



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Nicaragua

Reference Date: 16-February-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2023 forecast at average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2023/24 marketing year
- Prices of maize and beans lower year-on-year in January 2024

Cereal production in 2023 forecast at average level

The 2023 third beans “*apante*” crop, which accounts for about 35 percent of the annual production, is currently at vegetative and flowering stages, and satellite imagery indicates no drought-related stress to crops (ASI map). However, below-average rainfall amounts forecast in February could curtail yield prospects of crops that will be harvested in March. According to official estimates, the 2023 aggregate red beans output is expected to be above average and similar to the production attained in 2022.

The 2023 cereal production is forecast at average of 871 000 tonnes. After a decline in 2020, maize output has been on the rise and is expected to reach an average level of 385 000 tonnes, including the minor third crop that will be harvested next March. Paddy production is estimated at an above-average level of 440 000 tonnes, reflecting an increased use of high yielding varieties and an expansion of the area sown. The 2023 sorghum output is expected at 46 000 tonnes, about 20 percent below the five-year average. This is the result of a contraction in plantings, as prices of sorghum declined significantly in January 2023 and remained at generally lower yearon-year levels throughout the year.

Planting of the 2024 main season maize will start in May. Weather forecasts point to above-average rainfall amounts between March and May, which is likely to replenish soil moisture and benefit planting operations.

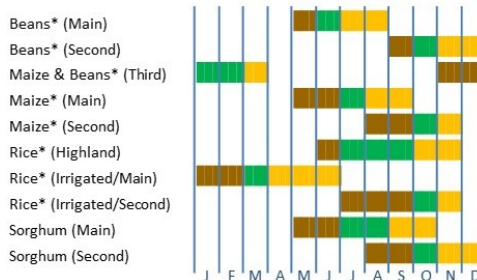
Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2023/24 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at an above-average level of 735 000 tonnes, reflecting the sustained domestic demand for yellow maize by the feed industry.

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

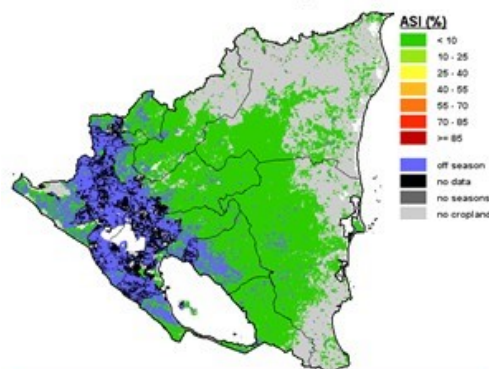


Lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Nicaragua - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, January 2024



Prices of maize and beans lower year-on-year in January 2024

Wholesale prices of white maize and red beans declined at the end of 2023 with improved seasonal availabilities and, as of January 2024, prices were lower year-on-year. Prices of rice strengthened throughout 2023 and were 5 percent above their year-earlier levels in January 2024. Despite the above-average paddy harvest in 2023, strong domestic demand and elevated international prices contributed to higher year-on-year prices of rice.

The annual inflation rate of food items was 7.3 percent in December 2023, down from 15.9 percent a year ago. In 2024, the inflation rate is forecast to decline further to [5 percent](#), likely improving access to food for the most vulnerable households.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

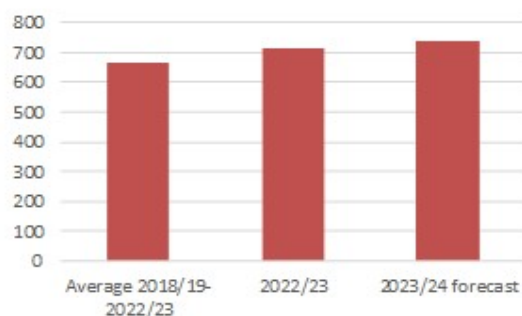
	2018-2022	2022	2023	change
	average		estimate	2023/2022
000 tonnes				
Rice (paddy)	405	430	440	2.3
Maize	386	381	385	1.1
Sorghum	58	55	46	-15.8
Total	849	866	871	0.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

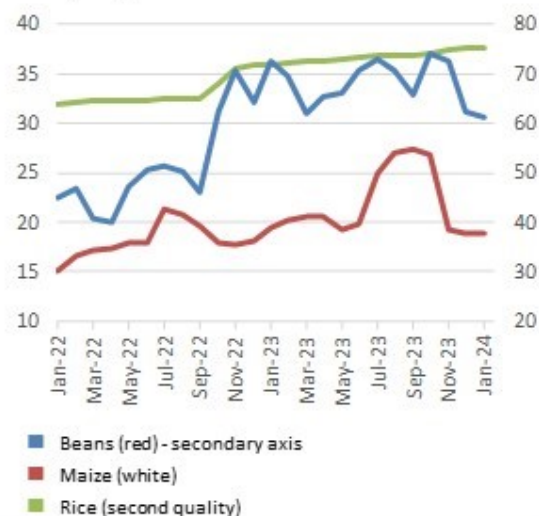


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Córdoba per kg



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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/>.



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Nicaragua

Reference Date: 30-March-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Output of cereals and beans in 2022 officially estimated at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year
- Prices of staple crops higher year-on-year in February 2023

Output of cereals and beans in 2022 officially estimated at above-average level

Harvesting of the 2022 third bean crop, which accounts for about 35 percent of the annual production, is nearing completion. According to official estimates, the 2022 aggregate red bean output is expected at an above-average level of 220 000 tonnes, reflecting an increase in planted area, as farmers responded positively to the strong demand for exports.

The 2022 cereal production is officially estimated at 870 000 tonnes, about 3 percent above the five-year average. Paddy production was above average, reflecting an increased use of high yield varieties and an expansion of area sown. After a decline in 2020, maize output increased for the second consecutive year in 2022 and reached an average level of nearly 390 000 tonnes. The increase in planted area is due to adequate soil moisture levels and farmers' expectations on high financial returns due to high prices of maize at planting time.

Planting of the 2023 main season maize will start in May. Weather forecasts point to below-average rainfall amounts from June onwards, associated with the El Niño phenomenon, with likely negative effects on the extent of plantings as well as crop yields.

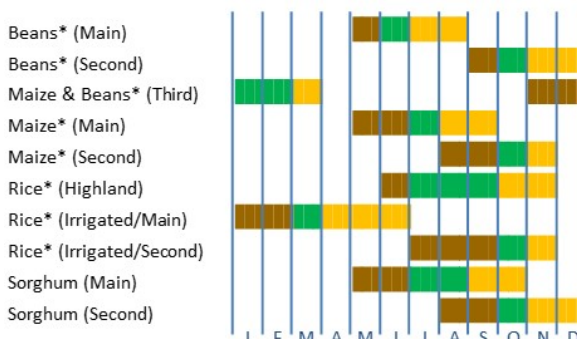
Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at an above-average level of nearly 800 000 tonnes, reflecting the sustained domestic demand of wheat-based products by households as well as for yellow maize by the feed industry.

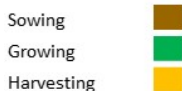
Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period



Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	391	381	386	1.4
Rice (paddy)	391	415	430	3.6
Sorghum	62	57	55	-3.8
Total	844	853	871	2.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

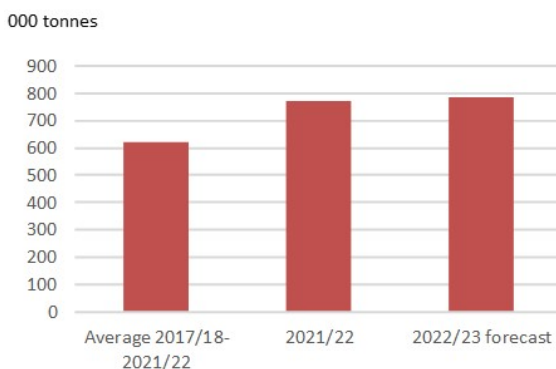
Prices of staple crops higher year-on-year in February 2023

In February 2023, wholesale prices of red beans were well above their year-earlier levels, following sharp increases in October and November 2022. During these months, precipitation amounts were above average and caused concerns about yields, as the bean crops are susceptible to excessive soil moisture. The strong demand by neighbouring countries also provided upward pressure on prices. Exports of beans in the second half of 2022 were nearly 25 percent above the five-year average.

Prices of white maize rose for the third consecutive month in February 2023, after seasonal declines between August and November 2022. Despite an increase in 2022 cereal production, prices of maize and rice were 20 and 10 percent, respectively, above their year-earlier levels, due to elevated production and transport costs. In the case of rice, rising quotations of the United States of America, the main source of imports, also supported the increase. Overall, prices of food items were higher year-on-year, with the annual inflation rate of food and non-alcoholic beverages at 15.2 percent in February 2023, up from 11 percent a year before.

Nicaragua

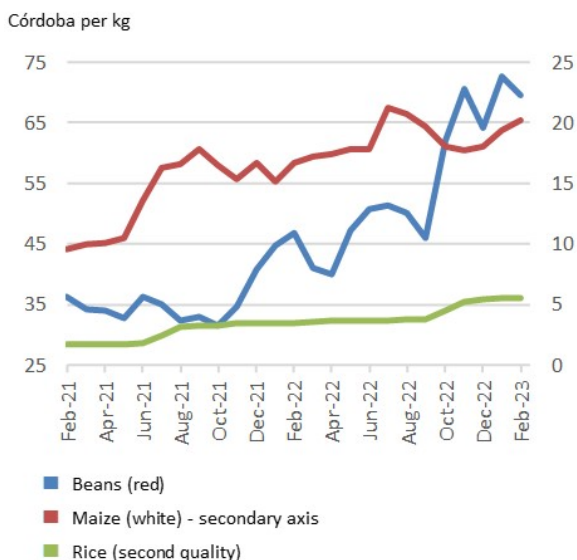
Cereals Imports



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

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua



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FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 25-July-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- First 2022 maize and paddy crops growing under favourable conditions
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year
- Prices of staple crops well above year-earlier levels in June
- High international prices of fertilizers and wheat expected to have negative impact on domestic food security

First 2022 maize and paddy crops growing under favourable conditions

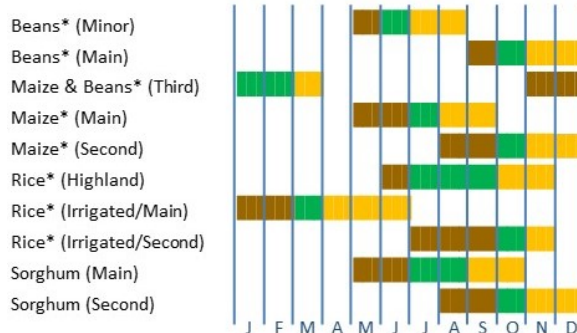
The 2022 main season maize crop is currently at vegetative and flowering stages and production is officially forecast at a near-average level. Plantings increased to average from the low 2020 and 2021 levels, when farmers preferred to plant red beans for export. The expansion of planted area in the 2022 main season mainly reflects favourable soil moisture levels at planting time and higher year-on-year prices of maize, more than offsetting the elevated production costs. In March 2022, the Ministry of Economy [announced](#) the plan to distribute 155 000 packages of free agricultural inputs to producers of poultry, fish, coffee, beans, rice and maize in 2022. Crop conditions are generally favourable (see green areas in the ASI map), supported by abundant rains since end-April. The passage of a tropical storm in early July brought heavy rains especially in the eastern region and, according to official sources, it did not affect agricultural production. Weather forecasts point to above-average rainfall amounts in August and September. In case of torrential rains during crop maturation stage or harvesting operations, the excessive moisture could restrain yield potential.

The 2022 rainfed rice crop is at early vegetative stage in the key producing eastern areas and northern highlands, while the irrigated rice crop is currently being planted in the central region. Aggregate paddy production is officially forecast at an above-average level of 432 000 tonnes, reflecting an increased use of high yield varieties and an expansion of area sown, owing to favourable weather conditions.

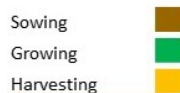
Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	393	381	398	4.5
Rice (paddy)	391	418	432	3.3
Sorghum	62	57	60	4.2
Total	846	856	889	3.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at an above-average level of 915 000 tonnes, reflecting the sustained demand for wheat-based products as well as for yellow maize by the local feed industry. Imports are expected to remain similar to the previous marketing year despite the increasing demand, due to expectations of good domestic cereal production in 2022.

Prices of staple crops well above year-earlier levels in June

Wholesale prices of white maize and rice had a sustained rising trend during the first half of the year and, as of June, they were 30 and 17 percent, respectively, higher year on year. Prices of red beans rose sharply in May and June and were 40 percent up from June 2021. The high level of prices of staple crops reflects the elevated production and transport costs, and the fixing of fuel prices since end-April has had a limited impact on containing the increase of food prices. Overall, prices of most food items were higher compared to a year earlier and the official annual inflation rate of food and non-alcoholic beverages was estimated at 15.5 percent in June.

High international prices of fertilizers and wheat expected to have negative impact on domestic food security

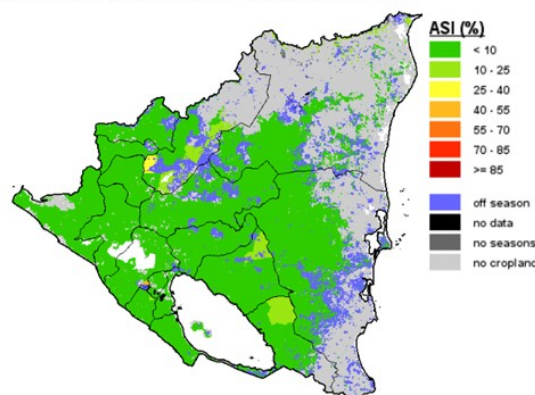
Between January and May, fertilizer imports declined compared to the previous year due to export restrictions imposed by the Russian Federation and China (mainland), the country's main fertilizers suppliers. The reduced fertilizer imports are likely to have a negative impact on the 2022 second and third seasons. In addition, as of June, international prices of fertilizers were higher year on year, likely reducing their affordability for farmers with negative consequences on future yields.

The country relies on imports to cover its domestic wheat requirements and, in the 2017-2021 period, about 65 percent of the wheat and wheat flour were imported from the Russian Federation. A fivefold increase of wheat imports from the United States of America during the first five months of 2022 compensated the reduced imports from the Russian Federation in 2022. The current high international prices of wheat are likely to limit the access to wheat-based products in domestic markets and result in increased demand for other cereals, adding upward pressure on prices of maize and rice.

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Nicaragua - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

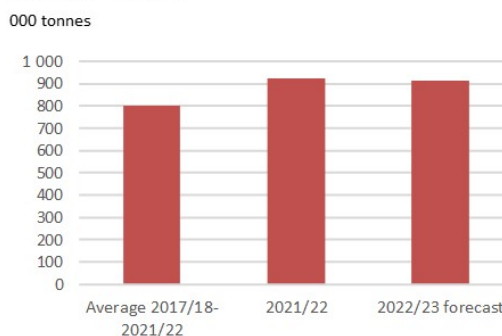
from start of season 1 to dekad 1, July 2022



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

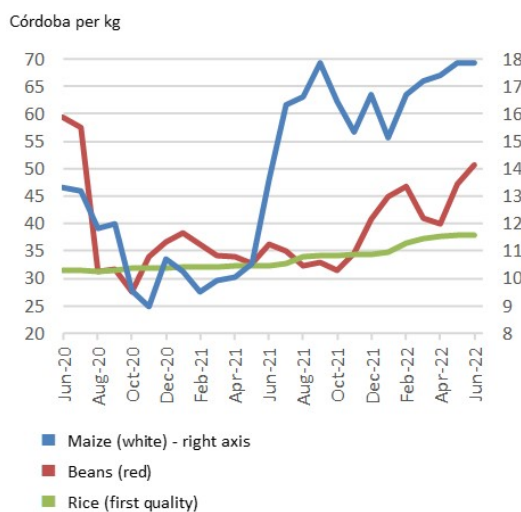


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua



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



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 02-November-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Output of 2021 maize harvest officially anticipated at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year
- Prices of white maize rose sharply in June-September 2021

Output of 2021 maize harvest officially anticipated at below-average level

The 2021 minor season maize is currently at vegetative and flowering stages. According to satellite imageries, crop conditions in the western region are generally favourable, while below-average precipitation amounts in September affected crops in the central region. Weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of average rain amounts in the November 2021 to January 2022 period, which are likely to restore soil moisture deficits and improve yields. According to official sources, the 2021 maize production, including the main season output harvested in the August to September period, is forecast at below-average 370 000 tonnes. This is mainly due to a contraction in plantings as farmers preferred to plant red beans, whose exports increased since the beginning of 2020, inferring improved financial gains for farmers. Yields of the main season output are estimated to be below average in the northcentral area due to limited rains in May and June during the planting and crop development stages.

Regarding the 2021 paddy, harvesting of the rainfed crop is ongoing in highlands. The 2021 aggregated paddy production is officially forecast at 420 000 tonnes, registering an increase for the sixth consecutive year, mainly due to an increased use of high yield varieties, together with the continued expansion of the area sown.

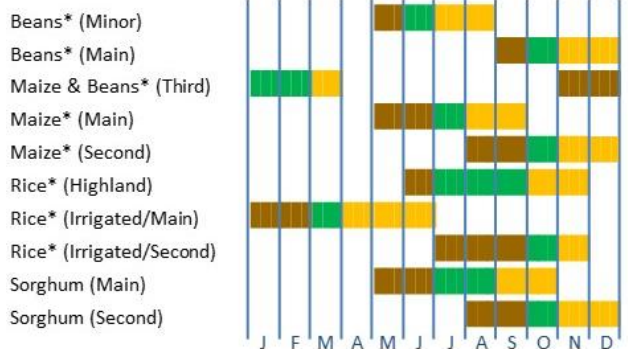
Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at high 820 000 tonnes, reflecting the sustained demand for wheat-based products as well as for yellow maize by the local feed industry. Compared to the previous marketing year, imports are expected to decline slightly due to existing large carryover stocks.

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2016-2020	2020	2021	change
	average			2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	399	376	370	-1.7
Rice (paddy)	379	406	420	3.4
Sorghum	78	58	63	8.1
Total	855	840	853	1.5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

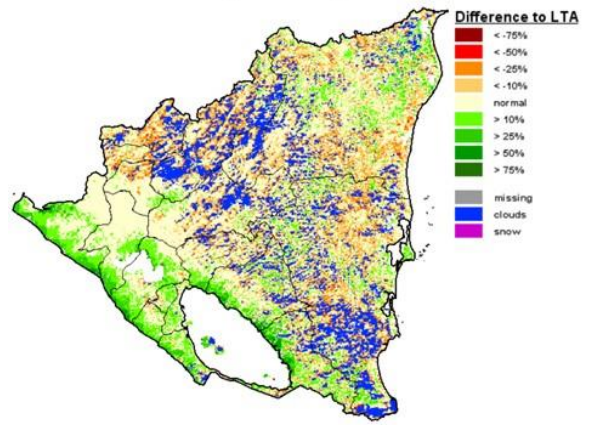
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of white maize rose sharply in June-September 2021

Prices of red beans have been generally stable in 2021, reflecting good harvests in 2020 and adequate market supplies. By contrast, prices of white maize increased sharply between June and September 2021 and were nearly 50 percent higher year on year in September. The high level of maize prices mainly reflects concerns over the impact of dry weather conditions on the main season harvest, exacerbated by elevated transport costs. The upward trend of international prices exerted additional pressure on domestic markets. Prices of rice also increased sharply between August and September 2021. Overall, prices of most food items were higher year on year, as indicated by the official annual inflation rate of food and non-alcoholic beverages, estimated at 8 percent in September 2021.

