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Report Highlights:

In market year (MY) 2024/2025, Colombia's corn production is forecast to decrease to 1.5 million metric tons (MMT) influenced by lower domestic corn prices and dissuading farmers from expanding corn cultivation. Conversely, rice production is anticipated to slightly increase to 1.9 MMT milled rice equivalent (MRE) driven by yield recovery, as harvested area remains unchanged due to stabilized prices. With the forecast of low international prices, U.S. corn market share in Colombia will likely remain high, benefiting from trade preferences outlined in the U.S. Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. Rice imports are forecast to increase given competitive international prices and no major increases in local production, with the United States as the main supplier. Wheat imports are projected to rebound in line with moderate economic growth expectations and consumption recovery. Competition with Canada continues to be the most significant challenge to U.S. wheat market share in Colombia.

Commodities:

Corn

Table 1. Corn: Production, Supply, and Distribution

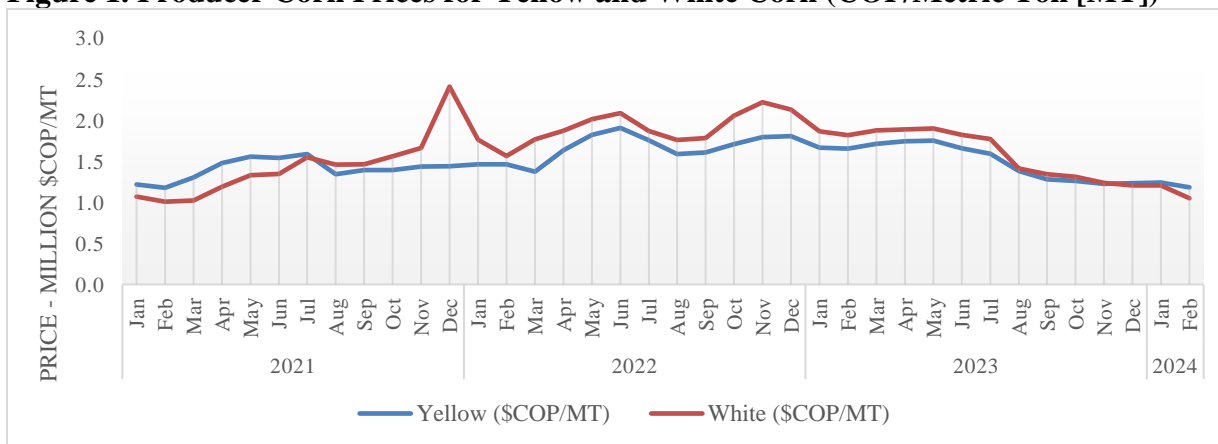
Corn	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
Market Year Begins	Oct 2022		Oct 2023		Oct 2024	
Colombia	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	380	380	390	390	0	370
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	398	398	340	340	0	369
Production (1000 MT)	1500	1500	1600	1600	0	1500
MY Imports (1000 MT)	6343	6343	6500	6400	0	6500
TY Imports (1000 MT)	6343	6343	6500	6400	0	6500
Total Supply (1000 MT)	8241	8241	8440	8340	0	8369
MY Exports (1000 MT)	1	1	1	1	0	1
TY Exports (1000 MT)	1	1	1	1	0	1
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	6400	6400	6500	6450	0	6480
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	1500	1500	1550	1520	0	1530
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	7900	7900	8050	7970	0	8010
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	340	340	389	369	0	358
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	8241	8241	8440	8340	0	8369
Yield (MT/HA)	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	0	4.1

Data source: FAS historical data series. Post estimates for MY 2024/2025.

Production

For MY 2024/2025 (October-September), FAS Bogota (Post) forecasts Colombian corn production to decrease approximately 6.3 percent to 1.5 million metric tons (MMT) on an estimated harvested area of 370,000 hectares (ha). Reduced international corn prices and Colombian Peso (COP) appreciation have negatively impacted domestic corn prices, which will likely discourage farmers to expand cultivation. Prices paid to corn producers in Colombia declined in the second half of 2023 (Figure 1), mirroring the downward trend in international prices.

Figure 1. Producer Corn Prices for Yellow and White Corn (COP/Metric Ton [MT])



Data Source: *Precios Nacionales al Productor*. Colombian Association of Cereal and Legume Producers (FENALCE).

Post anticipates no changes from the MY 2023/2024 Colombian corn production official estimate. In recent years, domestic corn production increases were driven by high international prices and the weak Colombian Peso against the U.S. dollar, which gradually narrowed the competitiveness gap between imported and locally produced corn and had motivated farmers in their planting decisions. In the last MY, large animal feed companies expanded their own corn cultivation and farmers augmented their sales to private millers due to high international prices.

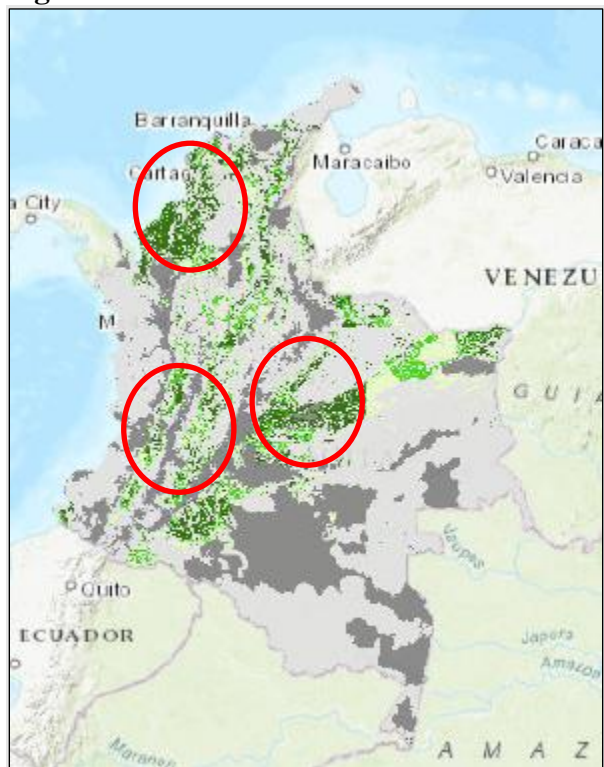
Colombia experienced fluctuating weather patterns last marketing year. In the second half of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, regions including the Meta and Tolima departments were affected by higher temperatures and insufficient rainfall due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, while northern Colombia received excessive rains and cloudiness. Nevertheless, reduced domestic input fertilizer prices last MY have led to expanded fertilizer application rates and helped counteract productivity losses stemming from poor weather conditions.

