fleeing mounting violence in neighbouring Nigeria, have crossed back into Niger during January, while the closure of the border disrupted trade flows, negatively impacting the food security in the South of the country, especially in the Diffa region.

According to a household food insecurity vulnerability survey carried out recently by the Government and WFP, about 5.5 million people (35 percent of the population), were classified as “food insecure”, of which about 1.3 million are “severely food insecure”. Compared to January 2011, the number of food insecure households has more than doubled.

To tackle the current food insecurity situation, a joint effort was launched by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community. By mid-March about 40 percent of the required funding of USD 229 million was received. Specific intervention measures include targeted distribution of food, seeds and forage, sales of cereals at subsidized prices, cash transfer, cash for work, and food for work programmes.

Reference Date: 12-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2011 harvest point to a large decline in coarse grains production
- Cereal prices recorded sharp unseasonal increases during November and December
- Conflict in Libya is having a serious impact on food security in parts
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent a further deterioration of the food situation

2011 coarse grains production sharply reduced due to rainfall deficits and pest attacks

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops is almost complete. Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing period as well as widespread pest attacks caused serious damage to crops, reducing coarse grains yields and delaying harvests in several parts of the southern producing regions (Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa and Tillabéri). The most affected area is the Tillabéri region in the south-west of the country, which recorded the sharpest decrease in cereal production compared to last year (more than 40 percent).. Moreover, the prolonged dryness caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points' level in the pastoral areas of Tillabéri.

A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP Crop Assessment Mission which visited the country recently estimated 2011 aggregate cereal production at some 3.8 million tonnes, 27 percent less than previous year's record harvest and 10 percent below the average for the previous five years. Production of millet and sorghum, the main staple cereals in the country, is estimated to decrease by 24 and 38 percent compared to 2010, respectively.

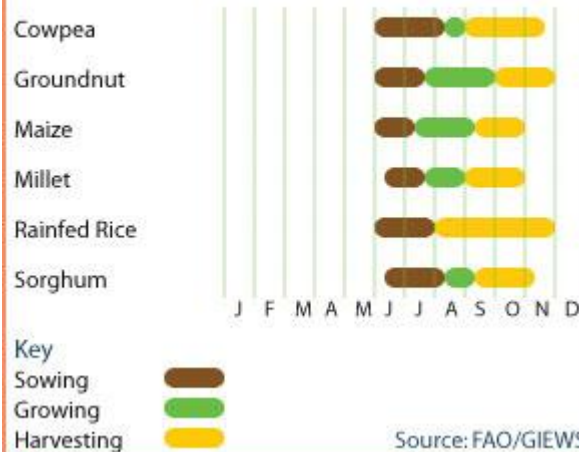
Reduced supplies triggered unseasonal price increases in November and December

Coarse grains prices, which have been mostly stable at low levels since the last harvest in October/November 2010, recorded sharp unseasonal increases in all monitored markets during November and December 2011, reaching record or near-record levels in the capital Niamey and in Tillabéri market, located in the region where the largest decline in cereal production was recorded. In Niamey, millet and sorghum prices increased between October and December by 29 and 15 percent, respectively, and currently they are 38 and 19 percent higher than the levels of the same month last year. In Tillabéri, prices of millet are the highest in the country, both in absolute terms (25000 CFA per quintal) and compared to December 2010 (+72 percent). Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, are also on the increase and at high levels driven by trends in international food markets and increasing fuel prices and transport costs. In Niamey, imported rice prices in December were 10 percent higher than in the same month last year.

Food and agricultural assistance urgently needed

Niger has already been affected by a severe food crisis in 2009/10 that caused a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other

Crop calendar Niger



Niger

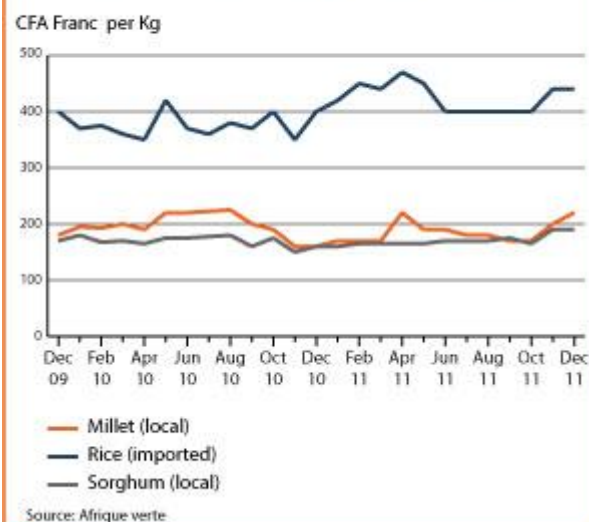
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	3 198	3 838	2 926	-24
Sorghum	942	1 302	807	-38
Rice (paddy)	83	101	85	-16
Others	25	15	13	-13
Total	4 248	5 256	3 831	-27

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

Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and deteriorated the nutritional situation of the pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and other farming groups. Hence the rural population is still very vulnerable to food production shocks because their coping strategies have been exhausted. Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of returnees from Libya. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 84.000 people arrived in Niger as of early November. This has practically eliminated the remittances and has negatively affected the food security of the local communities. The renewed fall in coarse grain production combined with poor rangeland conditions, reduced cash crop returns and the continuing combination of poverty and persistently high food prices, could lead to sharp increases in malnutrition in next months. In view of the current food supply situation and unfavourable prospects of imports, the situation is likely to deteriorate further.

The following urgent actions are recommended:

- Safety net interventions, such as targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities, will be required during next year lean season, with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas;
- distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer is also needed to enable farmers to produce enough food during the current off-season (December-February) and the next cropping season (from June 2012);
- Vulnerable people, especially children, need (to continue) to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres;
- Market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements

Reference Date: 5-December-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2011 harvest point to a large decline in coarse grains production
- Cereal prices recorded sharp unseasonal increases during November
- Conflict in Libya is having a serious impact on food security in parts
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent a further deterioration of the food situation

2011 coarse grains production sharply reduced due to rainfall deficits and pest attacks

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops is almost complete. Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing period as well as widespread pest attacks caused serious damage to crops, reducing coarse grains yields and delaying harvests in several parts of the southern producing regions (Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa and Tillaberi). The most affected area is the Tillaberi region in the south-west of the country, which recorded the sharpest decrease in cereal production compared to last year (more than 40 percent).. Moreover, the prolonged dryness caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points' level in the pastoral areas of Tillaberi.

