**GIEWS Country Brief**
*The Lao People’s Democratic Republic*

**Reference Date: 26-July-2019**

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Near-average rains in southern and most central parts benefitted planting and germination of 2019 main crop
- In northern and some central rice producing areas, poor early season rains delayed sowing and affected early crop development
- Maize exports forecast at high level in 2019/20 marketing year

**Mixed performance of 2019 rainy season**
Planting of the 2019 main (wet) season paddy crop, representing almost 90 percent of the annual paddy output, is nearing completion. So far, the May to September rainy season has been characterized by near-average precipitations in southern and most of central parts of the country (locally referred to as Mekong River Corridor and Central and Southern Highland areas), benefitting planting and germination of crops. By contrast, in northern rice producing areas, poor rains delayed planting operations and affected early crop development. In particular, in the provinces of Bokéo, Oudomxai, Luannamtha, Xayabouri and parts of Vientiane, which account for about 25 percent of the main season’s output, the moisture deficits resulted in below-average vegetation conditions (see VHI map). The performance of seasonal rains in the next weeks will be crucial for the final outcome of the cropping season. The 2019 secondary (dry) season crops will be planted next year.

Planting of the 2019 main maize crop, for harvest at the end of the year, is progressing at a normal pace in the main southern producing areas. Some delays were reported in northern and parts of central areas due to below-average rains. Strong demand from the local feed industry and export markets are expected to keep the planted area above the five-year average.

**Maize exports forecast at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year**
Maize exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 380 000 tonnes, based on expectations of a bumper output as well as due to the strong import demand from China (Mainland).
### Lao People’s Democratic Republic

#### Cereal Production

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>000 tonnes</td>
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<td>percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice (paddy)</td>
<td>4 117</td>
<td>4 240</td>
<td>4 300</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1 536</td>
<td>1 600</td>
<td>1 650</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>5 653</td>
<td>5 840</td>
<td>5 950</td>
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Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

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