Colombia produces yellow and white corn, which tend to be grown interchangeably by farmers, depending on market conditions. Colombia's corn sector is divided into modern and traditional production systems. Modern production, largely found on medium to large industrial farms, accounts for approximately 80 percent of Colombia's total corn output. Farmers employ hybrid seeds and improved agricultural practices and reach an average yield of 5.8 metric tons per hectare (MT/ha), covering 55 percent of total corn area. In contrast, traditional corn varieties¹ are primarily cultivated on small farms, and are mainly used for household consumption, yielding 1.9 MT/ha on average. There are 17 corn producing regions in Colombia, but 70 percent of total production is concentrated in seven departments from the north coast (Córdoba, Bolívar, and Sucre), central region (Tolima, Huila, and Valle) and eastern plains (Meta).

In late 2022, the Agricultural Rural Planning Unit (UPRA) attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), published its [Corn Planting Plan](#) that examines Colombia's corn value chain and includes with a 20-year action plan. According to UPRA, Colombia has approximately 16 million ha of land suitable for corn production (Figure 2). Despite this potential, systemic obstacles hinder corn acreage expansion, such as inadequate infrastructure, technological limitations, crop input distribution challenges, and insufficient investments.

¹ A mix of hybrid and open-pollinated corn varieties whose origins [date back centuries](#).

Figure 2. Colombia: Corn Production Suitability²



Data Source: System for Rural Agricultural Planning ([SIPRA](#)), UPRA; 2022.

Biotechnology

In calendar year (CY) 2022,³ Colombia cultivated approximately 119,000 ha of genetically engineered (GE) corn, a 17 annual percent decrease, but still the second highest rate in its history after record 2021 figures (143,000 ha). The Colombian departments of Meta, Tolima, Cordoba, Valle del Cauca, and Cesar have the highest GE-corn adoption per area planted.⁴

Consumption

Post forecasts MY 2024/2025 corn consumption to marginally increase from the previous MY estimate to 8 MMT, aligning to moderate increases in Colombia's 2024-2025 economic growth projections. According to Colombia's Central Bank, sustained economic activity is further anticipated and reach 1.5 percent in 2024 and above 2 percent for 2025. Inflation is also projected to fall to 5.5 and 3.8 percent in 2024 and 2025, respectively.⁵

Post revises the MY 2023/2024 corn consumption estimate to 7.9 million metric tons. In 2023, persistent high food price inflation rates adjusted consumer behavior which contributed to reduced consumption of

² This map illustrates optimal areas for corn production. The dark green illustrates the highly suitable land for corn production (8.2 million ha), medium green indicates moderately suitable (4.9 million ha), and light green corresponds to marginally suitable land (2.9 million ha). Light and dark grey areas are not suitable and are protected areas, respectively. Most of the current corn production is in the highly suitable regions, located in the red circles of the map.

³ Latest data available as of February 2024.

⁴ See: USDA GAIN, Colombia: Agricultural Biotechnology 2023 [CO2023-0021](#).

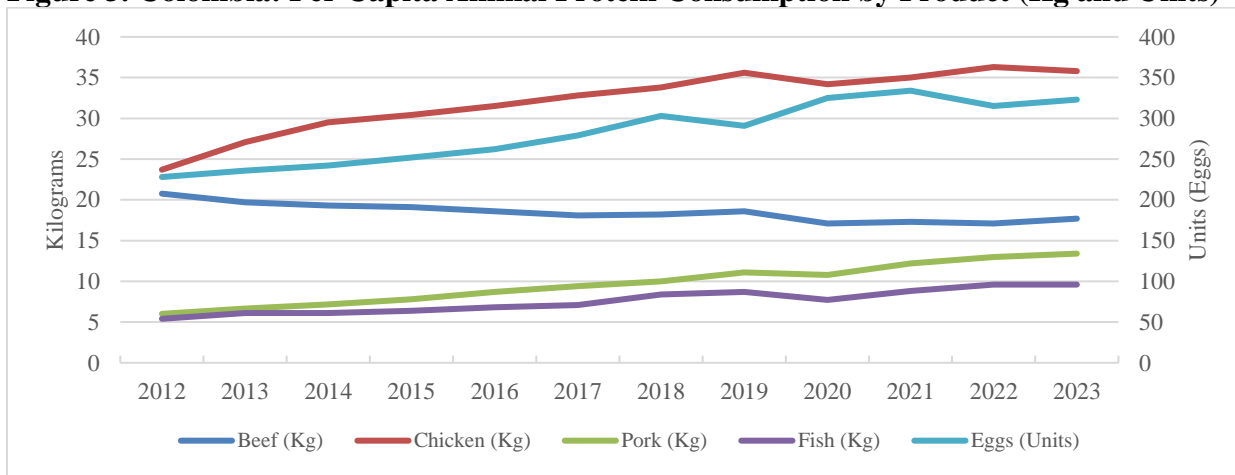
⁵ Source: [Colombia's Central Bank Estimates](#), January, 2024. (Banco de la República).

several food products including chicken meat, while conversely supporting increases in pork and egg consumption.⁶

Colombia consumes more yellow corn volumes than white corn, as yellow corn is a key input for the animal feed industry, and white corn is only used in the food industry. Corn is the cereal with the highest consumption in Colombia, considering both uses. Between 2015-2022, corn consumption averaged 64 percent of consumption against primary cereals.⁷ Yet, per capita corn consumption has gradually fallen over time. In 2023, per capita corn consumption (human consumption only) totaled 20 kilograms (kg), with rice and wheat estimated at 40 and 30 kg, respectively, in the same period.