A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP Crop Assessment Mission which visited the country recently estimated 2011 aggregate cereal production at some 3.8 million tonnes, 27 percent less than last year's record harvest and 10 percent below the average for the previous five years. Production of millet and sorghum, the main staple cereals in the country, is estimated to decrease by 24 and 38 percent compared to last year, respectively.

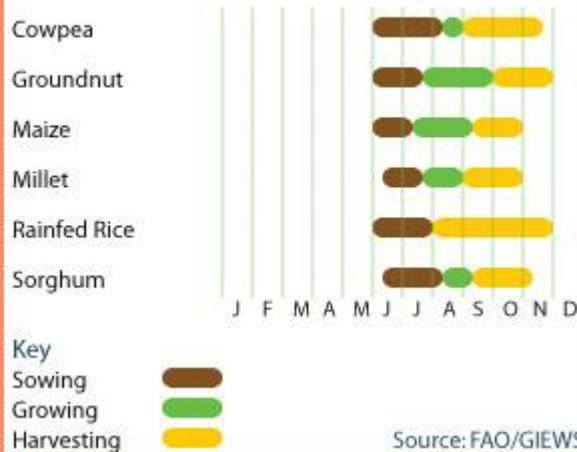
Reduced supplies triggered unseasonal price increases in November

Coarse grains prices, which have been mostly stable at low levels since the last harvest in October/November 2010, recorded sharp unseasonal increases in all monitored markets during November 2011. For example, millet and sorghum prices in the capital Niamey increased between October and November by 15 and 18 percent, respectively. Both prices are currently about 25 percent higher than in November 2010 and slightly above the levels of the same month in 2009, when a similarly drought-reduced crop was harvested. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, are also on the increase and at high levels driven by trends in international food markets and increasing fuel prices and transport costs. In Niamey, imported rice prices in November were 26 percent higher than in the same month last year.

Food and agricultural assistance needed as the food security situation is likely to deteriorate further

Niger has already been affected by a severe food crisis in 2009/10 that caused a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and deteriorated

Crop calendar Niger

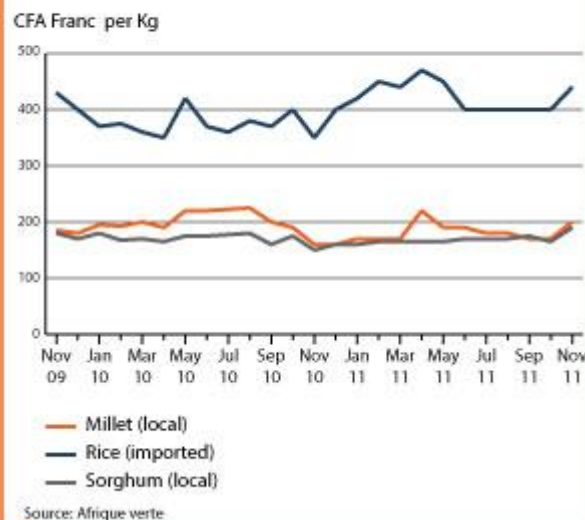


Niger Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
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Total	4 248	5 256	3 831	-27

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Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Niger Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



the nutritional situation of the pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and other farming groups. Hence the rural population is still very vulnerable to food production shocks because their coping strategies have been exhausted. Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of returnees from Libya. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 84.000 people arrived in Niger as of early November. This has practically eliminated the remittances and has negatively affected the food security of the local communities. The renewed fall in coarse grain production combined with poor rangeland conditions, reduced cash crop returns and the continuing combination of poverty and persistently high food prices, could lead to sharp increases in malnutrition in next months. In view of the current food supply situation and unfavourable prospects of imports, the situation is likely to deteriorate further.

The following urgent actions are recommended:

- Safety net interventions, such as targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities, will be required during next year lean season, with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas;
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- Vulnerable people, especially children, need (to continue) to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres;
- Market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements

Reference Date: 12-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospect for the 2011 cereal crops is uncertain, due to delayed and insufficient rains at the beginning of the rainy season
- The food supply situation remains adequate, reflecting last year's record harvest
- Conflict in Libya is having a serious impact on food security in parts

Overall crop prospects remain uncertain

Early prospects for the 2011 cereal crop, for harvest from September are uncertain due to the erratic and late start of the rainy season that resulted in replantings in several regions. However, significant rains in August improved crop growing conditions. Continued rains through October are required to allow crops to reach full maturity countrywide. Pastures have improved significantly but their regeneration has been hindered by the dry spells in parts of Abalak and Diffa regions.

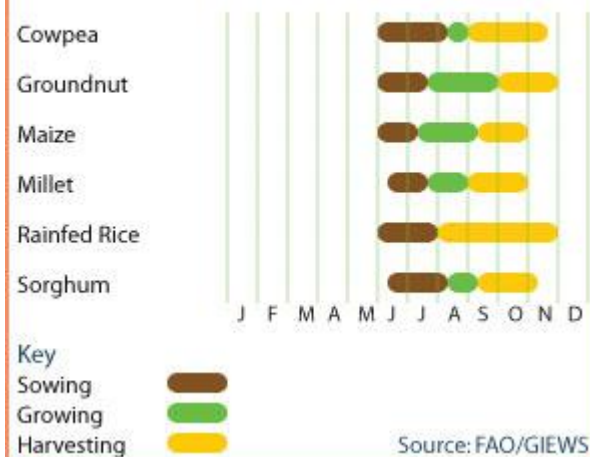
The food supply situation remains satisfactory following last year's record harvest.

Coarse grains prices have been mostly stable since last harvest, in October/November 2010. For example, millet prices in Niamey in August 2011 were about 20 percent below their level of a year earlier. The relatively low prices are driven by last year good cereal production, coupled with favourable harvests in neighbouring countries as well as subsidised cereal sales and free distribution carried out by the Niger Government and humanitarian agencies this year.

