Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Argentina

Reference Date: 19-May-2017

HIGHLIGHTS
- **Maize crop output in 2017 anticipated at record level**
- **Maize exports in 2017/18 marketing year forecast at all-time high**
- **Yellow maize and wheat prices relatively stable in April**

Argentina

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	31,979	39,800	45,000	13
Wheat	12,158	18,390	18,900	3
Barley	4,192	3,300	3,000	-9
Others	5,691	5,307	4,569	-14
Total	54,020	66,797	71,469	7

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

Maize production in 2017 anticipated at record level

Harvesting of the 2017 maize crop, expected to conclude in June, is well underway. However, some delays have been reported as increased rainfall levels prompted farmers to first harvest the soybean crop. Despite these delays, the pace of the harvest is higher relative to the same time last year, 35 percent versus 10 percent less during the first ten days of May in 2016. The 2017 maize crop is anticipated to reach record levels at 45 million tonnes. Higher domestic prices and strong export demand have led to record level sowings. Planting of the 2017 wheat crop will not begin until June and early expectations are that sowings will remain close to last year's good level sustained by strong export demand and robust local prices, which continued to be supported by the weak local currency.

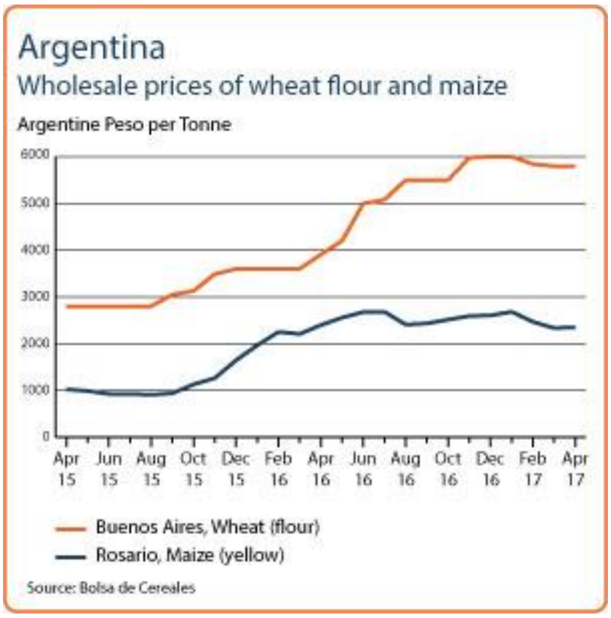
Maize exports in 2017/18 marketing year forecast at all-time high

Reflecting the expected record 2017 maize output as well as competitive prices in US dollar terms, maize exports in the 2017/18 marketing year (March/February) are forecast to reach 26 million tonnes, a new high. Ample supplies from the recent harvest and high regional demand, are expected to drive wheat exports for the 2016/17 marketing year (December/November) to 11.3 million tonnes, 19 percent above last year's high level.

Yellow maize and wheat prices relatively stable in April

In April, some harvest delays due to heavy rains prevented the expected seasonal decrease in yellow maize prices, which were nevertheless lower than the high levels a year earlier after declining sharply in the past two months on expectations of a record output. Wheat and wheat flour prices remained relatively unchanged in April, but were significantly higher than at the same time last year due to strong exports, sustained by currency weakness and Government's measures, particularly the modification of export rebates at the beginning of the year.


Argentina
Maize exports
000 tonnes
30000
20000
10000
0
19180
24000
26000
Average 2012/13-2016/17
2016/17
2017/18 forecast
Notes: Split year refers to individual crop marketing year.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets


Argentina
Wholesale prices of wheat flour and maize
Argentine Peso per Tonne
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Apr 15
Jun 15
Aug 15
Oct 15
Dec 15
Feb 16
Apr 16
Jun 16
Aug 16
Oct 16
Dec 16
Feb 17
Apr 17
Buenos Aires, Wheat (flour)
Rosario, Maize (yellow)
Source: Bolsa de Cereales