Livestock and poultry industry feed requirements have typically determined the volume of feed grain imports to Colombia, as most animal proteins are domestically produced. According to the National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI), the domestic poultry industry continues as the largest consumer of animal feeds, accounting for 65 percent of total feed imports. Colombia’s cattle and swine sectors consume around 25 percent, and 10 percent are devoted to the aquaculture and petfood industries. Approximately 95 percent of corn imports (combined yellow and white) are used for animal feed, with the remaining 5 percent for human consumption. However, Post sources cite recent increases in yellow corn local production are being utilized in the animal feed industry. Concurrently, per capita poultry and egg consumption remain high in Colombia due to affordability and accessibility (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Colombia: Per Capita Animal Protein Consumption by Product (Kg and Units)



Data Sources: Colombia producer associations including Fenavi, PorkColombia, Fedegan (Livestock), Fedeaqua (Aquaculture), 2024.

Historically, food and industrial use (FSI) corn consumption gradually increases each year due to sustained population growth and economic trends. In MY 2024/2025, FSI corn consumption is forecast to marginally increase nearly 1 percent from the previous MY estimate to 1.53 MMT, behind slightly improved national economic performance. Market year 2023/2024 FSI corn consumption is revised downward from the official estimate as Colombian consumers reduced household spending, driven by rising food prices, elevated inflation rates, and a more pronounced economic slowdown in 2023 than

⁶ During difficult economic times, Colombian consumers routinely shift to cheaper proteins like eggs. Increased pork consumption however has been supported by improvements in production competitiveness and ideal consumer prices.

⁷ See: “[Análisis de Producto](#),” Published December 2023. Bolsa Mercantil de Colombia.

initially projected. Colombia’s economy in 2023 grew modestly to just 0.6 percent, while the annual inflation rate reached 9.3 percent.

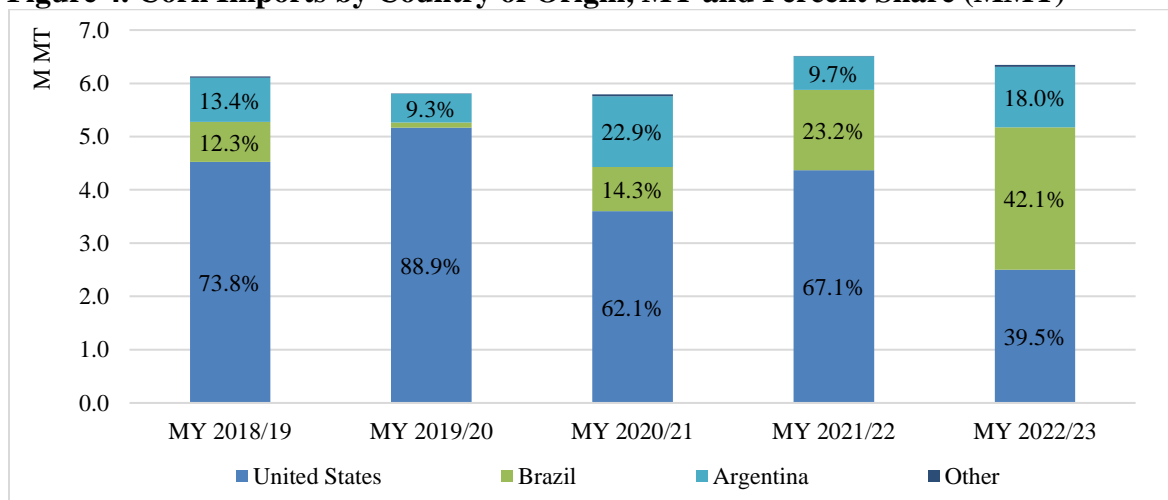
Trade

Total corn imports in the outyear are forecast to reach 6.5 MMT, 1.6 percent higher from Post’s MY 2023/2024 estimate due to increased demand from the animal feed and food sectors and compensation for an anticipated decrease in local corn production. U.S. corn market share is expected to remain high in both the current MY and outyear, contributing to nearly 70 percent of imports. This rate should continue if Mercosur duties continue to be applied at its current rate⁸ and the continued zero duty on U.S. corn through the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (CTPA).

In the current MY, Colombia’s corn imports are revised 1.5 percent lower to 6.4 MMT, reflecting lower demand and market realities. Despite favorable international prices, importers have been facing challenges with the Panama Canal as drought conditions are creating long queues, causing shipping delays and increased costs. Colombia imports corn through its Atlantic coast ports and a Pacific port, Buenaventura, which handles the largest cargo volume of all national ports. It is estimated that nearly 60 percent of imported corn enters through Buenaventura. From October 2023 to January 2024, U.S. corn exports to Colombia already surpassed 2 MMT and accounted for nearly 90 percent of total imports.

Despite the out-of-quota duties ending in CY 2023 for yellow and white corn,⁹ Colombian grain importers remain highly price-conscious and have shifted some purchases to South American-origin corn due to competitive pricing and preferential treatment granted to Mercosur countries, especially Argentina and Brazil through the Andean Price Band System (APBS). In MY 2022/2023, the U.S. corn market share in Colombia decreased from 67.1 percent in MY 2021/2022 to 39.5 percent, while Brazilian corn increased from 23.2 percent to 42.1 percent, and Argentinian corn from 9.7 percent to 18 percent (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Corn Imports by Country of Origin, MY and Percent Share (MMT)



Data Source: Trade Data Monitor.

⁸ See Policy Section. Mercosur-origin tariff rates are presently high due to the downward trend of international corn prices.

⁹ All corn imported from the United States will enter duty free from 2023 and beyond based on the Colombia U.S. Trade Promotion Agreement.

