

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Honduras

May-August 2011

Key Messages

- Prices of basic foods remained high: in Tegucigalpa maize prices showed an increasing trend in the last few months and were more than double the prices of the year before.
- Food security was generally stable throughout the country despite the lean season. Agencies agree there is a moderate problem of hunger.
- After the weakening of La Niña and average rainfall which permitted normal agricultural activities, prospects for 2011 cereal and bean crops are favourable.
- The government has distributed inputs for maize and beans in support of agricultural production.

Background

In Honduras total population was 7.6 million with an annual growth rate of 2%. Undernourished population was estimated at 12%.

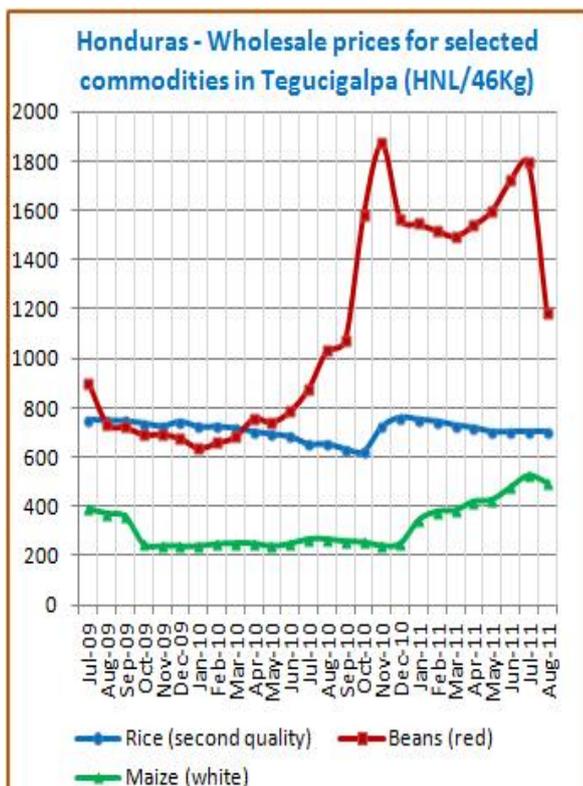
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	7.600
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	3740
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2006 (MDGI)	18%
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	51%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2010 (WB)	11%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2006/2008(FAO)	12%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	44%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	6%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	71%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	69
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	86%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.8%

Prices

Prices of white maize have continued to follow the increasing trend that began at the end of last year due to the reduced main harvest of 2010 and to the increase in international prices. In Tegucigalpa, wholesale price of maize in May 2011 was at a record level of 424.38 Lempira/46kg and increased further to 493.75 Lempira/46kg in August. These prices are some 87% above prices registered one year earlier and some 84% higher than those of Maize Yellow N2 on the international market. Rice (second quality) wholesale prices have stabilized at 700 Lempira/46Kg in the past few months while prices of beans have decreased by 26% from May and were at 1187.5 in August.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Food Security Situation Assessment

There were no major shocks to food security during the reporting period but many families experienced the lean season and food shortages. The poor harvest last year also left many with poor food stocks throughout 2011 and the high food prices constrained access to markets. Nevertheless farm labour activities in large farms during the primera land preparation and sowing time have provided income to poorer households. The primera production which is being harvested in August and September is critical to food security. FAO Hunger map estimates moderately low undernourishment and IFPRI reports moderate hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011
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The food security situation in Honduras is stable and families have started to restore their food reserves with the primera harvest which began in August and has continued into September. [...more](#) FEWSNET

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

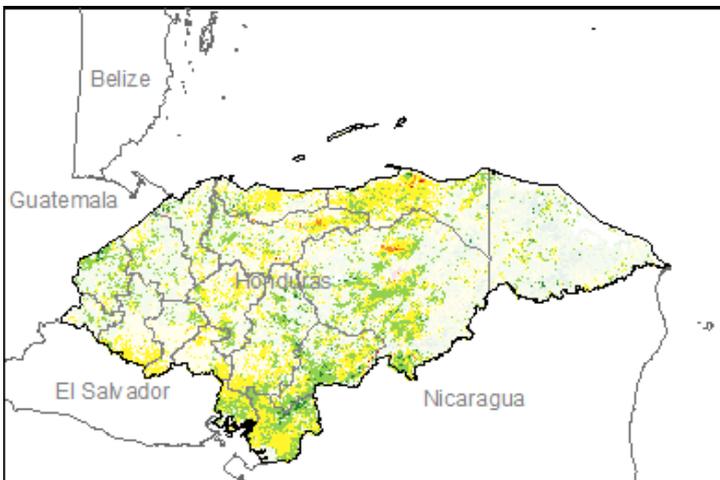
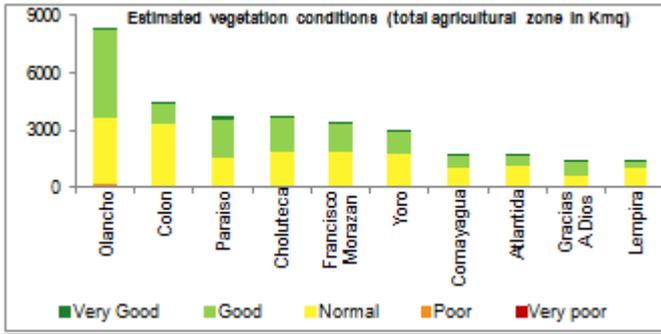
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map
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FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2011 GHI
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Vegetation Condition

Normal to good vegetation conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for August 2011 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

- Sowing** Maize (main) - Sorghum - Rice (main)
- Growing** Maize (main) - Sorghum - Rice (main)
- Harvesting** No crops are harvested in the reference period

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Food crops were not particularly affected by climatic shocks during this agricultural season. Also there are no security concerns in the country.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	n.a.
Total in the country	24	20	n.a.
Total outside the country	2059	2166	n.a.

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2011-04-07	North Of Honduras	1/3
Earthquake	2011-04-07	North Of Honduras	1/3
Earthquake	2011-03-30	Yoro Province	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

The depressed 2010 production was estimated at 652,000 tonnes which is still 8% above the 2009 output and above the 2005-2009 average (608,000 tonnes). The 2011 maize production is forecasted above the 2010 output and above the average of the last five years. Import requirements for 201/12 are forecasted at 725,000 tonnes, 5% below imports in 2010/11.

Honduras Cereal production				
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	536	520	575	11
Sorghum	47	52	52	0
Rice (paddy)	24	28	24	-14
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	608	601	652	8

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

Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government of Honduras, through the Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia (SAG), distributed 1,500 packages of white maize seeds and 2,000 of red bean seeds in the southern area of the country for postera planting.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Input support
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Input distribution

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

- [Alerta amarilla por 72 para ocho departamentos y verde...](#)
- [9º Reporte situación ocasionada por Depresión Tropical...](#)
- [Boletín e Informe Regional No.10, emitido por la Secre...](#)
- [Resumen de daños registrados por condiciones provocada...](#)
- [Sube a 29 lista de fallecidos por temporal en Honduras](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the **GIEWS Workstation**

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* For a further analysis of prices in Honduras please see: [Annex](#)