Nicaragua - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - Dekad 1, October 2021

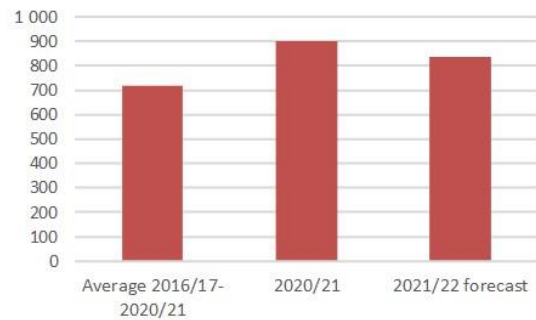


Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



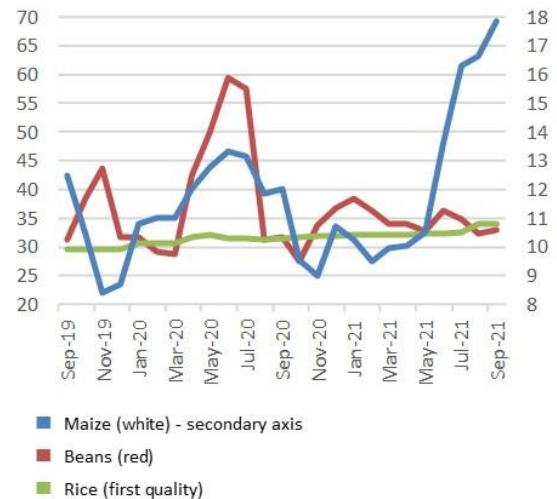
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 17-May-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting operations of 2021 main season maize crop underway
- Cereal production in 2020 estimated close to previous five-year average
- Cereal import requirements anticipated at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year
- Prices of white maize and red beans lower than high levels recorded in April 2020

Planting operations of 2021 main season maize crop underway

Following a timely onset of the seasonal rains, planting operations of the 2021 main season maize crop started in early May. The lower year on year prices of white maize grain is likely to prompt farmers to shift away from maize cultivation and opt for the more profitable bean crops. According to the official national production plan, 2021 maize production is targeted at a slightly below-average level of 389 000 tonnes, while above-average outputs are targeted for paddy (420 000 tonnes) and beans (220 000 tonnes). The weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of average rainfall amounts in the May-July period, providing conducive conditions for the crop development and flowering. During the same period, below-average precipitation amounts are forecast in the minor producing northern highlands and a close monitoring of crop conditions is required.

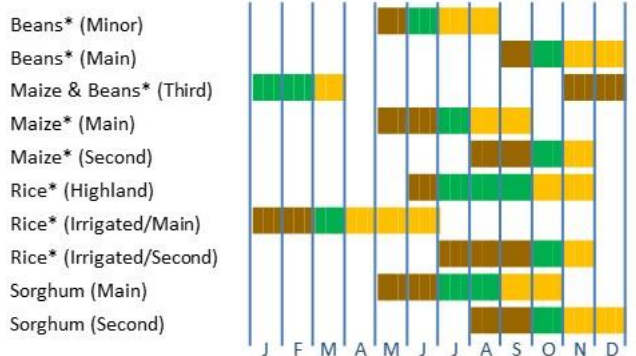
Cereal production in 2020 estimated close to previous five-year average

The 2020 cereal production is officially estimated at an average level of 700 000 tonnes. Paddy production in 2020 has increased for the fifth consecutive year due to large plantings and is estimated at an above-average level of 410 000 tonnes. By contrast, maize output is estimated at a slightly below-average level of 376 000 tonnes as the planted area decreased in favour of the more profitable bean crops. Beans production in 2020 is estimated at a well above-average level of 212 000 tonnes, as the large sowings more than offset the reduction in yields of the second season crops caused by the passage of two hurricanes in November 2020.

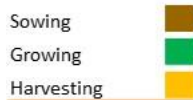
Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	382	405	376	-7.0
Rice (paddy)	360	399	410	2.8
Sorghum	84	58	58	0.1
Total	826	862	844	-2.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (September/August) are anticipated at high levels of 710 000 tonnes, but lower year on year due to large carryover stocks from the 2019 record imports. The above-average levels of requirements reflect an increasing demand for wheat-based products as well as for yellow maize by the local feed industry.

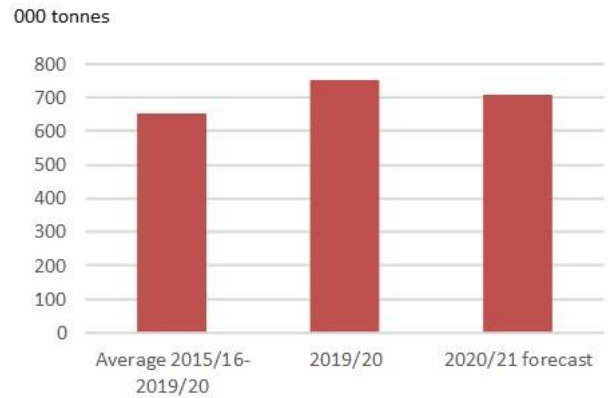
Prices of white maize and red beans lower than high levels recorded in April 2020

Prices of red beans declined between February and April 2021, as the recently completed 2020 third season harvest improved market availabilities. Prices were lower than a year earlier, when an atypical upsurge was recorded amid the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of white maize started to increase seasonally in March but were lower than the high levels of one year before. Prices of rice have been overall stable during the first four months of 2021 and, as of April, they around their year-earlier values.

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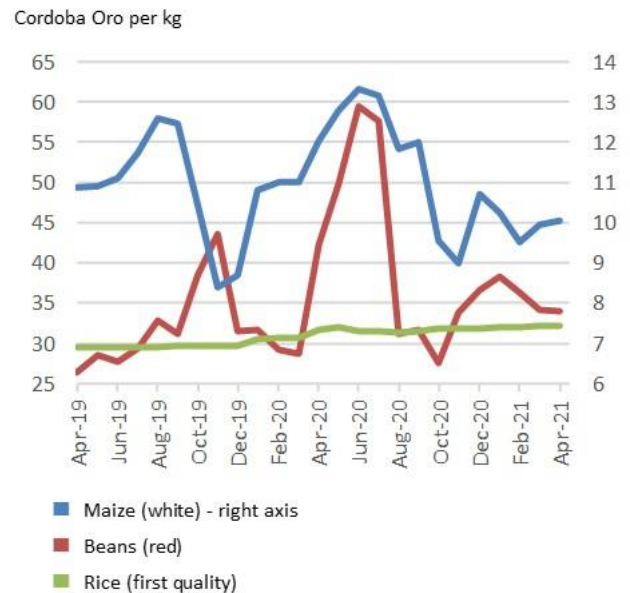
Cereals Imports



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

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua



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



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 28-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2020 forecast at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year
- In September, prices of red beans were around year-earlier values

Cereal production in 2020 forecast at above-average level

The harvest of the 2020 main season maize crop was completed in September and production is estimated to be above average due to good seasonal rains that instigated large plantings and favoured yields. Similarly, the output of the 2020 minor season bean crop, gathered in August, is estimated at an above-average level. This mainly reflects an increase in planted area, supported by high prices, which soared during the planting period due to high domestic and export demands amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the 2020 minor season maize and main season beans crops are at vegetative stage. According to satellite imagery, crop conditions are favourable supported by slightly above-average rains since September. Weather forecasts indicate a high probability of average to slightly above-average precipitation amounts in the last two months of 2020, raising prospects especially for yields of the maize crop. In the case of beans, which are more susceptible to the impact of excessive moisture, a close monitoring of pest infestations is required.

Harvesting of the 2020 rainfed paddy crop is ongoing and the irrigated minor season paddy crop will be harvested in November. Production is expected at an above-average level due to increased plantings of both rainfed and irrigated areas, reflecting adequate rainfall amounts since mid-May. The aggregate paddy production in 2020 is forecast at 415 000 tonnes, 15 percent higher than the previous five-year average due to large plantings as well as good yields.

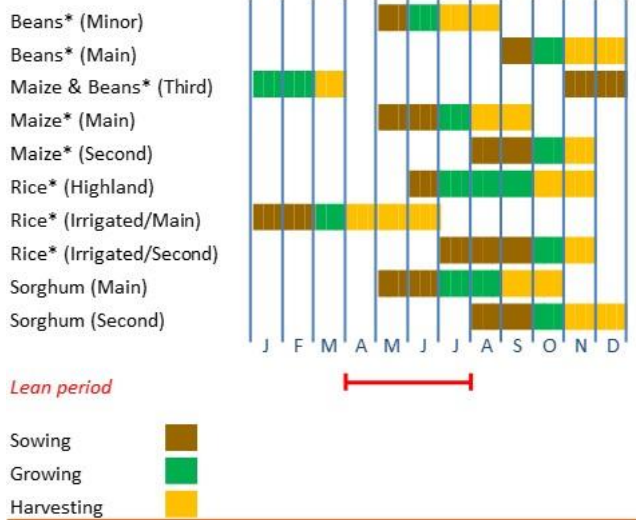
Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (September/August) are forecast at a high level of 670 000 tonnes. The above-average imports reflect an increasing demand

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2015-2019	2019	2020 estimate	change
	average			2020/2019
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	382	405	420	3.8
Rice (paddy)	360	399	415	4.0
Sorghum	84	58	61	6.0
Total	826	862	896	4.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

for wheat-based products as well as for yellow maize by the local feed industry.

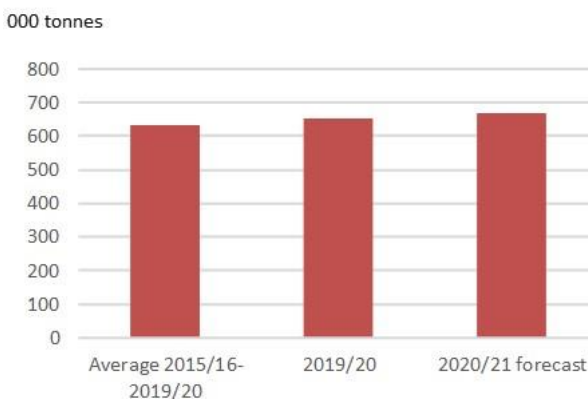
In September, prices of red beans were around year-earlier values

After a sharp increase between April and July 2020, prices of red beans dropped in August and remained stable in September due to increased market availabilities from the minor season harvest. The lower demand, which had elevated amid the COVID-19 pandemic, also put additional downward pressure on prices. In September, prices were similar to the values of a year earlier.

Prices of white maize declined seasonally in July and August and were slightly lower year on year in September, reflecting the above-average main season output. Prices of rice have been overall stable since June and, as of September, were about 6 percent above their values in 2019 due to the strong domestic demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nicaragua

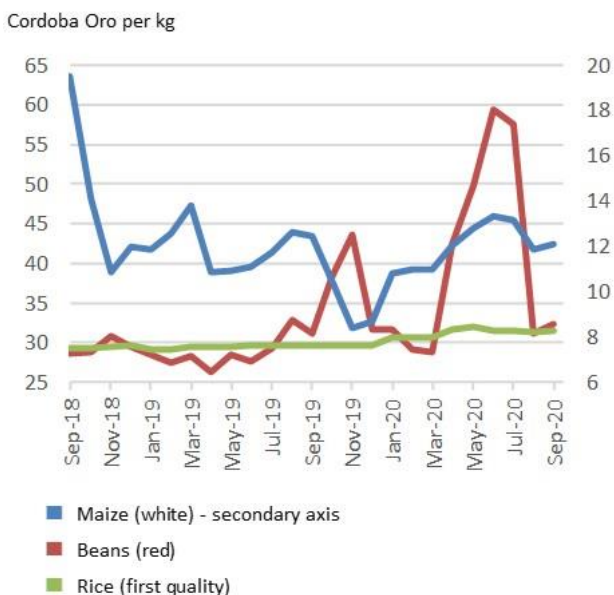
Cereals Imports



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.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 04-June-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Official target for 2020 cereal output set at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements anticipated to increase in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of red beans sharply increased in April and higher year on year

Official target for 2020 cereal output set at above-average level

Planting of the 2020 main season maize crop is ongoing following the timely onset of seasonal rains in mid-May. The Government set a new production target for this year at 420 000 tonnes, about 10 percent higher than the five-year average due to improving yields. The weather forecast points to average to above-average rains between June and August, which is expected to be favourable for crop development. Torrential rainfalls are forecast in July in the southern producing area, which could potentially trigger localized flooding.

Harvesting of the 2020 irrigated main season paddy crop is virtually complete and crop production is estimated at an above-average level due to increased plantings. Planting of the rainfed paddy crop will begin in June in the highlands and adequate rainfall since mid-May is expected to support planting operations. The official target production for rice in 2020 is set at 425 000 tonnes, more than 15 percent higher than the previous five-year average. Rice production has been growing during the past four years due to large plantings as well as good yields.

Cereal import requirements anticipated to increase in 2019/20 marketing year

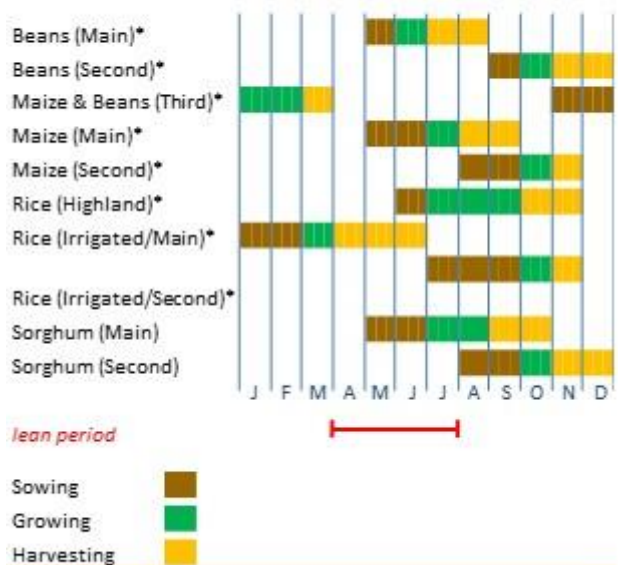
Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (September/August) are anticipated at 675 000 tonnes, 10 percent higher than the previous five-year average. The high level of imports reflects an increasing demand for wheat-based products and for yellow maize by the feed industry.

Prices of red beans sharply increased in May for second consecutive month

As a surplus bean producer, the country is an important exporter of red beans within the region. The export demand from the neighbouring countries increased sharply from March amid the COVID-19 outbreak, causing sharp rises in domestic prices in

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	382	405	419	3.4
Rice (paddy)	362	403	425	5.5
Sorghum	84	58	61	6.0
Total	828	866	905	4.5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

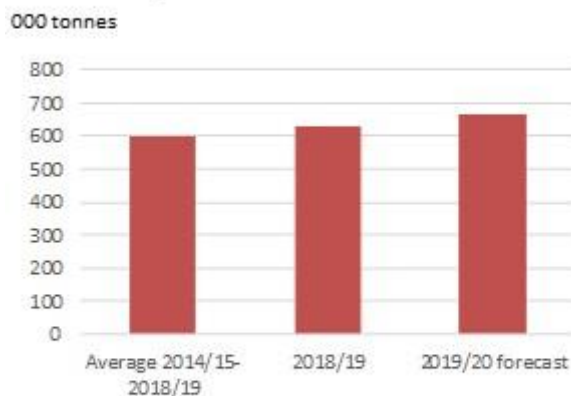
April and May. Prices of white maize are strengthening since December 2019 following seasonal trends. In May, they increased by 6 percent month on month, supported by the sustained increase in domestic demand triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of rice also increased during the first five months of 2020. Overall, prices of grains in May were higher year on year.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

The Government decided not to adopt any confinement measures, but it is promoting social distancing. Sanitary control measures have been reinforced in schools, markets and public transportation.

Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

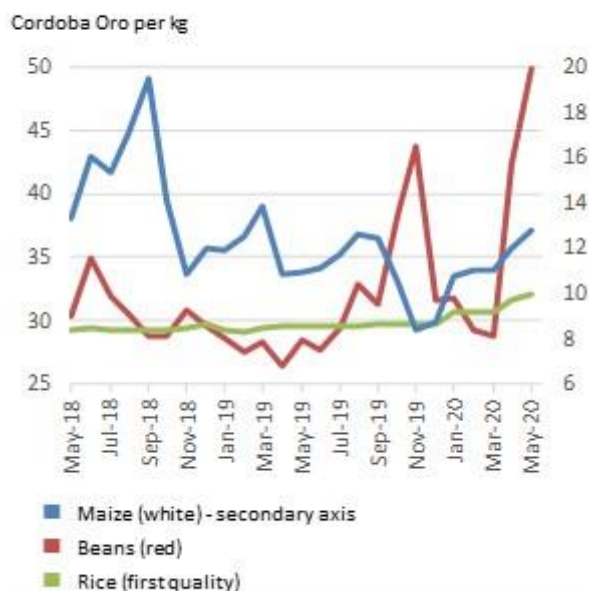


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 06-December-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2019 anticipated slightly below-average level
- Cereal imports anticipated to increase in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of white maize decreased seasonally

Maize production in 2019 anticipated slightly below-average level

Harvesting of the 2019 minor season maize and main season bean crops are ongoing and production is expected at an average level as improved rainfall in September benefitted planting operations and early development of crops. Excessive precipitations in mid-October affected crops, in particular beans, in the western producing region.

The 2019 main season maize output, harvested in September, is estimated at a below-average level due to limited rainfall in the June-August period in some key producing northern areas. The rainfall accumulated during this period in the departments of Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia, Estelí and Madriz was about 40 percent lower than the long-term average. As a result, the 2019 aggregate maize output is expected at 360 000 tonnes, slightly below the average.

Cereal imports anticipated to increase in 2019/20 marketing year

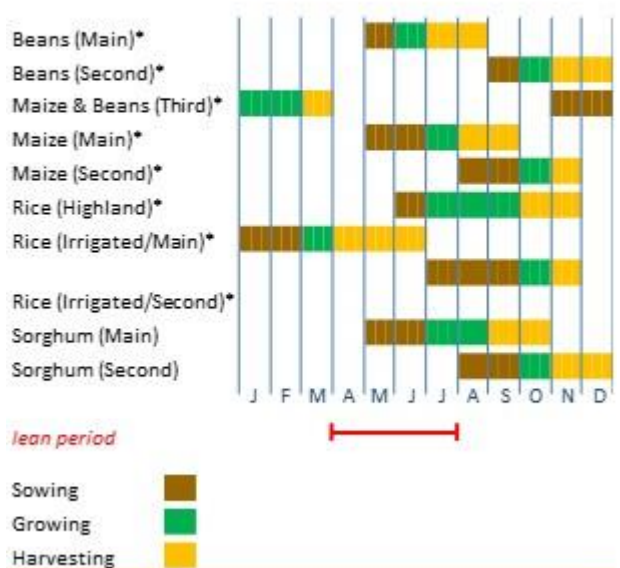
Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (September/August) are anticipated at an above-average level of 615 000 tonnes, reflecting the expected below-average production of white maize in 2019. Firm imports of wheat and yellow maize are also anticipated, maintaining cereal import volumes above the five-year average.

Prices of white maize decreased seasonally

Prices of white maize declined in September and October due to improved supplies in most markets due to commercialization of the main season harvested crops and were below the near-record highs of a year earlier, when social turmoil had caused their upsurge. By contrast, prices of red beans increased sharply in October as excessive rainfall increased concerns over the 2019 final output.