Stocks

Market year 2024/2025 ending stocks are projected 3 percent lower year-on-year to 358,000 metric tons. This amount supplies approximately two weeks of operations (all industries) based on overall demand. Colombian importers typically maintain limited inventories given their high frequency of imports.¹⁰ There are no government policies establishing grain inventories.

Policy

The Petro Administration has publicly promoted Colombia to become self-sufficient in agricultural production, with a particular focus on corn, and aims to reduce imports while strengthening the economy. In late 2023, MADR announced that Cordoba, one of the primary corn producing departments, will become the Ministry's focus to transition existing grass-fed livestock systems to additional corn acreages, an agricultural reform initiative which aims to support import substitution.¹¹ According to MADR, additional measures will support producers with the transition, including the Fund for Access to Agricultural Inputs program, public procurement instruments from the Rural Development Agency, and investments in improved corn drying and storage facilities.

Colombia's corn sector programs are administered by FENALCE via the National Cereal Fund, a checkoff program collecting 0.75 percent of the sales price per/kg for both yellow and white corn. Funds must be invested in research, social and technical programs, technical assistance, and market promotion. As a member of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), Colombia applies the Andean Price Band System (APBS) that serves as a price stabilization tool for a special group of agricultural products that CAN economies consider sensitive, including corn (Table 2).¹² The APBS application is excluded in the for U.S. corn imports under the U.S. Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, instead using a tariff-rate quota (TRQ) mechanism with out-of-quota duties. In 2023, U.S. yellow and white corn tariffs were completely phased-out.

Table 2. CAN: Corn Floor and Ceiling Prices (USD/MT)¹³

Period	Commodity	Floor Price CIF	Ceiling Price CIF
April 2023 to March 2024	Yellow Corn	\$260	\$320
	White Corn	\$287	\$345
April 2024 to March 2025	Yellow Corn	\$283	\$343
	White Corn	\$282	\$365

Data Sources: CAN Resolutions 2367/2023, 2307/2022.

¹⁰ This tendency accounts for the U.S. corn zero percent duty, and Mercosur-origin corn duties that change every two weeks.

¹¹ See: Córdoba será el primer laboratorio de sustitución de ganadería por cultivos de maíz (Córdoba will be the first laboratory to replace livestock with corn crops. [Colombia's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development](#), December 2023.

¹² The APBS price stabilization takes place when the international reference price falls below a set floor, and a tariff is increased. The base tariff is reduced when the reference price exceeds the set ceiling. Floor and ceiling prices are adjusted annually, according to a mathematical calculation, and in accordance with information sources and reference markets established in CAN Decision 371.

¹³ The CAN reference price is the biweekly average of daily, weekly, or monthly quotations observed in the referential markets (FOB Gulf based on the Chicago Board of Trade first position for corn). Such a reference price must be expressed in terms of CIF. Depending on how bi-weekly CIF reference prices of corn behave, the effective duties under the APBS for each period will be established.

Since April 2023, due to international price declines, high Mercosur tariffs on both yellow and white corn imports remained in effect. From March 1-15, 2024, yellow corn and white corn duties stand at 22 and 3 percent, respectively. This is based on the current reference prices for yellow and white corn at \$219 and \$279 per metric ton, respectively.

Commodities:

Rice

Table 3. Rice: Production, Supply and Distribution

Rice, Milled	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
Market Year Begins	Apr 2022		Apr 2023		Apr 2024	
Colombia	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	509	509	580	570	0	570
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	282	282	158	158	0	168
Milled Production (1000 MT)	1718	1718	1940	1870	0	1930
Rough Production (1000 MT)	2526	2526	2853	2750	0	2838
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	6800	6800	6800	6800	0	6800
MY Imports (1000 MT)	223	223	130	130	0	190
TY Imports (1000 MT)	113	113	180	180	0	210
Total Supply (1000 MT)	2223	2223	2228	2158	0	2288
MY Exports (1000 MT)	65	65	65	50	0	55
TY Exports (1000 MT)	65	65	65	50	0	55
Consumption and Residual	2000	2000	2000	1940	0	2000
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	158	158	163	168	0	233
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	2223	2223	2228	2158	0	2288
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	0	5.0

Data Source: FAS historical data series. Post estimates for MY 2024/2025.

Production

Market year 2024/2025 (April-March) milled rice production is forecast to increase 3.2 percent from the previous year revised estimate, reaching 1.9 MMT of milled rice equivalent (MRE). Gains are primarily attributed to expected yield recovery, considering normal weather conditions for rice cultivation. Area harvested will remain unchanged year-on-year and is supported by consistent local rice prices. Planting season in the main rain-fed region of the *Llanos*, or eastern plains, might be delayed until April 2024, coinciding with the forecasted return to average rainfall levels (Figure 5). As of February 2024, rice prices paid to producers are 11 percent lower year-on-year. Nevertheless, these prices remain sufficiently profitable to cover production costs due to lower and affordable fertilizer and other related input prices.

Figure 5. Rain-fed rice production system in preparation for planting (left), irrigated rice field at 100 days growth and two weeks prior to harvest (right).

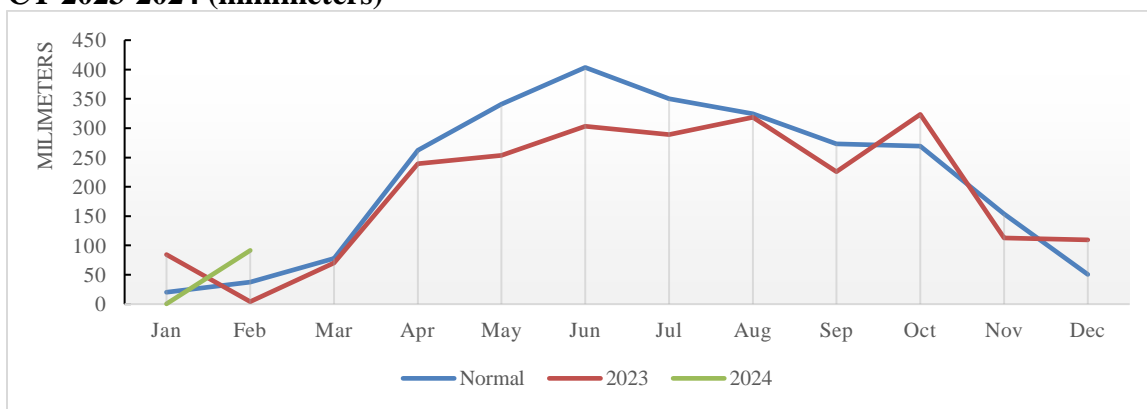


Source: Post field visit; Aguazul, Casanare department, February 2024.

