

Reference Date: 15-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of 2015A season crops completed
- Prices of cereals and beans continue to decline
- Minimal levels of food insecurity in most areas of the country

Erratic rains affect the start of the 2015B season

Planting of the 2015B main season crops has been just completed in March and most crops are at emerging/vegetative stage. The long rainy season (February to May) started on time, but rainfall amounts have been below average during the first half of March, requiring some replanting of cereal and bean crops. Although rains resumed during the last dekad of March with above average amounts in northern and central districts, significant soil moisture deficits still persist in the Eastern province. Close monitoring of rainfall amounts and distribution during the remainder of the season is warranted as they will determine the overall performance of the 2015B season crop production, to be harvested by early June.

Harvesting of 2015A season crops (which represent about 30-40 percent of total crop production) was completed by the end of February and aggregate production is estimated at near-average level as the short season rains (September-December) have been generally favourable across the country. Below-average 2015A season production was, however, harvested in Gisara, Huye, Nyanza, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru districts of Southern Province as well as in Bugusera district of Eastern Province due to unfavourable weather conditions.

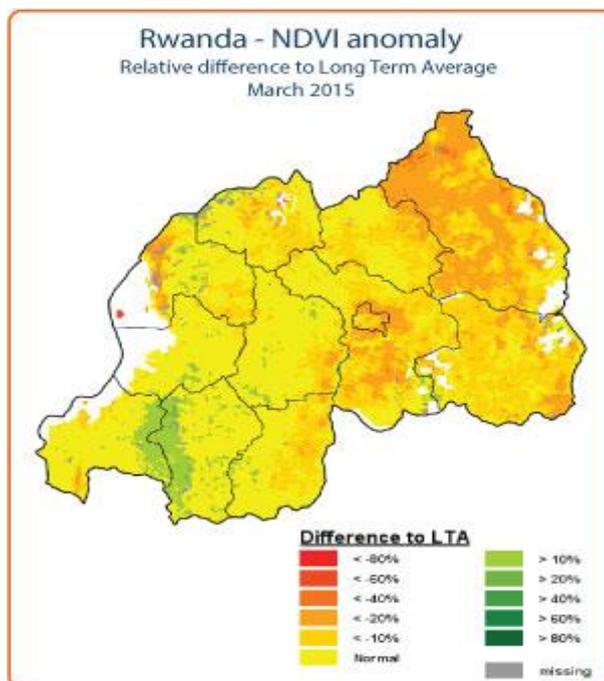
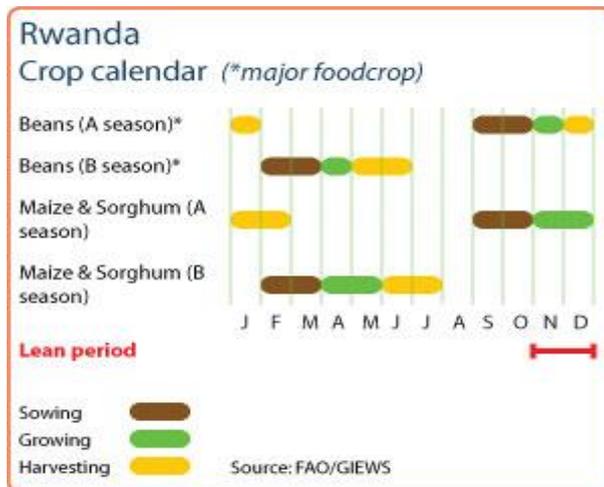
Cereals and beans prices declining in main wholesale markets

Wholesale prices of cereals and beans have started to decline in February 2015, following the commercialization of the bulk of 2015A season harvest and the sustained flow of imports from Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In March 2015, beans and maize were traded in the Kigali wholesale market at about USD 430 and USD 255 per tonne, respectively, about 10-14 percent below the peak price of January 2015 and 14-20 percent below the level of one year earlier. Similarly, the average price of rice (about USD 860 per tonne) declined by 13 percent between January and March 2015.

Minimal levels of food insecurity in most areas of the country

Households' food security conditions have improved since mid-December 2014 as green crops from the 2015A season started to be available for local consumption. Currently, minimal levels (IPC Phase 1) of acute malnutrition are reported in most areas of the country. The situation is expected to deteriorate in April as household food stocks begin to gradually decline. Particular concern is for poor households in Gisara, Huye, Nyanza, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru districts of Southern Province and Bugusera district of Eastern Province that experienced two consecutive below-average harvests (2014B and 2015A seasons).

Rwanda is hosting about 75 000 refugees, mainly from eastern



Rwanda Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	497	668	480	-28
Sorghum	157	158	145	-8
Rice (paddy)	81	94	75	-20
Others	86	79	67	-15
Total	821	999	767	-23

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

Democratic Republic of Congo. They rely entirely on international food assistance to meet their nutritional needs as they have limited livelihood opportunities. Since last March, over 3 000 people fled Burundi due to political tensions ahead of presidential, parliamentary and local elections scheduled between May and September 2015. They are currently hosted in two transit centres in Bugesera and Nyanza districts.

