



GIEWS Country Brief Guatemala

Reference Date: 05-November-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2019 anticipated at below-average level due to dry weather conditions
- Cereal import requirements forecast to increase in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of maize started to seasonally decline in August

Maize production in 2019 anticipated at below-average level due to dry weather conditions

Harvesting of the 2019 main maize crop is ongoing in the main producing department of Petén. Production is expected at a below-average level, mainly driven by dry weather conditions, coupled with high temperatures that exacerbated the process of evaporation, in the June-August period that corresponds to the critical flowering and grain-filling stages. Rainfall amounts received during this period were well below the long term average (1989-2018). Differently from last year, when dry weather conditions affected crops almost exclusively in subsistence farming areas, the reduced precipitation in 2019 had a negative impact on production at the national level. The major producing northern departments of Petén, Alta Verapaz and Quiché, production of which contributes to about 40 percent of the main season output, received cumulative precipitation that were between 20 and 30 percent below the average.

The 2019 minor season maize crop, that accounts for about 20 percent of the annual production and will be harvested in December, is at the development stage in southern and eastern producing areas. Increased rainfall amounts since mid-September have been beneficial for crop development. Overall, the aggregate maize production in 2019 is anticipated at a below-average level of 1.7 million tonnes.

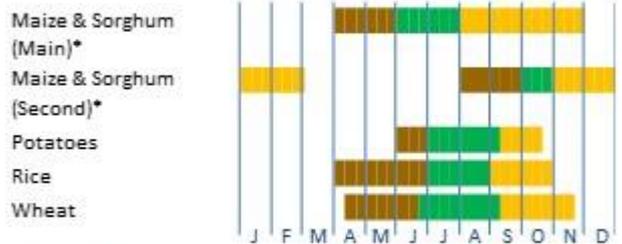
Cereal import requirements forecast to remain above average in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain at an above-average level of 2.06 million tonnes, due to the expected low 2019 maize production, coupled with population growth. Cereal imports have been on the rise, reflecting the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry and a high demand of wheat-based food products.

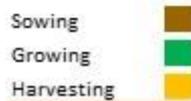
Guatemala

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2014-2018	2018	2019	change
	average			2019/2018
000 tonnes				
Maize	1 863	1 900	1 740	-8.4
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	40	38	42	10.5
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	1 947	1 983	1 827	-7.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

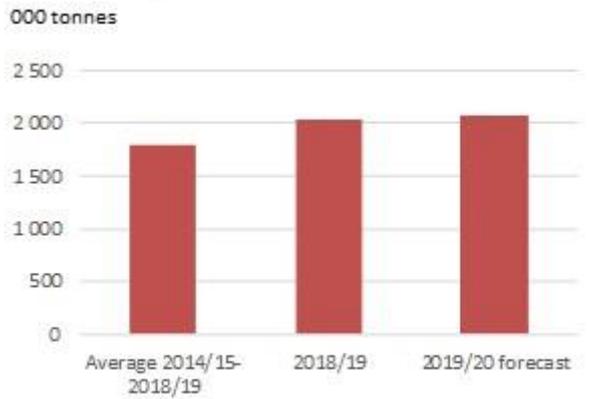
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of maize started to seasonally decline in August

Prices of white maize declined for the second consecutive month in September, reflecting improved market supplies from the southern and eastern producing areas, where the 2019 main season harvest started during the second half of August. Imports from Mexico, similar to their year-earlier levels, also provided downward pressure on prices. Prices of black beans have been increasing seasonally since June and are expected to start declining not earlier than November with the main season harvest. Prices of rice are stable since early 2019, mainly reflecting adequate import volumes.

Guatemala

Cereals Imports

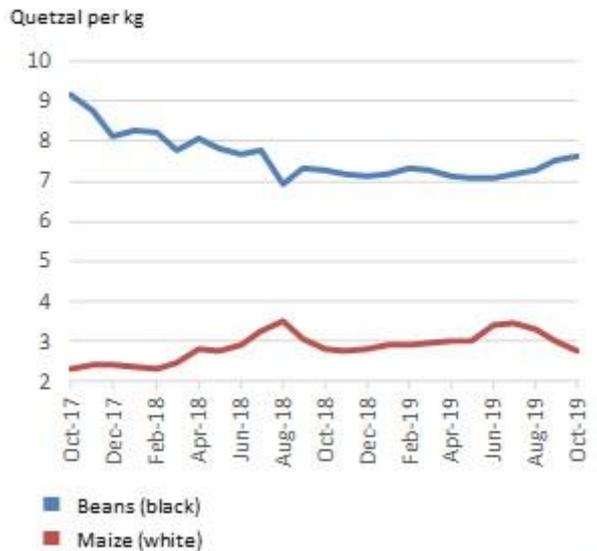


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City



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

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.