In the current MY 2023/2024, Post revises Colombia milled rice production 3.6 percent lower to 1.87 million metric tons. Driven by increasing farmgate prices, planted areas increased in the first half of CY 2023. However, area harvested in MY 2023/2024 is lowered to 570,000 ha as some farms were affected by drought and higher temperatures due to El Niño, impacting grain filling and yield.

In 2023, national-level rainfall was below normal levels reflecting drought conditions from the El Niño weather phenomena, especially in the primary rice growing rain-fed region (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Colombia: Monthly Precipitation in Casanare Department against Historical Average,¹⁴ CY 2023-2024 (millimeters)



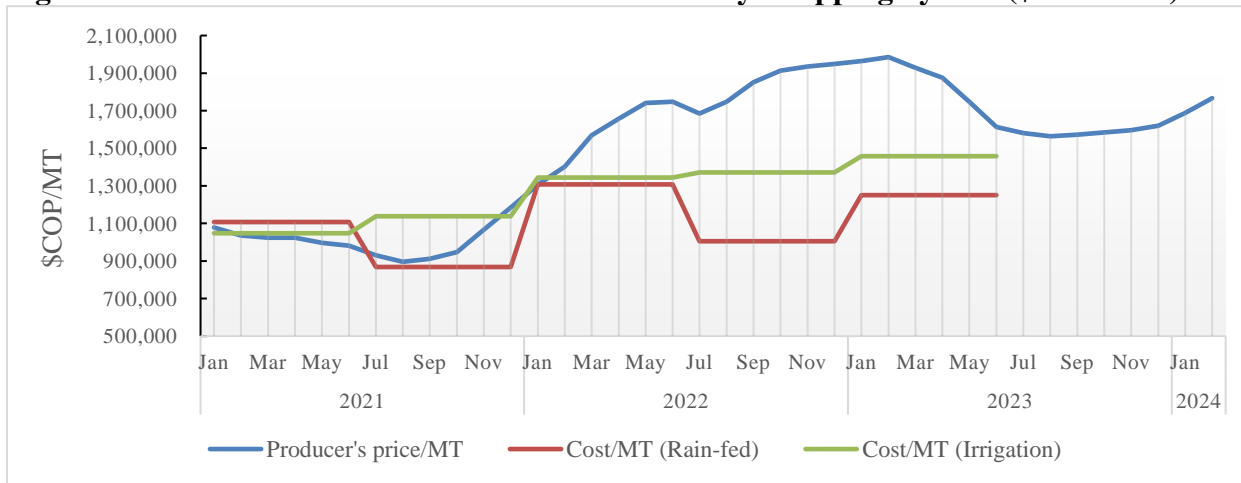
Data Source: Global Agricultural & Disaster Assessment System (GADAS), USDA, using NASA Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals (IMERG) for Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM).

Note: Casanare is in the eastern plains (Llanos) near Venezuela and is one of largest rice producing regions.

¹⁴ Total rainfall is calculated by adding the daily precipitation records for each given period using satellite GPM IMERG data. Average normal precipitation is based on Climate Research Unit global weather norms over a 30-year period.

Despite fluctuations, a favorable margin exists for producers between the local average price and production costs, beginning in early 2022 and widening through 2023, primarily due to the decline in domestic fertilizers and other input costs (Figure 7). Toward the second half of 2023, there was a downward trajectory in rice prices, consistent with the regular occurrence of the main harvest season. In early 2024, farmgate rice prices remain elevated, but lower than those in 2023, which will likely keep growers cautious about expanding rice cultivation in the new market year.

Figure 7. Domestic Rice Prices vs. Production Costs by Cropping System (\$ COP/MT)

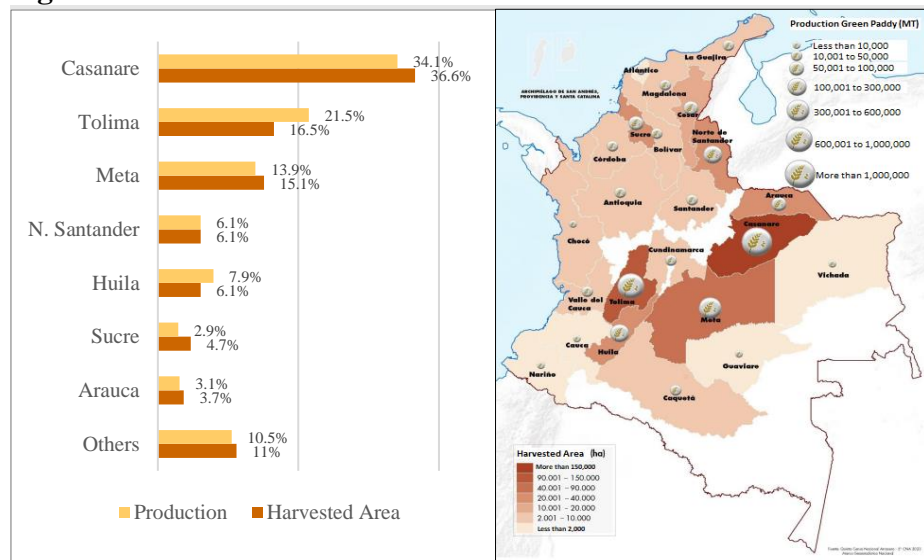


Data Source: Colombian Rice Growers Federation (Fedearroz).

