

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Senegal

Post: Dakar

Francophone West Africa Agricultural Outlook

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

In Bamako, Mali, Sept. 15-17, agricultural officials from 15 countries gathered to present preliminary rainfall data and agricultural forecasts at a quarterly meeting hosted by CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for the Prevention of Desertification in the Sahel). After a late start to the rainy season in July, rainfall was generally abundant in August and the region experienced severe flooding in some areas in early September. A significant increase in government and donor input subsidies should help to increase targeted cereal production such as rice and corn by 5 to 10 percent across the region.

General Information:

In Bamako, Mali during Sept. 15-17, agricultural officials from 15 countries gathered to present preliminary rainfall data and preliminary agricultural forecasts at a quarterly meeting hosted by CILSS (Interstate Committee for the Prevention of Desertification in the Sahel) with support from USAID, FAO and Fews-Net. The group met shortly after a two week period that brought very heavy rains to parts of West Africa that resulted in flooding in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal. Indeed, the overflowing banks of the Niger River in and around Bamako provided a very visual indicator of how much rain has fallen in the region in recent weeks.

Participants confirmed that across the Sahel, including Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad, the rainy season started very late in July, with planting delays of over 20 days in some areas. In the main production areas of each of these countries, rainfall has returned to normal during August, and early September has brought very abundant rains to many areas. However, the northern areas of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad remained in a deficit status as of the end of August.

Coastal countries, including Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin reported a more erratic raining season, with some areas experiencing deficits and others sufficient rainfall.

Overall, the agricultural production outlook for the region was described as normal to above normal, despite some deficit rainfall areas and insufficient pastoral development in parts of the northern Sahel. In addition to sufficient rainfall across the majority of the region, countries reported a significant increase in government and donor financed agricultural initiatives, which brought subsidized fertilizers, improved seed varieties (notably NERICA rice) and limited equipment. For targeted commodities such as rice and corn, area and yield increases are expected to be significant in most countries.

The table below is intended to report on past CILSS, CEDEAO, and UEMOA member country agricultural estimates as well as the current year (2009/10) forecasts. This information is provided to present a general overview of relative crop developments. This data does not reflect USDA data, nor official government statistics. These figures will be revised in November, and finalized at the end of the first quarter in 2010.

Total Gross Cereal Production ('000 metric tons)

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 lower range	2009/2010 upper range
Niger	3,369	4,957	3,513	4,490
Burkina Faso	3,089	4,213	4,069	4,973
Mali	3,885	4,057	4,040	4,639
Guinea	2,250	2,519	2,775	3,047
Senegal	772	1,904	*	3,300**
Cote d'Ivoire	1,327	1,458	+<5%	<5-15%>
Benin	1,159	1,298	*	1,462
Togo	872	935	*	1,033
Mauritania	180	250	*	155
Gambia	207	234	286	333
Guinea-Bissau	163	215	200	223
Chad	1,972	2,533	2,141	NA
Cape Verde	3	12	5	10
Total	19,248	24,585	23,000***	27,500***

* All countries did not present a lower and upper range. **Senegal's figures are targets and do not reflect actual acreage and plantings. ***Lower and upper range totals are estimated by USDA's Office of Agricultural Affairs in Dakar.