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	373	395	355	-10.2
Rice (paddy)	344	373	370	-0.8
Sorghum	95	60	60	-0.2
Total	812	828	785	-5.2

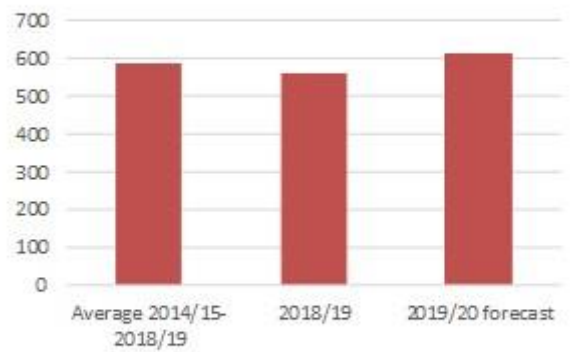
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



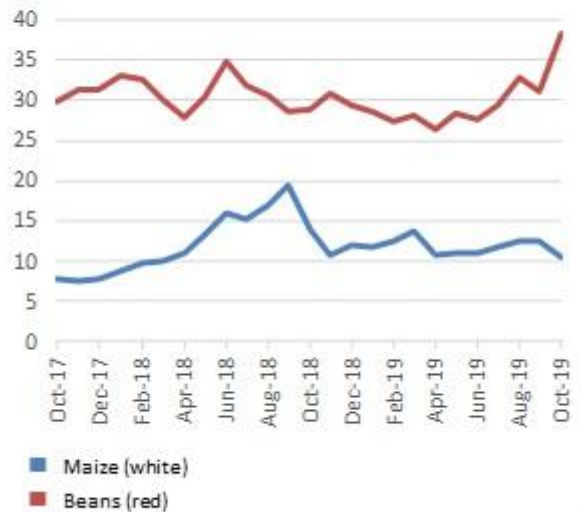
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per kg



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

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



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 15-April-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2018 estimated at high level
- Cereal imports expected to slightly decrease in 2018/19 marketing year
- Prices of white maize in March remained well above year-earlier levels, while prices of beans lower year on year

Cereal production in 2018 estimated at high level

Harvesting of the third “apante” season maize crop is nearing completion and production of the aggregate cereal production in 2018 is estimated at an above-average level of 870 000 tonnes, reflecting mostly favourable weather conditions. While in neighbouring countries, especially in the Dry Corridor Region, the main 2018 maize crops were adversely affected by dryness during the crop-flowering and grain-filling stage of the main maize season; weather conditions were generally favourable, except some limited dry conditions in northern Madriz and Chinandega departments. As a result, the 2018 aggregate maize production is estimated at 415 000 tonnes, 5 percent above the previous five-year average. Rice paddy production in 2018/19 is estimated at 365 000 tonnes, 10 percent higher than the previous five-year average due to an increase in plantings. Harvesting of the third “apante” season bean crop is nearing completion and its 2018 production is estimated to be above average.

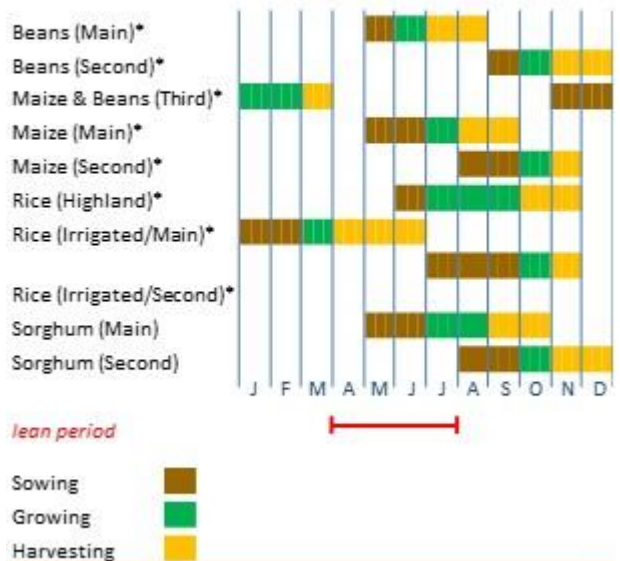
Regarding the 2019 production, harvesting of irrigated paddy is underway in the Pacific and northern regions and larger plantings point to an increase in the irrigated main season output.

Planting of the main 2019 maize crop is expected to begin in May and area planted is uncertain as a consequence of the tax reform that came into effect in February 2019. With this reform, the Value Added Tax (VAT) will be applied to agricultural services such as threshing, milling and storing, with consequent increases in production costs. However, staple foods, including maize, beans and rice (80/20 quality or lower) and products supplied directly from smallholder farmers, will remain exempt from VAT. Further, fewer agricultural credits were disbursed during the last months of 2018 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, reflecting the political instability, which could instigate a contraction in plantings in the agricultural season in 2019.

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	377	415	410	-1.2
Rice (paddy)	342	365	370	1.4
Sorghum	101	90	95	5.6
Total	820	870	875	0.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal imports expected to slightly decrease in 2018/19 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (September/August) are expected to slightly decrease from the previous year reflecting the above-average cereal output obtained in 2018. However, firm imports of wheat and yellow maize are anticipated to maintain aggregate cereal imports above the five-year average.

Prices of white maize in March remained well above year-earlier levels, while prices of beans lower year on year

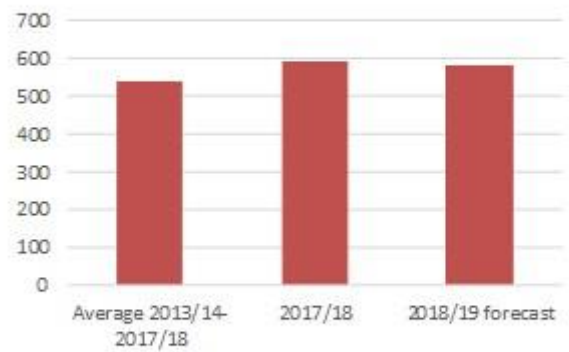
Prices of white maize continued to strengthen in March in line with seasonal trends. Despite the good 2018 maize output, prices were about 40 percent higher than their values a year earlier, reflecting higher production costs. Moreover, the regional concerns over the impact of dryness in the Dry Corridor on the main season output pushed the price levels above their year-earlier levels throughout the region. The social unrest that broke out in April 2018 contributed to further upward pressures on prices. Prices of red beans in March were slightly lower than the previous year, as the ample supplies from the third “apante” season harvest are supplying the markets.

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Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



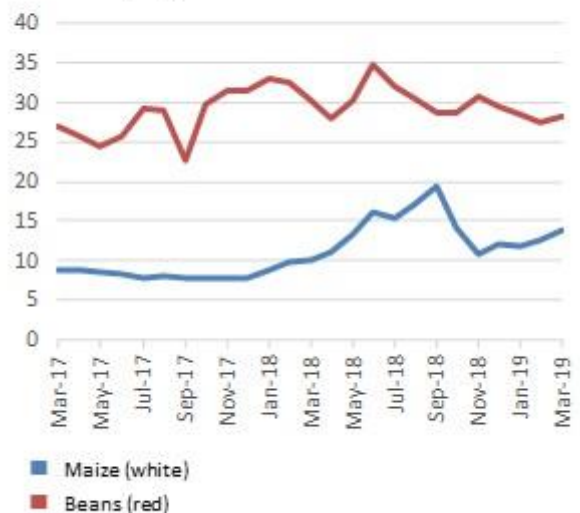
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 15-April-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2018 estimated at high level
- Cereal imports expected to slightly decrease in 2018/19 marketing year
- Prices of white maize in March remained well above year-earlier levels, while prices of beans lower year on year

Cereal production in 2018 estimated at high level

Harvesting of the third “apante” season maize crop is nearing completion and production of the aggregate cereal production in 2018 is estimated at an above-average level of 870 000 tonnes, reflecting mostly favourable weather conditions. While in neighbouring countries, especially in the Dry Corridor Region, the main 2018 maize, crops were adversely affected by dryness during the crop-flowering and grain-filling stage of the main maize season; weather conditions were generally favourable, except for some limited dry conditions in northern Madriz and Chinandega departments. As a result, the 2018 aggregate maize production is estimated at 415 000 tonnes, 5 percent above the previous five-year average. Rice paddy production in 2018/19 is estimated at 365 000 tonnes, 10 percent higher than the previous five-year average due to an increase in plantings. Harvesting of the third “apante” season bean crop is nearing completion and its 2018 production is estimated to be above average.

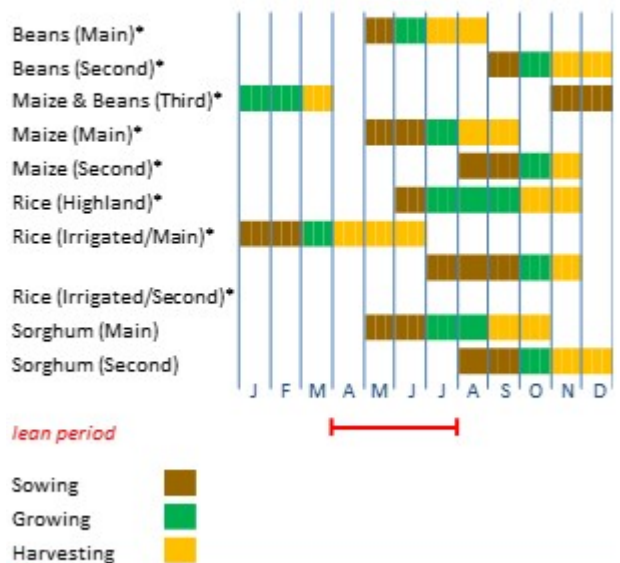
Regarding 2019 production, harvesting of irrigated paddy is underway in the Pacific and northern regions and larger plantings point to an increase in the irrigated main season output.

Planting of the main 2019 maize crop is expected to begin in May and area planted is uncertain as a consequence of the tax reform that came into effect in February 2019. With this reform, the Value Added Tax (VAT) will be applied to agricultural services such as threshing, milling and storing, with consequent increases in production costs. However, staple foods, including maize, beans and rice (80/20 quality or lower) and products supplied directly from smallholder farmers, will remain exempt from VAT. Further, fewer agricultural credits were disbursed during the last months of 2018 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year reflecting the political instability, which could instigate a contraction in plantings in the agricultural season in 2019.

Nicaragua

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Nicaragua

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	377	415	410	-1.2
Rice (paddy)	342	365	370	1.4
Sorghum	101	90	95	5.6
Total	820	870	875	0.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal imports expected to slightly decrease in 2018/19 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (September/August) are expected to slightly decrease from the previous year reflecting the above-average cereal output obtained in 2018. However, firm imports of wheat and yellow maize are anticipated to maintain the aggregate cereal imports above the five-year average.

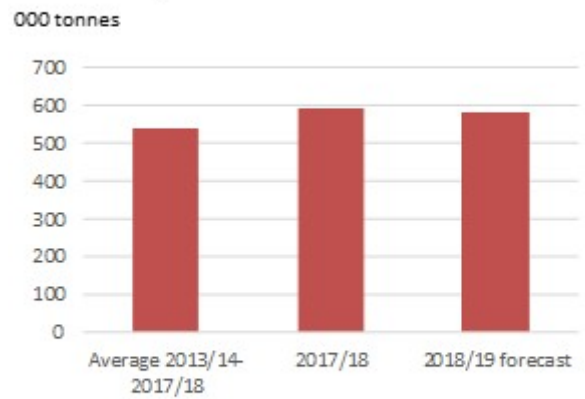
Prices of white maize in March remained well above year-earlier levels, while prices of beans lower year on year

Prices of white maize continued to strengthen in March in line with seasonal trends. Despite the good 2018 maize output, prices were about 40 percent higher than their values a year earlier, reflecting higher production costs. Moreover, regional concerns over the impact of dryness in the Dry Corridor on the main season output pushed the price levels above their year-earlier levels throughout the region. The social unrest that broke out in April 2018 contributed to further upward pressures on prices. Prices of red beans in March were slightly lower than the previous year, as the ample supplies from the third “apante” season harvest are supplying the markets.

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Nicaragua

Cereals Imports

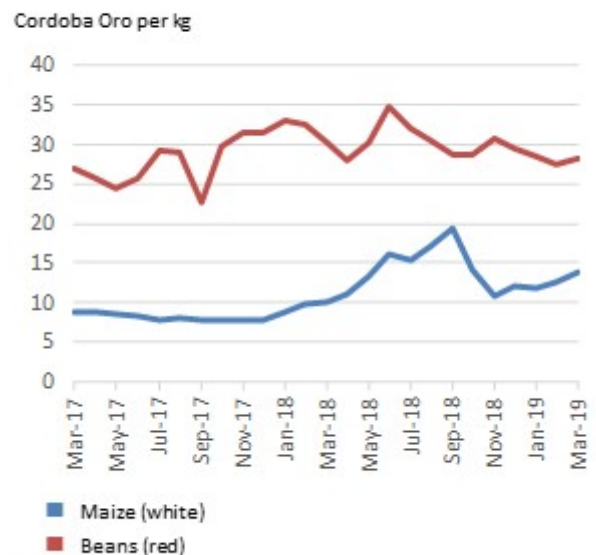


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua



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



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 21-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 officially forecast to remain at high level
- Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2016/17 marketing year
- Prices of white maize and beans in May remained well below year earlier levels

Cereal production in 2017 officially forecast to remain at high level

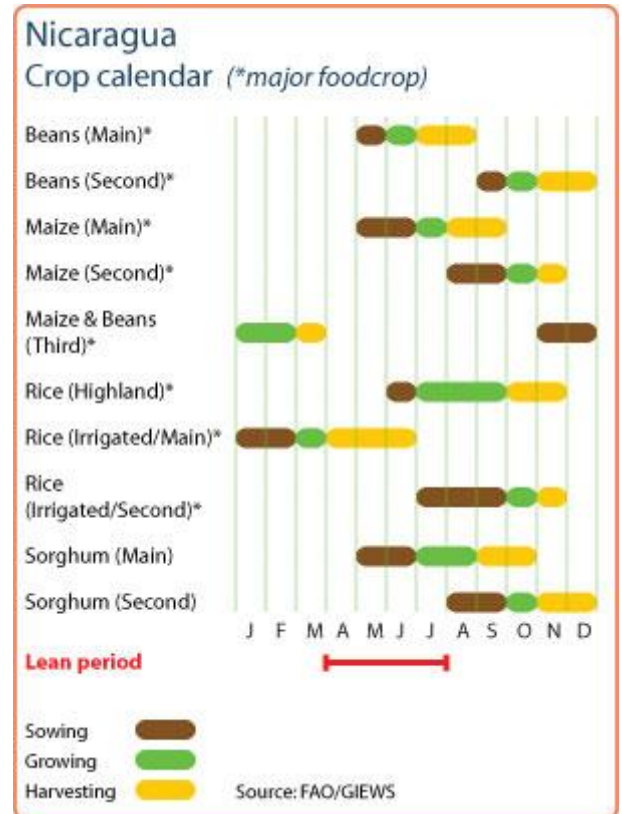
Planting of the main 2017 cereal “de primera” season, mostly maize, is ongoing and will be finalized soon. Good weather conditions and continued support from the Government through the distribution of seeds and fertilizer are anticipated to encourage greater maize plantings. Official forecasts anticipate an almost 2 percent increase in sowings and a maize output of 416 000 tonnes. By contrast, sowings of sorghum have been forecast at a sharply reduced level, as farmers have diversified to other crops. Assuming normal weather conditions during the ongoing “de primera” season and for the rest of the year, official forecasts for the country’s 2017 overall cereal production point to an output of 835 000 tonnes, some 5 percent below last year’s high level, mostly due to the anticipated decline in sorghum output, but well above the country’s five-year average.

Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the current 2016/17 marketing year (September/August) are expected to decrease by 4 percent from the previous year reflecting the strong recovery in 2016 cereal output, in particular maize. However, firm imports of wheat are anticipated to maintain aggregate cereal imports above the five-year average.

Prices of white maize and beans in May remained well below year earlier levels

Prices of white maize and red beans in May significantly declined and were well below their year earlier levels pressured downward by supplies from the recent third season harvest concluded in March and overall good 2016 outputs.



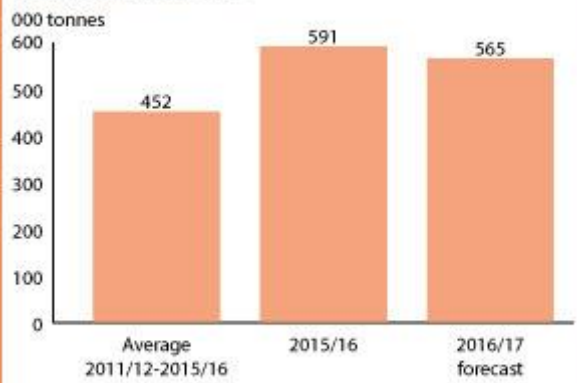
Nicaragua Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	394	411	416	1
Rice (paddy)	321	335	340	1
Sorghum	101	133	79	-41
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	816	878	835	-5

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

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports



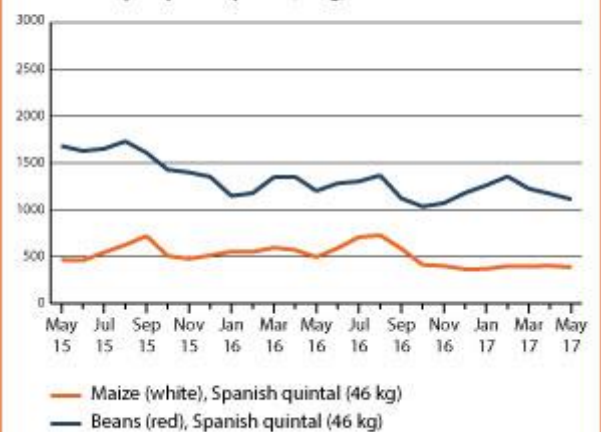
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: SIMPAH



GIEWS Country Brief Nicaragua

Reference Date: 10-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 to recover from last year's drought-reduced level
- Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2016/17 marketing year
- Prices of white maize and beans strongly declined in October

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

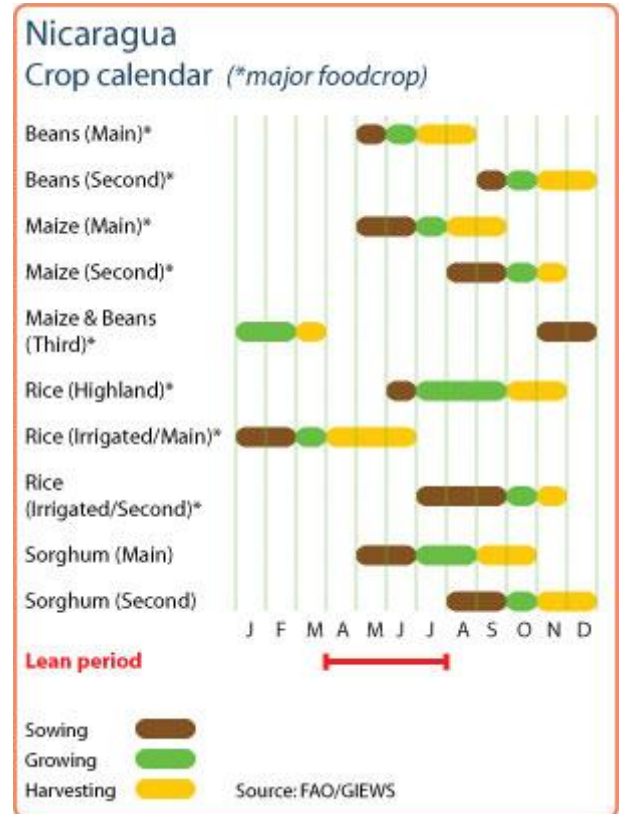
The harvest of the main "de primera" cereal season, accounting for some 60 percent of the annual cereal production, concluded in October and early estimates point to a better-than-expected outcome. Planting of the second season, mostly of beans, also concluded in October under favourable weather conditions. Reflecting the good first season harvest, the 2016 cereal production forecast has been revised upwards to 855 000 tonnes, 22 percent up from last year's drought-reduced level and above the five-year average. The increase mainly reflects a recovery in the area sown favoured by improved precipitation as a result of the dissipation of the El Niño event at the beginning of the season. Output of maize, in particular, is anticipated to recover sharply from last year's reduced level to 420 000 tonnes. Rice and sorghum are also anticipated to increase but at a smaller rate.

Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the current 2016/17 marketing year (September/August) are expected to decrease by 5 percent from the previous year reflecting the recovery in this year's cereal output and in particular maize. However, firm imports of wheat are anticipated to maintain aggregate cereal imports above the five-year average.

Prices of white maize and beans strongly declined in October

White maize prices declined by almost 30 percent in October, continuing the downward trend of the previous months and were almost 20 percent below year-earlier levels, as ample supplies from the main "de primera" cereal season harvest, estimated to have strongly recovered from last year's drought-reduced level, continued to pressure prices downward.