Note: Prices based on green paddy rice on a national average. July-December 2023 production costs unpublished to date.

Colombia’s national average yield is estimated at 5 MT/hectare (paddy rice basis). Rice is grown throughout the year with an estimated 65 percent of production occurring from July-December. There are approximately 16,000 rice growers distributed across five broad producing regions with the *Llanos* and central region consisting of Casanare, Meta, Tolima, and Huila departments, and are responsible more than 70 percent of total production (Figure 8). About 40 percent of production originates in the *Llanos*, primarily relying on rain-fed cultivation, with paddy rice yields averaging 4 MT/hectare. The eastern plains have the flexibility to adjust area planted as needed due to significant, under-utilized land in the region. The second key region of rice production with 30 percent of national production is Colombia’s central region (Tolima and Huila) is irrigated (and currently fully planted), with yields averaging 6.5 MT/hectare.

Figure 8. Colombia: Production and Distribution of Harvested Area by Department (Percentage)



Data Source: Fifth National Rice Census (5th CNA) 2023. National Department of Statistics (DANE).

Most Colombian rice growers lack their own drying and storage facilities and cannot maintain their harvest to sell at a later period when prices increased following the peak harvest period. Most growers must sell the green paddy rice to millers to be dried, stored, and processed.¹⁵ In Colombia, there are approximately 95 rice millers operating 121 mills, with two companies (ORF S.A. and Grupo Diana) maintaining 45 percent market share.

Consumption

In MY 2024/2025, milled rice consumption is projected to recover to 2 MMT following sustained economic activity. Post also revises MY 2023/2024 consumption 3 percent lower, due to a drop in household expenditures.

Rice is one of the key staple foods in Colombia, with high per capita consumption compared to other South American countries. However, according to the Colombian Rice Millers Chamber, in 2023, per capita rice consumption has decreased from estimated 43 kg in 2022 to nearly 40 kg in 2023 as households decreased consumption in general.¹⁶

Rice is mainly sold in smaller mom-and-pop stores, or *tiendas* (92 percent), supermarkets (4.3 percent), and wholesale and produce markets (3.3 percent). Many hard discount retailers (e.g., Ara, D1) carry a wide assortment of rice products based on quality with different price ranges for consumers (Figure 9).

¹⁵ However, to offer an option to dry and store rice for producers to sell later, Fedearroz operates four milling facilities throughout the country funded from the proceeds through the CTPA tariff rate quota (TRQ) auctions for U.S. rice.

¹⁶ A recent study from ANDI and Raddar indicated household expenditures decreased 2.36 percent in 2023.

Figure 9. Hard Discount Retailer Rice Brand Examples



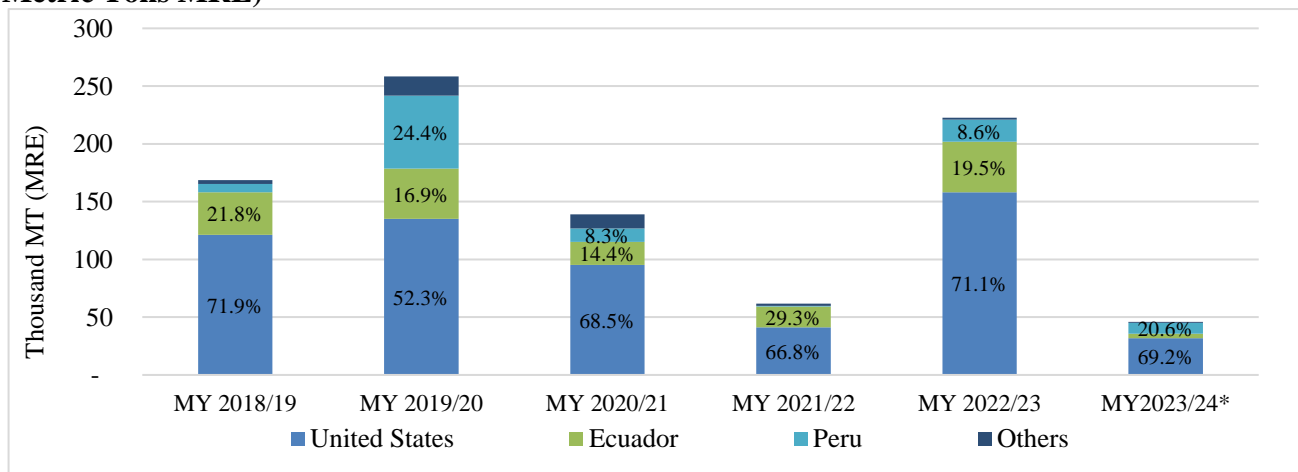
Source: FAS Bogota, February 2024.

Note: Rice products include two brands sold by hard discount retailers and classified by quality. The green label or “economic category” corresponds to 25 percent broken rice; a red label or “standard category” with 10 percent broken rice, and the blue label, or “premium quality” with 3 percent broken rice.

Trade

Post forecasts MY 2024/2025 Colombian rice imports to increase to 190,000 MT due to flat domestic rice production and a general recovery. In addition, Colombian peso against U.S. dollar has revaluated and remains below COP 4,000 which favors imports. For MY 2023/2024, Colombian rice imports remain unchanged from the official estimate at 130,000 MT, 71 percent lower year-on-year. From April-December 2023, rice imports decreased 72 percent due to high imported U.S.-origin rice prices, reduced availability from Andean community suppliers, and increased domestic production (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Colombia: Rice Imports by Country of Origin and Percent Share (MY, Thousand Metric Tons MRE)



Data Source: Trade Data Monitor.

Note: MY 2023/2024 trade data from April to December 2023.