Influx of returnees puts pressure on food supplies

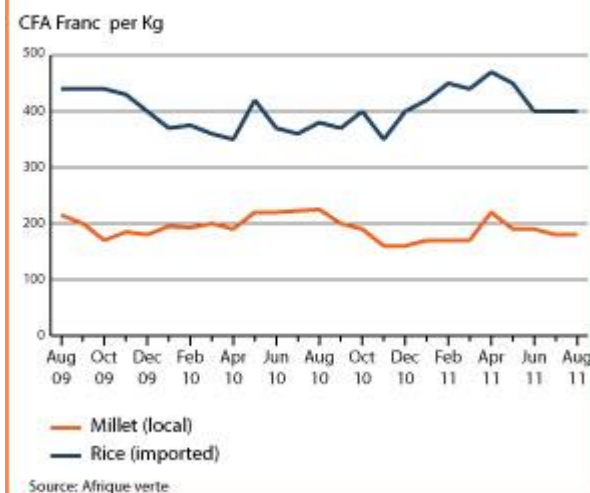
The conflict in Libya Arab Jamahiriya is having a serious impact on the food security situation of several areas in the country. Rising numbers of refugees and returning migrant workers are placing increasing demand on food. On the other hand, the significant decline in remittances has negatively affected the food security situation of the communities of origin. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 115 000 people arrived in Niger as of mid August. The most affected areas are Tanout and Gouré.

Crop calendar Niger



Niger

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Niamey



Reference Date: 26-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 cropping season is expected to start with the onset of rains, normally in June
- A record crop was gathered in 2010 and rangelands have recovered well.
- A much improved and satisfactory food availability is estimated during the current 2010/11 (November/October) marketing year
- However, the 2009/10 food crisis has had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, on levels of indebtedness, and on the health and nutritional status of the population.
- The nutrition situation remains critical in several areas. About 2.6 million people, 17 percent of the population, are estimated to be severely or moderately food insecure due mostly to limited access to food.

Seasonably dry conditions prevail

The seasonal rains have not yet started and farmers are currently preparing their fields. Planting of the 2011 cereal crops is scheduled to start in June with the onset of the rains.

A satisfactory food supply situation expected during the 2010/11 marketing year following a record harvest in 2010

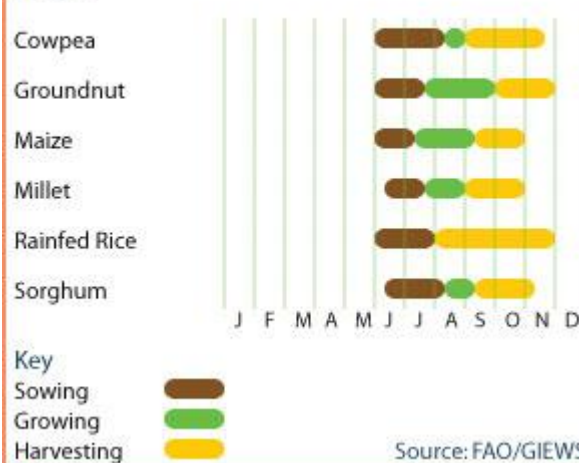
Despite the flooding in parts of the country last July and August, overall rainfall during the main cropping season was adequate; and combined with the improved distribution of key inputs, a bumper cereal harvest was gathered in 2010. Final official production estimates put the 2010 aggregate cereals production at about 5.2 million tonnes, about 50 percent higher than the 2009 output and well above the average of the past five years. The output of "niébé", the main cash crop, was estimated at 1.77 million tonnes compared with 787 472 tonnes in 2009 and 1.5 million tonnes in 2008, setting a new record. Part of this bumper crop is expected to be used to replenish stocks, which were depleted after the 2009/10 food crisis.

With the exception of a few localised areas, the rangelands have recovered well and the water points have also been replenished. The good cereal production, coupled with favourable harvests in neighbouring countries, particularly in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad resulted in a generally satisfactory food situation in the 2010/11 marketing year (November/October). Coarse grains prices have been mostly stable since last November.

The nutrition situation remains critical and food insecurity is high

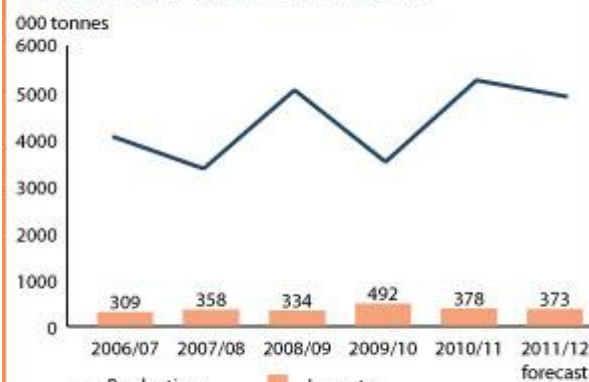
The 2009/10 food crisis resulted in a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and deteriorated the nutritional situation of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and other farming groups. According to the latest food insecurity and vulnerability assessment (conducted by the Government

Crop calendar Niger



Niger

Total cereal production and imports



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

in January), about 2.6 million people, 17 percent of the population, are estimated to be severely or moderately food insecure due mostly to limited access to food.

Assistance is still needed

An Inter-agency Crop and Food security Assessment Mission that visited the country in November last year considered it a matter of urgency to improve household purchasing power and access to food that is available domestically by supporting herd replenishment, off-season cropping and other income-generating activities. It is also essential to continue supporting the nutritional recuperation centres.

An Emergency Operation (EMOP) is currently underway, distributing food and providing cash transfers to 2.4 million people for a period of 6 months (January-June 2011).



Reference Date: 1-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A record crop was gathered in 2010 and rangelands have recovered well.
- A much improved and satisfactory food availability is expected during the 2010/2011 marketing year
- However, the 2009/10 food crisis has had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, on levels of indebtedness, and on the health and nutritional status of the population.
- The nutrition situation remains critical in several areas.
- Assistance should continue to improve access to food.

A satisfactory food supply situation expected during the 2010/11 marketing year following a record harvest in 2010

Despite the flooding that occurred in some parts of the country in July and August 2010, the overall rainfall during the main cropping season was adequate. This, combined with the improved distribution of key inputs, has resulted in a favourable cereal harvest in 2010. A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP/Fews Net Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission that visited the country recently, estimated 2010 aggregate cereals production at over 5.6 million tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 60 percent higher than the 2009 output and well above the average of the past five years. The output of “niébé”, the main cash crop, was estimated at 1.9 million tonnes compared with 787 472 tonnes in 2009 and 1.5 million tonnes in 2008, setting a new record. According to these figures, the country should have a significant cereals surplus. It is understood that this surplus, will be used partly to replenish stocks, which were depleted after the 2009/10 food crisis. With the exception of a few localised areas, the rangelands have recovered well following the sound phenological development of the fodder crops, and the water points have been replenished. The high level of cereals production, coupled with favourable harvests prospects in the neighbouring countries, particularly in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad, is expected to lead to a much improved and satisfactory food availability during the 2010/-2011 marketing year.