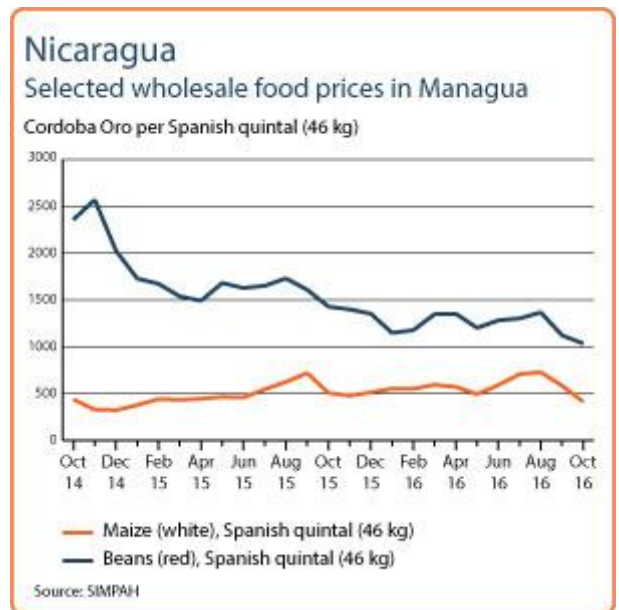
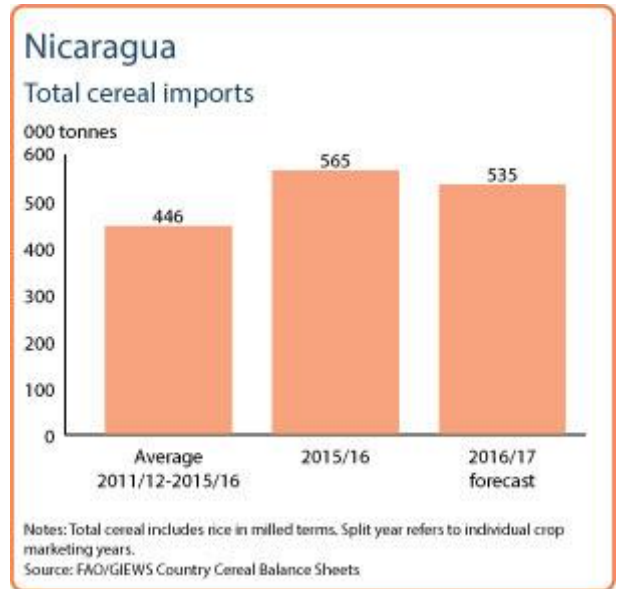
Nicaragua

Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	388	292	420	44
Rice (paddy)	319	317	335	6
Sorghum	100	92	100	9
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	806	701	855	22

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

Prices of beans declined 8 percent in October with the conclusion of the good secondary “de primera” season harvest and were some 28 percent below year-earlier levels.



Reference Date: 30-May-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 to recover from last year's drought-reduced level
- Cereal imports expected to increase in 2015/16 marketing year
- Prices of white maize remained at high levels, those of red beans stable and lower than a year earlier

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

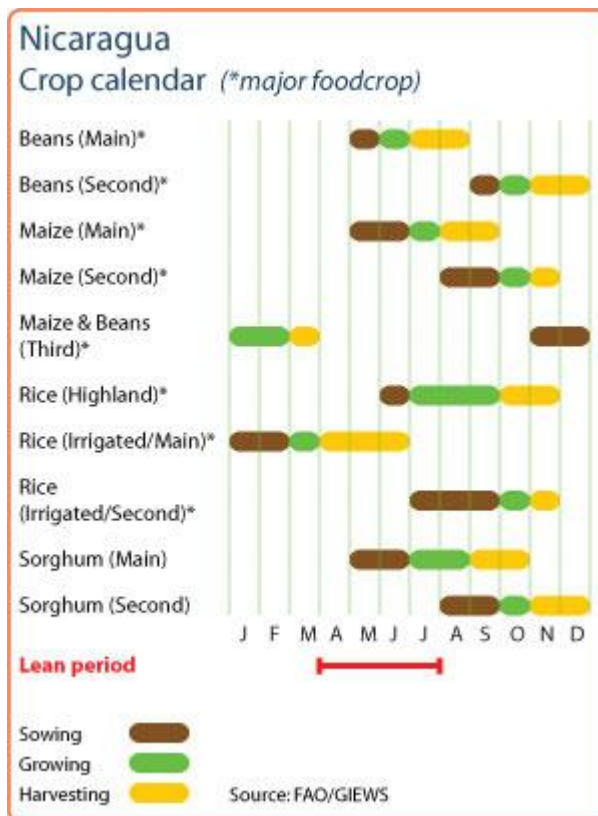
Planting of the 2016 main *de primera* cereal season, accounting for about 60 percent of the annual cereal output, is underway and will conclude in late June. The 2016 cereal production is officially forecast at 987 000 tonnes, 14 percent up from last year's drought-reduced level, but still marginally below the five-year average. The increase mainly reflects a recovery in the area sown favoured by improved precipitation now that the El Niño event is dissipating. Output of maize, in particular, is anticipated to recover sharply from last year's reduced level to 409 000 tonnes. Rice and sorghum are also anticipated to increase but at a smaller rate.

Cereal imports expected to increase in marketing year 2015/16

Cereal imports in the current 2015/16 marketing year (September/August) are expected to increase by 22 percent from the previous year following two consecutive years of reduced cereal production. Rice and maize account for the bulk of the increase.

Prices of white maize at high levels in April, those of red beans stable and lower than a year earlier

Wholesale prices of white maize in April remained well above their year-earlier levels due to the tight domestic supplies following the drought-reduced 2015 output. By contrast, prices of red beans, an important staple food, remained virtually unchanged compared to March and were down from a year earlier, reflecting ample carryover supplies from the 2015 main season harvest.



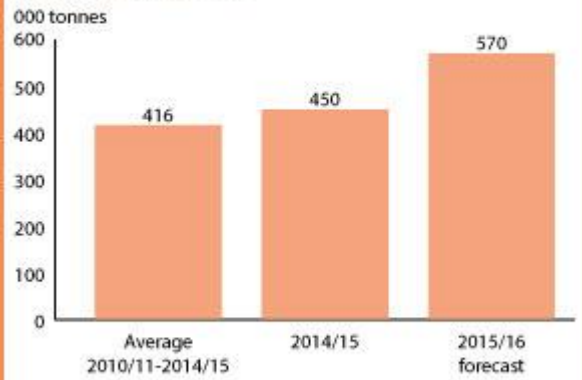
Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	519	480	485	1
Maize	388	292	409	40
Sorghum	100	92	93	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	1 007	864	987	14

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

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports

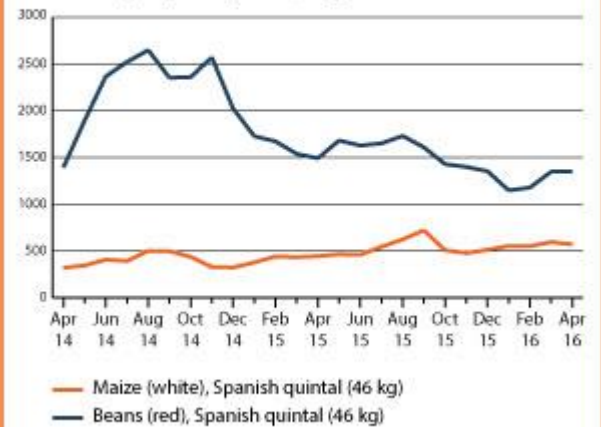


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

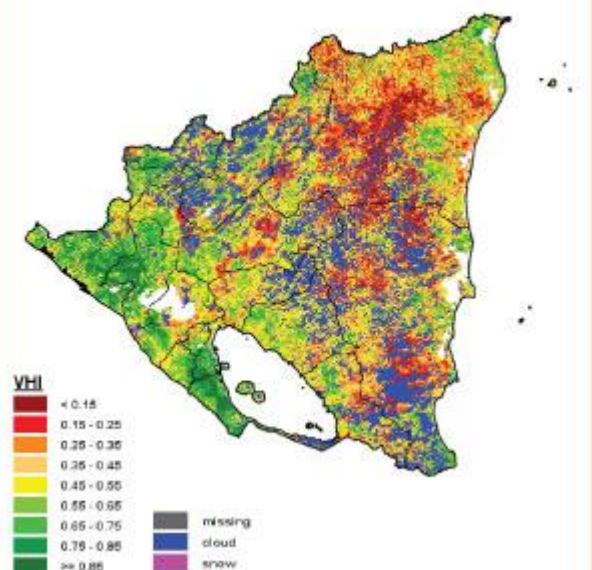
Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: SIMPAH

Nicaragua - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

2nd Dekad May 2016



Reference Date: 19-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Uncertain outlook for upcoming main de primera season due to dry conditions**
- **Cereal imports expected to increase in 2015/16 marketing year**
- **Prices of white maize and beans increased sharply in March**

Uncertain outlook for upcoming main *de primera* season due to dry conditions

Planting of the 2016 main *de primera* cereal season normally begins in May and concludes in mid-June. Prospects for the coming season are highly uncertain because of persisting dryness as a result of the ongoing El Niño phenomenon and a strong likelihood that soil moisture deficits will not be restored in time for planting, which would impact negatively on seed germination and crop emergence. Latest remote sensing data, in particular the Vegetation Health Index, which can be used as an indirect indicator of soil moisture reserves even in fallow periods between crops, points to significant areas of the country being affected by drought conditions as of early April, particularly in main-producing areas in the North of the country. Moreover, even if the latest consensus forecast of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society of Columbia University (IRI), which gives a 65 percent probability that the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) will reach neutral conditions during the May-July period should materialize, it is likely that precipitation during the coming few weeks may arrive late and below average.

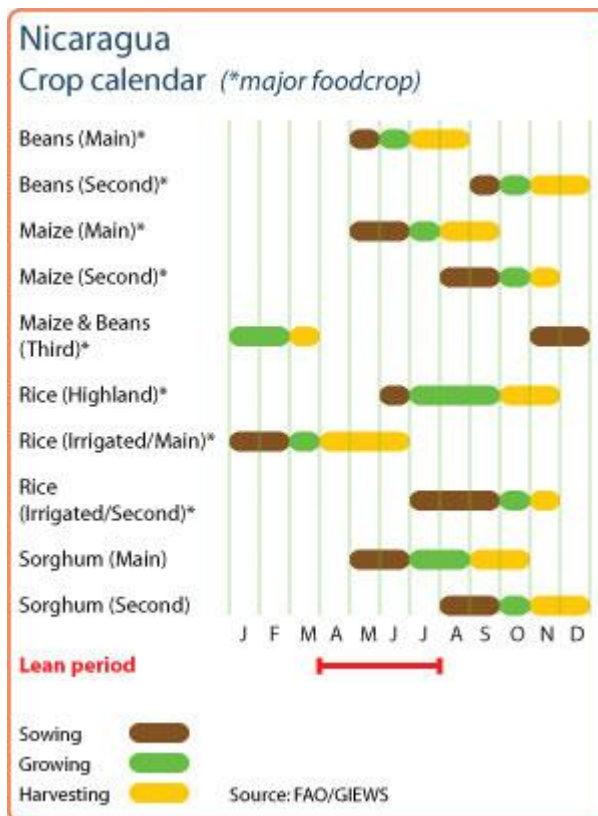
Cereal imports expected to increase in marketing year 2015/16

Cereal imports are expected to increase for the 2015/16 marketing year (September/August) reflecting two consecutive years of reduced cereal production. Cereal imports are forecast to increase by 22 percent from the previous year, to well above the five-year average. Rice and maize account for the bulk of the increase.

Prices of white maize and beans increased sharply in March

White maize prices rose by 8 percent in March and were 37 percent higher than a year earlier, underpinned by low market supplies following the stagnant production in 2015.

Red bean prices increased sharply in March but were significantly below their levels a year earlier, mainly reflecting adequate levels of supplies after the recent harvests in early March.



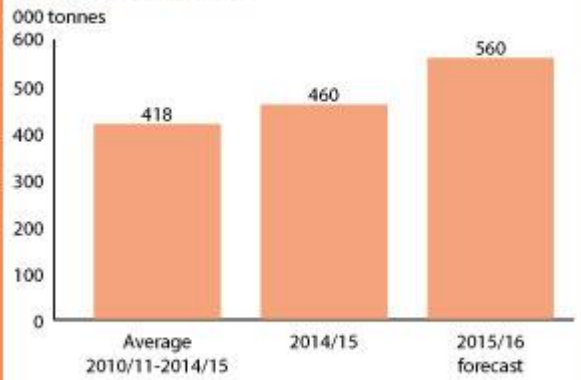
Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	532	472	480	2
Maize	468	368	370	1
Sorghum	75	78	73	-6
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	1 075	918	923	-1

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

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports



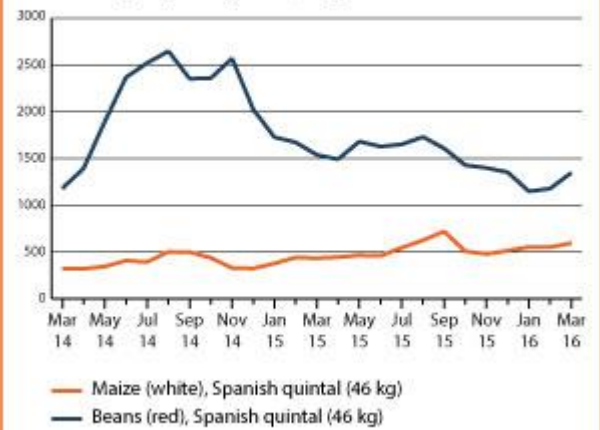
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

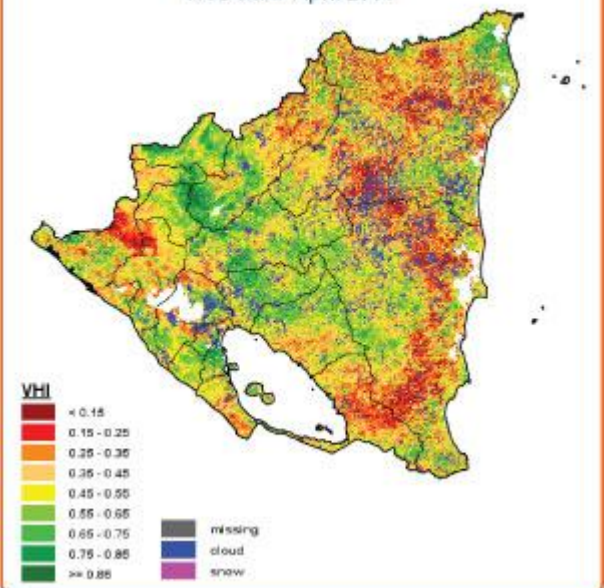
Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: SIMPAH

Nicaragua - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

1st Dekad April 2016



Reference Date: 16-January-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Drought sharply reduces cereal production in 2014
- Cereal imports are expected to increase in marketing year 2014/15
- Prices of red beans remain high despite sharp decline in December, maize prices also at high levels

Drought sharply reduces cereal production in 2014

The 2014 cereal season is concluded. Severe drought conditions during the main “de primera” (May/August) season significantly reduced yields or caused total losses to maize and rice crops. While plantings for maize increased during the second and third seasons, earlier production losses were not recovered. Preliminary official estimates point to an 18 percent reduction in 2014 cereal production compared to the previous year. The 2014 bean production is anticipated at 184 000 tonnes or 20 percent below last year’s level, which still meets the country’s consumption needs of 124 000 tonnes.

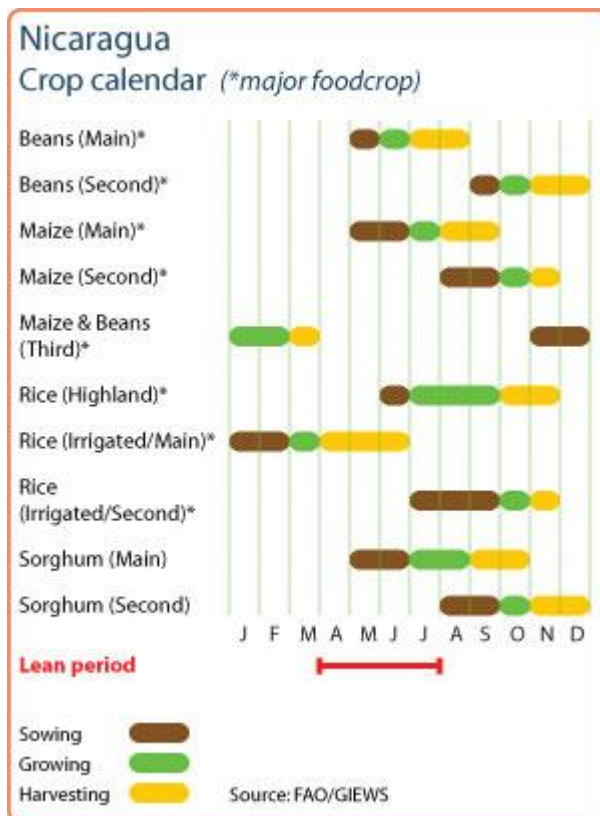
Cereal imports are expected to increase in marketing year 2014/15

Reflecting the drought-reduced harvest of 2014, cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase by 11 percent to 490 000 tonnes, their highest level in ten years. The increase mainly reflects higher imports of maize and rice which are projected 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively, up from last year’s level.

Prices of red beans remain high despite sharp decline in December, maize prices also at high levels

Wholesale prices of red beans, an important component of the local diet, declined sharply in December, with the good 2014 second season harvest, representing some 40 percent of annual production. Favourable prospects for the third season harvest, to begin from late January, also weighed on prices. Despite the recent sharp decline, prices of red beans remained more than double their levels of a year earlier, as the new crop has not fully entered into the markets.

White maize prices declined almost 3 percent in December 2014, reflecting the good harvest of the second “de postrera” season. However, prices were still 22 percent above their year-earlier levels as a result of the drought-reduced main 2014 first season harvest.



