

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Ghana Dry Bean Voluntary 2023

Country: Ghana

Post: Accra

Report Category: MISC-Commodity

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Report Highlights:

Commercial dry bean production in Ghana is limited to cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), which has two sub-species with commercial value in Ghana; the black-eyed pea, which is the most popularly grown sub-species in Ghana, and the red/dark brown sub-species. Production is concentrated in the northern part of Ghana. Post forecasts marketing year (MY) 2023/24 production at 375,000 metric tons (MT), a marginal increase of two percent from the preceding year's estimate of 367,687 MT. Harvested area in MY2023/24 has been forecast at 250,000 hectares (HA), two percent increase over the MY2022/23 estimate of 245,000 HA.

General Information

Production:

Commercial dry bean production in Ghana is limited to cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), which has two sub-species with commercial value in Ghana; the black-eyed pea, which is the most popularly grown sub-species in Ghana, and the red/dark brown sub-species. Post forecasts marketing year (MY) 2023/24 production at 375,000 metric tons (MT), a marginal increase of two percent from the preceding year's estimate of 367,687 MT. Harvested area in MY2023/24 has been forecast at 250,000 hectares (HA), two percent increase over the MY2022/23 estimate of 245,000 HA. The increase is expected due to a switch away from crops that make intensive use of fertilizer, as well as intercropping of corn with cowpea by some farmers because of the high cost of fertilizer.

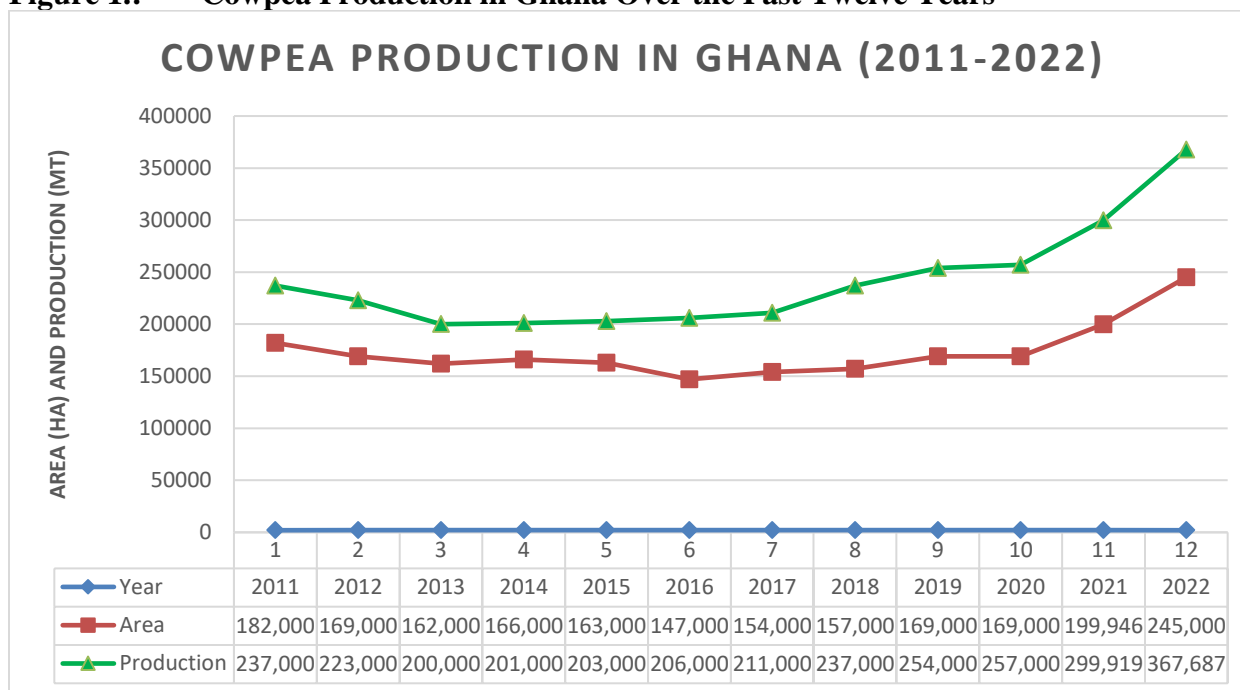
Cowpea production in Ghana is concentrated in the northern part, with the Upper West, Northern, Upper East, North East, and the Savanna regions constituting the top-five producing regions. Pest infestation remains the major challenge for cowpea producers in Ghana. Though some cowpea farmers complain about the rising cost of production in terms of pest control and hint of reducing land area as a result, the increased in harvested area due to the switch from crops requiring intensive use of fertilizer will more than offset the expected decrease. Other important types of dry bean produced in Ghana, albeit mostly on subsistence and semi-commercial basis are Bambara beans, Lima beans, and the pigeon pea, but these are rarely grown on a commercial scale.