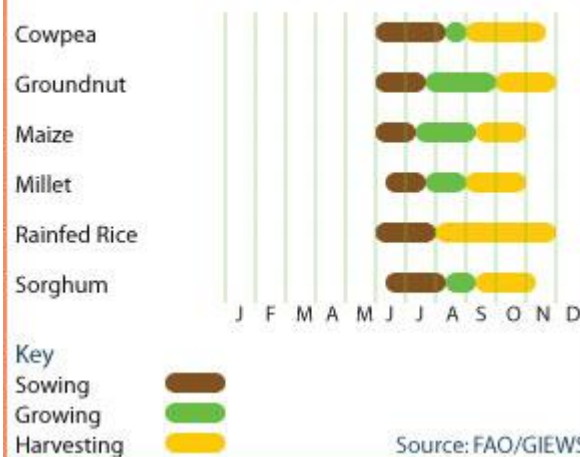
The nutrition situation remains critical

The 2009/10 food crisis had caused a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and deteriorated the nutritional situation of the pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and other farming groups. Despite the measures adopted by the Government of Niger and its partners, according to the most recent nutrition survey conducted in the country, the Global Acute Malnutrition rate is still extremely worrying, higher than 17 percent in October-November 2010 in the regions of Agadez and Zinder.

Assistance is still needed

The Inter-agency Assessment Mission considers it a matter of urgency to improve household purchasing power and access to food that is available domestically by supporting herd replenishment, off-season

Crop calendar Niger

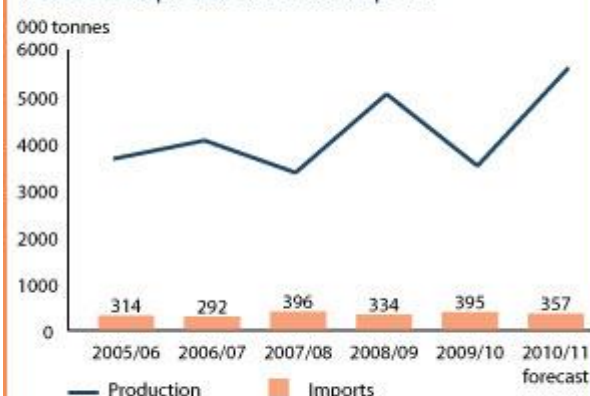


Niger Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	2980	2678	3999	49
Sorghum	853	739	1501	103
Rice (paddy)	75	91	85	-7
Others	23	6	23	283
Total	3931	3514	5609	60

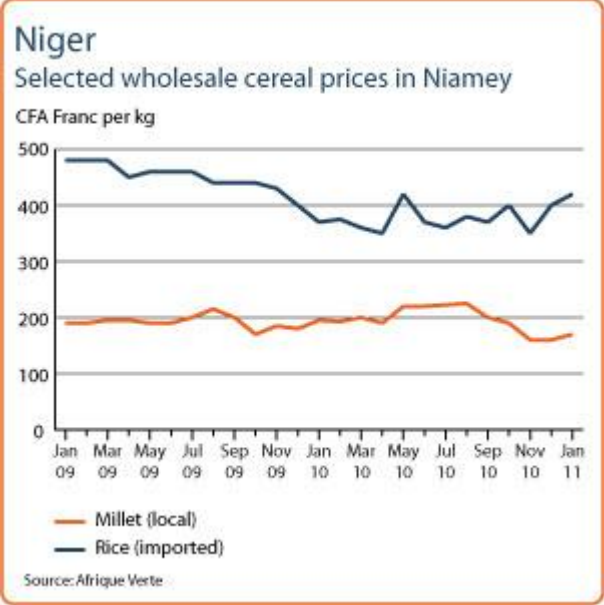
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Niger Total cereal production and imports



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

cropping and other income-generating activities. Support should also be given to agricultural product marketing by replenishing cereals banks and national security stocks and making humanitarian purchases, where possible. It is also essential to continue supporting the nutritional recuperation centres.



Reference Date: 07-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Floods caused serious damage to infrastructure and affected livestock and crops, but overall crop prospects remain favourable
- The food and nutritional situation remains critical in spite of the emergency interventions by the Government and humanitarian agencies
- High prices limit access to food
- Urgent actions should continue to prevent further deterioration of the food situation

Harvest prospects are favourable in spite of the serious flooding in parts of the country

Rainfall levels and soil moisture have been generally adequate to allow satisfactory development of crops since the beginning of the growing season in June. Heavy rains, however, led to substantial flooding in several parts of the country in July and August. Agadez, Maradi, Zinder, Tillabéry and Niamey are the most affected regions. The floods have caused serious damage to infrastructure and over 226 000 people are estimated to be affected. There has been also considerable localised damage to agriculture with about 5 400 ha of crops flooded and thousands of animals killed mostly in Agadez region, according to Government sources. However, overall crop prospects remain favourable with millet and sorghum crops in the heading and early maturation stages. Pastures have been regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

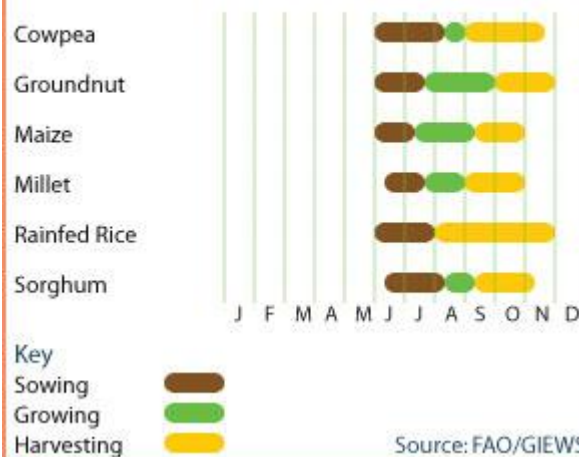
The food situation remains critical

Nearly 17 percent of Niger's children under five years of age suffer acute malnutrition, almost 36 percent increase over the same period last year, according to a national survey carried out by the Government from mid-May to mid-June. This number is well above the WHO critical emergency threshold. 7.1 million people - 48% of the population - are estimated to be food insecure, including 3.3 million people facing "severe" food insecurity, according to another survey conducted in April 2010. Emergency interventions are underway including cereal sale at subsidized prices by the Government, comprehensive feeding by UNICEF and WFP as well as distribution of animal feed, seeds and fertilizers by FAO.

