



GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 04-March-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather conditions affecting planting and establishment of 2024 main cereal crops
- Above-average cereal production obtained in 2023
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2023/24
- Prices of rice at high levels in December 2023
- High food prices and reduced purchasing power limit access to food for vulnerable households

Dry weather conditions affecting planting and establishment of 2024 main cereal crops

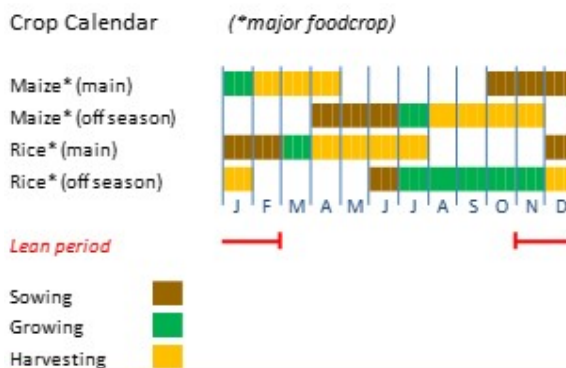
Precipitation amounts between October 2023 and January 2024 were more than 30 percent below average, associated with the El Niño phenomenon, hindering planting operations of the 2024 main maize crop and sowings are estimated at below-average levels, especially in southern parts of the country. Planting of 2024 main paddy crops started with some delay last January and improved precipitation amounts from February allowed plantings to pick up. Remote sensing data, as of mid-February 2024, indicates below-average vegetation conditions in northern and southern areas (red, orange and yellow colours in VHI map), especially in municipalities of Baucau, western Aileu, western Bobonaro and parts of Liquiçá. In these areas, which combined account for about 40 percent of the main cereal crop production, yields of early planted crops are likely to be at a below-average level.

According to the International Research Institute/Climate Prediction Centre (IRI/CPC) weather forecasts, there is a high likelihood that below-average precipitation amounts and elevated temperatures will persist between February and April 2024 across most of the country, exacerbating the negative effects of the ongoing dryness on the main crop production.

Above-average cereal production obtained in 2023

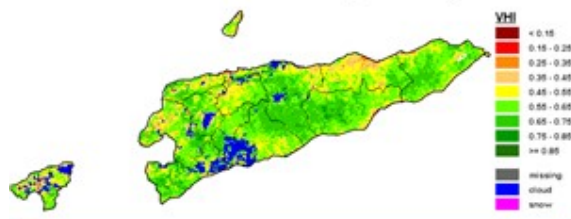
The 2023 cropping season finalized last January and cereal production is estimated at an above-average level due to large sowings, driven by high prices of cereals at planting time. Adequate precipitation amounts throughout 2023, resulted in average yields in most parts of the country.

Timor-Leste



Timor Leste - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, February 2024



Timor-Leste

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	81	87	85	-2.3
Rice (paddy)	73	76	82	6.9
Total	155	163	167	2.0

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2023/24

About 60 percent of the country's total cereal consumption needs are covered by imports, mostly sourced from India, China (mainland) and Viet Nam. Cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at an above-average level of 200 000 tonnes. Imports of rice, which account for about 80 percent of annual imports, are anticipated to be above the average, in line with population growth and increasing domestic consumption. Import requirements for maize are estimated at average levels.

Prices of rice at high levels in December 2023

Prices of rice, the country's main staple, increased throughout 2023, with a steep rise recorded between August and November 2023, in line with international price trends following the export ban of non-basmati white rice by India. Despite a seasonal decline in December 2023, prices remained 30 percent higher than the elevated levels of a year earlier.

According to the National Institute of Statistics, food inflation was estimated at 12.4 percent in December 2023, well above the rate of 12 months before, mostly reflecting increased domestic prices of rice products.

High food prices and reduced income limit access to food for vulnerable households

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, an estimated 262 000 people, 20 percent of the total population, were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) from May to September 2023. The main drivers of food insecurity were high food prices and reduced income following the slowdown of the national economy in 2022 and 2023, which diminished the purchasing power of vulnerable households, limiting their access to food. Food insecurity conditions may worsen in 2024 due to the adverse effects of ongoing dry weather conditions on 2024 crop production, likely affecting farmers' livelihoods and exerting additional upward pressure on already high prices.

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.

This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:

FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS) <https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/>.

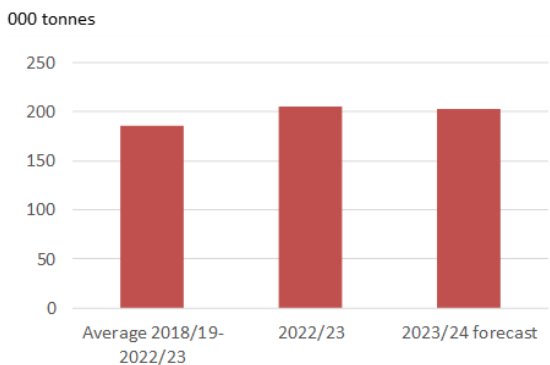
FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool <https://fpma.fao.org/>.

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

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

Timor-Leste

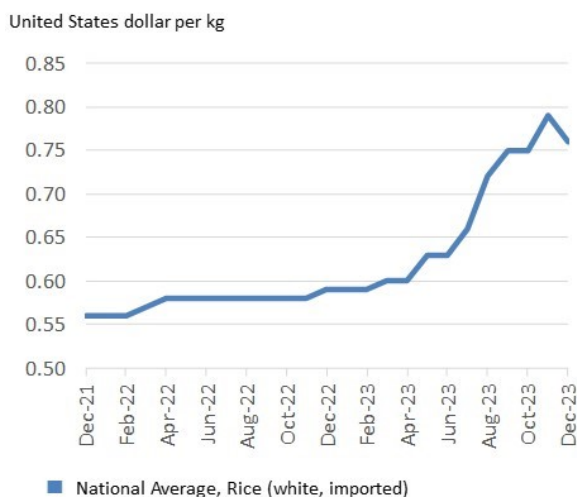
Cereals Imports



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

Timor-Leste

Retail prices of rice





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 23-October-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal production forecast in 2023
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2023/24
- Prices of rice at high levels in September 2023
- High food prices and reduced purchasing power limit access to food for vulnerable households

Above-average cereal production forecast in 2023

Harvesting of the 2023 main cereals, mainly rice and maize, finalized in July and production is estimated at an above-average level due to an expansion of sowings, driven by high prices at planting time. Adequate precipitation throughout the season resulted in average yields in most parts of the country. Below-average precipitation amounts in May and June affected yields of late-planted rice crops in Viqueque and Manatuto municipalities.

The 2023 minor off-season is ongoing, with maize crops being harvested, while paddy crops are between reproductive and ripening stages, and harvesting will begin at the end of the year. Weather conditions since the start of the season have been conducive, supporting above-average sowings and benefitting crop development.

Weather forecasts point to a high likelihood of below-average precipitation and elevated temperatures between October 2023 to February 2024, associated with the prevailing El Niño event. If materialized, yields of late-planted 2023 off-season crops and planting as well as the development of 2024 main crops, may be affected.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2023/24

About 60 percent of the country's total cereal consumption needs are covered by imports, mostly sourced from India, China (mainland) and Viet Nam. Cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at an above-average level 200 000 tonnes. Imports of rice, which account for about 80 percent of the annual imports, are anticipated to be 14 percent above the average, in line with the population growth and increasing domestic consumption. Import requirements for maize are estimated at average levels.

Timor-Leste

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Timor-Leste

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	81	87	85	-2.3
Rice (paddy)	73	76	82	6.9
Total	155	163	167	2.0

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Prices of rice at high levels in September 2023

Prices of rice, the country's main staple, have steadily increased since November 2022 and surged by 15 percent between August and September 2023, in line with international trends following the export ban of non-basmati white rice by India. In September 2023, rice prices were 30 percent higher than the elevated levels of a year earlier.

According to the National Institute of Statistics, food inflation was estimated at 9.8 percent in August 2023, well above the rate of 12 months before, mostly reflecting increased domestic prices of rice products.

High food prices and reduced income limit access to food for vulnerable households

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) [analysis](#), an estimated 262 000 people (20 percent of the total population) were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) from May to September 2023. The main drivers of food insecurity were high food prices and reduced income following the slowdown of the national economy, which diminished the purchasing power of vulnerable households, limiting their access to food. Food insecurity conditions may worsen, especially during the November 2023 to February 2024 lean period, if high international rice prices persist, making imports expensive, and if the expected dry weather conditions will lower the 2024 agricultural production.

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the country's Gross domestic product (GDP) growth is expected to decline from 21 percent in 2022 to 17 percent in 2023, primarily due to reduced oil and gas production.

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.

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

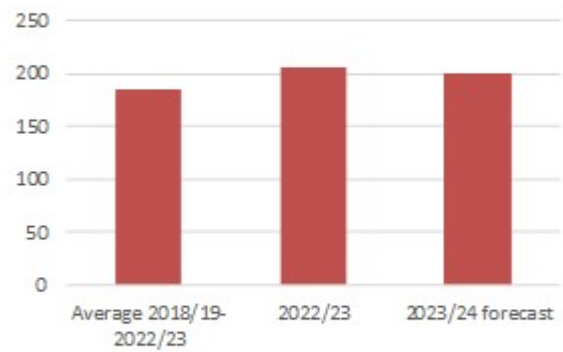
<https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>

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

Timor-Leste

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

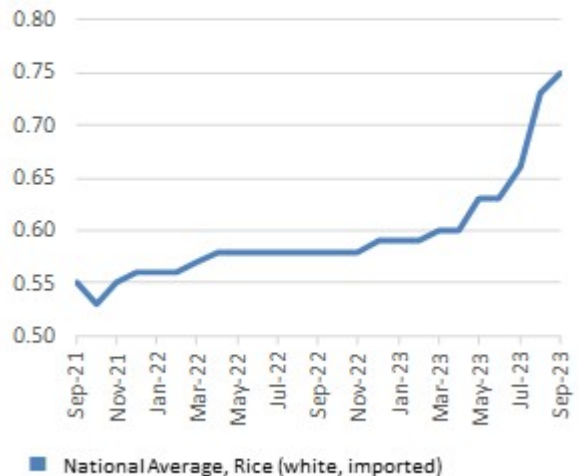


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Timor-Leste

Retail prices of rice

United States dollar per kg



■ National Average, Rice (white, imported)



GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 07-June-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable production prospects for 2022 main food crops
- Cereal imports in 2022/23 forecast to increase
- Domestic price of cooking oil at record level in April
- Food insecurity deteriorating due to multiple shocks in 2021 and 2022

Favourable production prospects for 2022 main food crops

Harvesting of the 2022 main paddy crop is currently ongoing and will finalize in July, while harvesting of the maize crop was completed in April. Precipitation amounts during the 2022 rainy season (December-May) were above average and well distributed throughout the country, benefitting planting operations and crop development. As of April, remote sensing data shows above-average vegetation conditions in most cropping areas, with favourable yield expectations (VCI map). The area planted for paddy and maize crops is estimated above the five-year average, driven by strong domestic demand. Overall, the output of both crops is expected to be above average.

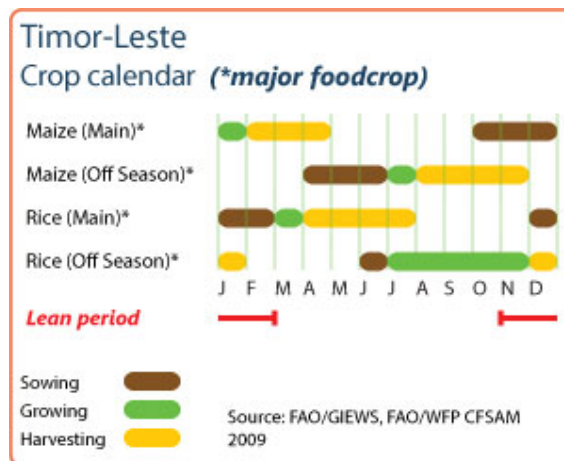
Sowing of the 2022 secondary (off) minor season maize is ongoing under generally favourable weather conditions, while planting of rice is about to start and is expected to finalize at the end of June. According to IRI/CPC forecasts, there is a high probability of above-average precipitation amounts over most parts of the country during the next three months (June-August), which is expected to benefit planting operations and support germination of secondary crops.

Cereal import requirements in 2022/23 estimated at above-average level

On average, about 60 percent of the country's total consumption needs are covered by imports. Cereal imports in 2022/23 (January-December for rice and April-March for other cereals) are forecast to increase to about 200 000 tonnes, mostly reflecting an anticipated increase in imports of rice. Import requirements for maize are estimated close to the five-year average.

