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## Kenya

### Grain and Feed

### Grain Update Report

## 2006

**Approved by:**

Kevin N Smith  
U.S Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Mary Onsongo

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**Report Highlights:**

Corn Production in Kenya is expected to show a 20 percent increase over last years production due to favorable rains during maturation of first and second crops.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Nairobi [KE1]  
[KE]

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## Corn Production and Consumption

### Weather

November/early December is the peak rainfall month for the short rains (October to December) season over most parts of the country. Most parts of the country experienced highly enhanced rainfall that led to severe flooding especially along the coast, parts of Western, parts of Northeastern and the lake basin. Meteorologists attribute the heavy rainfall to mild EL-Nino conditions in the equatorial eastern and central Pacific Ocean.

The heavy rainfall has resulted in both positive and negative results. Good crop and livestock performance has been recorded over most of central highlands and parts of southeastern Kenya. The flooding has led to loss of life and destruction of property including massive damage to infrastructure. In some cases roads have been swept away by the raging floods affecting the transport system. Flood opportunistic diseases (cholera, dysentery etc) are feared to take place in some areas. Indications are that the rains will continue to early next year.

### Corn production estimates

The short rains crop is maturing in all parts of the country. Some of the areas affected by the floods may be replanted. With expected good weather, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) estimates the short rains crop to be above average (about 3 million bags – average short rains crop is 2.5 million bags). The short rains crop in western and parts of Nyanza province is at the tasseling stage, while in Eastern and parts of Central province it is at the weeding stage. In the flood-affected (i.e. Coast province) areas, crops are being weeded.

The long rains crop (Crop planted in February/March, 2006) production is estimated at 28 million bags. According to the MOA, 27 million bags have already been harvested with the balance to be harvested in December from the North Rift.

### Consumption

MOA estimates corn stocks from farm level, traders' stores, millers and the National and Cereals Board at 15.5 million bags. At a consumption of 2.7 million bags per month, the stocks will hold for 6 months. The expected 1 million bags long rain harvest in December from the North Rift will further improve the supply situation. Cross-boarder trade (between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) continues unabated.

### Rice production and consumption

Rice is grown in Kenya as both a commercial and food crop. During the long rains period, about 16,454 hectares of rice were grown under irrigation. Annual production is estimated at 70,000 mt with estimated consumption of about 280,000 mt. The balance is met through imports mainly from Tanzania, Asian countries (Vietnam, Pakistan) and some other African countries. There are some small quantities from the U.S. that sell among the high-end market.

With the revival of some irrigation schemes (Mwea, Ahero and Bunyala) production is expected to increase slowly. Due to the floods in western Kenya some areas of rice were lost.

## Wheat production and Consumption

### Wheat Production

Kenya's wheat consumption is estimated at 8 million bags per year and production averages between 3-4 million bags. The balance is met through commercial imports and food aid. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates production for 2006 at 3.7 million, a small decline from the previous year (3.9 million bags). The decrease is attributed to unfavorable weather conditions in some of the major wheat growing areas.

Both small-scale and large-scale farmers grow wheat in Kenya. Small-scale farmers grow wheat in small size farms of less than 20 hectares while large-scale farmers grow the crop on areas ranging from 20 ha to over 1000 ha. Large-scale farmers are more mechanized in wheat production compared to small-scale farmers. Available statistics suggest that large-scale farmers dominate wheat production with a share of 75 % of the wheat area and 83 % of production.