Food prices stabilise but remain high

The humanitarian interventions, the beginning of harvesting in neighboring coastal countries and the favorable crop prospects in Niger have resulted in cereal prices showing signs of stabilisation over the past few months, but still remain high. Wholesale millet prices on the Niamey markets in August 2010 were still 61 percent higher than in August 2007 - just before the global food price crisis. Livestock prices have started to recover, improving slightly the terms-of-trade for pastoralists. However, the food situation remains critical, due to the persisting high food prices and the impact of the recent floods.

Crop calendar Niger

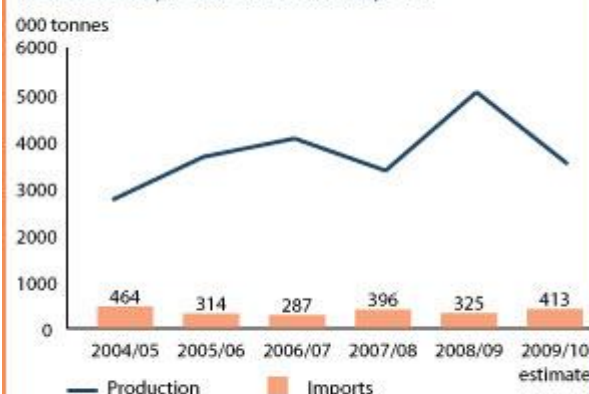


Niger Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	2850	3701	2678	-28
Sorghum	830	1214	739	-39
Rice (paddy)	73	78	91	17
Others	25	56	6	-89
Total	3778	5048	3514	-30

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

Niger Total cereal production and imports

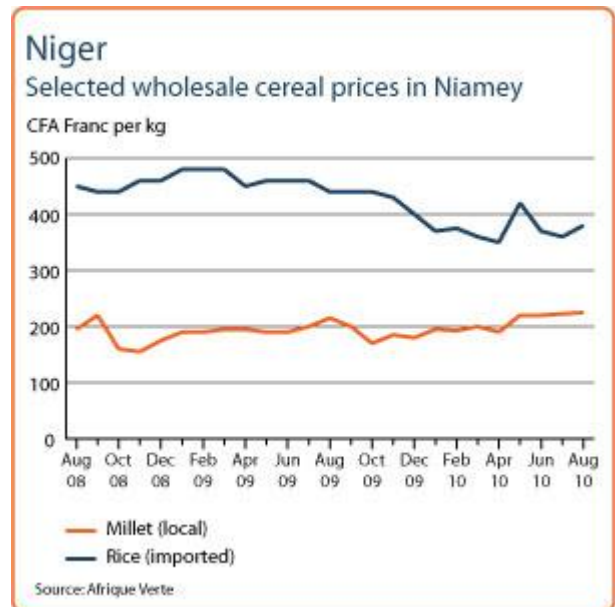


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Emergency interventions need to continue

In view of the current food and livestock situation, the following urgent actions need to be given full support until next harvests in October:

- Safety net interventions, including targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities should continue, with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas;
- Targeted distribution of inputs including seeds and fertilizer should continue to enable farmers to produce enough food during the current cropping season and the next off-season;
- Urgent actions are still needed to protect livestock assets of affected pastoralists' communities. These include de-stocking as well as the provision of feed and veterinary services.
- Vulnerable people, especially children, need to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres;
- Market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be continuously monitored in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements.



Reference Date: 22-June-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Land preparation is underway and first planting has started in the south.
- The food and nutritional situation remains critical in spite of emergency interventions by the Government and humanitarian agencies.
- High prices limit access to food.
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent further deterioration of the food situation.

Seasonal rains for the 2010 cereal crops have commenced on time.

The first rains were registered in the extreme south late April/early May where they allowed land preparation to start. Substantial rains covered most of the producing areas in May and June. Land preparation is underway. Plantings are progressing northwards following the onset of regular rains. About 41 percent of the villages have planted as of early June, which is higher than at the same time last year.

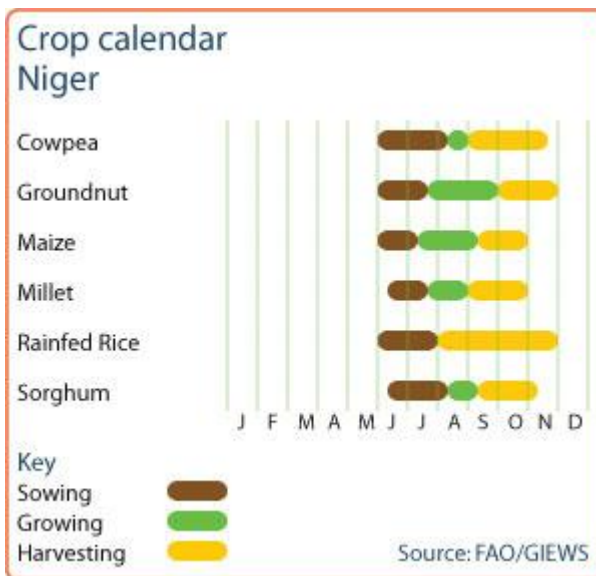
The food situation remain critical

Emergency interventions are underway including cereal sale at subsidized prices by the Government, comprehensive feeding by UNICEF and WFP as well as distribution of animal feed, seeds and fertilizers by FAO. In spite of these interventions, cereal prices increased sharply across the country with millet prices reaching record levels in May. These prices increases are driven mostly by the recent strengthening of the Naira (Nigeria currency) against the CFA Franc as well as the late start of the rainy season in northern Nigeria. On the other hand, livestock prices remain low leading to significant deterioration of the terms-of- trade for pastoralists. The food and livestock situation continues to deteriorate as a result. 7.1 million people - 48% of the population - are estimated to be food insecure, including 3.3 million people facing "severe" food insecurity, according to the latest vulnerability and food insecurity survey carried out by the Government (in April 2010). The most affected regions are Maradi (29.3 percent of the population), Tahoua (24.5 percent) and Tillabéri (24 percent).