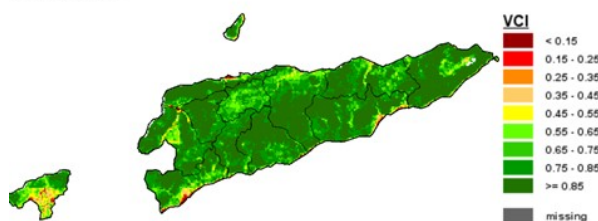
Domestic prices of cooking oil at record level in April

Prices of imported rice, the most consumed staple in the country,



Timor-Leste - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

April 2022



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Timor-Leste

Cereal Production

	2017-2021		2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	average	2021		
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	76	80	87	8.6
Rice (paddy)	66	70	76	8.5
Total	142	150	163	8.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

have been steadily increasing since February, mirroring the trends in the international markets and supported by high fuel and transportation costs. Prices of local rice are twice higher than the imported rice, considering its limited availability and consumer preference during ceremonies and special events. Local rice producers normally consume most of their production and only limited quantities are sold in markets. The national average price for local rice has been increasing seasonally since February 2022 and, last April, it was above its year-earlier level, amid tightening supplies ahead of the arrival of the main crops into the markets. Domestic prices of cooking oil, almost entirely imported, have been increasing since October 2021 and surged to record levels in April 2022, in response of an export ban implemented by Indonesia (the world's major producer and exporter of palm oil). Overall, April quotations of cooking oil were 17 percent higher month on month and 54 percent above their year-earlier levels. On 23 May 2022, the Government of Indonesia lifted the ban and reinstated the possibility to export crude palm oil, given sufficient domestic supply conditions (see [link](#) for more information).

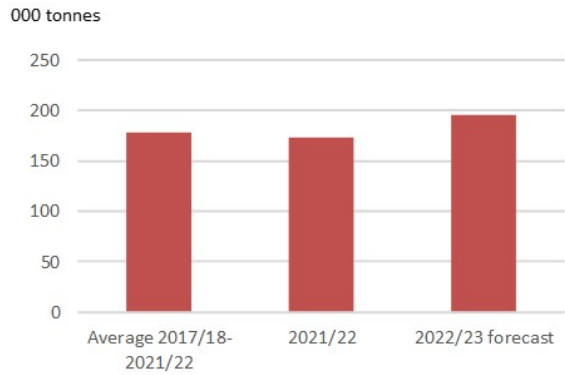
According to the National Statistics Directorate, the year-on-year increase of the Consumer price index (CPI) was estimated in April at 11.5 percent, while the food CPI increased by 14.9 percent on a yearly basis. The highest yearly increases were registered for prices of oils and fats, estimated at 41 percent, followed by vegetables and milk, cheese and eggs that increased by 33 and 25 percent, respectively. The CPI of bread and other cereals was estimated at a low 2.3 percent.

Food insecurity deteriorating due to multiple shocks in 2021 and 2022

In 2021, the food security situation has deteriorated for a large number of people due to multiple shocks, including income and job losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, high domestic food prices and the negative impacts (damage to property, localized losses of crops, loss of livestock and food stocks) of flooding in April 2021 caused by Cyclone Seroja. According to [the 2021 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19](#), published in January 2022, 40 percent of the total population (about 500 000 people) was estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure in 2021. The number of food insecure people may increase in 2022, considering the elevated international prices of energy, fuel and food, which have been transmitted to the domestic markets. Prices of important food items such as oil and fats, fruit and vegetables, were at record or near-record levels in April 2022 and may remain at high levels, seriously limiting households' access to food. Fuel prices have been increasing since the start of the war in Ukraine at end of last February, which is expected to lead to increased agricultural production costs. However, the current high international prices of fertilizers and pesticides are expected to have a limited impact on food production as their utilization is extremely low.

Timor-Leste

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.

Timor-Leste

National average prices of imported rice



Source: Market Monitor Report MAF/GDS/WFP RAM.

Timor-Leste

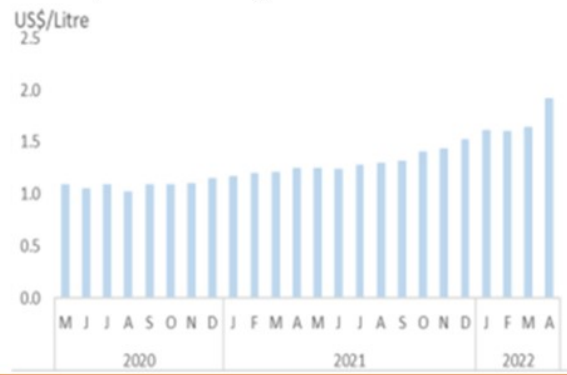
National average prices of local rice



Source: Market Monitor Report MAF/GDS/WFP RAM.

Timor-Leste

Nominal prices of cooking oil



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: Market Monitor Report MAF/GDS/WFP RAM.



GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 12-July-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near-average aggregate food crop production forecast in 2021
- African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks continue to severely affect domestic pig industry
- Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated at average level
- Domestic rice prices follow mixed trends

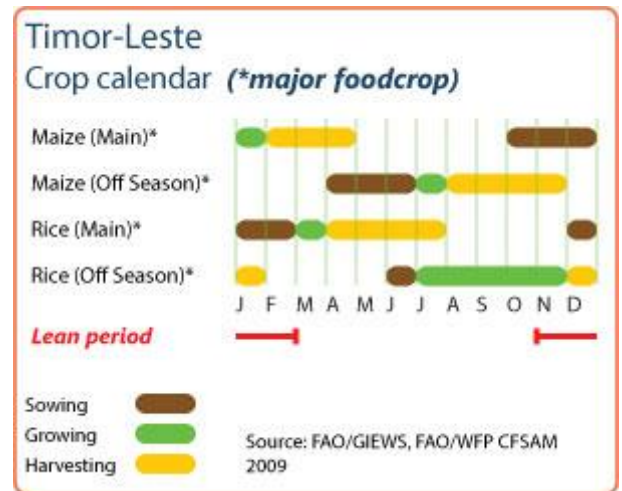
Near-average aggregate food crop production forecast in 2021

Sowing of the 2021 secondary minor season food crops was completed in June and harvesting is expected to start in August for maize and December for rice. Weather conditions have been overall favourable since April, facilitating planting activities and resulting in average to above-average vegetation conditions as of late June (ASI map).

The harvest of the 2021 main season rice crop is nearing completion, while the maize harvest finalized by the end of June. Overall, weather conditions during the season were favourable, resulting in higher-than-average planted area and yields, which compensated for the crop losses due to floods at the end of March and beginning of April and to Fall Armyworm. According to the recent [FAO Crop and Supply Assessment Mission \(CFSAM\)](#), the 2021 aggregate production of maize, rice and root crops (in cereal equivalent) is forecast at about 136 000 tonnes, nearly 8 percent above the past five-year average. Maize production is estimated at 80 100 tonnes, 9 percent above the last five-year average. Paddy production is estimated at 39 950 tonnes, 13 percent above the last five-year average. The production of root crops is estimated at 16 400 tonnes (in cereal equivalent).

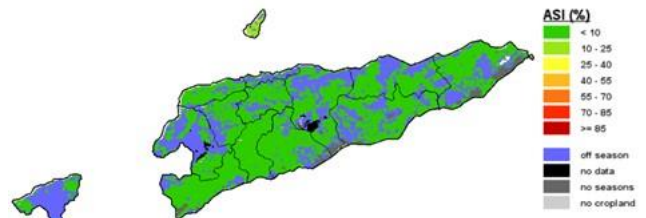
ASF outbreaks continue to severely affect domestic pig industry

Since its first outbreak in 2019, the ASF had a devastating impact on the pig value chain. Based on data collected during the 2021 CFSAM, the total death toll due to ASF as well as the Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is estimated at 129 000 animals, about 28 percent of the total pig population. However, the actual figures might be even higher than these estimates as official data had not been updated in some municipalities when the Mission was in the country.



Timor-Leste - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 3, June 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Timor-Leste

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2021 forecast	change 2021 from average
	000 tonnes		percent
Maize	73.8	80.1	8.5
Rice	35.5	40.0	12.7
Root crops	16.6	16.4	-1.2
Total	125.9	136.4	8.3

Note: roots crops production in cereal equivalent.
Source: CFSAM, 2021.

Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated at average level

The country relies on cereal imports, which amount to about 40 percent of the country's total consumption needs. With an estimated utilization of 270 100 tonnes of maize, rice and root crops (in cereal equivalent), the import requirement for the 2021/22 marketing year (April/March) is estimated at about 113 700 tonnes, close to the five-year average and it is expected to be fully covered by commercial and governmental purchases.

Domestic rice prices follow mixed trends

In May 2021, prices of imported rice, the most consumed staple in the country, were on average about 15 percent higher than a year earlier mostly due to strong local demand and supply disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of local rice, which accounts for a small proportion of the market supply, are twice higher than the imported rice, considering its limited availability and consumer preference to use it for ceremonies and special occasions. Local rice producers normally consume most of their production and only limited quantities are sold on the markets in return of cash. The national average price for local rice decreased by 32 percent between May and October 2020, mostly due to the diminished purchasing power, following income losses and increased unemployment due to the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions, as consumers preferred the cheaper imported rice. Amid tightening market availabilities, domestic rice prices increased seasonally between December 2020 and February 2021. Starting from March, prices were generally stable or showed signs of softening. Overall, prices of local rice in May 2021 were 23 percent below their year-earlier levels.

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



GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 24-September-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

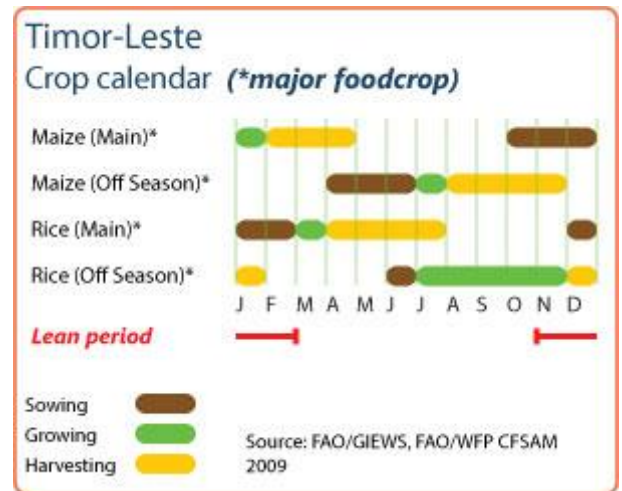
- Main season maize output in 2020 estimated below five-year average
- COVID-19 pandemic heightens food insecurity

Main season maize output in 2020 estimated below five-year average

Harvesting of the 2020 main season maize crop was completed in April. The area planted is estimated below the five-year average due to poor rains in major producing areas during the October-December period, which affected planting operations and early crop development. Rains improved from January 2020 and brought some relief to the areas impacted by dry weather conditions, benefitting yields. Some localized crop losses were reported due to infestation of Fall Armyworm (FAW). The 2020 secondary off-season crop is currently being harvested. Despite some minor losses due to FAW, the output is forecast at an above-average level, following generally favourable weather conditions. In aggregate, the 2020 maize output is forecast at a below-average level of 75 000 tonnes.

The 2020 main paddy crop was harvested by the end of June. The output is estimated above the last five-year average reflecting good precipitation amounts from January onwards which supported planting operations and had a positive impact on yields. The 2020, mostly irrigated, secondary off-season paddy crop, to be harvested at the end of the year, is growing under generally favourable weather conditions, but some concerns exist due to low irrigation water availability. Overall, the 2020 aggregate rice production is forecast at an above-average level of 69 000 tonnes.

Weather forecasts indicate a high probability of above-average precipitation amounts between October 2020 and February 2021, due to La Niña conditions that are likely to persist throughout the main 2020/21 cropping season. In the country, the La Niña weather pattern is normally associated with heavy rainfall and strong winds. Above-average rains are expected to benefit the 2021 main season crops, which will be planted from October onwards, but carry the possibility of flooding and associated crop damages.



Timor-Leste

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	84	76	75	-0.9
Rice (paddy)	54	80	69	-13.4
Total	137	155	144	-7.3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated at average level

The country relies on imports, which amount to almost 50 percent of the country's total cereal consumption needs. Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (April/March) are estimated to remain close to the previous year's average level of 150 000 tonnes.

