

Reference Date: 24-January-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production estimates indicate above-average rice production in 2011, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Rice prices remain high
- Assistance required for Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia

### A good rice crop gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, was completed in December. In spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country, official preliminary estimates indicate that cereal production was similar to the previous year's above-average level of 296 000 tonnes.

### Increasing commodity prices

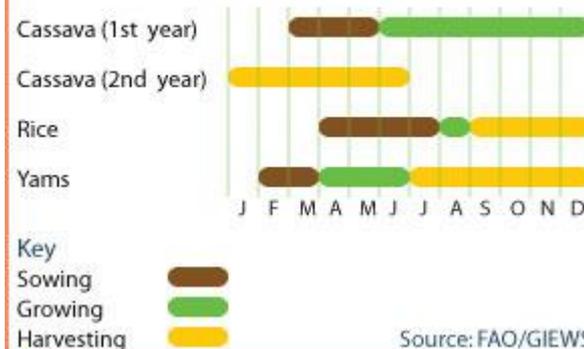
Rice prices were on an increasing trend since the beginning of 2011 reflecting increased demand from the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire but also following trends on the international market. For instance, rice prices in November 2011 in Tubmanburg and Red Light markets in western Liberia were respectively 57 percent and 39 percent higher than in November 2010.

Liberia is highly dependent on rice purchased on the international market. An estimated two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirement, put at about 530 000 tonnes, is covered by imports. The Government has suspended the import tariff on rice to help maintain lower market prices. In addition, the corporate income tax rate, as outlined in the 2010/11 national budget, has been set at a low of 15 percent for the rice sector to attract further investment.

### Food assistance continues to be needed for Ivorian refugees in the East

The post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge in eastern Liberia. Most of the displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation but, as of mid October, nearly 138 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia. Access to food is constrained for many households following the disruption in their livelihoods. The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) launched in April 2011 for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (including Liberia) has been revised in July 2011, requesting USD 166.6 million in support of humanitarian efforts to cover the most urgent needs of refugees, displaced people and the host population. As of 28 November, 53 percent of the EHAP has been funded for Liberia.

### Crop calendar Liberia



### Liberia

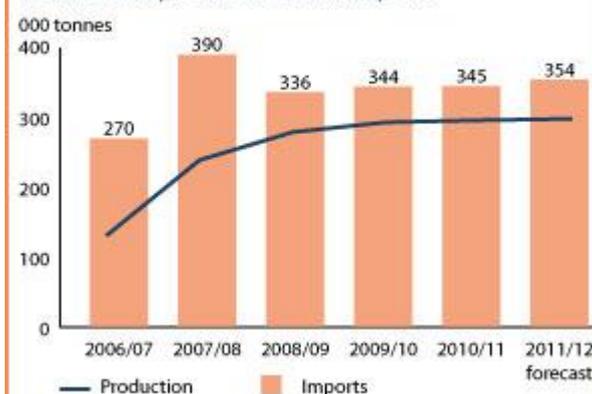
#### Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	248	296	298	1
Others	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>1</b>

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

### Liberia

#### Total cereal production and imports



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