Urgent actions should continue

In view of the current food and livestock situation, the following urgent actions should be given full support:

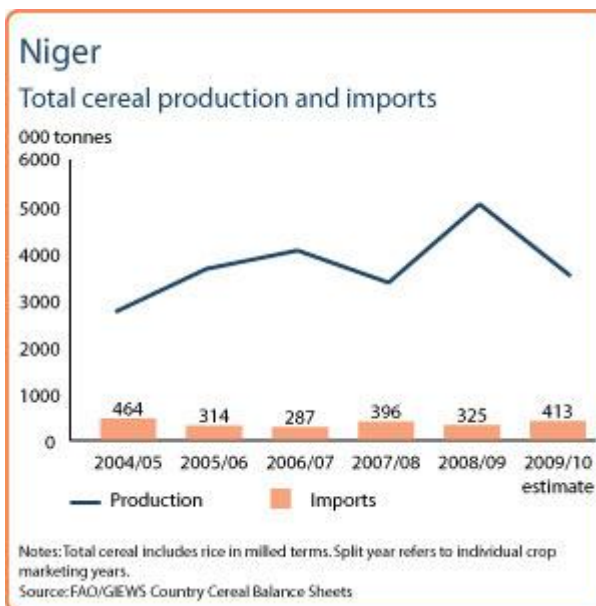
- Safety net interventions, including targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities should continue, with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas;
- Targeted distribution of inputs including seeds and fertilizer should continue to enable farmers to produce enough food during the current cropping season;



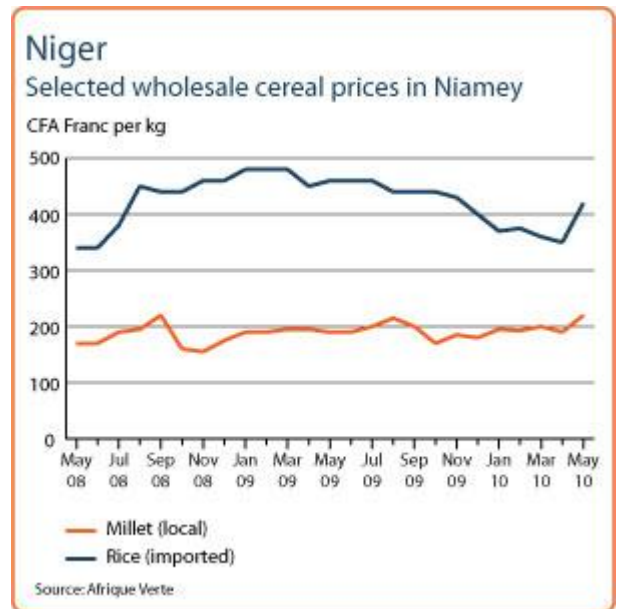
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Others	25	56	6	-89
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Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



- Urgent actions are still needed to protect livestock assets of affected pastoralists' communities. These include de-stocking as well as the provision of feed and veterinary services.
- Vulnerable people, especially children, need to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres;
- Market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be continuously monitored in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements.



Reference Date: 18-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The food and nutritional situation gives cause for serious concern following poor rains and a significant decline in crop and pastures production in 2009.
- Cereal production in 2009 was 30 percent lower than 2008's crop, while production of cowpea dropped by 37 percent.
- 2009/10 pasture deficit is three times as severe as in the previous year.
- Food security situation deteriorating due to persisting high food prices.
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent further deterioration of the food situation.

Prolonged dry conditions caused a steep decline in cereal and pasture production.

Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season caused serious damage to crops and pastures in several areas. Following release of the final 2009 cereal production figures by the Government, the aggregate cereal production is estimated at 3.5 million tonnes, which is 30 percent lower than the previous year's good output and 7 percent below the average of the previous five years. Production of cowpea, the main source of income for farmers, is estimated to have dropped by 37 percent to some 787 000 tonnes. Furthermore, biomass production in pastoral areas in 2009 was estimated to be 66 percent below domestic requirements. This deficit, the highest in 10 years, is three times as severe as in 2008.

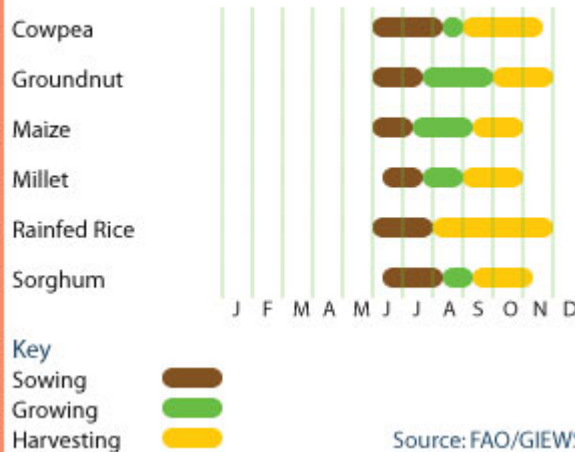
Food access is deteriorating because of high prices

Although coarse grain prices declined somewhat from their peak of September 2008, they have been on an upward trend since early 2009 and millet prices in March 2010 in markets of Niamey are still 42 percent higher than in March 2007 (before the global food price crisis). Prices of imported rice are also 20 percent higher. On the other hand, livestock prices have declined significantly leading to significant deterioration of the terms-of-trade for pastoralists. Current high food prices are occurring in spite of adequate import flows from neighbouring Benin and Nigeria. Regional trade continues to follow the normal market pattern, which in the eastern part of the (West African) subregion allows traders to move grains from northern Benin and Nigeria to Niger. The depreciation of the Naira (Nigeria currency) in recent months has contributed to the steady import flows.

The food situation is of grave concern

The combination of a fall in cereal production, reduced cash crop returns, poor rangeland conditions, and the continuing combination of poverty and persistently high food prices, could lead to sharp increases in malnutrition. In early March the government appealed for massive emergency aid to avert a food crisis that threatens large segments of the population. An estimated 2.6 million people located mostly in Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions will need food assistance this year, while an additional 5.1 million are considered at risk of food insecurity.