COVID-19 pandemic heightens food insecurity

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries conducted a Rapid Food Security Assessment in May 2020 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and food security conditions of rural communities. According to the Assessment report, as of mid-May 2020, over 40 percent of the households reported resorting to negative coping strategies due to the pandemic. About 80 percent of the households stated also that restrictions related to COVID-19, including temporary limitation on movement and closure of the markets, resulted in the loss of income and hampered access to food. In addition, as the country has been severely affected by outbreaks of the African Swine Fever (ASF) in 2019 and early 2020, most interviewed households reported that, as of May 2020, they lost about 60 percent of their animals. Pig losses have caused a substantial reduction of income, raising concerns over the livelihoods and the food security situation of the pig farming households.

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.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

On 6 August, the Government has re-imposed a State of Emergency, foreseen to be in force until 4 October, after a new COVID-19 case in about 3 months was confirmed. As a measure to prevent the spread of the virus, the Government restricted international travel. However, domestic economic activities are authorized to continue normally. The country was under State of Emergency with restriction of movements from 28 March until the end of May.

To mitigate the negative effects of the virus, on 20 April 2020, the Government approved a relief package of USD 150 million. The package included:

- cash support of USD 100 per month for a period of three months for 214 000 most vulnerable households
- purchase of 30 000 tonnes of rice from abroad (equivalent to about three months of domestic consumption needs) in order to guarantee a stable market supply
- waiver on the payment of electricity (up to USD 15 per month) and water bills for the low-income households
- deferral of tax payments for two months.

In addition, the package entailed financial assistance measures, including reduced interest rates, credit support for importers of essential goods and emergency loans for households and micro-enterprises.



GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 12-July-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

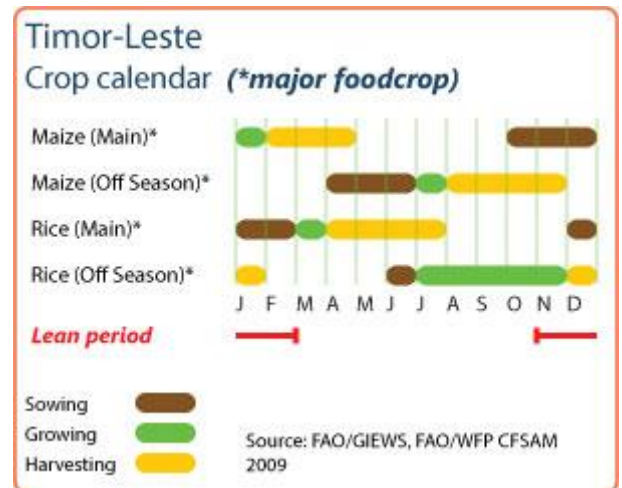
- Above-average rains benefitted 2019 main crops
- Cereal import requirements in 2019/20 estimated close to last year's average level

Above-average rains benefit 2019 main crops

Harvesting of the 2019 main paddy crop is nearing completion and production prospects are favourable. Seasonal rains, which normally extend from December to April, have been characterized by above average amounts and good distribution in space and time in most key cropping areas, which supported plantings and had a positive impact on yields. The 2019 off-season crop, for harvest in December 2019 and January 2020, is growing under favourable weather conditions. According to remote sensing analysis and information (see ASI map), vegetation conditions of crops are good in most cropping areas. Overall, the 2019 aggregate paddy output is expected to be similar to the five-year average.

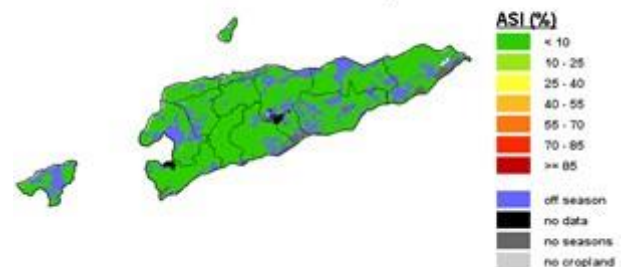
Harvesting of the 2019 main season maize crop was completed in April and the output is estimated close to average levels, mostly reflecting near-average yields, supported by favourable weather conditions. The off-season crop, for harvest between August and November, is growing under favourable weather conditions. Official forecasts set the 2019 aggregate maize production at 104 000 tonnes, close to the five-year average and 24 percent above the 2018 reduced output, which was affected by unfavourable weather conditions.

Some concerns remain for the ongoing off-season crops due to prevalent conditions of a one-weak El Niño event, which is normally associated with below-average rains in the country. The June's forecasts from the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate Change and Society indicate a 50 percent probability of below-average rains from July to September throughout the country. This is a critical period for secondary season crops and, if confirmed, this may affect yields.



Timor-Leste - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to dekad 2, June 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Cereal import requirements in 2019/20 estimated close to last year's average level

The country depends on imports, which amount to almost 50 percent of the country's total cereal consumption needs. Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (April/March) are estimated to remain close to the previous year's average level at 155 000 tonnes.

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



GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 06-March-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable prospects for 2018 main season maize crop
- Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to remain close to last year's high level

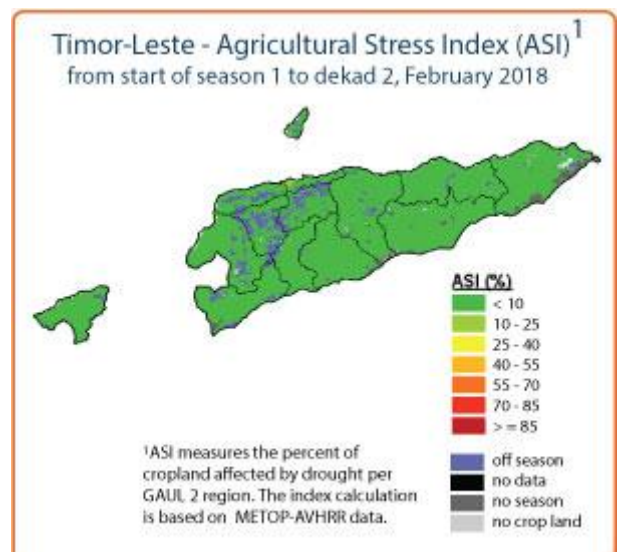
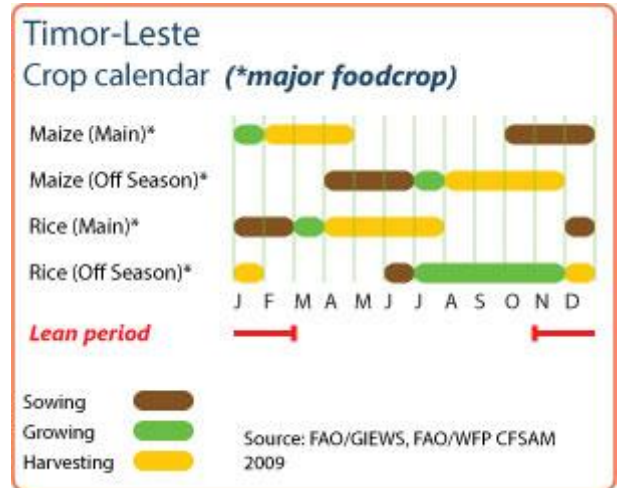
Unfavourable prospects for 2018 main season maize crop

Harvesting of the 2018 main season maize crop is ongoing and will be completed in April, while the 2018 paddy crop is currently in the reproductive to ripening stages and harvesting will start in April. Overall, timely and well-distributed rains since October 2017 benefitted the 2018 main season cereals. However, strong winds in late January and early February hit the ready-to-be harvested maize crop, particularly in the upland areas, with a severe negative impact on the grain production outlook. By contrast, the impact of winds on low-lying rice fields has been minimal and the current prospects for the 2018 main paddy production remain generally positive.

Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to remain close to last year's high level

The country heavily depends on imports to meet its consumption needs. Cereal import requirements in the 2017/18 marketing year (April/March) are forecast to remain close to last year's high level of 190 000 tonnes.

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





GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 04-August-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 forecast to remain close to last year's reduced level
- Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to remain close to last year's high level
- Acute food insecurity persists in some pocket areas

Cereal production in 2017 forecast to remain close to last year's reduced level

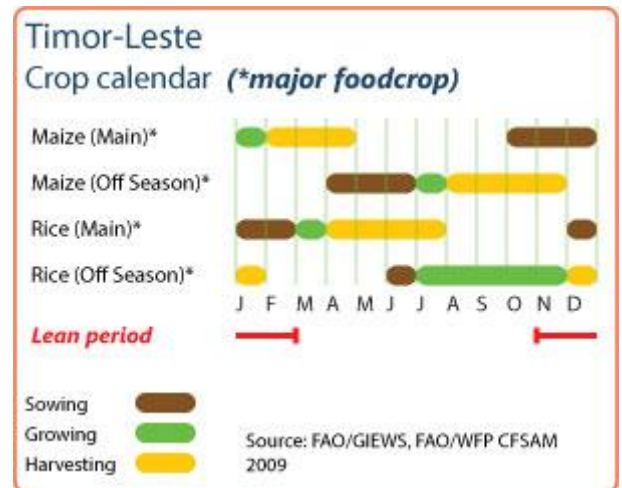
Harvesting of the 2017 main season paddy and maize crops is completed. Delayed and erratic rains during the cropping season particularly over the main agricultural areas of the country, kept area planted and yields close to last year's reduced level. The weather forecast points to an increased likelihood of below-average rains during the July-September period which may negatively affect the 2017 secondary season crops, particularly the predominantly rainfed maize and paddy crops. Overall, the aggregate paddy and maize output is forecast at 130 000 tonnes, close to last year's reduced level and 20 percent below the previous five-year average.

Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to remain close to last year's high level

The country heavily depends on imports to meet its consumption needs. Cereal import requirements in the 2017/18 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at 190 000 tonnes, close to the high level of 2016/17, reflecting the expectation of low domestic production.

Pockets of acute food insecurity persist

Severe and prolonged droughts during 2015 and 2016 affected approximately 350 000 people (one-third of the total population), mainly located in central highlands, eastern and southwestern parts of the country. According to a joint rapid assessment conducted in July 2017 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and international organizations operating in the country, most of the drought-affected population have not fully recovered and still require humanitarian assistance. The areas of major concern are the municipalities of Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Lautem, Oecussi and coastal regions of Viqueque. Access to food remains a major challenge in most upland areas and some remote villages.



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.



GIIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 01-August-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 forecast to increase from last year's reduced level but remain below average
- Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to decrease from last year's high level
- Acute food insecurity persists in some pocket areas

Cereal production in 2017 to increase from last year's reduced level but remain below average

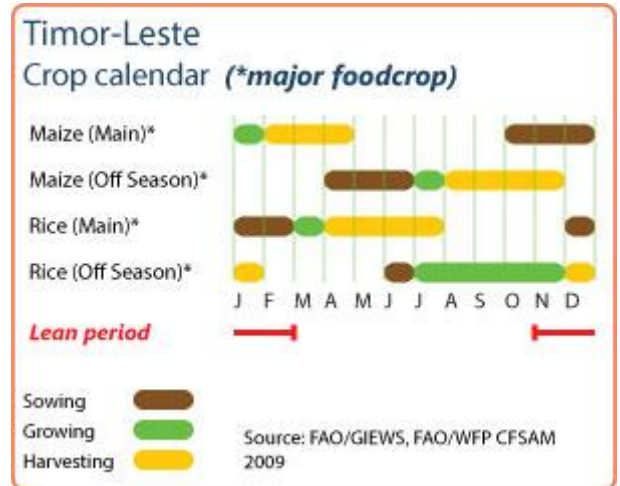
Harvesting of the 2017 main season maize crop was completed by May and paddy is currently ongoing and will be completed by end-July. Near-average and well-distributed rains during the cropping season over the main agricultural areas located in the eastern parts of the country, coupled with good supplies of irrigation water, benefitted the 2017 main season crops. By contrast, in some other producing areas, including the municipalities of Aileu, Baucau, Cova Lima, Oecussi and Manatuto, a period of below-average rains from May to June 2017 have affected the yields of the main season paddy crop. In these areas, there is also some concern over the 2017 secondary season maize and paddy crops, which are currently in vegetative to reproductive stage of development. The weather forecast points to an increased likelihood of below-average rains during July-September period, which may negatively affect the 2017 secondary season crops, particularly the predominantly rainfed maize crop. Still, considering the generally favourable outcome of the 2017 main season crop, the 2017 aggregate paddy and maize output is forecast by FAO at 155 000 tonnes, recovering from last year's reduced level, but still below the previous five-year average.

Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to decrease from last year's high level

The country heavily depends on imports to meet its consumption needs. Cereal import requirements in the 2017/18 marketing year (April/March) are forecast to decrease by almost 20 percent to 153 000 tonnes compared with the 2016/17 high level, reflecting the expectation of improved domestic output. However, at this level, imports will remain above the five-year average.