Calendar year 2024 TRQ for U.S. rice under the CTPA is 133,975 MT, with a 36.9 percent out-of-quota duty tariff rate. These duties will phase out by 2030. The first Colombia Rice Export Quota (COL-RICE) TRQ 2024 auction under the CTPA was fully subscribed for 93,819 MT milled rice equivalent.

Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia (CAN members) are assessed a zero-tariff duty. Colombia eliminated restrictions on imports of milled rice from Ecuador in 2023, similar with Peru in 2022. After 13 years, in October 2023, the Court of Justice of the Andean Community determined that Colombia complied with the CAN agreements on rice trade, eliminating a trade remedy instrument that allowed countries to take retaliatory measures on Colombia.¹⁷

Rice imports outside of CAN quotas are not permitted, and there are no out-of-quota tariffs. Imported CAN-origin rice is can only enter Colombia between January 1-June 30, and November 15-December 31 each calendar year.¹⁸ The United States is projected to continue as the main rice supplier to Colombia. Ecuador and Peru-origin rice are imported to mostly supply the southwest market region.

Colombia is not a major rice exporter as Colombian rice cannot compete by price with neighboring countries. However, there are milled rice trade flows into Venezuela via the common border, driven by continued Venezuelan rice shortages. For MY 2023/2024, Colombia's rice exports to Venezuela are revised 23.1 percent down to 50,000 MT MRE, as Venezuelan importers shifted to more competitive suppliers including the United States. In the outyear, MY 2024/2025, Colombian rice exports to Venezuela are forecast to increase 10 percent to 55,000 MT following production recovery.

Stocks

Market year 2024/2025 ending stocks are forecast at 233,000 MT as both local production and imports are expected to increase and support domestic industry to increase inventories to cover more than one month's consumption. The Government of Colombia does not maintain policies for maintaining grain stocks. However, MADR has previously offered financial storage incentives for rice producers and millers to hold inventories on an ad hoc basis to regulate market prices.

In 2023, MADR issued a resolution to provide financial storage infrastructure opportunities valued at COP \$25 billion (approximately USD \$6 million).¹⁹ This was the first instance where rice producers could access the financial storage incentive, while excluding rice miller participation in the program. However, the program expired on December 31, 2023, and according to Post sources, the Colombian government will not offer the program in 2024. Given uncertainty on storage incentive programs, both millers producers are increasingly storing rice in improved hermetic bags as a low-cost alternative to holding inventories than in conventional silos.

Policy

Most Colombian rice sector programs are sponsored by Fedearroz through the National Rice Fund, a checkoff program²⁰ that collects 0.5 percent of the sale price of each kilogram of green paddy rice from producer members. The discount is made by the rice mills at the time of purchasing green paddy rice.

Most rice growers are members of Fedearroz and take advantage of the organization's educational programs, technical training, and sales support through the Fedearroz-owned rice mills. The association

¹⁷ Applied to Colombia if it was determined it did not comply with its existing free trade obligations.

¹⁸ These import periods were established to protect Colombian producers during Colombia's harvest season, much like the COL-RICE auction schedule under the CTPA.

¹⁹ Source. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Colombia; [Resolution 232](#), Published July 24, 2023.

²⁰ The current amount of 0.5 percent of the production value was established by Law 67 of 1983 and was elevated to the status of "parafiscal contribution" by Law 101 of 1993.

provides technical support to producers through extension services and a technology-transfer program that passes available crop management technologies to farmers to increase their productivity and reduce production costs, while reducing environmental impact.

Commodities:

Wheat

Table 4. Wheat: Production, Supply and Distribution

Wheat	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
Market Year Begins	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
Colombia	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	3	3	3	3	0	3
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	439	439	515	445	0	416
Production (1000 MT)	6	6	6	6	0	6
MY Imports (1000 MT)	2112	2042	1900	1900	0	1950
TY Imports (1000 MT)	2112	2042	1900	1900	0	1950
Total Supply (1000 MT)	2557	2487	2421	2351	0	2372
MY Exports (1000 MT)	22	22	25	25	0	28
TY Exports (1000 MT)	22	22	25	25	0	28
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	120	120	125	110	0	120
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	1900	1900	1800	1800	0	1820
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	2020	2020	1925	1910	0	1940
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	515	445	471	416	0	404
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	2557	2487	2421	2351	0	2372
Yield (MT/HA)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	2.0

Data Source: FAS historical data series. Post estimates for MY 2024/2025.

Production

Post's market year (July-June) 2024/2025 wheat production forecast remains unchanged from the previous MY at 6,000 MT on an estimated harvested area of 3,000 hectares. Colombia primarily produces soft wheat, grown in the two high-altitude departments of Nariño and Boyacá. These regions maintain ideal climatic conditions for wheat as most of the country has non-competitive production systems and unfavorable weather for large-scale wheat cultivation. Domestic wheat production supplies regional markets destined for wet milling and preparation of traditional Colombian dishes.

Consumption

For MY 2024/2025, wheat consumption is forecast at 1.94 MMT of wheat grain equivalent (WGE), a 1.6 percent increase year-on-year. Like corn and rice, wheat consumption is also projected to slowly recover following Colombia's recovered economic growth in 2024. Feed wheat consumption in the outyear is also projected to slightly increase motivated by lower international prices.

Post's wheat consumption estimate for MY 2023/2024 is revised slightly lower to 1.91 MMT, reflecting market realities. Overall wheat consumption decreased 5.4 percent year-on-year as FSI consumption

was affected by falling bread consumption.²¹ The feed wheat consumption in the current MY is also lowered as the animal feed sector has increased corn and soybean meal imports to supply their needs.

