



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/29/2001

GAIN Report #CS1003

## **Costa Rica**

### **Grain and Feed**

#### **Rice Situation**

## **2001**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**Costa Rica's rice production increased 7 percent during crop year 1999/2000. Imports during calendar year 2001 are estimated at 65,000 MT of rough rice, equivalent to 45,500 MT of milled rice. The majority of the rice is expected to come from the United States.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
San Jose [CS1], CS

**Rice Situation - Costa Rica**

Industry and government sources report that imports of rough rice during calendar year 2001 will reach approximately 65,000 MT, equivalent to 45,500 MT of milled rice, mostly of U.S. origin. The first rough rice shipment of the year from the United States (18,469 MT), arrived on March 26 at the port of Caldera on the Pacific.

During crop year 1999/2000, area planted to rice reached 67,531 hectares. Of the total, 48,126 hectares were planted during the first crop and 19,405 hectares during the second crop. Area planted in 1999/2000 increased 11,357 hectares as compared to 1998/1999. Rough rice production increased 7% to 281,927 MT in 1999/2000 from 263,274 MT in 1998/1999. Higher production was mainly the result of larger area planted since the yield declined from 4.69 MT/ha in 1998/1999 to 4.18 MT/ha in 1999/2000. Domestic consumption of rice reached 214,674 MT during 1999/2000.

Domestic production is now being marketed (since July of last year) but typically imports begin in March and diminish in May or June. This is also the period when domestic industry pressures the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) to erect barriers to imports in order to protect producers and millers. This year MAG attempted to deny import permits for undefined phytosanitary reasons but intervention by the U.S. Embassy dislodged the permits. The Ministry is expected to continue to impede imports of milled rice as domestic millers fight to keep value added in Costa Rica.

The import duty on both rough and milled rice is Costa Rica's WTO binding rate of 35 percent. In addition, the Costa Rican government applies a price safeguard which adds approximately 6 or 7 percent to the import duty, depending on the price of the imported rice.