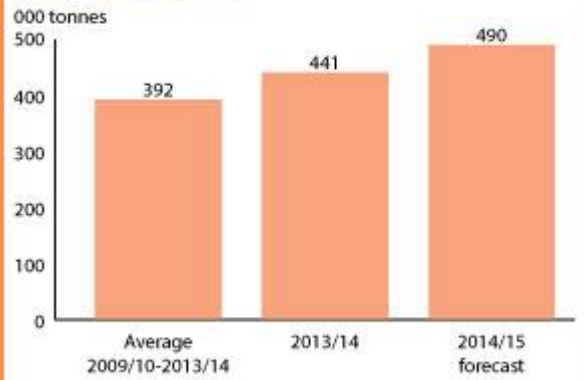
Nicaragua Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	498	368	-26
Rice (paddy)	395	428	385	-10
Sorghum	71	87	78	-10
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	981	1,013	831	-18

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

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports

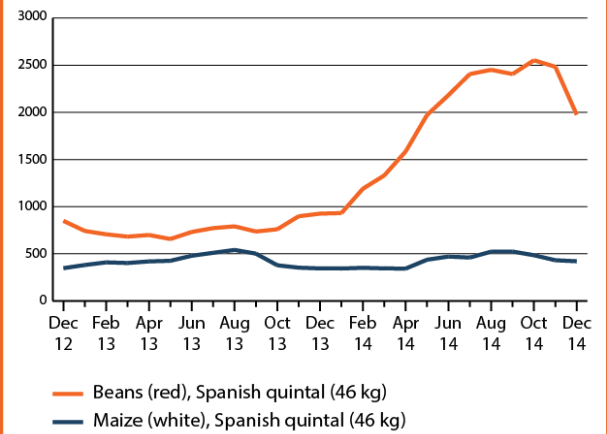


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal

Reference Date: 3-July-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Abundant rains in mid-June improved prospects for the 2014 main season maize crop
- Red beans plantings expected to further decrease in the 2014/15 agricultural year due to land diversion to black beans
- Price of red beans continues to increase but at a slower pace. Maize prices remain relatively stable

Abundant rains in mid-June improved prospects of the main 2014 maize season

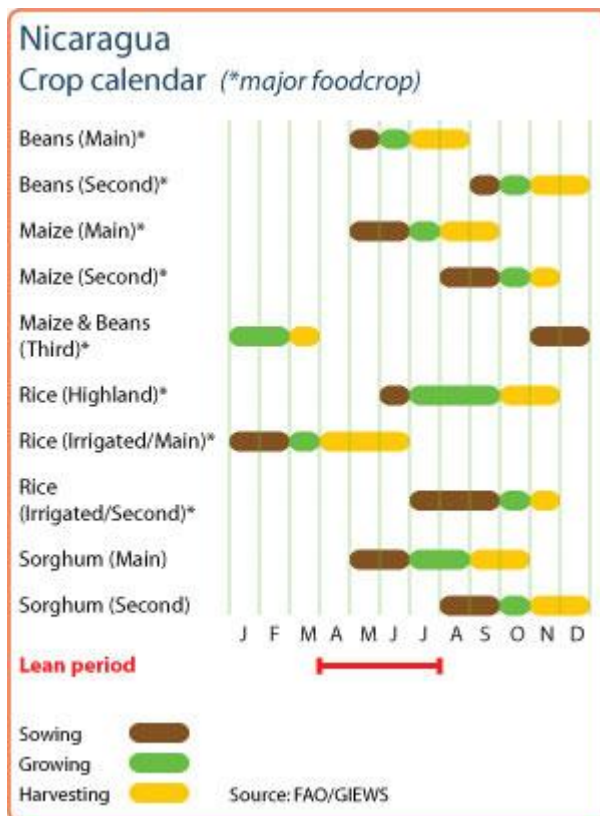
Planting of the 2014 main season maize crop is just concluded. After uncertain planting prospects at the beginning of the sowing period, because of very low precipitation, particularly in the main producing department of Jinotega, above-average rains in the second dekad of June benefited field operations and early planted crops. Preliminary estimates point to a small increase in sowings from last year's year same season level. Assuming favourable weather during the remainder of the season, as well as during the second and third cropping seasons (August-February) preliminary forecast point to an increase in maize output of 2 percent from 2013 and similar to the five-year average. However, concerns remain about the high probability of an "El Niño" event setting in late July and its impact on the 2014 aggregate maize production. El Niño conditions imply below normal rainfall levels and higher temperatures which could affect yields of the main maize season and plantings of the second season.

Red bean plantings expected to further decrease in 2014/15 agricultural year

Sowing of the 2014 first bean season is concluded. Area planted to red beans is expected to decline by 8 percent from last year's already reduced level due to diversion of land to black beans. The increase in black bean production is driven by high export demand from Venezuela under the ALBA (Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas) trade agreement. Preliminary official forecast, point to an annual aggregate production (first, second and main third season) of 236 000 tonnes of red beans, slightly below the last year's level. The forecasted production level is estimated to cover domestic consumption of about 114 000 tonnes and leave and exportable surplus of at least 46 000 tonnes.

Price of red beans continues to increase in June but a slower pace. Maize prices remain relatively stable

Prices of red beans, a main staple in the local diet, continued their increasing trend from the end of last year, but in June rose at a slower rate than in previous months. The price increases are driven by the sharp reduction in 2013 production of red beans due to area diversion to black beans. Prices in June were 10 percent up from the previous month and are three times higher than in June 2013. To mitigate further increases in prices, until the harvest in September, the Government has authorized tariff free imports of red beans from outside Central America of up to 20 000 tonnes.

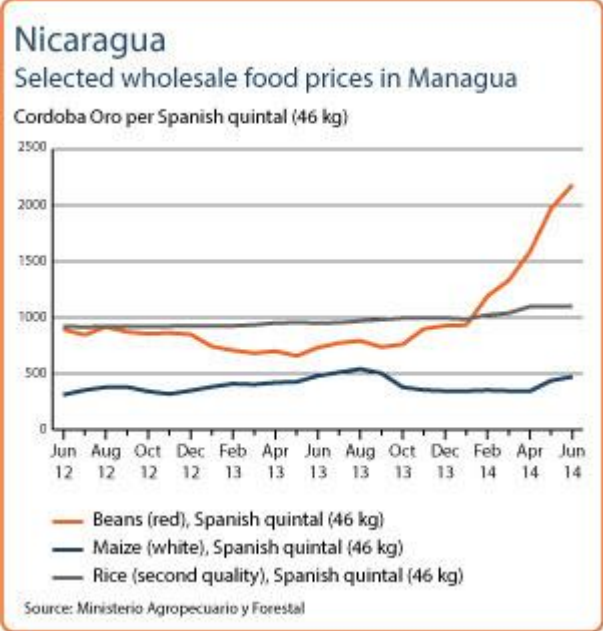
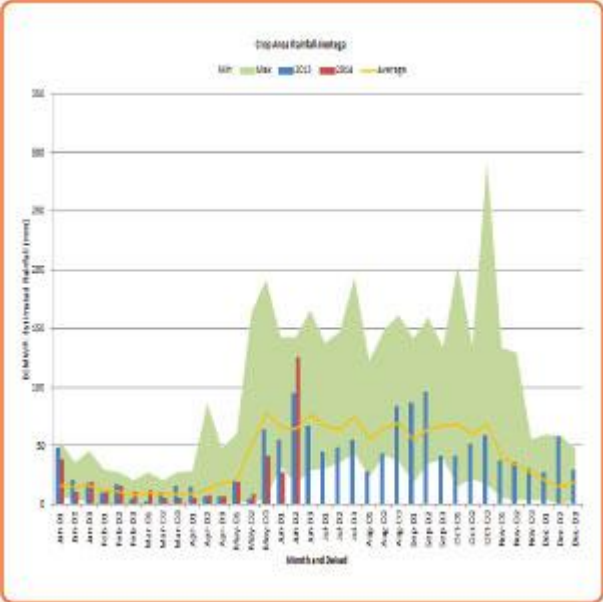


Nicaragua Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	498	510	2
Rice (paddy)	408	460	480	4
Sorghum	66	60	61	2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	988	1 018	1 051	3

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

Prices of white maize, the main staple in the country, increased seasonally by 8 percent in June, but remained below their levels of a year earlier reflecting ample supplies in the markets.



Reference Date: 03-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 maize production forecast to increase
- Cereal imports projected firm in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)
- Price of main staples remain stable in January but high for beans

2013 maize production forecast to increase

Harvesting of the 2013 third minor maize season “de apante”, mainly composed of red kidney beans is ongoing. Initial estimates put the maize harvest at almost 41 000 tonnes or almost 31 percent up from the same season a year ago. Harvest of the second “de postrera” maize season was virtually completed in December. Maize production was estimated at 17 percent lower than last year’s same season, mainly due to lower plantings in response to the bumper crop of the main “de primera” season when above average yields were obtained. In aggregate, the 2013 maize output, (first, second and “apante” seasons) is forecast at 497 500 tonnes or 6 percent higher than the 2012 production.

Harvesting of the “de apante” season bean crop, accounting for about one-third of the annual output is also underway. A sharp reduction in the area planted, following the good harvest of the first and second season, might be partially offset by the favourable weather during the season.

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

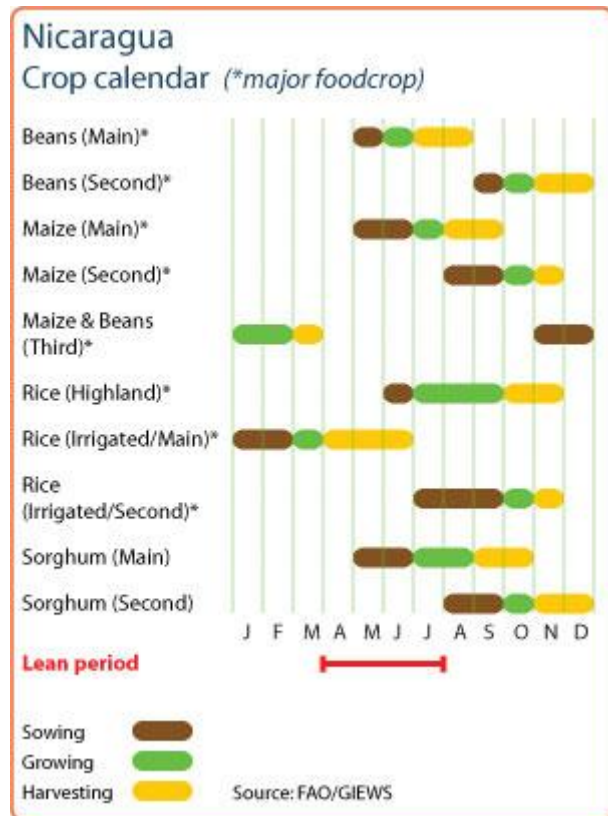
Cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 415 000 tonnes close to last year’s high level. Most of this volume is maize, imports of which are forecast to increase reflecting the high demand for the animal feed industry. By contrast, wheat imports are anticipated to remain relatively stable.

Price of main staples remain stable in January but high for beans

Reflecting this year’s good harvest, prices of key staple white maize remained relatively unchanged in January and they were almost 10 percent lower than a year earlier.

Rice prices also remained stable, declining by only 1 percent in January. However prices were 7 percent higher than in January 2013 mainly reflecting a seasonal increase since the next harvest will not begin until March.

Prices of beans, another important staple in the local diet, remained relatively unchanged from December increasing by less than 1 percent. However, prices were almost



Nicaragua
Cereal production

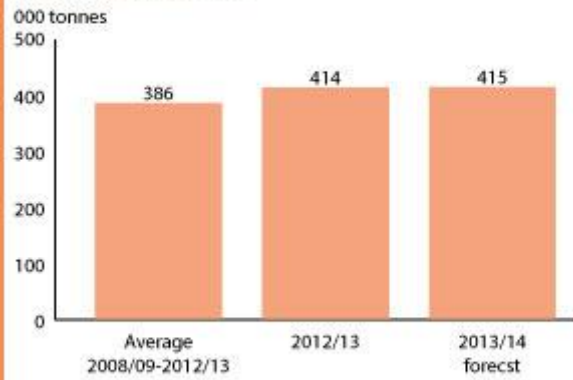
	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	471	498	6
Rice (paddy)	373	440	445	1
Sorghum	69	58	60	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	956	969	1 003	4

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

26 percent higher from the very low levels of a year earlier. The increase in prices reflects this year's reduction in area planted.

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports



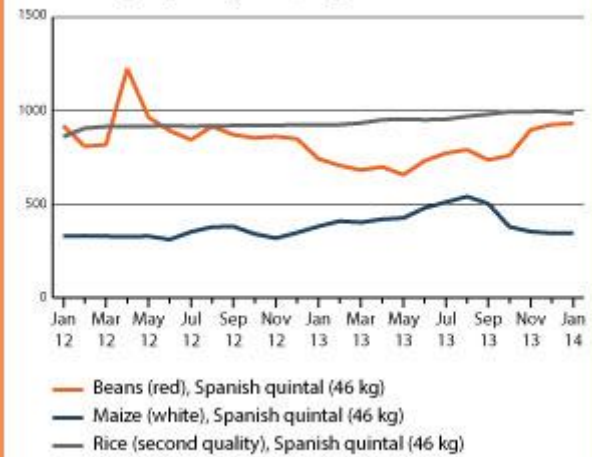
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal

Reference Date: 12-December-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 maize production forecast to increase
- Cereal imports projected firm in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)
- Price of white maize continues to decrease while bean prices sharply increased in November

2013 maize production forecast to increase

Harvesting of the 2013 second season “*de postrera*” maize crop is about to be concluded. A return to regular rainfall in October, after a prolonged period of dry weather, improved soil moisture and benefited crop development. Preliminary official forecasts point to a good second season maize harvest. The harvest of the 2013 main season, “*de primera*”, maize crop was completed in September. Despite delayed rains at planting time, good yields were obtained and official estimates put maize production at 313 000 tonnes, significantly up from the 2012 same season harvest.

In aggregate, the 2013 maize output, first and second seasons, is forecast at 530 000 tonnes or 13 percent higher than the 2012 production and above the five-year average level.

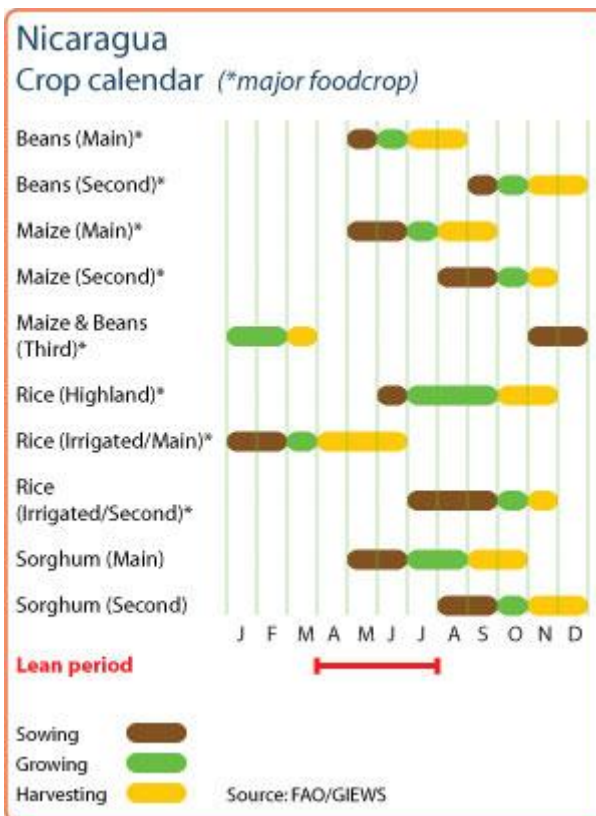
Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year projected to remain firm

Cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 415 000 tonnes close to last year’s high level. Most of this volume is maize, imports of which are forecast to increase, reflecting the high demand for the animal feed industry. By contrast, wheat imports are anticipated to remain relatively stable.

Price of white maize continues to decrease while bean prices sharply increased in November

Prices of key staple white maize declined for the third consecutive month in November reflecting improved availabilities from the ongoing 2013 second season crop harvest and the main season gathered until September. However prices remained 7 percent above their level in November 2012 as production of the main season maize crop was insufficient to replenish stocks after the sharply reduced output in 2012.

Prices of beans, another important staple in the local diet, increased 18 percent in November and were 4 percent higher than last year. The increase in prices mainly reflects lower first season outputs due to reduced plantings in



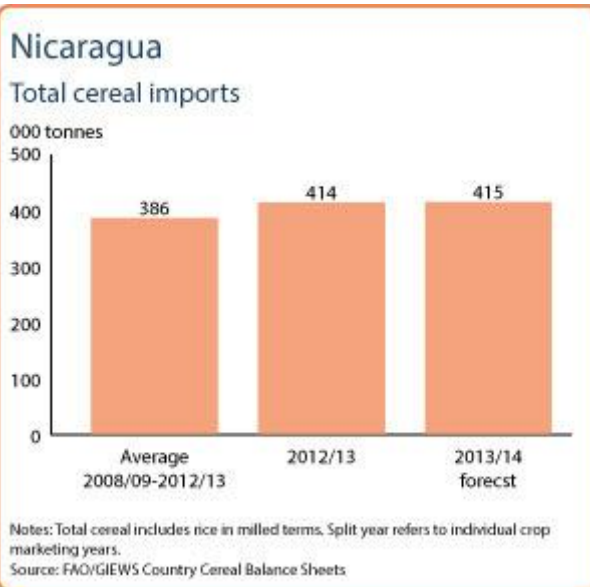
Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2008-2012	2012	2013	change
	average			2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	471	530	13
Rice (paddy)	373	440	445	1
Sorghum	69	58	60	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	956	969	1 035	7

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

response to record low prices at sowing time. Bean prices could decline in the coming months as product from the second season harvest is still entering the markets and the third main season harvest is scheduled to begin from January.

Rice prices remained unchanged in November, reflecting ample supplies in the market and the beginning of the second season harvest.



Reference Date: 13-November-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 maize production forecast to increase
- Cereal imports projected to stay firm in 2013/14 marketing year
- Prices of maize seasonally decreased in October

2013 maize production forecast to increase

Harvesting of the 2013 second season “de postrera” maize crop is about to begin. A return to regular rainfall in October, after a prolonged period of dry weather, improved soil moisture and benefited crop development. Preliminary official forecasts point to a good second season maize harvest, due to expected high yields. The harvest of the 2013 main season, “de primera”, maize crop was completed in September. Despite delayed rains at planting time, high yields were obtained and official estimates put maize production at a good level of 313 000 tonnes, slightly up from the 2012 same season harvest.

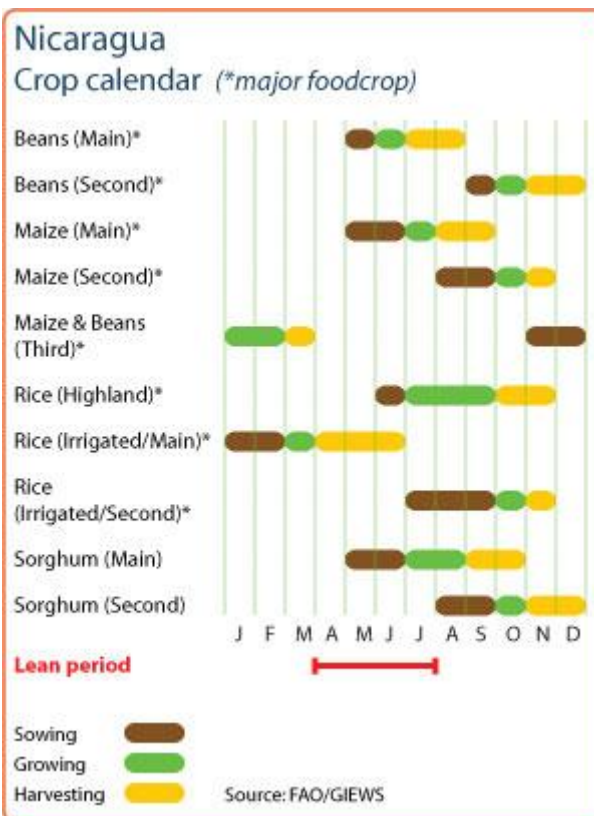
In aggregate, the 2013 maize output, first and second season, is forecast at 530 000 tonnes or 13 percent above the 2012 production and above the five-year average.

Cereal imports are projected at similar levels to the 2013/14 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain firm at 415 000 tonnes, close to last year’s high levels. Most of this volume is maize, imports of which are forecast to increase, reflecting the high demand for animal feed. By contrast, wheat imports are anticipated to remain relatively stable.

Prices of maize seasonally decreased in October

Wholesale prices of white maize seasonally decreased by about 25 percent in October with higher supplies from the bulk of the main season harvest entering markets. By contrast, wholesale bean prices seasonally strengthened in October as the main season harvest will not begin until the end of November. Despite the recent increase, bean prices were 11 percent below their levels at the same time a year earlier as a result of ample supplies from the recent harvest in September and stocks from the record 2012 production. Wholesale prices of rice remained relatively unchanged in October but were about 8 percent above October 2012.