Pockets of acute food insecurity persist

Severe and prolonged droughts during 2015 and 2016 affected approximately 350 000 people (one-third of the total population), mainly located in central highlands, eastern and southwestern

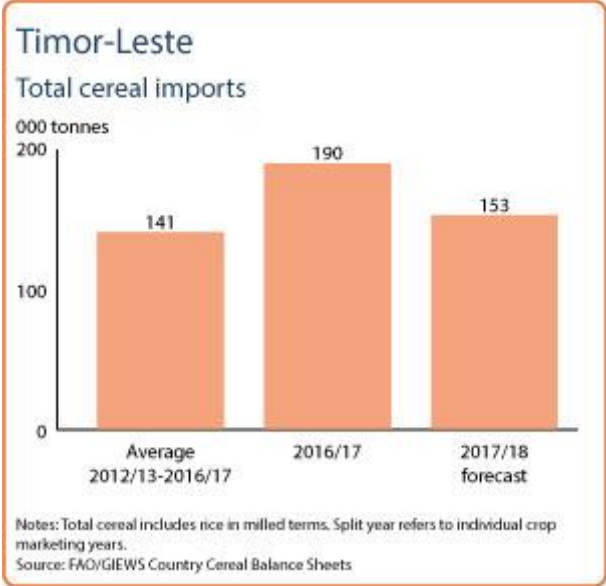


Timor-Leste
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	84	60	80	33
Maize	78	60	75	25
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	162	120	155	29

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

parts of the country. According to a joint rapid assessment conducted in July 2017 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and international organizations operating in the country, most of the drought-affected population have not fully recovered and still require humanitarian assistance. The areas of major concern are the municipalities of Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Lautem, Oecussi and coastal regions of Viqueque. Access to food also remains a major challenge in most upland areas and some remote villages.





GIEWS Country Brief Timor-Leste

Reference Date: 14-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable start of 2017 main cropping season
- Cereal production in 2016 declined for second consecutive year due to dry weather conditions
- Cereal import requirements in 2016/17 forecast to increase over previous year's already high level
- Acute localized food insecurity persists

Favourable start of 2017 main cropping season

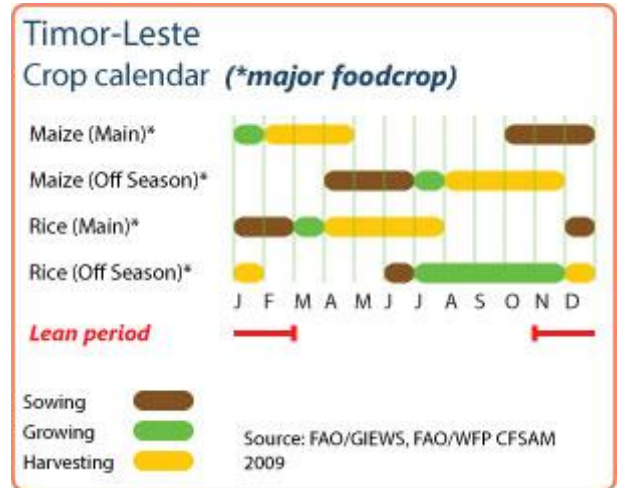
Planting of the 2017 main season maize is well advanced, while planting of rice just started and is expected to continue until the end of February 2017. Average and well-distributed rainfall since October over the main cereal-producing areas located in the eastern parts of the country, coupled with improved supplies of irrigation water, benefitted planting operations and early crop development. Assuming favourable weather conditions for the remainder of the season, the 2017 main season cereal output is expected to recover from the drought-affected harvests in 2015 and 2016.

El Niño-induced dry conditions result in cereal production decline in 2016

Harvesting of the 2016 secondary off-season paddy crops is well advanced, while harvesting of the main season crops was completed earlier in the year. FAO's forecast for the 2016 aggregate rice production is set at 60 000 tonnes, 6 percent below last year's already sharply-reduced output and 30 percent below the five-year average. The sharp decline mainly reflects the reduced main season harvest that was negatively affected by prolonged El Niño-induced dry weather conditions. Municipalities of Bobonaro, Covalima and Lautem, as well as coastal regions of Viqueque and parts of Baucau, which combined account for close to two-thirds of country's annual paddy production, were among the most affected. Dry weather conditions also constrained the 2016 maize crop, which is forecast at 60 000 tonnes, 8 percent down from the 2015 reduced level and 21 percent below the five-year average.

Cereal import requirements in 2016/17 forecast to increase over last year's already high level

The country heavily depends on imports to meet its consumption needs. Cereal import requirements in the 2016/17 marketing year



Timor-Leste
Cereal production

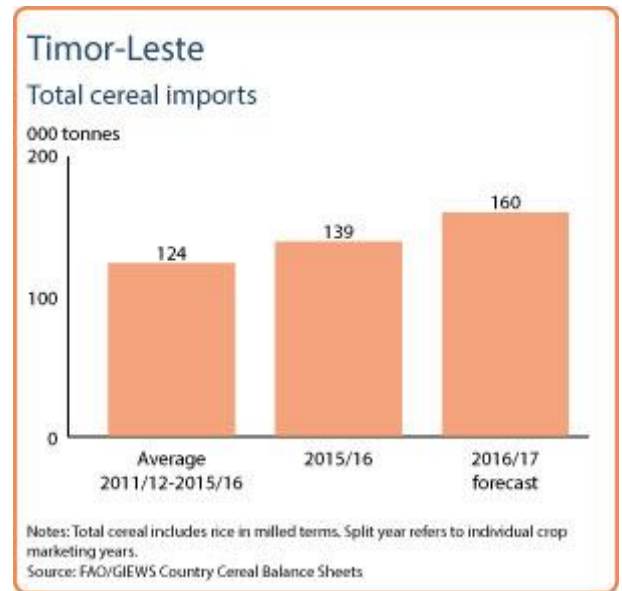
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	86	64	60	-6
Maize	76	65	60	-8
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	162	129	120	-7

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

(April/March) are forecast to increase by 15 percent to 160 000 tonnes compared with the previous year's already high level reflecting two consecutive years of reduced cereal production.

Pockets of acute food insecurity persist

According to official estimates, approximately 350 000 people (one-third of the total population), mainly located in central highlands, eastern and southwestern parts of the country were affected by prolonged drought during the last two years. Although rains improved in recent months bringing some relief to drought-affected areas, vulnerable households mostly concentrated in municipalities of Ainaro (southwest), Lautem (east), Ermera (northwest), Liquica (north), coastal regions of Viqueque (south) and outskirts of the capital, Dili, have not recovered fully and may still require humanitarian assistance. Access to food also remains a major challenge in upland areas and remote villages.



Reference Date: 13-May-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Reduced cereal production expected due to dry conditions for second consecutive year in 2016**
- **Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to increase from previous year's already high level**
- **Acute localized food insecurity persists**

Cereal production to decline in 2016 for second consecutive year due to dry conditions

Due to the delayed planting caused by drought, harvesting of the 2016 main season rice crop has been delayed, while the maize harvest is ongoing and expected to be completed in May. Erratic rains associated with the El Niño episode since the start of the season in November, resulted in both area and yield reductions of the maize and rice crops. The most affected municipalities are Bobonaro, Covalima and Lautem, as well as coastal regions of Viqueque and parts of Baucau, which combined account for close to two-thirds of the country's annual crop production. There are also concerns about the impact of continuing dry weather on planting of the secondary season crops, which is currently ongoing in areas with bi-modal rainfall and will continue until the end of July for maize and August for rice. The aggregate rice production in 2016 is, therefore, anticipated to decrease by a further 6 percent from last year's already sharply-reduced output to about 30 percent below the average of the past five years. Maize output is forecast by FAO at 60 000 tonnes, 8 percent down from the 2015 reduced level and 21 percent below the five-year average.

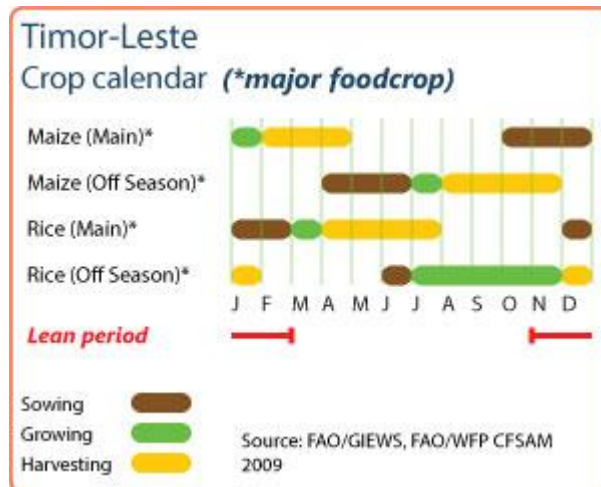
Livestock conditions have also been negatively affected with the lack of adequate pasture and reduced water availability resulting in worsening body conditions and increased mortality rates.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to increase from last year's high level

The country heavily depends on imports to meet its consumption needs. Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (April/March) are forecast to increase by 16 percent to 150 000 tonnes compared with the previous year's already high level, reflecting two consecutive years of reduced cereal production.

Pockets of acute food insecurity persist

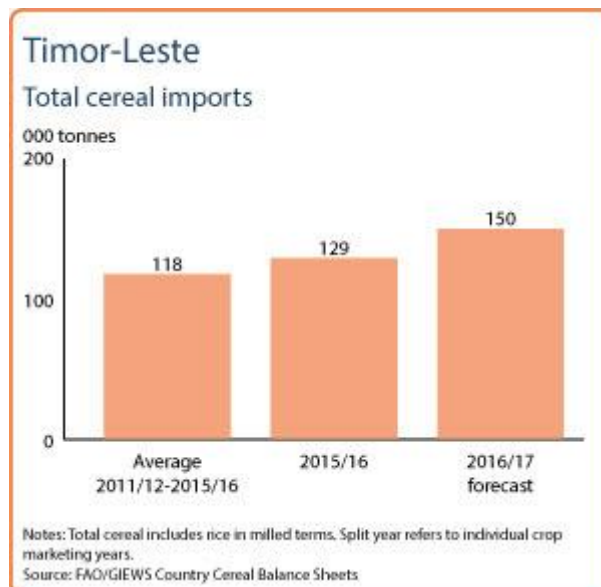
Overall, the food security situation in the country is insecure, also due to the heavy import dependency. Severe localized cereal production shortfalls for the second consecutive year, particularly in the municipalities of Ainaro (southwest), Lautem (east), Ermera (northwest), Liquica (north), coastal regions of Viqueque (south) and outskirts of the capital, Dili, are expected to exacerbate the food insecurity situation of vulnerable groups. According to the



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	86	64	60	-6
Maize	76	65	60	-8
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	162	129	120	-7

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



latest official estimates, the prolonged drought has affected approximately 350 000 people (one-third of the total population), mainly located in central highlands, eastern and south western parts of the country. Access to food also remains a major challenge in upland areas and remote villages.

Reference Date: 06-May-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Reduced cereal production expected due to dry conditions for second consecutive year in 2016**
- **Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to increase from previous year's already high level**
- **Pockets of food insecurity persist**

Cereal production to decline in 2016 for second consecutive year due to dry conditions

Harvesting of the 2016 main season rice crop is ongoing, while that of maize was completed in April. Erratic rains associated with the El Niño episode since the start of the season in November resulted in both area and yield reductions of the maize and rice crops. The most affected districts were Bobonaro, Covalima and Lautem, as well as coastal regions of Viqueque and parts of Baucau, which combined account for close to two-thirds of the country's annual crop production. There are also concerns about the impact of continuing dry weather on planting of the secondary season crops, which is currently ongoing and will continue until the end of June. The aggregate rice production in 2016 is, therefore, anticipated to decrease by a further 6 percent from last year's already sharply reduced output to about 30 percent below the average of the past five years. Similarly, maize output is forecast by FAO at 60 000 tonnes, 8 percent down from the 2015 reduced level and 21 percent below the five-year average.

Livestock conditions have also been negatively affected, with lack of adequate pasture and reduced water availability resulting in worsening body conditions and increased mortality rate.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to increase from last year's high level

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (April/March) are forecast to increase by 16 percent to 150 000 tonnes compared with the previous year's already high level, reflecting two consecutive years of reduced cereal production.