Crop calendar Niger

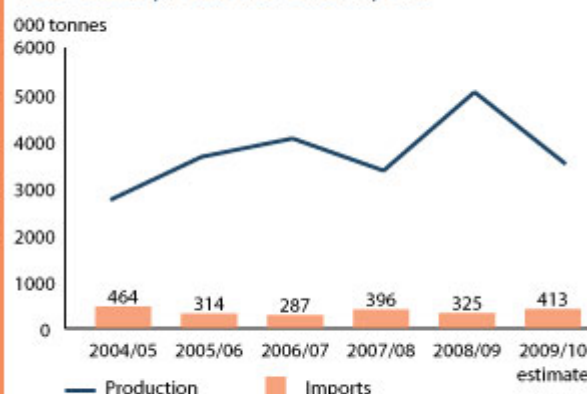


Niger Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
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Rice (paddy)	73	78	91	17
Others	25	56	6	-89
Total	3778	5048	3514	-30

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

Niger Total cereal production and imports

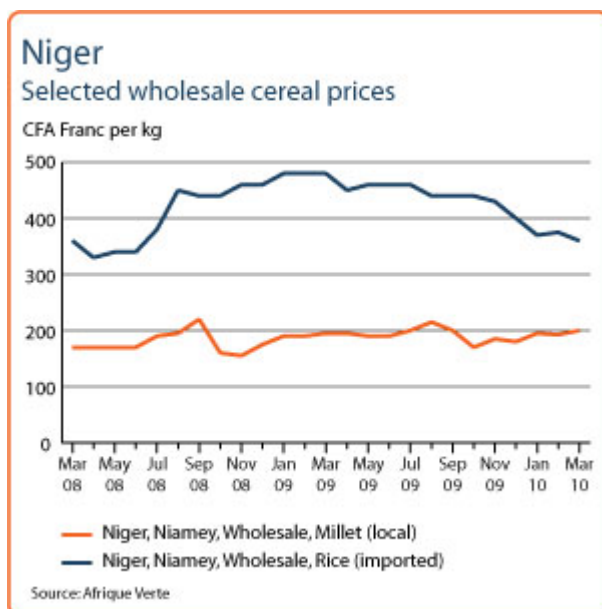


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Urgent actions are needed

In view of the current food supply and livestock situation, the situation is both serious and likely to deteriorate further in Niger. Therefore, the following urgent actions are recommended:

- Safety net interventions, such as targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities are required, with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas;
- Targeted distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer is also needed to enable farmers to produce enough food during the next cropping season (from June 2010);
- Urgent actions are also required to protect livestock assets of affected pastoralists' communities. These include de-stocking as well as the provision of feed and veterinary services
- Vulnerable people, especially children, need to continue to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres;
- Market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements.



Reference Date: 29-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2009 was 26 percent lower than 2008's crop, while production of cowpea dropped by 34 percent.
- 2009/10 pasture deficit is twice as severe as in the previous year.
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices.
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent a deterioration of the food situation.

Prolonged dry conditions cause a decline in cereal and pasture production.

Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season caused serious damage to crops and pastures in several areas. The most seriously affected departments included Bouza, Madaoua, Illéla, and Tahoua in the Tahoua region; N'Guigmi and Diffa in the Diffa region; Douchi in the Dosso region; Tessaoua and Mayahi in the Maradi region and Magaria, Mirriah, Gouré and Tanout in the Zinder region. Aggregate cereal production in 2009 is estimated at some 3.65 million tonnes, which is 26 percent lower than the bumper crop of 2008 and 3 percent below the average for the previous five years. Furthermore, following severe pest infestations and poor rainfall, production of cowpea, the main source of income for farmers, was estimated to drop by 34 percent to some 840 000 tonnes. Biomass production in pastoral areas of Niger in 2009 was estimated to be 66 percent below domestic requirements. This deficit is twice as severe as in previous year.

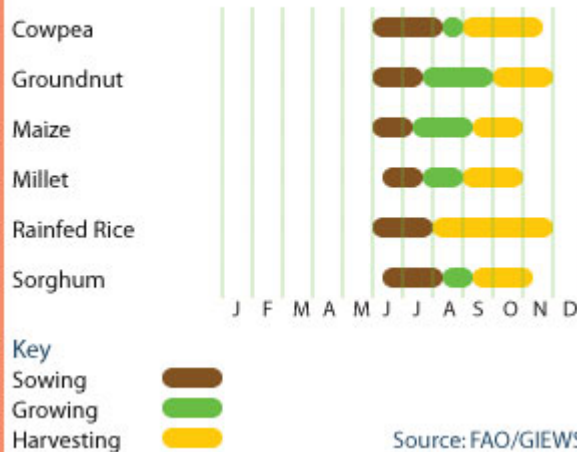
Food access remains difficult because of high prices

In 2009, cereal prices have remained well above the pre-food price crisis levels two years ago, in spite of the previous year's record crop. Although coarse grain prices declined somewhat from their peak of August-September 2008, millet prices in December 2009 in markets of Niamey were still 33 percent higher than in December 2007. Prices of imported rice were 25 percent higher. Moreover, millet production is estimated to decline steeply in neighbouring Nigeria, which could lead to a new rise in cereal prices across the subregion with a serious negative impact on rural food-deficit households and urban consumers. And the combination of reduced cash crop returns, poor rangeland conditions, a fall in production (especially for millet) in Northern Nigeria, and the continuing combination of poverty and persistently high food prices, could lead to sharp increases in malnutrition. Although livestock prices have remained relatively stable, several parts of the country may experience acute food insecurity if the upward trend in food price continues. An estimated 2.7 million people located mostly in Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions will need food assistance this year, while an additional 5.1 million are considered at risk of food insecurity according to the country's Early Warning System (SAP).