Current Development:

In May 2020, the Crop Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) introduced four new common bean (baked beans) varieties for adoption by Ghanaian farmers. Promoted as a “new cowpea,” developers claim these newly introduced bean varieties have higher contents of iron, protein, and zinc, compared to cowpea. Scientists who worked on the varieties described their release as a breakthrough and promoted bean production, distribution, and consumption as means of greater livelihoods and more plentiful sources of nutritious food.

In June 2022, Ghana's National Biosafety Authority approved the application for environmental release and placement on the market of pod borer resistant (PBR) or Bt cowpea developed by the CSIR's Savanna Agricultural Research Institute. This domestically developed GE product is expected to provide a needed solution to the persistent pest infestations militating against cowpea production in Ghana. See the [GAIN report](#) for more information.

Figure 1.: Cowpea Production in Ghana Over the Past Twelve Years



Source: Data from SRID, MOFA, 2023; and FAS Accra estimates, 2023.

Consumption:

Cowpea is considered as the most affordable nutritious legume in Ghana. It is an example of a versatile food consumed in various forms and ever present on the shopping list of many Ghanaians within the lower-income bracket. Popular meals in Ghana prepared from cowpea include “Waakye,” which refers to par-boiled rice and cowpea cooked together in one pot. This nutritious meal is served with spicy tomato stew and/or hot pepper sauce and is now a delicacy on the lunch menu of most restaurants in the urban centers. “Gari & beans” is yet another popular Ghanaian meal prepared from cowpea served with gari (roasted cassava grits), and palm oil. It is usually served as a popular lunch for the masses, especially construction laborers and students, sometimes with fried ripe plantains. It is a favorite menu item for many low-income urban dwellers because it is nutritious and energy dense.

Boiled cowpea is also served as sauce or stew with ripe plantains at restaurants and homes under the name “red red.” “Koose,” a popular snack and an in-expensive substitute for bread, usually served with porridge is prepared from fried cowpea (black-eyed peas) paste. “Tubaani,” a steamed black-eyed peas pudding is a popular Ghanaian dish that is commonly eaten in the northern regions and Zongo communities of Ghana. The dish consists of a paste made from the flour of black-eyed peas and water, which is then cooked after being first wrapped in leaves.

The per capita consumption of cowpea in MY2022/23 is estimated at about 10 kg per year. Post forecasts MY2023/24 consumption at 365,000 MT, an increase of 12 percent over the MY2022/23 estimate of 325,000 MT. Persistent economic hardship and population growth will contribute to the expected increase in consumption, all other things remaining equal.

Marketing:

Cowpea is usually sold in units of 109 kg, 50 kg and 25 kg bags. Sales at the farm gate and the wholesale level are usually done in the 109 kg bags while retail level sales are usually done in 25 kg bags or lesser volumes of non-standardized units. The current (MY2022/23) wholesale price of cowpea averages GH¢1,115.00 (\$10.45) per 109 kg and the retail price averages GH¢16.00 (\$1.45) per 1kg. (Average Exchange Rate: \$1.00=GH¢11.00).

Trade:

No significant cowpea trade is expected in MY2023/24 by Post so imports are set to zero and remain unchanged compared to the MY2022/23 projection by Post. Nonetheless, average imports of about 2,000 MT were recorded in the past (2016-2020), mainly from Niger, Burkina Faso, and Togo. Average exports of 323 MT were made in the past five years (between 2018 and 2022). Hence Post forecasts MY2023/24 exports at 150 MT, a decrease of about 24 percent from the preceding year's estimate of 196 MT.

Trade Involving Other Pulses:

In addition to cowpeas, Ghana imports relatively small volumes of other pulses, notable among them are kidney beans (including white pea beans – *Phaseolus vulgaris*), adzuki beans, peas (*Pisum sativum*), chickpeas (garbanzos), lentils, Lima beans, pinto beans, and broad beans.

Table 1.: Top 10 Exporting Countries of Pulses (including Cowpea) to Ghana, MT

Trade Partner	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Nigeria	6	0	21	137	767
India	20	42	70	81	118
Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	19	5	28
United States	0	23	0	0	15
UK	0	35	54	8	12
Portugal	0	0	0	0	3
Italy	0	0	0	0	3
South Africa	2	2	2	1	1
Belgium	0	0	0	0	1
Canada	0	188	0	0	0
Others	4	15	6	8	0
Total	32	305	172	240	948

Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC, 2023

Stocks:

Post forecasts MY2022/23 ending stocks at 18,450 MT, a decrease of 14 percent from the preceding year's estimate, as stocks are depleted to satisfy the increased consumption demand.

Policy:

Import of various dry beans attract import tariffs of 5 and 20 percent import duty for seeds and others respectively. Additional taxes and levies are as follows:

- VAT - 15.0 percent
- ECOWAS levy - 0.5 percent
- Export Development and Investment Fund (EDIF) levy - 0.5 percent
- Inspection fee - 1.0 percent
- Integrated Customs Management System (ICUMS) service charge - 0.75% of FOB value.
- National Health Insurance Levy - 2.5 percent, to be collected by the VAT Secretariat.

End of report.

Attachments:

No Attachments.