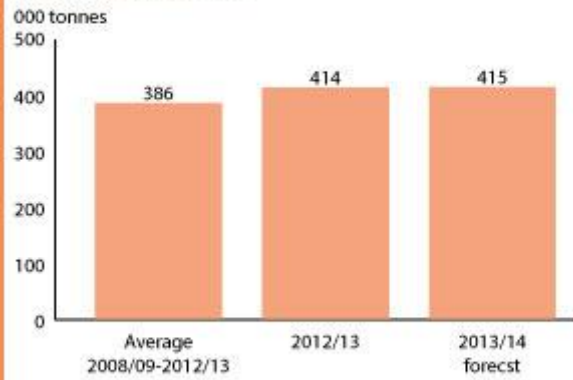
Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2008-2012	2012	2013	change
	average			2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	471	530	13
Rice (paddy)	373	440	445	1
Sorghum	69	58	60	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	956	969	1 035	7

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

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports



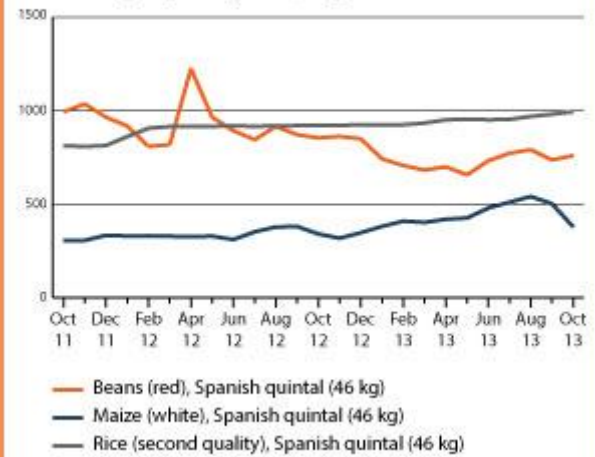
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal

Reference Date: 17-July-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Recovery of maize production expected in 2013
- Coffee leaf rust affects incomes in rural areas
- Cereal imports increased in 2012/13 (July/June)
- Prices of maize and beans strengthened seasonably in June

Recovery of maize area and yields expected in 2013

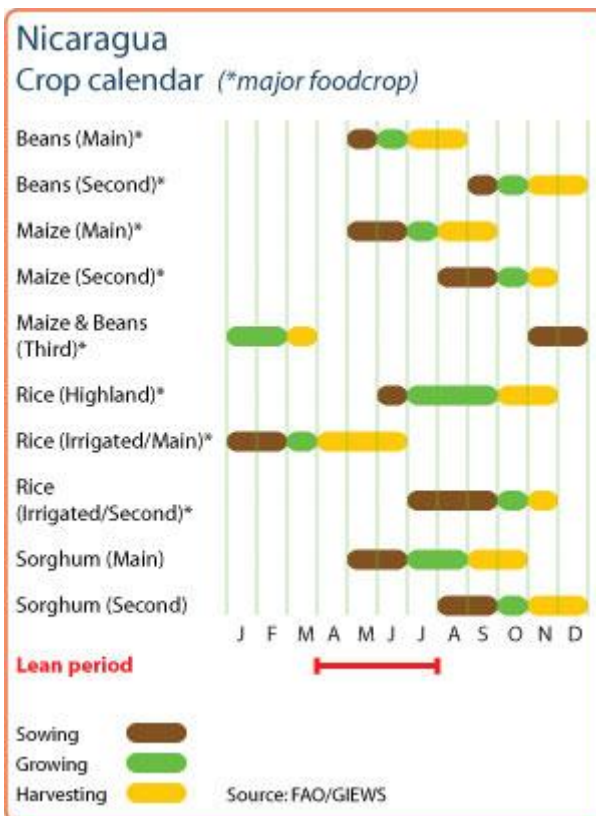
Sowing of the 2013 main maize crop season was recently completed with some delays due to the late onset of rains. Official estimates point to an increase in the maize area planted from last year as a result of diversion of land from beans which is currently less profitable. Assuming normal weather during the growing season, yields are expected to recover from the reduced levels of the previous year. Early forecasts point to a 2013 aggregate maize production of 530 000 tonnes (main and secondary seasons), almost 13 percent higher than in 2012 and slightly above the five-year average.

The 2012 aggregate cereal output (mainly maize and rice) was officially estimated at around 1 million tonnes, a decline of 10 percent from the previous year. This mainly reflects a contraction of maize production adversely affected by lower than normal rainfall during the main and second cereal crop seasons. By contrast, rice production increased by 4 percent as the crop is mainly irrigated.

Coffee leaf rust affects incomes in rural areas

Coffee production was severely affected by the coffee leaf rust during the 2012/13 (November/March) season. About 40 percent of the total area cultivated was affected and production is officially estimated to have declined by 12 percent from the previous season. Forecasts for the 2013/14 season point to even greater losses as a result of the number of plantations which will need to be eliminated in order to control the spread of the leaf rust.

Like in the rest of Central America, the coffee sector represents one of the major sources of employment in rural areas and of income for small farmers. In order to mitigate the impact of reduced incomes on food security, the Ministry of Agriculture is distributing leaf rust resistant coffee varieties to replant areas affected, as well as providing training on crop management practices. The Government is also providing access to subsidized credit through the local banking system so that producers can recover their plantations in the 2013/14 season.



Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2008-2012	2012	2013	change
	average			
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	471	530	13
Rice (paddy)	373	440	445	1
Sorghum	69	58	60	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	956	969	1 035	7

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

Cereal imports increased in 2012/13 (July/June)

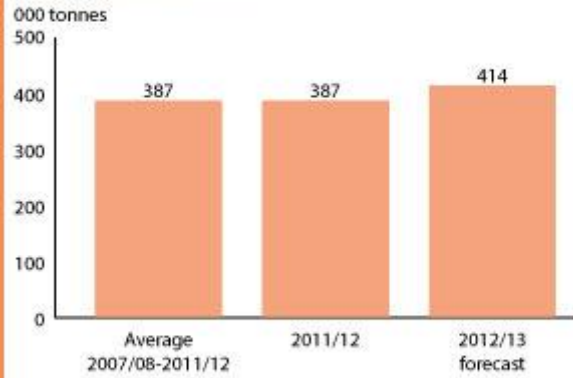
Based on official figures until May 2013, imports of cereals in 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are projected 7 percent higher than in 2011/12 at 414 000 tonnes. The increase is primarily driven by wheat as imports of maize and rice remained virtually unchanged.

Prices of maize and beans increased seasonably in June

Wholesale prices for white maize have been on the increase since December 2012 as a result of last year's reduced harvest. Prices increased by almost 15 percent in June, as supplies from the 2012/13 harvests dwindle with the progression of the lean season to end in August. Wholesale prices of beans increased by 9 percent in June but remained significantly low reflecting ample supplies from last seasons' bumper crops. Wholesale prices of rice remained stable in June but 4 percent higher than in June 2012.

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports

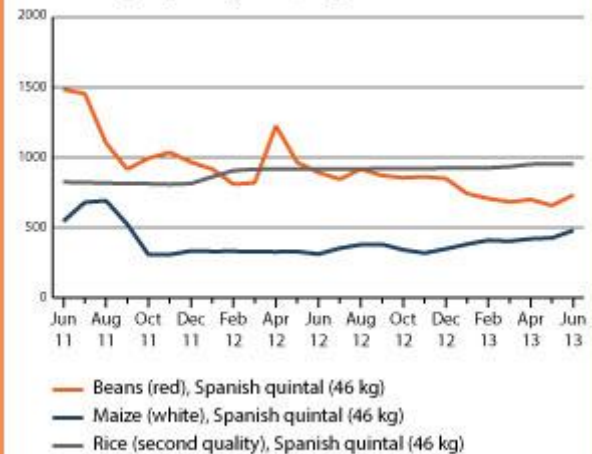


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source: Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal

Reference Date: 05-June-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production is expected to recover in 2013
- Coffee leaf rust affects incomes in rural areas
- Cereal imports increase slightly in 2012/13 (July/June)
- Mixed price trends for maize and beans

Maize production is expected to recover in 2013

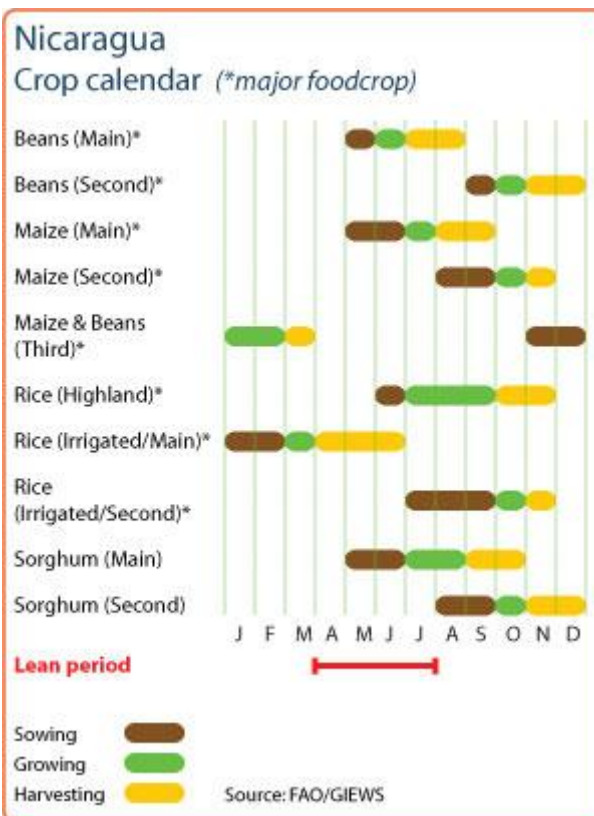
Sowing of the 2013 main maize crop season is ongoing under favourable rainfall conditions. The current high level of prices is expected to encourage farmers to increase the maize area planted from last year and assuming normal weather during the remaining of the season, yields are expected to recover from the reduced levels of the previous year. Early forecasts point to a 2013 aggregate maize production of 530 000 tonnes or almost 13 percent higher than in 2012 and slightly above the five-year average. Official estimates put the 2012 aggregate cereal output (mainly maize and rice) at close to 1 million tonnes, a decline of 10 percent from the previous year. Production of maize was adversely affected by lower than normal rainfall during the main and second cereal seasons that resulted in reductions of both plantings and yields. By contrast, rice production increased by 4 percent as a significant portion of the crop is grown under irrigation.

Coffee leaf rust affects incomes in rural areas

Coffee production was severely affected by the coffee leaf rust during the 2012/13 (November/March) season. About 40 percent of the total area cultivated was affected and production is officially estimated to have declined by 12 percent from the previous season to 70 380 tonnes. Forecasts for the 2013/14 season point to even greater losses as a result of the number of plantations which will need to be eliminated in order to control the spread of the leaf rust.

Like in the rest of Central America, the coffee sector represents one of the major sources of employment in rural areas and of income for small farmers. In order to reduce the impact of reduced incomes on food security, the Ministry of Agriculture is distributing leaf rust resistant coffee varieties to replant areas affected, as well as providing training on crop management practices. The Government is also providing access to subsidized credit through the local banking system so that producers can recover their plantations in the 2013/14 season.

Cereal imports increase slightly in 2012/13 (July/June)



Nicaragua
Cereal production

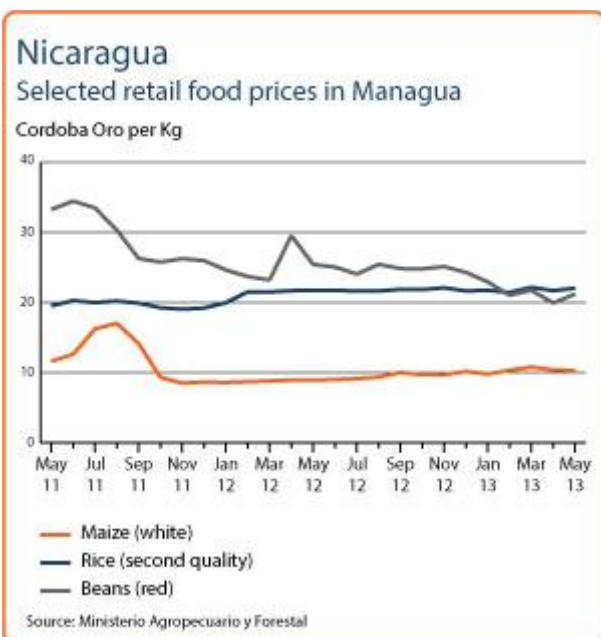
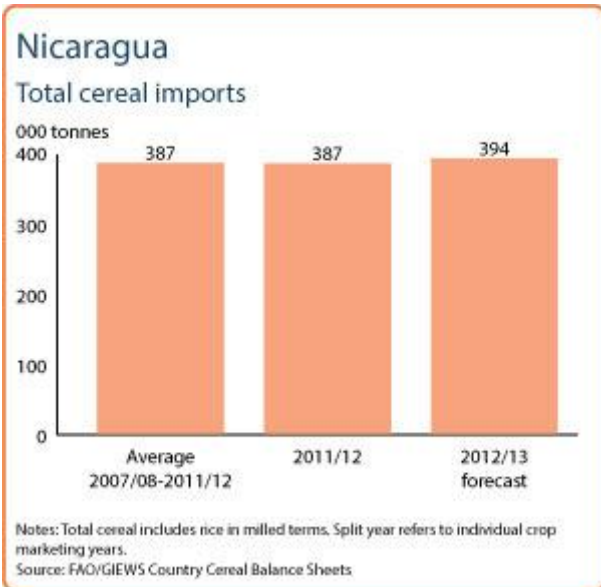
	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	515	471	530	13
Rice (paddy)	373	440	445	1
Sorghum	69	58	60	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	956	969	1,035	7

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

Based on official estimates until March 2013, imports of cereals in 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to marginally increase from their levels of last year to 394 000 tonnes. Imports of maize and wheat are projected higher, while those of rice are expected to remain stable.

Mixed price trends for maize and beans

Average wholesale prices for white maize strengthened somewhat in May continuing their increasing trend from November reflecting seasonal pressures that will last until the next harvest in August. Prices are almost 30 percent higher from a year earlier due to the low production obtained in 2012. By contrast, bean prices—the second most important staple in the country—continue to decline as a result of a higher than expected production in the 2012/13 main bean growing season, which ended in April, coupled with reduced exports. In May bean prices declined 8 percent from a month ago and almost 17 percent from the same period last year.



Reference Date: 03-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable
- Maize prices stable and well below their levels of a year ago

Production prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable

Harvesting of the 2012 main season cereal crops (maize, rice and sorghum) is about to start. The area sown is estimated to be 5 percent above the good level of the same season last year. According to recent reports, vegetation conditions for crops in July were generally satisfactory, despite of below average rains in the second decade of the month. Weather forecasts for the coming weeks are mixed; however if below average precipitation persists, this could negatively impact yields of late planted crops and planting activities of the second “de postrera” season (August-September). In general, production this year is supported by several measures adopted by the Government including the distribution of improved seeds and credit facilities. Early official forecast point to a 2012 maize aggregate production (“de primera”, “de postrera” and “de apante” crops) of 575 000 tonnes, 8 percent above the average of the last five years and record. Rice production is forecast at 440 000 tonnes, 4 percent above the good level of 2011.

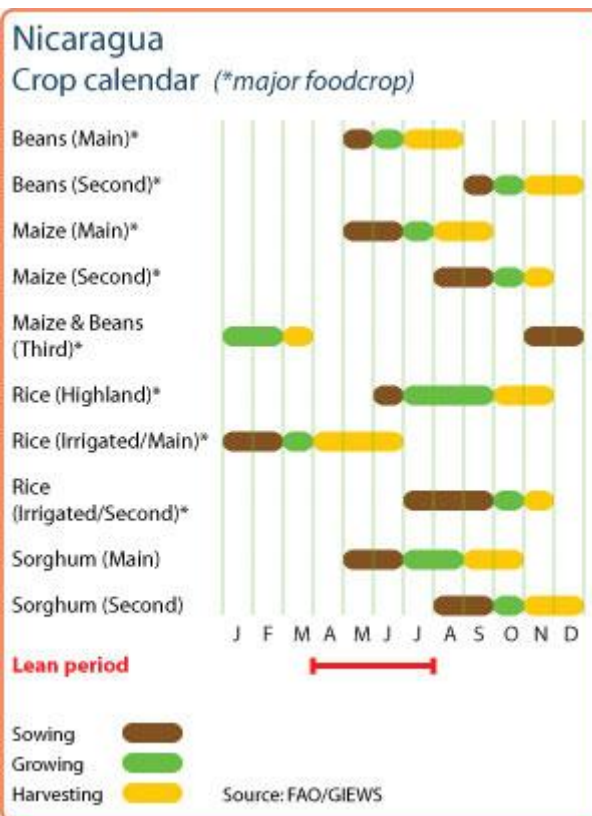
The 2012 red bean production is projected at some 210 000 tonnes, below the bumper harvest of 2011 but close to average. However, at the projected level, production in 2012 is expected to cover national consumption requirements, as well as to provide a surplus for export to neighbouring countries.

Cereal imports expected to decline in 2012/13 (July/June)

Cereal imports for the 2012/13 marketing year (July/June), mainly maize and wheat are forecast at about 320 000 tonnes, slightly below last year’s level and 9 percent down from the average of the past five years as a result of the high output expected in 2012.

Maize prices stable and at low levels

Retail prices of main staple maize have remained relatively unchanged in the past four months and in July were 42 percent below their levels of a year earlier, mainly reflecting good availabilities from the 2011 harvests. Prices of red beans, another basic ingredient in the national diet, have decreased since May following the good harvest of the 2011/12 third season (“de apante”) crops and favourable prospects for the coming harvest. Prices had increased in April as a result of the high demand from

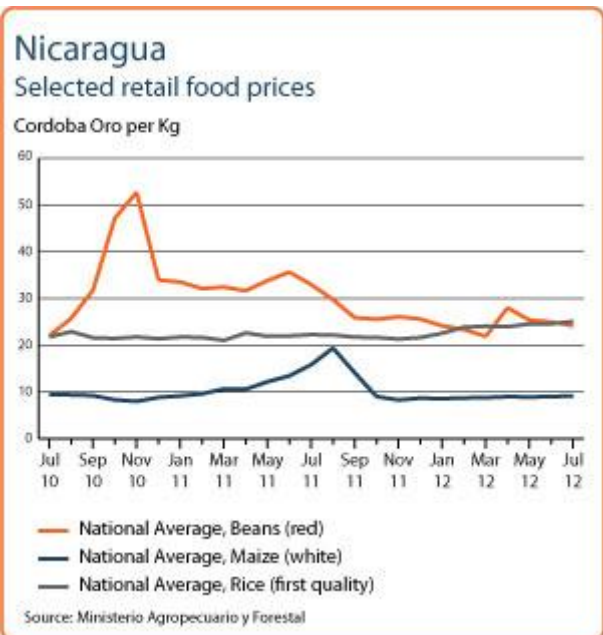
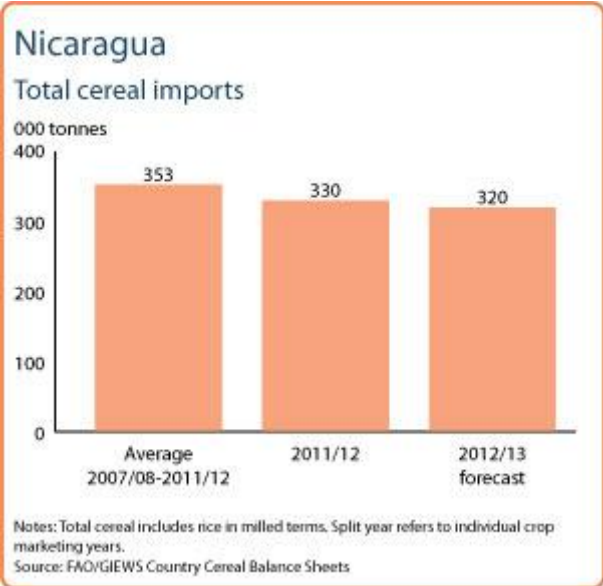


Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	531	565	575	2
Rice (paddy)	339	422	440	4
Sorghum	81	92	95	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	951	1 079	1 110	3

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

neighbouring countries; however, in July they were 27 percent below their levels at the same time a year ago. By contrast, rice prices have risen moderately over the past few months, and in June were 13 percent higher than twelve months earlier.



Reference Date: 05-June-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable
- Maize and bean prices well below their levels of a year ago

Early prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable

Planting of the 2012 main season cereal crops (maize, rice and sorghum) is underway. Following a weakening of the la Niña phenomenon in April, generally normal weather conditions are expected during the cropping season. Rainfall in the second half of May was average and weather forecasts suggest that precipitation will be favourable in the next few months and close to average in the main producing areas of the country. In general, production this year is supported by several measures adopted by the Government including the distribution of improved seeds and credit facilities. Early official forecast point to a 2012 maize aggregate production (“de primera”, “de postrera” and “de apante” crops) of 578 000 tonnes, 9 percent above the average of the last five years and record. Rice production is forecast at 440 000 tonnes, 4 percent above the good levels of 2011.

