

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Venezuela

Post: Caracas

Heavy rains affecting distribution of products

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Recent heavy rains have reportedly disrupted distribution of all kinds of food products in Venezuela. Some sources estimate a 70 percent drop in cargo transportation.

General Information:

Venezuela has experienced heavy rains during the last three months in almost all northern and Andean parts of the country. In the last two weeks, rains have essentially not stopped, damaging main and secondary roads. The government has declared a state of emergency in the states of Falcón, Miranda, Vargas, and the Capital District, including Caracas.

Some representatives of the chamber of transportation mention that the situation is critical. They estimate that there has been a reduction around 70 to 80 percent in the distribution of products because of the damage done to roads by the heavy rainfall.

Impact on Ports

The heavy rains have not only affected roads, but also seaport operations. Transport from Puerto Cabello, Venezuela's biggest handling around 70 percent of all imports, has been affected since the main highway between Valencia and Puerto Cabello was damaged.

La Guaira port, nearer to the city of Caracas, has been less affected. However, operations have slowed down, since many of the port employees were not able to report to work because of the rain and blocked roads. The highway between La Guaira and Caracas has experienced numerous landslides. Therefore, transport has suffered several hours of delay.

Source: El Universal