Urgent actions are needed

In view of the current food supply situation and unfavourable prospects

Crop calendar Niger

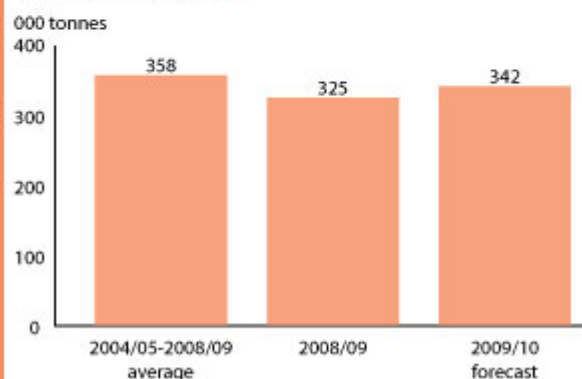


Niger Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	2830	3601	2802	-22
Sorghum	821	1171	750	-36
Rice	73	78	75	-4
Others	25	56	24	-57
Total	3749	4905	3652	-26

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports

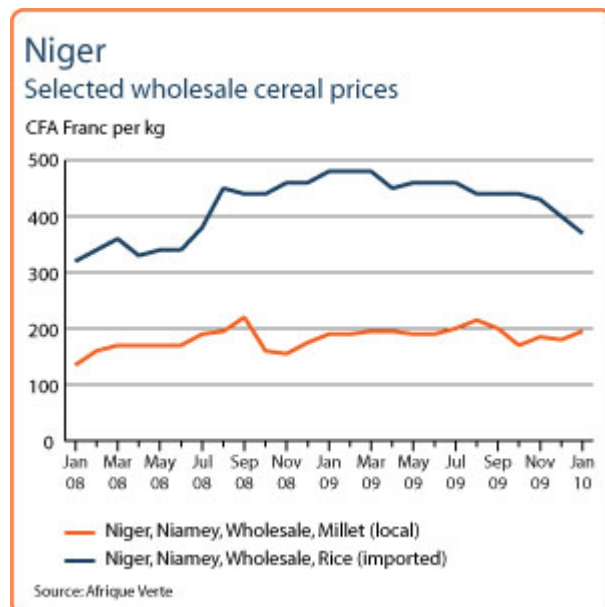


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

of imports from Nigeria, the situation is both serious and likely to deteriorate further in Niger. Therefore, the following urgent actions are recommended:

- Safety net interventions, such as targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities, will be required during next year lean season, with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas;
- Targeted distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer is also needed to enable farmers to produce enough food during the current off-season (December-February) and the next cropping season (from June 2010);
- Vulnerable people, especially children, need to continue to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres;
- Market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored in order to respond to any sharp increase in assistance requirements.



Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop prospects uncertain due mostly to irregular rains at the beginning of the season
- floods caused significant casualties and damaged crops in a few localities
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices

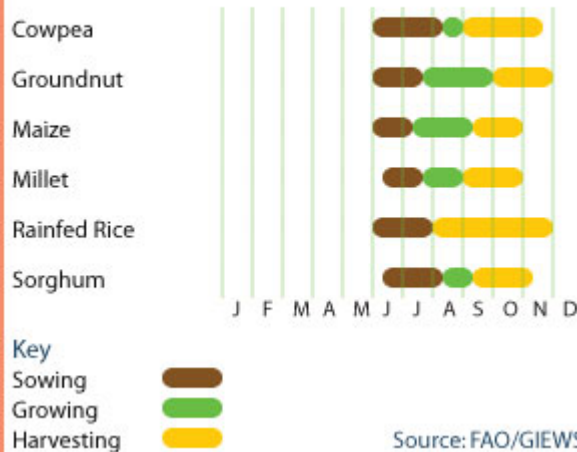
Growing conditions improved in July following the irregular rains at the beginning of the season but the rainfall deficit persists in several regions

Following the irregular rains in May and June, rainfall improved in some regions in July which reduced the water shortages and improved harvest prospects. However, rainfall remained insufficient in several regions, causing water stress to the crops and failed sowing, and limiting the regeneration of the rangelands. The most seriously affected departments were Bouza, Madaoua, Illéla, and Tahoua in the Tahoua region; N'Guigmi and Diffa in the Diffa region; Doutchi in the Dosso region; Tessaoua and Mayahi in the Maradi and Magaria, Mirriah, Gouré regions, and Tanout in the Zinder region. Crops and rangelands were seriously affected in these departments. As a consequence of the irregular start-up of the rainy season, development stages varied from one region to another, with retarded maturity of both cereals and niébé and groundnuts. Due to the late arrival of the rains and the initial drought, it will have to continue raining until October if the crops are to reach full maturity. Furthermore, there were violent storms and floods in some places caused victims and damaged crops in various places, especially in the municipalities of Téra and Bankilaré (Tillabéri region), the agricultural districts of Abdigia, Bogal and Dabaga (Agadez region) and in the village of Innagaré (Tahoua region). No assessment of the impact of the floods on the agriculture sector is yet available.

Food access remains difficult because of high prices

Despite the good cereals harvest in 2008, food access still remains difficult for substantial section of the population because of persistent high food prices. For example, following the lower prices recorded in the harvest period, millet prices began rising in December and in July reached close to the August-October 2008 peak which was 43 percent above July 2007. The situation was even worse for rice, whose prices are determined by world market prices. In Niger, the price of rice continued to rise, reaching 53 percent over two years at Niamey by July 2009. At this level, prices are likely to flare up again if the forthcoming harvests are poor. The state of agriculture, market conditions, and the plight of vulnerable groups must be constantly monitored in order to provide whatever assistance may be needed.

Crop calendar Niger



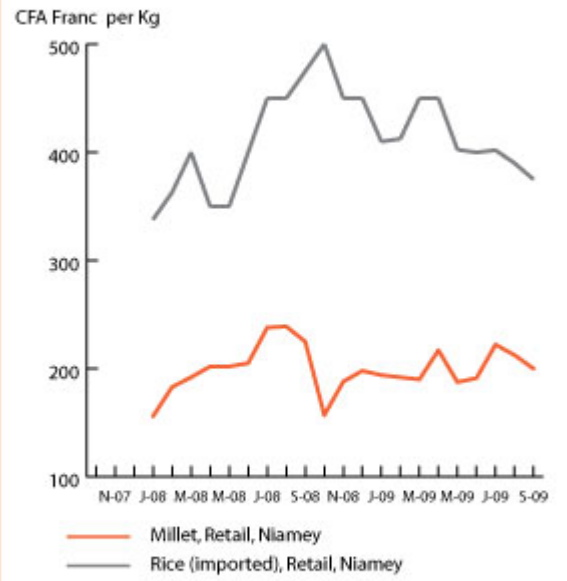
Cereal production and imports Niger

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	2830	3601	3100	-13.9%
Sorghum	820	1171	928	-20.8%
Rice (milled)	53	78	72	-7.7%
Other	17	55	30	-45.5%
Total Cereals	3728	4905	4130	-15.8%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Niger Selected cereal food prices



Source: Niger's agricultural market information system