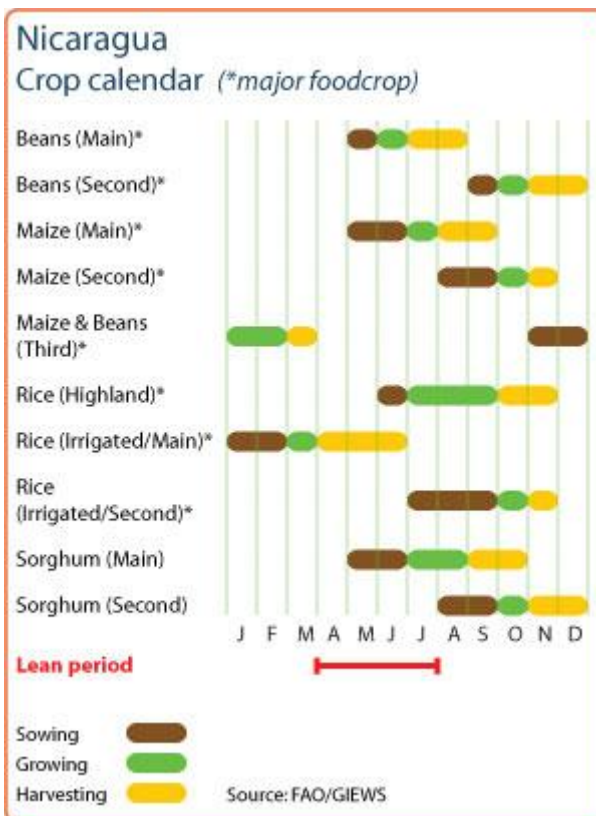
The 2012 red bean production is projected at some 210 000 tonnes, below the bumper harvest of 2011 but close to average. However, at the projected level, production in 2012 is expected to cover national consumption requirements, as well as to provide a surplus for export to markets in Central America.

Cereal imports to decline in 2011/12 (July/June)

Cereal imports for the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are preliminary estimated at 330 000 tonnes or 15 percent below last year’s level as a result of the higher output in 2011.

Maize and bean prices at low levels

Retail prices of maize, the main food product, slightly increased in the past few months but in May were still 23 percent below their level of a year earlier. Prices of red beans, another basic ingredient in the national diet, which increased sharply in April as a result of the high demand from neighbouring countries, resumed their declining trend in May following good availabilities from the recently concluded 2011/12 third season (“de apante”) harvest. In May, red bean prices were 24 percent down year-on-year. By contrast, rice prices have risen moderately over the last three months, and in May were 11 percent higher than twelve months earlier.



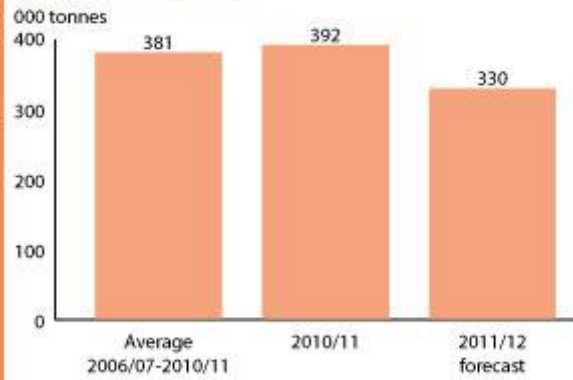
Nicaragua
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	531	565	578	2
Rice (paddy)	339	422	440	4
Sorghum	81	92	95	3
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	951	1 079	1 113	3

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

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports



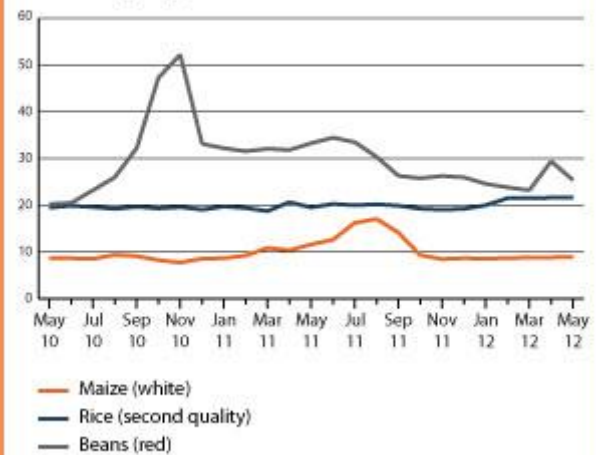
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected retail food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Kg



Source: Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal

Reference Date: 28-February-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- High cereal and bean production in 2011
- Maize and bean prices low and stable

High cereal and bean production in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011/12 third (“de apante”) season crops, which accounts for about 10 percent of annual production of maize and 35 percent of beans, is about to start. Sowing operations were disrupted by heavy rainfall in January associated with the “la Niña” phenomenon. Harvesting of the secondary “de postrera” maize season, which represents about 30 percent of annual production, has just been completed, and it is provisionally estimated to be 13 percent up on the same season in 2010, despite crop damage caused by excessive rainfall in October. In some areas, however, the losses were more than offset by higher yields. Total maize production in 2011 (the “de primera”, “de postrera” and “de apante” crops) is estimated at 570 000 tonnes, 12 percent above the 2010 levels, and 10 percent above the average of the last five years, mainly as a result of a larger sown area and yields of the main “de primera” crop.

Rice production is estimated at 500 000 tonnes, 10 percent above the 2010 levels, following producer support programs.

Red bean production in 2011 is forecast to be 35 percent higher than the small 2010 harvest; and production in 2011 is expected to cover national consumption, as well as provide a surplus for export to markets in Central America and the United States.

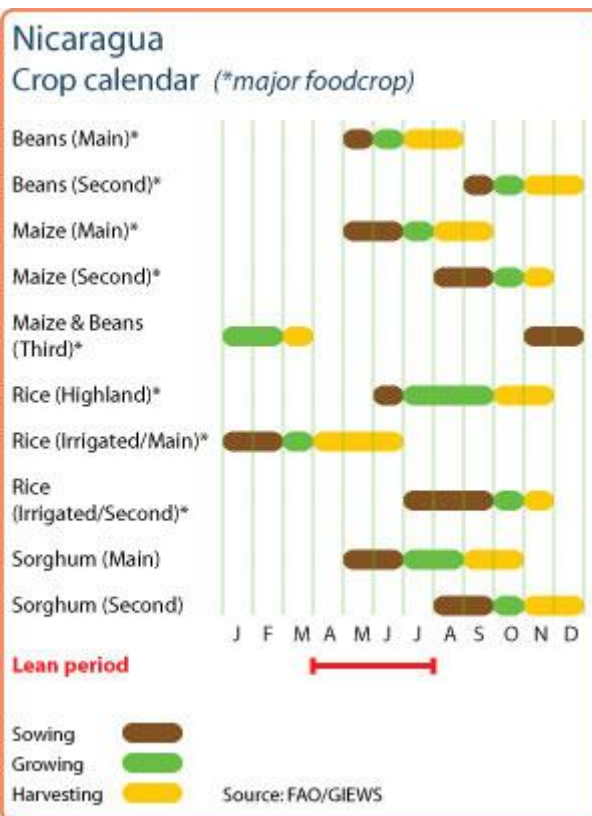
Cereal import requirements to decline in 2011/12 (July/June)

Cereal import requirement for 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 340 000 tonnes or 14 percent below last year’s level as a result of the higher output estimated in 2011.

Maize and bean prices low and stable, but rice prices higher

Prices of maize, the main food product, which fell in September and October following the main 2011 harvest, have remained steady since November, and in February were about 10 percent below their level of a year earlier.

In the case of red beans, another basic ingredient in the national diet, the downward price trend since the second half of 2011 has continued over the last three months, with a good harvest in prospect. In February, red bean prices were 35 percent down year-on-year.



Nicaragua

Cereal production

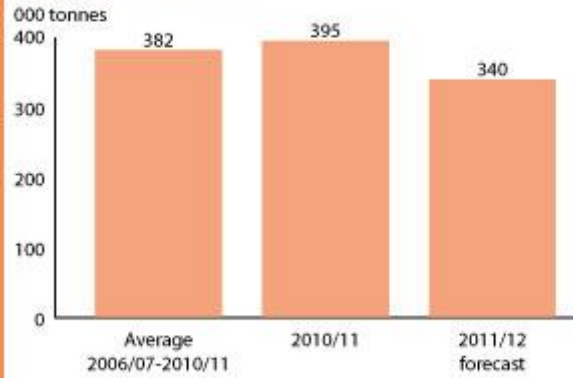
	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	519	510	570	12
Rice (paddy)	332	454	500	10
Sorghum	77	73	92	26
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	929	1 037	1 162	12

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

By contrast, rice prices have risen over the last two months, and in February were 12 percent higher than 12 months earlier have continued to follow the increasing trend that began at the end of last year after the reduced main crops of 2010.

Nicaragua

Total cereal imports



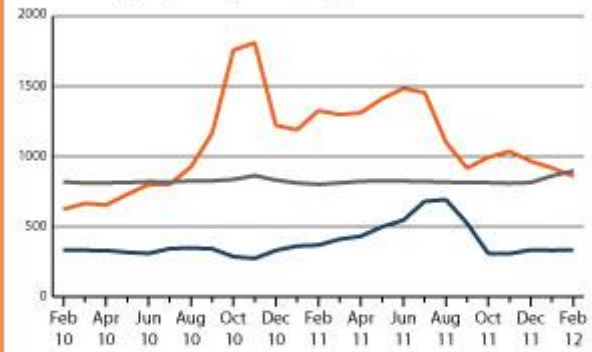
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



— Beans (red), Spanish quintal
 — Maize (white), Spanish quintal
 — Rice (second quality), Spanish quintal

Source: Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal

Reference Date: 30-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for 2011 cereal and bean crops after the weakening of La Niña
- Reduced 2010 maize and bean production
- High food prices

Favourable prospects for the 2011 main season crops

Sowing of the main cereal crops of 2011 has begun. After the weakening of the La Niña phenomenon, from February to April, a return to normal conditions is forecast for the next few months. Normal rainfall in May maintained adequate humidity conditions in the soil and favoured sowing operations. Together with international organizations, the Government is helping producers by distributing seeds and other agricultural inputs in the areas affected by crop losses during the 2010/11 season.

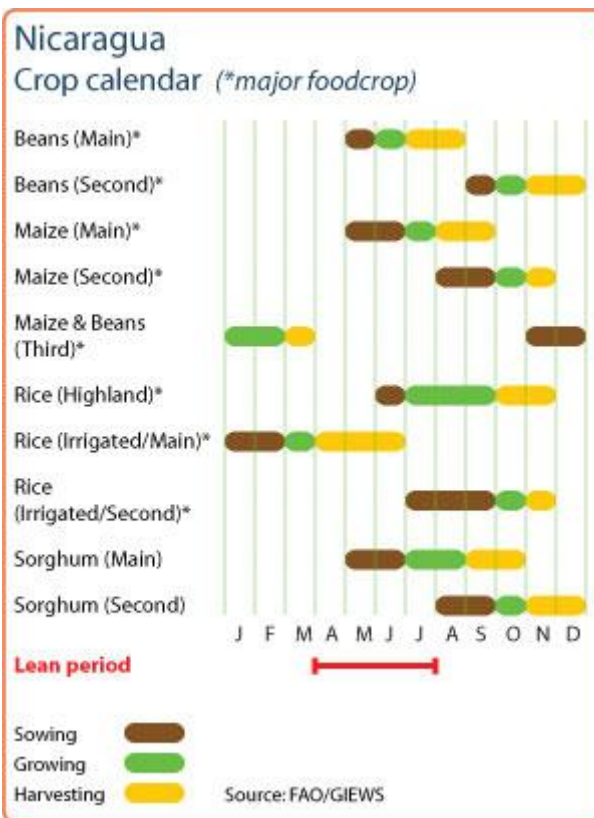
Reduced 2010 cereal and bean production

The third (secondary) "apante" season maize and bean crops, of the 2010/11 agricultural season, have been harvested. This season crops were affected by the lack of rain in December during sowing. The main "de primera" season crops were affected by excessive rainfall due to the tropical storms that led to substantial losses of maize and of beans in particular. The losses of bean crops led to low availability of seed for the "postrera" cropping season of 2010/11, which was also affected by irregular rainfall. Rainfall was above normal during the sowing activities and then below normal from October when the crops began to develop. As a result of adverse weather conditions, it is estimated that total production of maize and beans in 2010 (first, "postrera" and "apante" crops) is below the levels reached in 2009. The departments most affected were Matagalpa and Jinotega. However, abundant rainfall benefited yields of rice which are estimated to be higher than in the past year.

Prices of maize and beans are high

Prices of maize, the main food product, have continued to follow the increasing trend that began at the end of last year after the reduced main crops of 2010. In Managua, the wholesale price of maize in May 2011 was quoted at the record level of 497 Cordoba per kg, 57 percent higher than in May 2010. In addition to reduced domestic production, the increase in maize prices also reflect the high prices on the international markets, as the country imports substantial amounts of yellow maize for the feed industry.

Prices of beans, another basic product of the national diet, which had fallen from their levels in November 2010, have risen again in the last two months and doubled since last



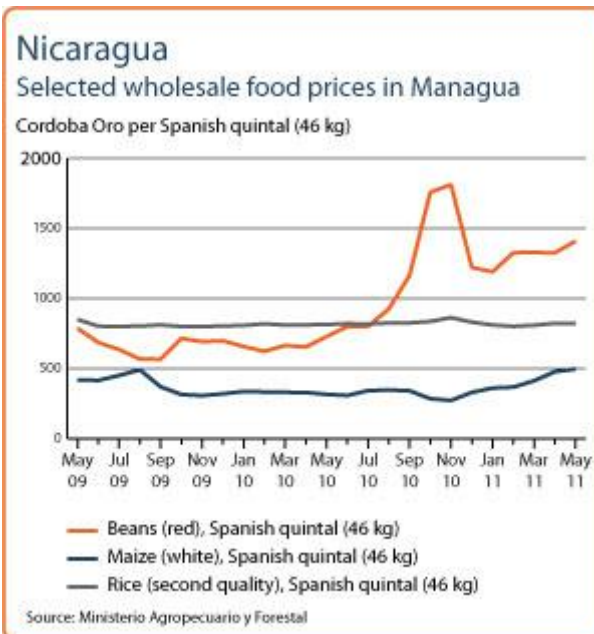
Nicaragua Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	520	511	530	4
Rice (paddy)	320	390	415	6
Sorghum	75	73	69	-5
Others	75	73	69	-5
Total	914	974	1 014	4

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

year. This increase is due to reduced availability on the market after the declined 2010 production and import demand from neighbouring countries also affected by lower cereal outputs.

The high level of prices of basic foods is affecting the food security of vulnerable groups, particularly in the rural areas which suffered severe crop losses during the 2010/11 agricultural season.



Reference Date: 4-March-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereals and beans of the second season of 2010 have been harvested
- The damages caused to bean crops by excessive rainfall in 2010 led to increased prices in local markets
- It is likely that the sowing of crops in the first season of 2011, which will take place in May/June, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon

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

It is predicted that the sowing of crops in the first season of 2011, which will begin in April/May, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon. Although the phenomenon has started to ease off, above average and irregular rainfall is forecast for the months in which the first season's crops are sown.

Outlook uncertain for the production of maize and beans of the 2010/11 third "apante" crop season

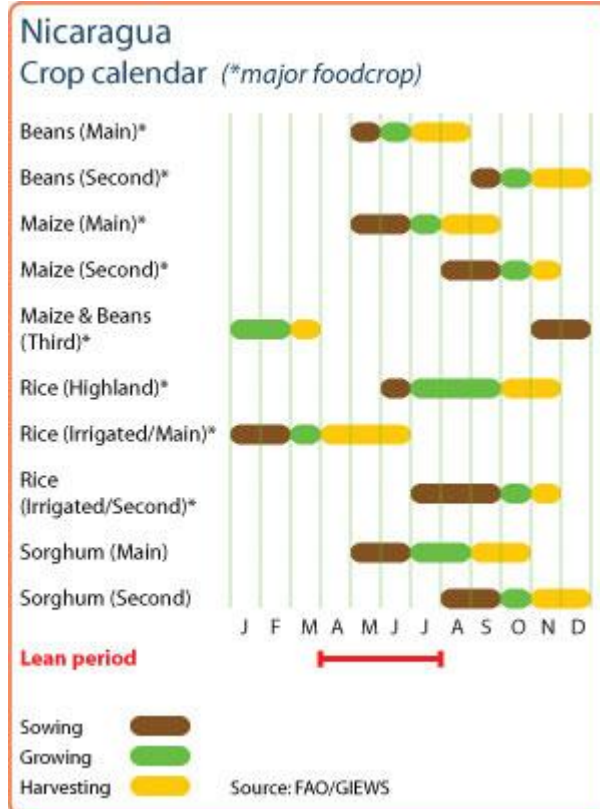
Crops from the second "apante" season are being harvested. The outlook for maize and bean production of the third agricultural campaign is uncertain due to the irregular rainfall. The Government reported losses of approximately 50 percent in the production areas of the Apante. As at today's date, reported losses total 24 200 hectares of bean crops. The most affected departments are Boaco, Jinotega and Matagalpa.

Excessive rainfall during the 2010 first and second crop seasons affected bean production

The heavy rainfall caused by the passage of tropical storms Agatha and Alex led to losses in the 2010 first and second crop seasons. Bean crops suffered the highest percentage of losses due to the excessive rainfall. This anomaly resulted in an increase in national prices of beans and a shortage of seeds for the second "postrera" sowing season. During the second crop season, rainfall distribution was irregular with heavy rainfall during sowing season and no rainfall in October. Rainfall eventually stabilised in November to benefit flowering and growth of grain crops. The abundant rainfall during the 2010 agricultural seasons benefited maize crops, the main type of crop, whose yield is estimated to be slightly higher than that of last year.

Price of beans begins to fall from record levels

After reaching a record high in November 2010, the price of red beans fell as a result of the second and third season bean crops. However, in January 2011 the price of beans was still 67 percent higher than it was at the same time last year. The prices of maize and rice have started to increase in recent months.



Nicaragua
Cereal production

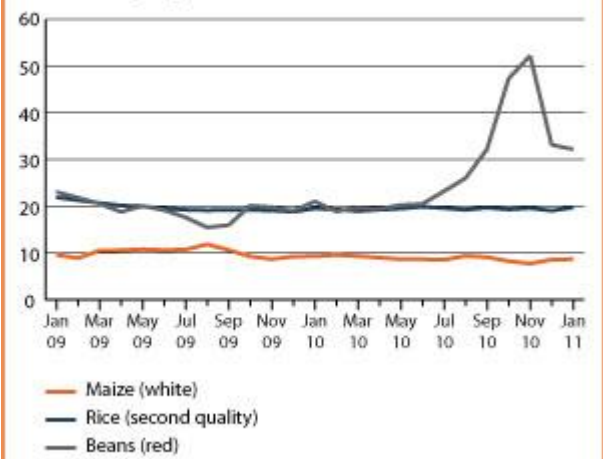
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	529	529	540	2
Rice (paddy)	313	338	320	-5
Sorghum	83	82	82	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	925	949	942	-1

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

Nicaragua

Selected retail food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro per kg



Source: Ministerio agropecuario y forestal

Reference Date: 15-November-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The dry weather since the end of September is affecting the 2010 second bean and cereals harvest
- Excessive rainfall reduced the 2010 first bean harvest
- Bean prices are soaring

The uncertain outlook for the 2010 “de postrera” harvest

Prospects are uncertain for the 2010 second season “de postrera” crops that are currently being harvested. The “de postrera” is the main sorghum and bean season and production has been affected by losses in the “de primera” season. After a late start in sowing, due to waterlogged soils following heavy rainfall in the first season (May to August), rainfall in the first half of September was evenly distributed and benefited crop development. However, rainfall declined towards the end of September and the weather remained drier until the beginning of November. The lack of rain is mainly affecting the Departments of Rivas, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Chinandega, Estelí and León. Cereals and bean yields could slump steeply if the rain does not fall soon. Erratic rains may also affect the third season “apante” crops, which are about to be planted.