Pockets of food insecurity persist

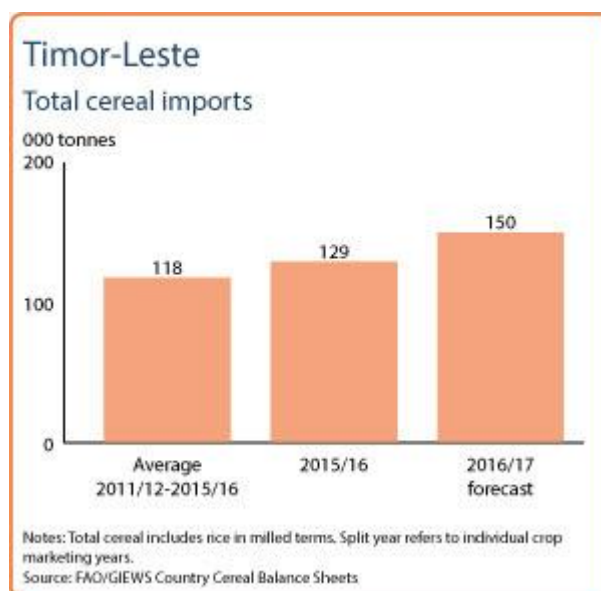
In general, the food security situation in the country is stable. However, severe localized cereal production shortfalls for the second consecutive year, particularly in districts of Ainaro (southwest), Lautem (southeast), Ermera (northwest), Liquica (north), coastal regions of Viqueque (south) and outskirts of the capital, Dili, are expected to exacerbate the food insecurity situation of vulnerable groups. Access to food also remains a major challenge in upland areas and remote villages.



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	86	64	60	-6
Maize	76	65	60	-8
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	162	129	120	-7

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



Reference Date: 22-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Main 2015 season paddy and maize crops forecast to increase
- Cereal imports projected to rise in 2014/15 marketing year
- Overall food security conditions improving but localized food insecurity still persists

Main 2015 season paddy and maize crops forecast to increase

Harvesting of the 2015 main season maize crop is nearing completion, while that of rice will start in May and continue until July. Above-average rainfall from January to mid-April over most of the country benefited crops. Assuming favourable weather conditions for the current and forthcoming off seasons, FAO's early forecasts for the 2015 maize crop is set at 110 000 tonnes, 8 percent up on last year's good output. Similarly, FAO tentatively forecasts the aggregate 2015 rice production at 94 000 tonnes, an increase of 6 percent on last year's low level harvest but 10 percent below the average level of the previous five years. The overall favourable forecasts are attributed to a projected slight increase in plantings, as well as expected higher yields, due to good weather and Government support to the sector, including adequate distribution of seeds and fertilizers.

Cereal imports projected to rise considerably in 2014/15 marketing year

Cereal imports during the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase considerably compared to last year's level to 157 000 tonnes. This mainly reflects higher rice imports during 2014, which are estimated to have almost doubled the level of 2013 and reached 130 000 tonnes, as a result of the reduced 2013 output and strong domestic demand. Wheat and maize imports are forecast to remain close to last year's level at 10 000 and 17 000 tonnes, respectively.

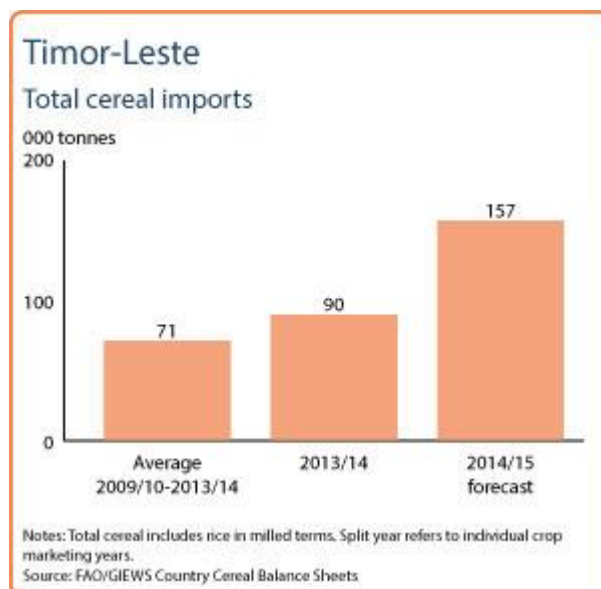
Overall food security conditions are improving but localized food insecurity still persists

In general, the food security situation in the country continues to be stable and satisfactory. However, localized cereal production shortfalls in 2014, particularly in districts of Ainaro (southwest), Ermera (northwest) and Liquica (north), exacerbated the food insecurity situation of vulnerable groups. Access to food also remains a major challenge in upland areas and remotely located villages.



	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014 percent
	000 tonnes			
Rice (paddy)	105	89	94	6
Maize	93	102	110	8
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	198	191	204	7

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



Reference Date: 29-October-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2014 aggregate cereal output forecast to increase by 18 percent
- Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2014/15 marketing year
- Overall food security conditions improving but localized food insecurity still persists

Aggregate 2014 cereal output is forecast to increase

Harvesting of the 2014 secondary off-season rice crop is well underway, while that of the main season was completed earlier in the year. FAO's latest forecast for the aggregate 2014 rice output (including the 2014 main and off-season harvests) stands at 108 000 tonnes, 24 percent higher than last year's reduced production but still slightly below the previous five-year average.

Similarly, the 2013 maize output (including both the main and off-season crops) is put at 112 720 tonnes, 12 percent higher than last year's good level. The increase reflects an expansion in the planted area and higher yields for the two seasons, following generally favourable weather conditions as well as increased use of high quality seeds, adequate supplies of fertilizers and the adoption of new technologies.

Overall, the 2014 aggregate cereal production is forecast at an above-average level of 221 000 tonnes, 18 percent up from the previous year's output.

An EU-funded FAO project, which established a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) in 2012, is continuing to assist with the strengthening of the country's capacity in crop monitoring and production estimation.

Cereal imports forecast to decrease in 2014/15 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 80 000 tonnes (including 63 000 tonnes of rice, 10 000 tonnes of wheat and 7 000 tonnes of maize), 9 percent below 2013/14, mainly reflecting the expected larger cereal production in 2014.

Overall food security conditions are improving but localized food insecurity still persists

In general, the food security situation in the country continues to be stable and satisfactory. However, localized cereal production shortfalls in 2014, particularly in Ainaro, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Liquica and Manufahi districts, exacerbated the food insecurity situation of vulnerable groups. Access to food also remains a major challenge in upland areas and remotely located villages.

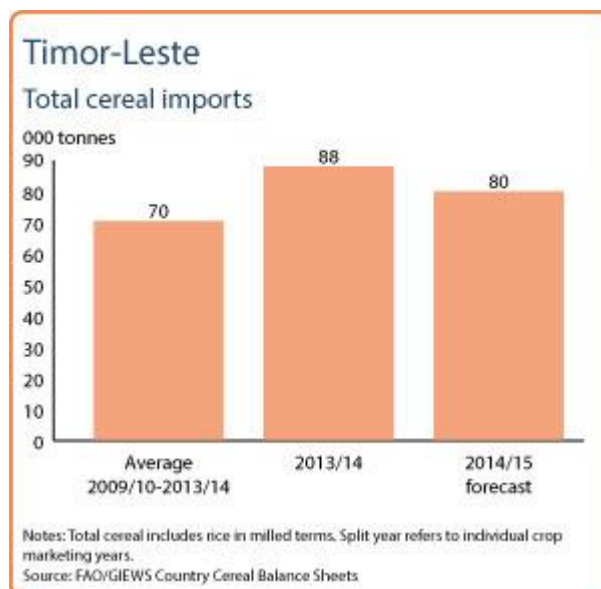
In 2013, Timor-Leste officially graduated out of the group of Low-



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	112	87	108	24
Maize	98	101	113	12
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	210	188	221	18

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



Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs).

Reference Date: 26-June-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable outlook for the 2014 main season paddy and maize crops
- Higher cereal imports estimated during 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)
- Overall food security conditions improve but localized food insecurity persists

Favourable outlook for the 2014 main season paddy and maize crops

Harvesting of the 2014 main season rice crop is well underway, while that of maize was completed in April. Despite below-average rains between late January and early March particularly in parts of Covalima, Lautem, Manufahi and Viqueque districts, the cumulative rainfall over the entire cropping period was generally near-average, leading to overall favourable crop growing conditions. As a result, FAO tentatively forecasts the aggregate 2014 rice production (including the 2014 main and off season harvests) at 108 000 tonnes, an increase of 24 percent on last year's reduced harvest but still remain below the average of the previous five years. Similarly, the early forecast of the 2014 maize crop is put at 105 000 tonnes, 4 percent up on last year's good crop. The overall favourable forecast is mainly attributed to increased use of high quality seeds, adequate supplies of fertilizers and adoption of new technologies, including newly-imported machinery.

Planting of the 2014 off-season crops, mainly paddy and maize began in April and is expected to last until July. Early prospects are good as rainfall has been generally favourable over the main producing areas.

Rice production decreased sharply in 2013

Latest official forecast points to a 2013 aggregate rice production of about 87 332 tonnes, some 38 percent below the 2012 record high crop. The decline is attributed to a sharp reduction in area planted and slightly lower yields, following localized flooding and landslides in June and July 2013. By contrast, the rains boosted the 2013 total maize harvest, officially estimated at 100 800 tonnes, some 6 percent above the previous year's below-average level.

Overall, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is estimated at a below-average level of 188 000 tonnes, 20 percent lower than the previous year's bumper output.

Currently, the EU-funded FAO project, which established a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) in 2012, is assisting in strengthening the country's capacity in crop monitoring and production estimation.

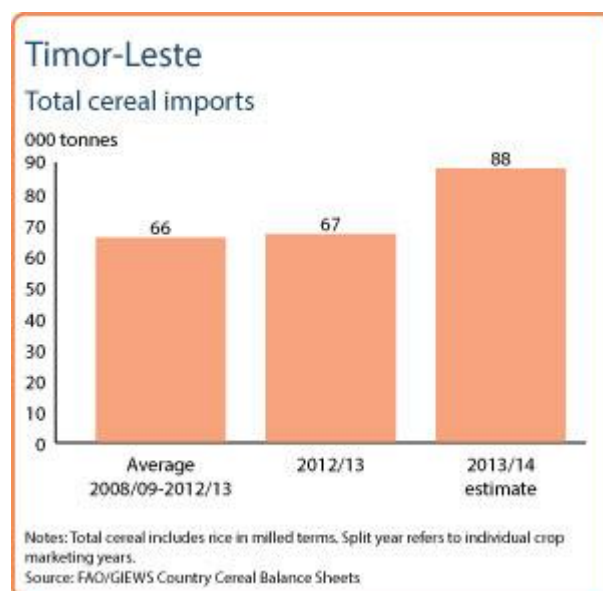
Cereal imports increased in 2013/14 marketing



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	112	87	108	24
Maize	98	101	105	4
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	210	188	213	13

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



year (July/June)

Cereal imports in the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are estimated to have increased to 88 000 tonnes, comprised of 66 tonnes of rice, 10 000 tonnes of wheat and 12 tonnes of maize.

Overall food security conditions are improving but localized food insecurity still persists

Floods in June and July 2013 in eastern parts caused widespread damages affecting at least 21 000 people. Furthermore, cereal production shortfalls last year, particularly in Aileu, Ainaro, Dili and Ermera districts, further exacerbated the food security situation of vulnerable groups. Access to food also remains a major challenge in the upland and remotely located villages.

In 2013 Timor-Leste has officially graduated out of the group of Low-Income and Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC).

Reference Date: 28-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2013 decreased sharply
- Higher cereal imports during 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)
- Overall food security conditions are improving but localised food insecurity still persists

Good rains over the main producing areas for the current cropping season

Planting of the 2013/14 main season maize crop was completed in December, while that of main season paddy will continue into February. Assuming normal weather pattern for the rest of the season, early prospects are favourable as rainfall so far has been above average over the main producing areas of the country.

Rice production in 2013 decreased sharply

Harvesting of the 2013 main paddy crop was completed in July, while that of secondary off season crop was finalised by December. Official estimates indicate a sharp reduction in the area planted to rice from last year's record level. According to remote sensing data, rainfall was generally average to above average during the growing season (November-April) over large parts of the country, leading to good vegetative growing conditions. However, heavy downpours in June and July resulted in localised flooding and landslides causing crop damage and severe reduction in yields particularly in parts of producing areas of Ainaro, Baucau, Cocalima and Viqueque districts. As a result, latest official forecast point to a 2013 aggregate rice paddy production (the main and off season), of about 87 332 tonnes, some 38 percent below last year's record crop.