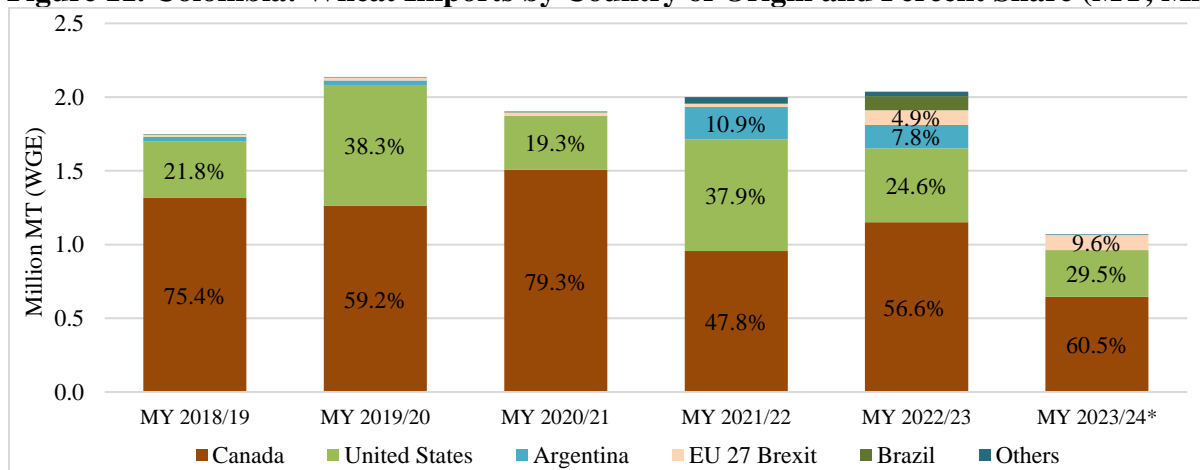
Per capita domestic wheat consumption is estimated at 30 kg (nearly 65 pounds). There are 40 wheat milling facilities that produce nearly 1.4 MMT of wheat flour per annum. The bread industry consumes approximately 70 percent of wheat, followed by the pasta and the cookie and pastry industry. Wheat feed consumption usually represents less than 10 percent of total consumption as the animal feed industry only imports large wheat volumes when prices are competitive enough for feed formulation.

Trade

Market year 2024/2025 wheat imports are forecast to increase 2.6 percent year-on-year to 2 MMT wheat grain equivalent (WGE) as local consumption is projected to marginally increase following corn and rice consumption trends. The Colombian wheat milling industry is entirely supplied through imports.

Post anticipates no changes from the MY 2023/2024 official estimate for total wheat imports which stands at 1.9 MMT, a 7 percent decrease year-on-year. In 2023, local consumption contracted while new consumer taxes on certain wheat products limited import growth. Canada and the United States continue to be the main suppliers of wheat to Colombia. Occasionally, Colombia will import wheat from Mercosur countries, and more recently from the European Union (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Colombia: Wheat Imports by Country of Origin and Percent Share (MY, MMT, WGE)



Data Source: Trade Data Monitor.

Note: MY 2023/2024 includes trade data from July 2023-January 2024.

There are approximately 60 wheat importers in Colombia. Given its strong milling industry, nearly all of Colombia's wheat imports are raw wheat grain intended for processing, with the remaining 1 percent comprised of finished pastas and other processed wheat products. Colombia primarily imports Canadian-origin Red Spring and Prairie Spring Red wheat due to price competitiveness. Major U.S. wheat varieties exported to Colombia in 2023 have included Soft Red Winter and Hard Red Winter.

²¹ According to ANDI (Wheat Millers Chamber - Fedemol), falling bread consumption is a result of high food inflation, slow economic growth, and product substitution.

Post projects Colombia's MY 2024/2025 wheat exports will increase to 28,000 MT, 12 percent higher year-on-year. The increase is driven by rising sales to non-traditional markets including the United States and Cuba. Venezuela is typically the primary destination for Colombian wheat products, followed by Curaçao. Colombia mostly exports wheat flour, representing 80 percent of total wheat exports, and pasta at 17.5 percent.

Stocks

Ending wheat stocks in the outyear are forecast 2.9 percent lower year-on-year to 404,000 MT, as wheat importers are making purchasing decisions based on short-term necessity. The feed and wheat milling industries keep limited carry-over grain inventories, but most mills have two-months of capacity.

Policy

There are no government wheat programs. The Petro Administration has previously stated that Colombia lacks competitive production systems and unfavorable climatic conditions to expand wheat cultivation. This will not allow Colombia to substitute local wheat production for imports.

Colombia has 15 trade agreements in force, most of which have zero percent duties for wheat, including Canada and the United States as its main suppliers. Mercosur wheat is temporarily not subject to the APBS mechanism as the Colombian government established zero percent duties on wheat imports for two years, beginning July 2022.²² The measure was then taken to alleviate the negative impact of high international prices on Colombia's food inflation.

The Petro Administration has committed to expanding novel nutrition policies,²³ including passing "healthy taxes" for ultra-processed foods. In December 2022, Law 2277 was issued by the Colombian Congress, that established taxes on sugary drinks and processed foods high in sodium, added sugars, and fats. Law 2277 came into force in November 2023 and includes an initial rate of 10 percent and annual increases of 20 percent through January 2025. This regulation will apply to cookies and pastry products that exceed the Colombian government's established thresholds. Bread, however, is excluded.

Decree 1944 of 1996 states that wheat flour sold in Colombia must be fortified with vitamin B1, vitamin B2, niacin, folic acid, and iron. During the first half of 2022, Colombia's Ministry of Health conducted a review of the enrichment requirement, which may lead to the mandatory addition of other nutrients if the review is materialized in any amendment to the current regulation. This review also contemplates derived processed products that use wheat flour as a main ingredient, as well as corn flour and derived products.²⁴

Attachments:

No Attachments

²² Decree 1174 of July 11, 2022, notes "By which the Customs Tariff for the importation of wheat is partially modified and the application of the Andean Price Band System for wheat is suspended."

²³ Source: USDA GAIN, Colombia Issues New Resolution on Nutrition and Front of Pack Labeling Requirements for Processed Foods, [CO2022-0026](#).

²⁴ See: USDA GAIN FAIRS Annual Colombia Report 2023; [CO2023-0022](#).