Although there are no official estimates of the acreages under crop cover, the shortage of bean seed as a result of the poor ‘de primera’ harvest and delays in disbursing agricultural credit may have caused a shrinkage in the acreages under bean cover.

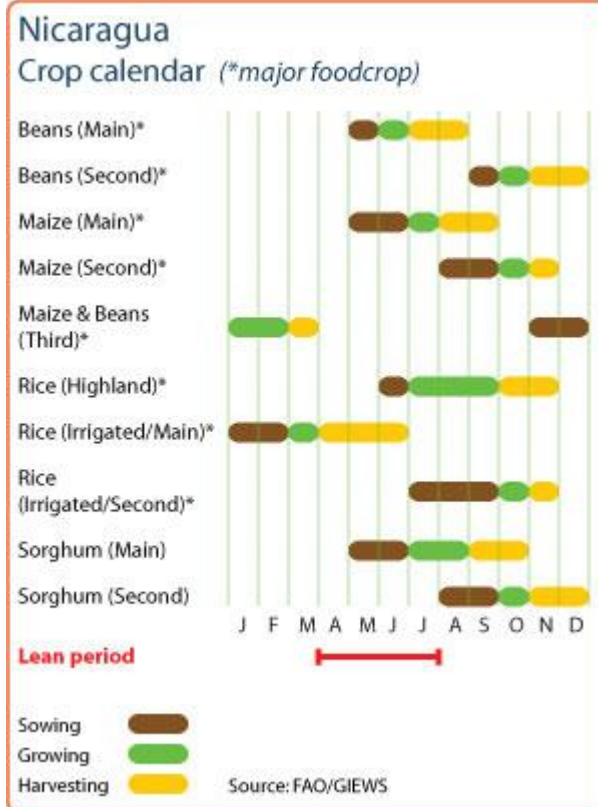
Excessive rainfall reduced first season bean output causing localized cereal crop losses

The main “de primera” 2010 cereals and bean harvest ended in September. Heavy rainfall during the season caused by the Agatha and Alex tropical storms generally benefited maize production despite the serious localized losses in the Departments of Matagalpa, Jinotega, Estelí and Madrizpero. Heavy rainfall also had negative repercussions on bean yields, as a crop which is more sensitive to excessive humidity and flooding.

Bean prices continue to rise

Red bean prices have risen over the past few months due to the shortages caused by the “de primera” season losses after the torrential rains, and the uncertain prospects for the main “de postrera” harvest. In Managua, wholesale red bean prices in September rose by 25 percent over the previous month's price levels, which was 106 percent above last year's prices. Nicaragua will reduce red bean exports in order to supply the local market.

Conversely, the wholesale prices of the other staples, maize and rice, have tended to stabilise over the past few months.



Nicaragua
Cereal production

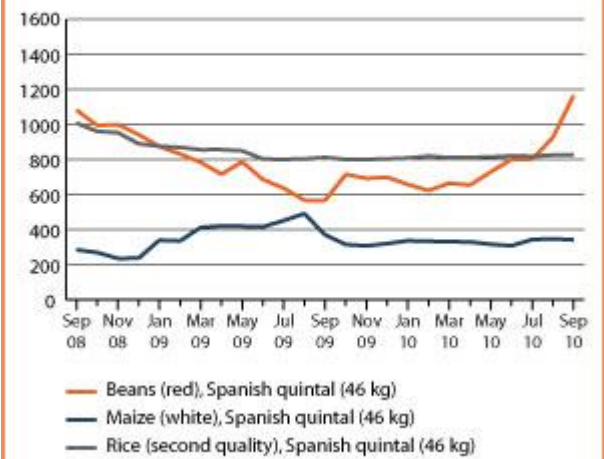
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	529	529	540	2
Rice (paddy)	313	338	320	-5
Sorghum	83	82	82	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	925	949	942	-1

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

Nicaragua

Selected wholesale food prices in Managua

Cordoba Oro



Source: Ministerio agropecuario y forestal

Reference Date: 04-August-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2010 spring cropping season is well advanced; localized damage has been reported due to heavy rainfall
- Prices of red beans have increased considerably in the last two months

Weather conditions are generally favourable but heavy rains are causing localized damage to crops

Generally regular and well distributed rainfall was recorded throughout the country since last July. However, locally intense precipitation caused floods and landslides along river banks with some damage to maize and beans crops grown in the lowlands. Earlier in June, the total rainfall volume exceeded the normal seasonal values in the central and western areas of the Región del Pacífico and Región Norte mainly due to the two tropical storms Agatha and Alex.

The spring cropping season is well advanced and planted area exceeded last year's average level

The 2010 main season maize and beans crops are currently in their vegetative/flowering stages. Beans, which are usually extremely sensitive to water logging, have been locally affected by heavy rains that started earlier than expected in April and became particularly intense in June/July in various departments, particularly in Matagalpa, Jinotega, Estelí and Madriz, reported localized losses.

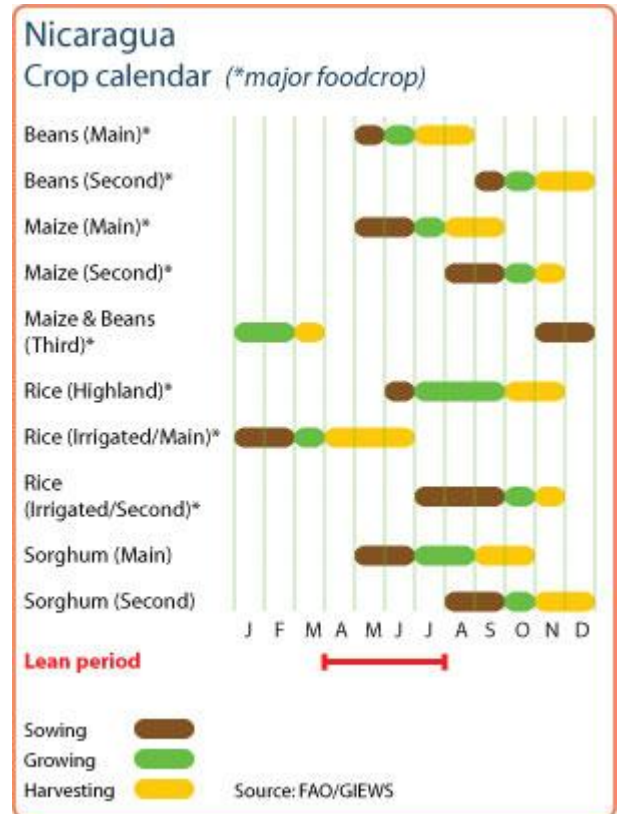
The total area planted with grains in the 2010 spring cropping season is slightly lower than the previous year. In particular, a 10 percent decrease is estimated for maize (190 000 ha compared to 210 000 in 2009), while for beans and rice the area planted is similar to last year at 70 000 ha, and 33 000 ha respectively.

The newly created Banco Produzcamos is expected to increase credit for farmers

In an effort to streamline the access to credit of the Nicaraguan agricultural sector, the Government has established the Banco Produzcamos in April 2010. In 2010, the bank is expected to distribute loans to more than 90 000 to farmers and stockbreeders, among others, in a move designed to support the country's agricultural sector following last year's drought reduced production and to mitigate the general lack of credit. However, for the 2010 spring cropping season, only a small number of requests have so far been approved.

In addition, the Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal (MAG-FOR) has announced in May the availability of stocks of certified seeds of rice, beans, maize and sorghum provided by the Instituto Nicaragüense de Tecnología Agropecuaria for the forthcoming cropping season.

Wholesale prices of red beans increased considerably as heavy rainfall threaten production



Wholesale prices of red beans have increased by approximately 20 percent in June/July, as a result of the intense precipitation of the last weeks which locally affected production together with the seasonal scarcity of food due to the annual lean season period (April /August).

The INETER (the national meteorological institute) announced that precipitation will continue to intensify which may further compromise expected production.

Since the beginning of 2010, maize and rice prices have been generally stable. Wholesale prices of white maize in Managua are even lower than in the previous year.

Reference Date: 22-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Localized areas in the North affected by drought.
- Good output for 2009 maize production.
- Food security to be monitored in the northern departments.

Erratic and below average precipitations have been severely affecting northern departments

The northern departments bordering Honduras, which are included in the so called *Corredor Seco* of Central America, experienced erratic rainfall volumes associated with the effects of El Niño since August 2009 which adversely affected the second maize and beans cropping seasons. These departments in highland areas are characterized by degraded soils and since most of the production is rain fed, crops are highly vulnerable to climate variations.

At national level, good 2009 maize output

The 2009 aggregate maize production (first, second and third seasons) is early estimated at 529 000 tonnes almost 6 percent higher than the previous year's output and almost 4 percent above the last five years' average. Prolonged dry conditions affected the northern departments of the *Corredor Seco* (namely Matagalpa, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, León and Jinotega) with severe localized losses to the second cropping season (*segunda*). However a record harvest in the *primera* season, which benefited from more efficient disease prevention methods, and an increase in area planted in the third season, more than offset the below average crop of the second season.

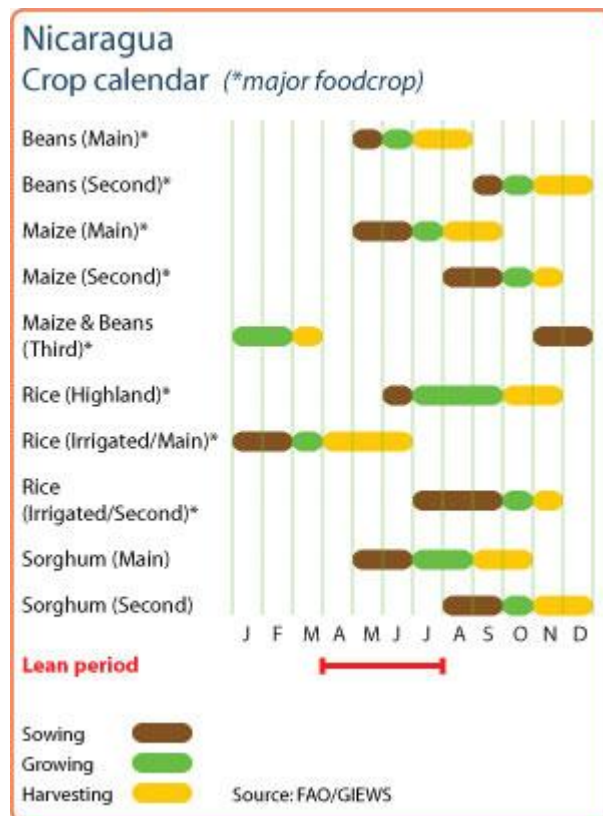
Wheat imports in marketing year 2009/10 (July/June) are forecast at about 125 000 tonnes, slightly above previous year's level. Imports of maize in 2009/10 (July/June) are expected to increase by almost 5 percent, reaching 120 000 tonnes.

Food security conditions deteriorating in northern localized areas

Crop and vulnerability assessments have reported widespread crop losses in municipalities of northern Nicaragua. An approximate number of 20 000 most vulnerable families have started to buy their food in the markets earlier than usual (in normal producing years, the second season harvest provides them with enough food reserves until April).

Diverse strategies to support food security are envisaged such as the strengthen of the School Feeding and Food for Work programmes, support to agricultural systems and a wider coverage of the Bono Productivo Alimentario in the Framework of the national programme Hambre Cero.

Additionally, a new variety of beans, recently released by the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) and the Programa Nacional de Investigación Agrícola de Nicaragua will benefit agriculturalists in dry areas, the most affected by extremely dry weather conditions.



Nicaragua
Cereal production

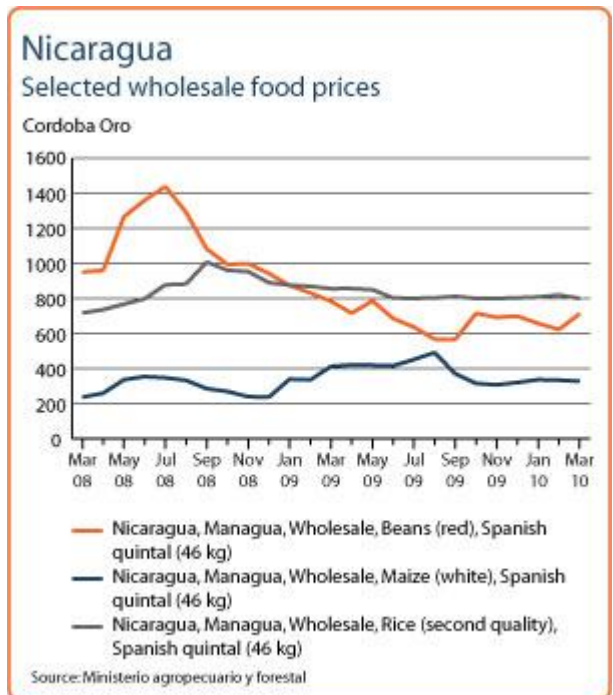
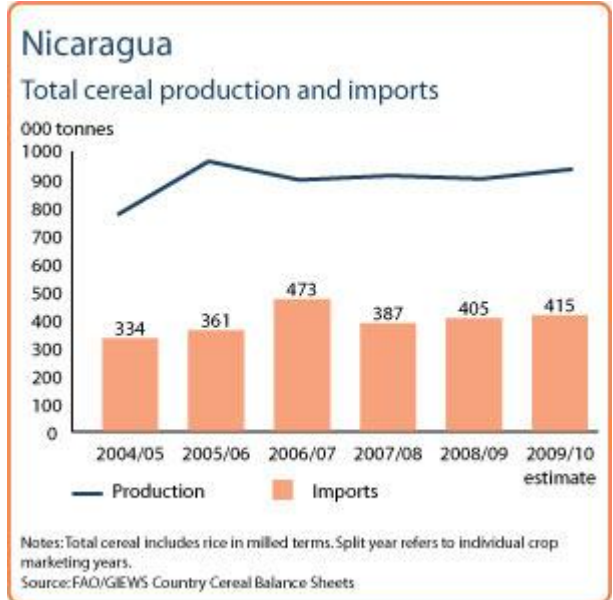
	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	512	500	529	6
Rice (paddy)	292	323	325	1
Sorghum	86	79	82	4
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	890	902	936	4

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

Wholesale prices of staples remain relatively stable

Red beans wholesale prices in Managua are 25 percent lower compared to the prices of the same period of two years ago. In the last quarter a slight rise can be on account of localized crop losses in the northern producing departments.

Since June 2009, wholesale prices of rice have stabilized at 800 Cordoba Oro/46kg, although they are still 10 percent higher than two years ago. Wholesale maize quotations have been stable since January 2010 but they are still 40 higher than two years ago.



Reference Date: 24-september-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Insufficient water supply in Pacific regions
- 372 000 tonnes of maize, corresponding to almost 90 percent of expected output, were harvested during the main cropping season
- Rice quotations still 50 percent higher compared to 2007

Rainfall below normal level in the two geographical regions of the country

Despite the overall rainfall increase recorded during the third decade of July over most of the country, during the first and second decades of August, cumulative rainfall volumes were well below the previous period.

Due to the effects of the unusually prolonged dry spell period (*periodo canicular*), which usually occurs from the second half of July till the first half of August, a water deficit remained in the Central and Pacific Regions.

By opposite, in the same period, cumulative rainfall levels above seasonal average were recorded in the Regiones Autónomas del Atlántico.

Preliminary forecast for main cropping season production point at a good maize output

Harvesting of the main cropping season of rice, maize and beans started in September. To date, 372 000 tonnes of maize were harvested, corresponding to 87.4 percent of the total expected production for the main cropping season.

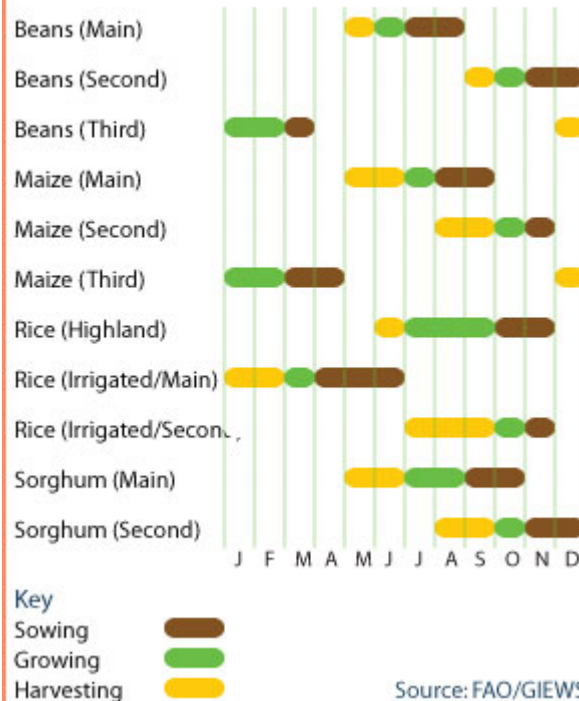
Despite the fact that most of the sorghum (sold at stable guaranteed prices to the national poultry sector) is harvested during the second cropping season, a production of approximately 36 000 tonnes is expected for the ongoing cropping season.

Increased maize import requirements for the poultry sector

Maize import requirements (white and yellow) for 2009/2010 will increase compared to initial forecasts and are tentatively estimated at 120 000 tonnes.

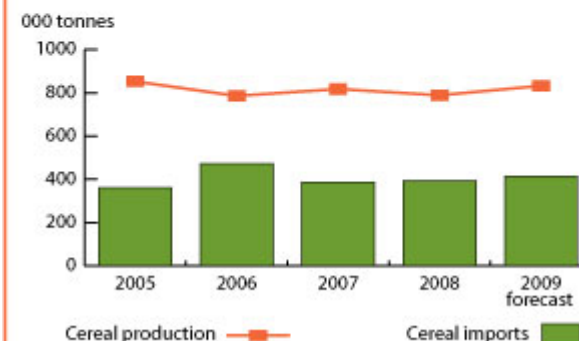
This increase could be due to higher requirements of the poultry industry and insufficient sorghum production used for animal feeding.

Crop calendar Nicaragua



Cereal production and imports Nicaragua

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	512	500	540	8%
Rice (milled)	190	210	211	0.5%
Sorghum	86	79	82	3.8%
Total Cereals	788	789	833	5.6%

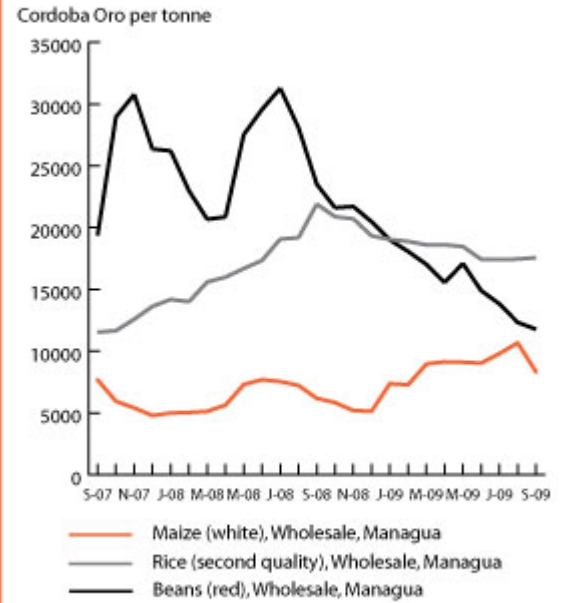


Rice quotations still 50 percent higher compared to 2007

Red beans wholesale prices in Managua have fallen by 40 percent compared to the level of two years ago. Despite some seasonal fluctuations, maize quotations have remained relatively stable.

By contrast, the wholesale prices of rice, despite the downward trend recorded since last year's record levels, are still 50 percent higher than the level of two years ago.

Nicaragua Selected food prices



Source: Ministerio agropecuario y forestal