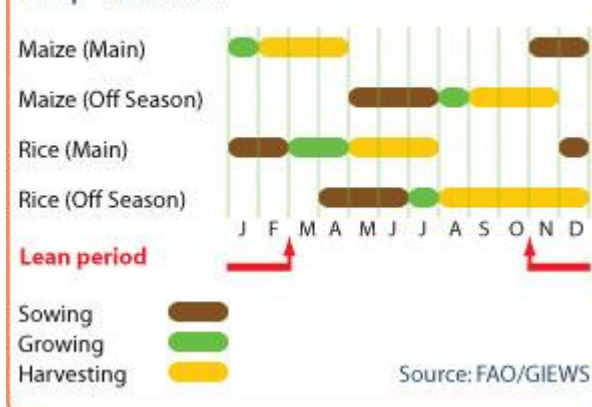
The 2013 total maize crop, including main and off season harvest, is officially estimated at 100 800 tonnes, some 6 percent above last year's below average level. The increase is predominantly attributed to higher yields, as result of favourable rains during the season in the main growing areas, increased use of high quality seeds and improved farming practices.

Overall, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is estimated at a below average level of 188 000 tonnes, marking a decrease of 20 percent relative to the previous year's bumper output. Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is currently being strengthened with a new EU funded FAO project which established a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) in 2012.

Higher cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)

Cereal imports for 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase to 86 000 tonnes due to the reduced rice production in 2013.

Timor-Leste Crop calendar

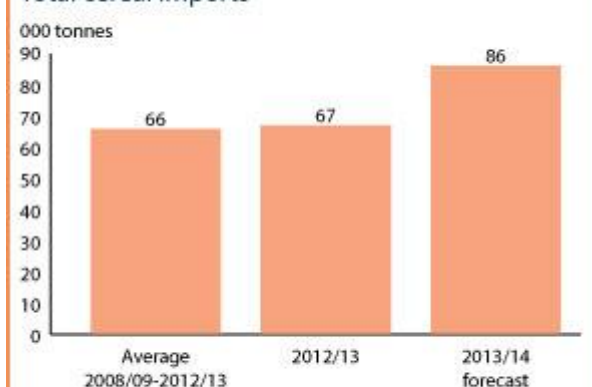


Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	110	140	87	-38
Maize	98	95	101	6
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	209	235	188	-20

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

Timor-Leste 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

Overall food security conditions are improving but localized food insecurity still persists

In 2013 Timor-Leste graduated out of the group of Low-Income and Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC). However, household food difficulties are anticipated in areas affected by floods in June and July as well as areas that experienced production shortfalls this year. Access to food remains also a major challenge in the upland and remotely located villages.

Reference Date: 05-September-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2013 to decrease sharply but that of maize to increase
- Higher cereal imports during 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)
- Overall food security conditions are improving but localised food insecurity still persists

Rice production in 2013 to decrease sharply but that of maize to increase

Harvesting of the 2013 secondary off season rice has just began, while that of the main season was completed earlier in the year. Official estimates indicate a sharp reduction in the area planted to rice from last year's record level. According to remote sensing data, rainfall was generally average to above average during the growing season (November-April) over large parts of the country, leading to good vegetative growing conditions. However, heavy downpours in June resulted in localised flooding and landslides causing crop damage and severe reduction in yields particularly in parts of producing areas of Ainaro, Baucau, Cocalima and Viqueque districts. As a result, latest official forecast point to a 2013 aggregate rice paddy production (the main and ongoing off seasons), of about 80 000 tonnes, some 43 percent below last year's record crop.

The 2013 total maize crop, including main season harvest and off season crop to be harvested later in the year, is officially forecast at 117 000 tonnes, some 23 percent above last year's above average level. The increase is predominantly attributed to higher yields, as result of favourable rains during the season in the main growing areas, increased use of high quality seeds and improved farming practices.

Overall, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is forecast at a below average level of 197 000 tonnes, marking a decrease of 16 percent relative to the previous year's bumper output. Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is currently being strengthened with a new EU funded FAO project which established a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) in 2012.

Higher cereal imports during 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)

Cereal imports for 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase to 80 000 tonnes due to the lower rice production in 2013.

Overall food security conditions are improving but localized food insecurity still persists

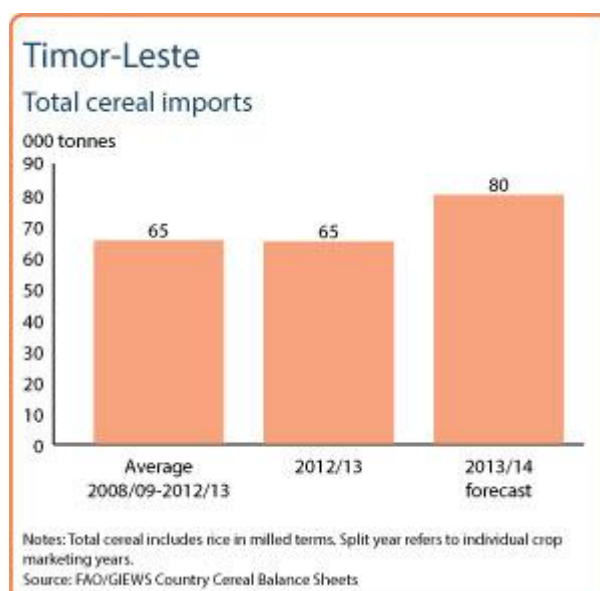
In 2013 Timor-Leste graduated out of the group of Low-Income and Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC), the main reason being an increase in the per capita gross national income (GNI) to



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	110	140	80	-43
Maize	98	95	117	23
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	209	235	197	-16

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



USD 2 730 in 2011 from USD 395 in 2002 (according to the World Bank estimates). Overall, the food security situation in the country has improved following the 2012 bumper cereal harvest and relatively regular supplies of food to the local markets. However, food difficulties are anticipated in areas affected by floods this year. Access to food remains also a major challenge in the upland and remotely located villages.

Reference Date: 8-February-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains over the main producing areas for the current cropping season
- The 2012 cereal harvest estimated to reach new record levels
- Reduced cereal imports during 2012/13 forecast
- Overall food security conditions are improving but localised food insecurity still persists

Good rains over the main producing areas for the current cropping season

Planting of the 2012 main season maize crop was completed in December, while that of main season paddy will continue into February. Assuming normal weather pattern for the rest of the season, early prospects are favourable as rainfall so far has been above average over the main producing areas of the country.

The 2012 cereal harvest estimated to reach new record levels

Harvesting of the 2012 main paddy crop was completed in July, while that of secondary off season crop was finalised by December. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) has forecast the 2012 aggregate rice paddy production at a record level of 153 606 tonnes, some 57 percent higher than the previous year's above-average output. Similarly, the 2012 total maize production, harvested by November, has been officially estimated at a record level of 156 033 tonnes. This is about five times higher than the flood-affected output in 2011. The 2012 aggregate cereal production (main season and off-season) is estimated at a record level of 310 000 tonnes, marking a considerable increase of 140 percent relative to the previous year's poor output. The significant increase in 2012 production is a combined result of an expansion in the planted area by 18 percent for the paddy crop and 10 percent for maize, increased use of high quality seeds and adoption of new technologies including newly imported machinery. These initiatives were implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries's *Fila Rai Gratiutu* program, which aims to enhance agricultural productivity.

Reduced imports during 2012/13 forecast

Owing to the record aggregate cereal production in 2012, the cereal imports for 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to be the lowest in the last decade. Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is currently being strengthened with a new EU funded FAO project which established a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) in early 2012.

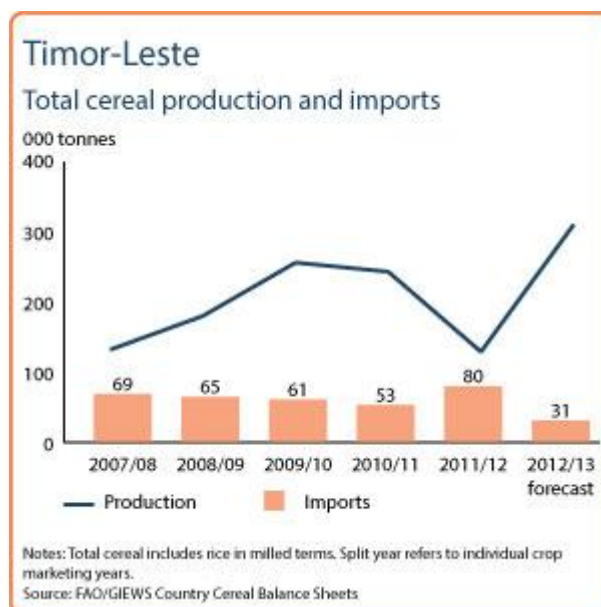
Overall food security conditions are improving



Timor-Leste Cereal production

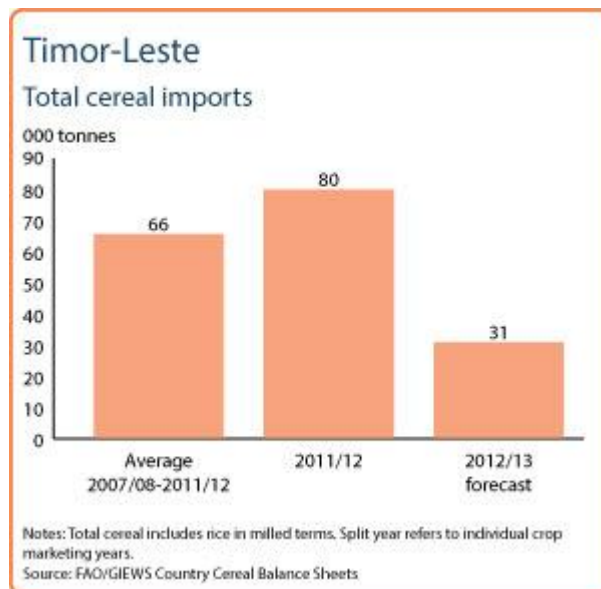
	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	94	98	154	57
Maize	94	31	156	403
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	188	129	310	140

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



but localized food insecurity still persists

Recently, Timor-Leste graduated out of the group of Low-Income and Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC), the main reason being an increase in the per capita gross national income (GNI) to USD 2 730 in 2011 from USD 395 in 2002 (according to the World Bank estimates). Overall, the food security situation in the country has improved following the 2012 record cereal harvest and relatively regular supplies of food to the local markets. However, pest infestation had led to some localised crop losses, particularly impacting important cereal producing districts of Ainaro, Bobonaro, Manatuto and Oecusse and thus access to food remains a major challenge in the upland and remotely located villages.



Reference Date: 27-June-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for the 2012 main season paddy rice and maize production
- Reduced cereal imports during 2012/13 forecast
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Good 2012 main season paddy rice and maize crops anticipated

Harvesting of the 2012 main season paddy rice, commenced in May and will continue into July, while that of the maize was completed in April. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) has forecast the 2012 aggregate rice paddy production at a record level of 145 996 tonnes (including 102 197 tonnes estimate for the main season), almost 50 percent higher than the previous year's above-average output. Similarly, the 2012 total maize production has been officially estimated at a record level of 139 673 tonnes (including 48 886 tonnes for the main season). This is nearly five times higher than the flood-affected output in 2011 but 32 percent above the average of the previous five years. The excessive rains during November 2010 and April 2011 desimated the crop which consequently reduced the seed availability for the subsequent off-season plantings.

The significant increase in 2012 production is a result of several factors. These include an expansion in the planted area by 18 percent for the paddy crop and 10 percent for maize, increased use of high quality seeds and adoption of new technologies including newly imported machinery. These initiative were implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries's *Fila Rai Gratiutu* program, which aims to enhance agricultural productivity.

Planting of the 2012 off-season crops, mainly paddy and maize, began in April and is expected to last until July. Early prospects are promising as rainfall at the start of the 2012 off-season has been generally satisfactory over the main producing areas of the country.

The preliminary estimate of the 2012 aggregatecereal production (main season and off-season) is set at 286 000 tonnes (including paddy), indicating a considerable increase from the previous year's production estimated at 129 000 tonnes, which was some 59 000 below the previous five-year average.

Reduced imports during 2012/13 forecast

Owing to the improved aggregate cereal production in 2012, the cereal imports for 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to be lower than the record imports in 2011/12.

