



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Australia

Grain and Feed

Grains Update - January Lockup

2002

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Report Highlights:

Post proposes no changes in crop figures provided in the previous report (AS2041, 12/02/02). December rainfall in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland has improved conditions for dryland and irrigated crops in this major summer cropping region. Post is projecting sharp production declines for all the major summer crops – cotton, rice and sorghum. ABARE is projecting even lower area and production for these summer crops.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Canberra [AS1], AS

SUMMER CROP CONDITIONS IMPROVE SOMEWHAT

Since Post's previous report (AS2041, dated 12/02/02), more normal precipitation in areas of northern NSW and southern Queensland has improved conditions for dryland and irrigated field crops in this major summer crop producing region. Rainfall in December in this region was generally widespread and exceeded 100 mm in some areas. The precipitation has permitted some dryland areas to be seeded to sorghum, cotton and other summer crops that otherwise would have remained fallow due to dry conditions. Already planted irrigated crops benefitted from the precipitation; although the rainfall was insufficient to significantly boost irrigation availabilities. NSW typically accounts for about one-third of the national sorghum crop and over two-thirds of the cotton crop; Queensland accounts for most of the remainder. Practically all Australia's rice crop is produced in south central NSW.

NO PRODUCTION CHANGES PROPOSED FOR MAJOR SUMMER CROPS

Post proposes no changes to the previous production projections for the current summer crop season as provided in the previous report (AS2041, dated 12/02/02). Drought conditions and shortages of irrigation water are expected to sharply reduce area and production for the major summer crops -- cotton, rice and sorghum. Post's projections are based on a return to normal weather. Post's current projections for the major summer crops are as follows:

Crop	Area (Tha)	Yield (MT/ha)	Production (TMT)
Sorghum	500	2.00	1,000
Rice, rough	55	8.18	450
Cotton, lint	240	1.25	300

Source: FAS/Canberra, AS2041, 12/02/02.

Australia's Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) is projecting even lower area and production figures for these major summer crops. ABARE's area, yield and production figures are as follows (released December 2, 2002, and current as of November 27, 2002):

Crop	Area (Tha)	Yield (MT/ha)	Production (TMT)
Sorghum	480	1.77	850
Rice, rough	46	8.26	380
Cotton, lint	224	1.06	238

Source: ABARE, December 2, 2002 Crop Report.