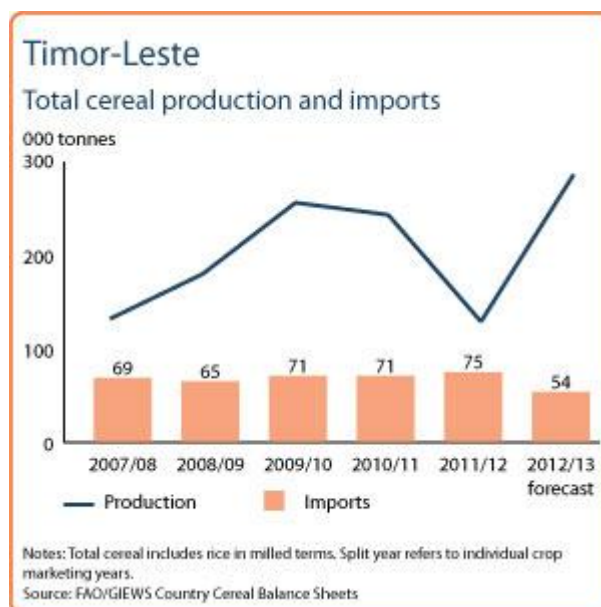
Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive due to the lack of technical capacity and resources. A newly EU funded FAO project to establish a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS), began



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	94	98	146	49
Maize	94	31	140	352
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	188	129	286	122

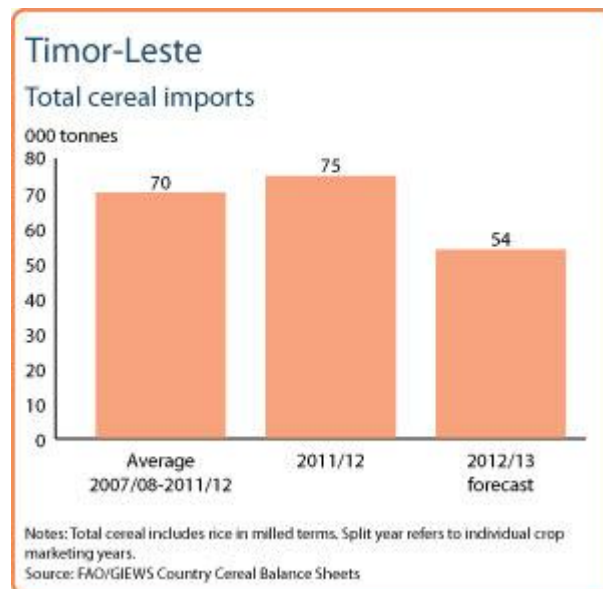
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



earlier this year, and is aimed at strengthening crop monitoring and estimation in the country.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Although the per capita gross national income (GNI) has increased to USD 2 060 in 2010 from USD 395 in 2002 (according to the World Bank estimates), Timor-Leste remains one the poorest countries in Asia. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment.



Reference Date: 16-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 paddy rice and maize production is estimated to decline
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

The 2011 paddy rice and maize production is estimated to decline

Harvesting of the 2011 main season paddy rice and maize, the principle staple cereals in the country, was completed earlier in the year, while that of the off-season crops is either just completed or nearing completion. The Ministry of Agriculture has recently reported, the annual paddy production at 98 000 tonnes (or milled equivalent of 58 978 tonnes), some 40 percent below last year's output. The main season maize crop is officially estimated at 30 666 tonnes, 79 percent below the harvest level of the same season a year before. The main factors responsible for the decline include prolonged rains causing delay in land preparation and planting.

The secondary, off-season, maize crop, which normally accounts for some 10 percent of the main season maize production, was also affected during 2011 for lack of adequate seeds due to hampered production of the main season. No official estimates for the off-season maize are yet available, hence it is preliminarily forecast to decrease to about 9 000 tonnes.

Thus the preliminary estimate of the annual total cereal production for 2011 is set at 138 000 tonnes (including paddy), indicating a decrease of 53 percent from the previous year's officially reported as record production.

Favorable weather towards the end of 2011 has had beneficial impact on cropping activities and the development of rice and maize crops of the 2011/12 main season.

Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive due to the lack of technical capacity and resources. A newly EU funded FAO project to establish a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) is expected to help strengthen crop estimation in the country.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

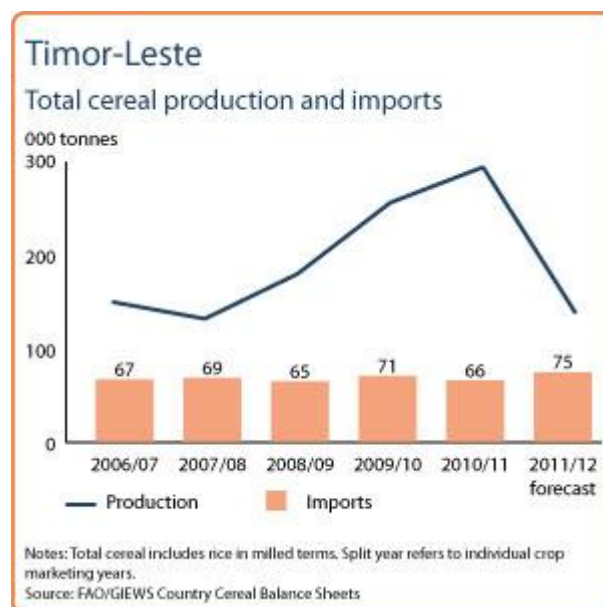
Although the per capita gross national income (GNI) has increased to USD 1 939 in 2009 from USD 395 in 2002 (according to the World Bank estimates), Timor-Leste remains one the poorest countries in Asia. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment.



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	106	130	40	-69
Rice (paddy)	96	164	98	-40
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	202	294	138	-53

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



Reference Date: 22-December-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good paddy and maize crops gathered in 2011
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Good paddy and maize crops gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 second season maize and rice, the principle staple cereals in the country, is completed while that of the off-season paddy rice is ongoing. The FAO preliminary estimate of the annual total cereal production for 2011 is set at 243 000 tonnes (including paddy), indicating an increase of 4 percent over the previous year's above-average output.

Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive owing to the lack of technical capacity and resources. Hence it is likely that these estimates are on the high side.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

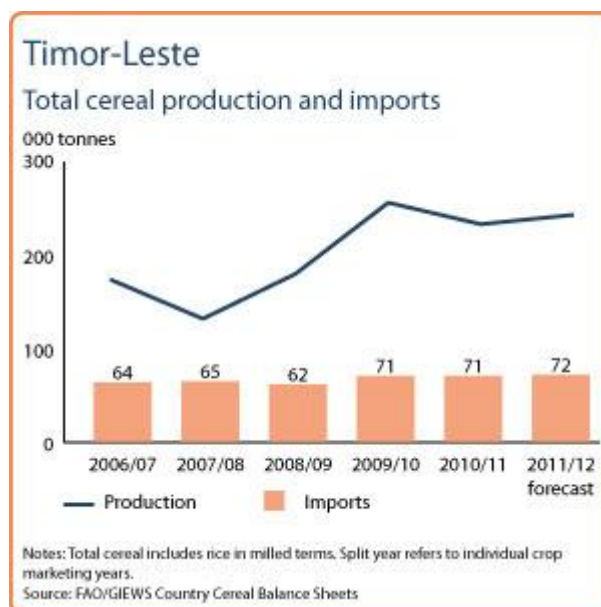
Although the per capita gross national income (GNI) has increased to USD 1 939 in 2009 from USD 395 in 2002 (according to the World Bank estimates), Timor-Leste remains one the poorest countries in Asia. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment.



Timor-Leste Cereal production

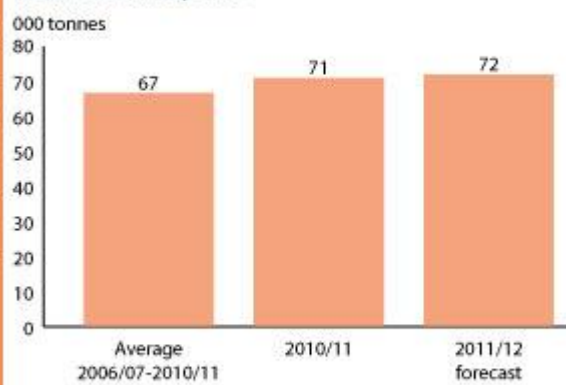
	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	109	120	128	7
Rice (paddy)	86	113	115	2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	195	233	243	4

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



Timor-Leste

Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 26-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable harvest prospects for the 2011 main season paddy and maize crops
- Stable cereal production in 2010 was achieved
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Favourable harvest of 2011 main season paddy and maize crops

Judging from the remote sensing images of estimated rainfall and NDVI, the country received an above average rainfall for the current agricultural season, starting last November, leading to a good vegetative growth. Thus the harvest of maize, just completed, and paddy which will take place from May to July, are generally favourable.

Good cereal production in 2010

Total cereal production for 2010 is estimated at 250 000 tonnes, slightly below the record harvest of the year before but still some 40 percent above the average of the previous five years. Maize production has returned to more normal levels. However, paddy production was up due to increase in both area planted and average yields.

Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive owing to the lack of technical capacity and resources. Hence it is likely that these estimates are on the high side.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

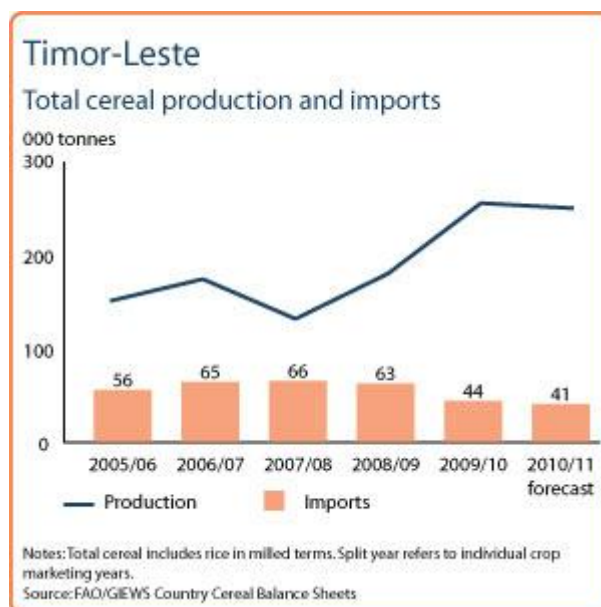
Although the per capita Gross National Income has increased from USD 395 in 2002 to USD 1 510 in 2007, Timor-Leste remains the poorest country in the Asian region. More than 40 percent of the population is believed to be living below the national poverty line. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment.



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	104	135	120	-11
Rice (paddy)	75	121	130	7
Total	179	256	250	-2

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



Timor-Leste

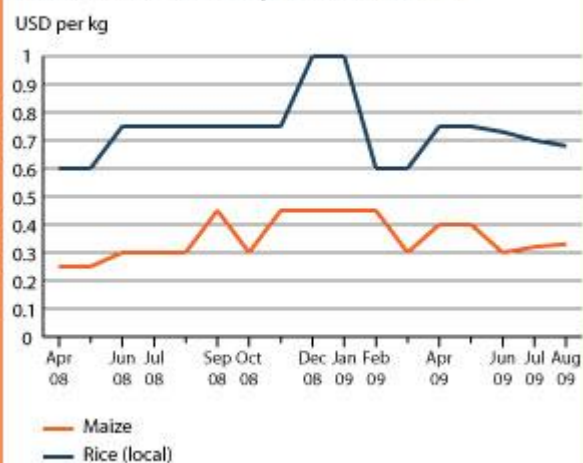
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	104	135	120	-11
Rice (paddy)	75	121	130	7
Total	179	256	250	-2

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

Timor-Leste

Selected retail cereal prices in Maliana



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Agribusiness Data

Reference Date: 15-April-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable harvest prospects for the 2011 main season paddy and maize crops
- Stable cereal production in 2010 was achieved
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Favourable prospects for 2011 main season paddy and maize crops

Judging from the remote sensing images of estimated rainfall and NDVI, the country received an above average rainfall for the current agricultural season, starting last November, leading to a good vegetative growth. Thus the prospects for harvest of maize, currently underway, and paddy which will take place from May to July, are generally favourable.

Good cereal production in 2010

Total cereal production for 2010 is estimated at 250 000 tonnes, slightly below the record harvest of the year before but still some 40 percent above the average of the previous five years. Maize production has returned to more normal levels. However, paddy production was up due to increase in both area planted and average yields.

Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive owing to the lack of technical capacity and resources. Hence it is likely that these estimates are on the high side.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

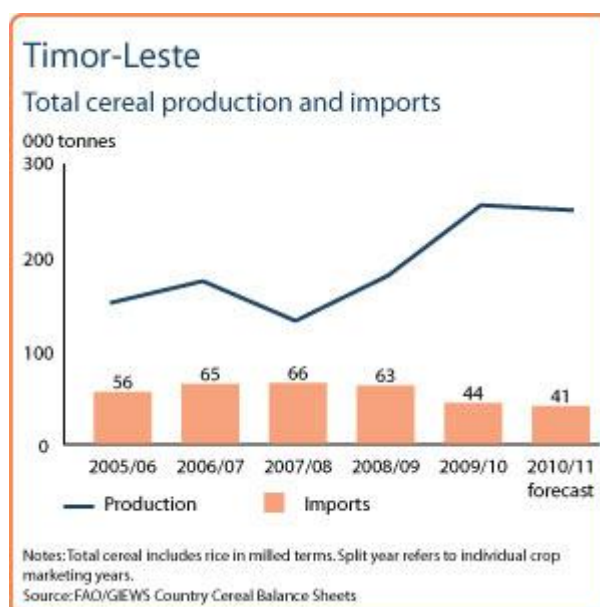
Although the per capita Gross National Income has increased from USD 395 in 2002 to USD 1 510 in 2007, Timor-Leste remains the poorest country in the Asian region. More than 40 percent of the population is believed to be living below the national poverty line. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment.



Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	104	135	120	-11
Rice (paddy)	75	121	130	7
Total	179	256	250	-2

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



Reference Date: 3-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable harvest of 2010 main season paddy crop is expected.
- Stable prices of staples such as rice and maize.
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist.

Favourable harvest of 2010 main season paddy crop is expected

In the absence of the official figures so far, FAO preliminarily estimates the 2010/11 (July/June) paddy production including this season's main paddy harvest and a forecast for small amount of secondary crop later in the year, at 130 000 tonnes, some 7 percent over the last year. Maize crop for 2010/11 is at 120 000 tonnes, although slightly lower than record harvest of 2009/10 still higher than the average of the past five years.

The Ministry of Agriculture, based on the crop cutting surveys during the harvest periods of rice and maize crops, established the total paddy production for 2009 as 120 775 tonnes, about 50 percent higher than the previous year's bumper harvest. Similarly, maize production of 2009 is estimated at 134 715 tonnes, or 34 percent over 2008. The reasons for these phenomenal increases in production are - excellent rainfall and favorable weather conditions, high crop prices, and increased use of fertilizer, improved seed and tractors (provided under large scale Government scheme). Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive due to the lack of technical capacity and resources. Hence it is likely that these estimates are on the high side. Currently planting of the main season crops is virtually completed. The rainfall and input situation in general is satisfactory.

Rice prices are stable since the Government imported huge quantities at the end of 2008

More than third of the country's cereal requirements are met through imports. The country has been receiving about 6 000 tonnes of food aid annually since 2007/08. After a major problem of shortages and significant rise in prices of rice in local markets, Government ordered imports of 119 000 tonnes of rice. Some of these quantities (about 26 000 tonnes) have been kept as a reserve stock. Since this big import prices of rice have been fairly stable in the major local markets, such as Dili and Maliana. In general, the imported rice is sold at a subsidised price, sometimes at half the price of the local rice in open market.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

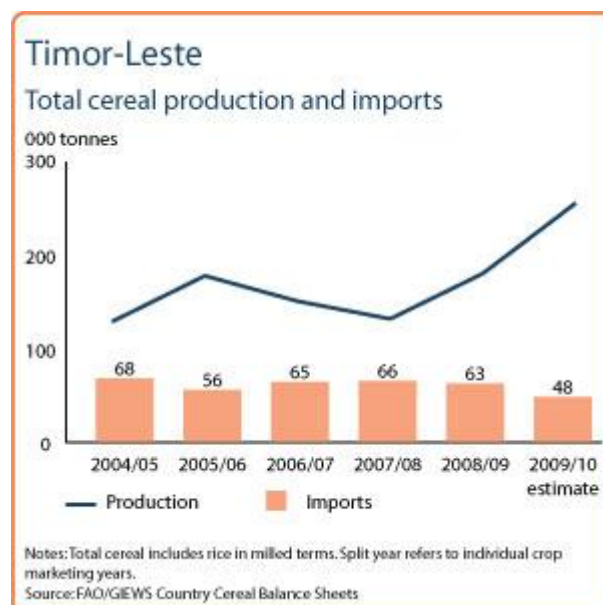
Although the per capita Gross National Income has increased from USD 395 in 2002 to USD 1 510 in 2007, Timor-Leste remains the poorest country in the region. More than 40 percent of the population is believed to be living below the national poverty line. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to



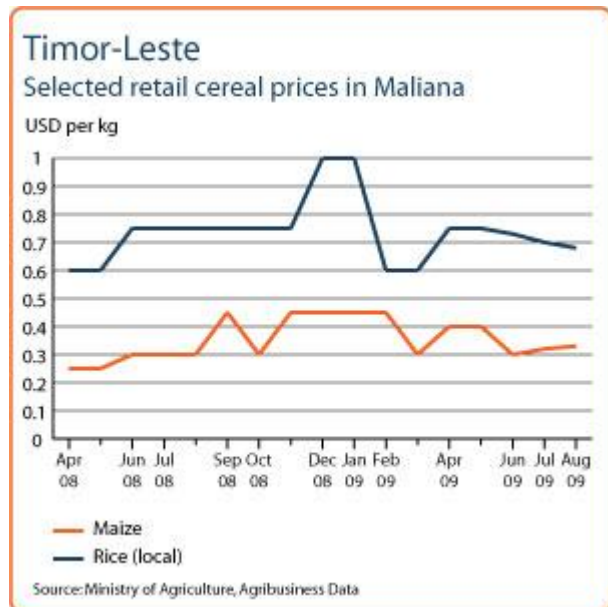
Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	104	135	120	-11
Rice (paddy)	75	121	130	7
Total	179	256	250	-2

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



the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment. Although food security is one of the top national priorities, a credible monitoring system does not exist in the country. At the request of the Government, FAO sent a scoping mission in January 2010 to help establish a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) for Food Security. A suitable project proposal has been presented to the Government.



Reference Date: 17-February-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Official estimate shows a record harvest in 2009.
- Stable prices of staples such as rice and maize during 2009.
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist.

Official estimate shows 2009 rice harvest 50 percent higher than the year before

The Ministry of Agriculture, based on the crop cutting surveys during the harvest periods of rice and maize crops, established the total paddy production for 2009 as 120 775 tonnes, about 50 percent higher than the previous year's bumper harvest. Similarly, maize production of 2009 is estimated at 134 715 tonnes, or 34 percent over 2008. The reasons for these phenomenal increases in production are - excellent rainfall and favorable weather conditions, high crop prices, and increased use of fertilizer, improved seed and tractors (provided under large scale Government scheme). Crop monitoring and production estimation in Timor-Leste is not rigorous and extensive due to the lack of technical capacity and resources. Hence it is likely that these estimates are on the high side. Currently planting of the main season crops is virtually completed. The rainfall and input situation in general is satisfactory.

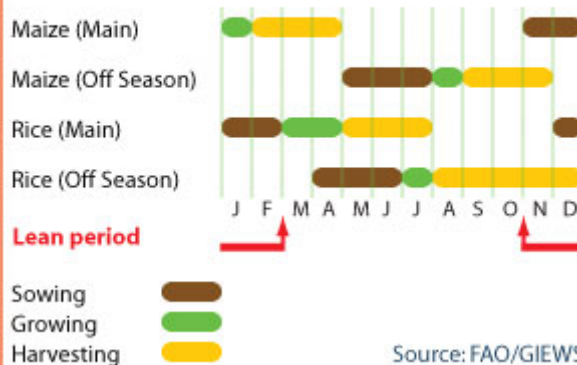
Rice prices are stable since the Government imported huge quantities at the end of 2008

More than third of the country's cereal requirements are met through imports. The country has been receiving about 6 000 tonnes of food aid annually since 2007/08. After a major problem of shortages and significant rise in prices of rice in local markets, Government ordered imports of 119 000 tonnes of rice. Some of these quantities (about 26 000 tonnes) have been kept as a reserve stock. Since this big import prices of rice have been fairly stable in the major local markets, such as Dili and Maliana. In general, the imported rice is sold at a subsidised price, sometimes at half the price of the local rice in open market.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Although the per capita Gross National Income has increased from USD 395 in 2002 to USD 1 510 in 2007, Timor-Leste remains the poorest country in the region. More than 40 percent of the population is believed to be living below the national poverty line. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment. Although food security is one of the top national priorities, a credible monitoring system does not exist in the country. At the request of the Government, FAO sent a scoping mission in January 2010 to help establish a National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) for Food Security. A suitable project proposal has been presented to the Government.

Timor-Leste Crop calendar

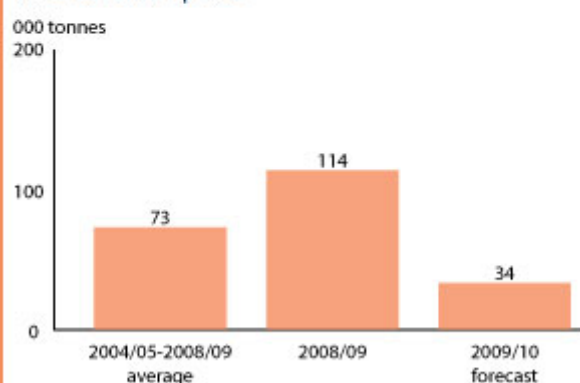


Timor-Leste Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	91	100	135	35
Rice (paddy)	63	80	121	51
Total	155	180	256	42

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

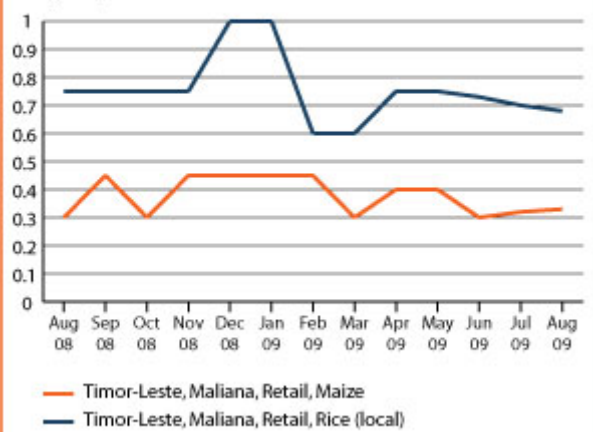
Total cereal imports



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

Timor-Leste Selected cereal prices

USD per kg



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Agribusiness Data

Reference Date: 23-October-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near normal harvest is estimated in 2009.
- The country is highly dependent on cereal imports.
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist.

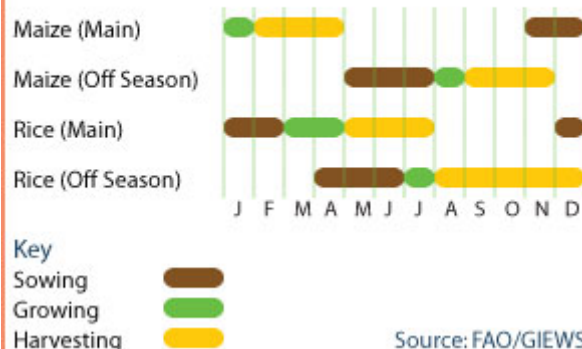
Near normal harvest is estimated in 2009

Harvesting of the 2009 main season maize and rice, the principle staple cereals in the country, was completed earlier in the year from February to July. No official data is available but judging from the quality of the seasonal rainfall, near normal output of cereals at 124 000 tonnes is estimated. More than third of the country's cereal requirements (about 53 000 tonnes of rice and about 12 000 tonnes of maize) are met through imports. The country has been receiving about 6 000 tonnes of food aid annually since 2007/08. Thus significant rise in international prices puts strain on the limited budgetary resources of the country. Imported rice is, however, available widely throughout the country. The Government is expected to import more rice and continue to provide the subsidy for the transportation for the districts.

Chronic poverty and food insecurity persist

Although the per capita Gross National Income has increased from USD 395 in 2002 to USD 1 510 in 2007, Timor-Leste remains the poorest country in the region. More than 40 percent of the population is believed to be living below the national poverty line. Thus food insecurity needs to be monitored due to the country's high dependence on cereal imports, social instability, and high unemployment.

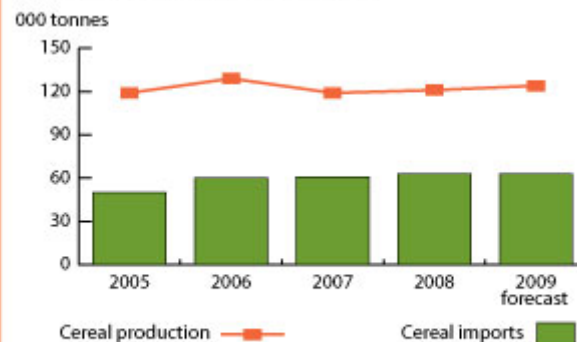
Crop calendar Timor-Leste



Cereal production and imports Timor-Leste

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change*
	average	000 tonnes		2009/2008
				percent
Maize	85	82	85	3.7%
Rice (milled)	39	39	39	0%
Total Cereals	124	121	124	2.5%

* Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets