

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution **Date:** October 24, 2022

**Report Number:** NI2022-0008

**Report Name:** Grain and Feed Update

Country: Nigeria

Post: Lagos

Report Category: Grain and Feed

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# **Report Highlights:**

Nigeria wheat millers are diversifying their sources of wheat import due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. FAS Lagos (Post) estimates wheat imports for MY 2022/23 at 6 million metric ton (MMT), a 3 percent reduction from last year's Post estimate. Meanwhile, insurgency and floods in the northern part of the country greatly impacted corn and rice production respectively. Corn production is estimated to decrease by 5 percent (12.1MMT) and rice production is estimated to decrease by 7 percent (7.8 MMT) in MY2022/23.

### MARKET OVERVIEW

Currently, Nigeria's population stands at 217 million people (15% of Africa's population and over 60% of West Africa's population). Nigeria is mainly susceptible to shocks that disrupt global agriculture grain supplies. The Russia-Ukraine war is raising food prices worldwide, including in Nigeria. The war has disrupted the global food supply chain. Meanwhile, milling companies across Nigeria struggle to find alternative sources of imports.

Food prices were already high in Nigeria before the war. The war exacerbated the situation. Considering this vulnerable situation, Nigeria still prohibits and restricts imports. The objective of these restrictive policies is to encourage domestic food production. However, empirical evidence shows that restrictive policies typically lead to higher prices of imported and local food products (World Bank, 2022).

Nigeria has the most substantial arable land in Africa yet relies on imports to meet its food and agricultural needs (primarily wheat, rice, poultry, fish, food services, consumer-oriented foods, etc.) - worth about \$10 billion annually. Europe, Asia, the United States, South America, and South Africa are significant sources of agricultural imports.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reports that price volatility has continued since the beginning of the year. The NBS indicated that inflation reached 20 percent in August - compared to 18.6 percent recorded in June 2022. Meanwhile, food inflation stands at 22.02 percent in July 2022, representing 1.42 percent point increase as compared to 20.6% recorded in June. Increases in the prices of bread and cereals, food products, potatoes, yam and other tubers, meat, fish, oil, and fat caused a rise in food inflation. The escalated inflation rate is also due to increased energy prices – higher prices for gasoline and diesel lead to higher transportation costs.

Currently, there is a general surge in insecurity as Nigeria prepares for the upcoming 2023 general election. Kidnapping for ransom (KFR) and bandit attacks continue throughout the Northwest, disrupting the agricultural season. However, the Northeast Governors' Forum (NEGE) underscores that normalcy is returning to the Northeast region, which is the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency. The government's counter-insurgency operations have reduced the insecurity perpetuated by armed extremist groups. On the other hand, the prolonged armed conflicts and instability have negatively impacted access to farms and disrupted agricultural production.

This year, rainfall at the start of the rainy season was normal, which resulted in favorable crop conditions. However, excessive floods in part of the Northwest, Northcentral, and Abuja affected upland rice production significantly.

**WHEAT** 

# **Production, Supply and Distribution Table**

2020/2021 Jul 2020		2021/2022 Jul 2021		2022/2023 Jul 2022	
50	50	80	80	100	100
298	298	789	789	616	616
55	55	90	90	110	110
6586	6586	6187	6187	6500	6000
6586	6586	6187	6187	6500	6000
1474	1474	1509	1509	0	0
6939	6939	7066	7066	7226	6726
600	600	600	600	600	600
600	600	600	600	600	600
50	50	50	50	0	50
5500	5500	5800	5800	6000	5800
5550	5550	5850	5850	6000	5850
789	789	616	616	626	276
6939	6939	7066	7066	7226	6726
1.1	1.1	1.125	1.125	1.1	1.1
	Jul 20 USDA Official 50 298 55 6586 6586 6586 1474 6939 600 600 50 5500 5550 789	Jul 2020           USDA Official         New Post           50         50           298         298           55         55           6586         6586           6586         6586           1474         1474           6939         6939           600         600           600         600           50         50           5500         5500           5550         5550           789         789           6939         6939	Jul 2020         Jul 2           USDA Official         New Post         USDA Official           50         50         80           298         298         789           55         55         90           6586         6586         6187           6586         6586         6187           1474         1474         1509           6939         6939         7066           600         600         600           600         600         600           50         50         50           5500         5500         5800           5550         5550         5850           789         789         616           6939         6939         7066	Jul 2020         Jul 2021           USDA Official         New Post         USDA Official         New Post           50         50         80         80           298         298         789         789           55         55         90         90           6586         6586         6187         6187           6586         6586         6187         6187           1474         1474         1509         1509           6939         6939         7066         7066           600         600         600         600           600         600         600         600           50         50         50         50           5500         5500         5800         5800           5550         5550         5850         5850           789         789         616         616           6939         6939         7066         7066	Jul 2020         Jul 2021         Jul 20           USDA Official         New Post         USDA Official         New Post         USDA Official           50         50         80         80         100           298         298         789         789         616           55         55         90         90         110           6586         6586         6187         6187         6500           6586         6586         6187         6187         6500           1474         1474         1509         1509         0           6939         6939         7066         7066         7226           600         600         600         600         600           600         600         600         600         600           50         50         50         50         0           5500         5500         5800         5800         6000           5550         5550         5850         5850         6000           789         789         616         616         626           6939         6939         7066         7066         7226

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Wheat begins in July for all countries. TY 2022/2023 = July 2022 - June 2023

### **PRODUCTION**

FAS Lagos estimates production to be 110,000 metric tons (MT) for MY2022/23. The yield remains flat at 1.1metric tons per ha. Nigerian farmers and policymakers face severe challenges to increasing production and area under cultivation. Government policies and programs to boost production are ineffective. The programs failed to reach their targets due to a lack of funding for regular seed production and multiplication, insurgency in the wheat growing areas, lack of input supply to farmers, and limited area under cultivation.

Wheat has adapted to a wide range of environments worldwide. As a result, the Government of Nigeria (GON) plans to explore this feature to increase production and yield in the country by adopting heat-tolerant varieties (for example, Atila). In early 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture created a technical team to review, analyze and adopt the Ethiopian wheat project successes sponsored by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The team developed a 10-year national wheat production and self-sufficiency strategy to be implemented between 2022 – 2032. In addition, the government is also partnering with Olam (i.e., a global agribusiness company) to start replicating seeds. The company collaborates with local farmers to establish community seed enterprises across Nigeria's wheat farming belt. Nigeria's Lake Chad Research Institute (LCRL) is also a project partner.

### **CONSUMPTION**

FAS Lagos estimates consumption at 5.8 million metric tons (MMT) for MY2022/23. The Russia – Ukraine war situation and the COVID-19 pandemic have exposed Nigeria's vulnerable food system. Before the war, the country imported significant wheat from Russia and other Black Sea countries. Bread is a staple for millions of Nigerians. However, millers are currently facing severe business challenges amid increasing cost of freight and energy.

In Nigeria, wheat-based product consumption is related to the economy's performance and the purchasing power of consumers – both are under increased inflationary pressures. Rises in the price of bread and other wheat-based products within the past 12 months have made consumers increase demand for substitutes/other staple foods like maize, yam, and sweet potato products that are relatively affordable. Rising inflation continues to squeeze vulnerable consumers across Nigeria – the poor are settling for cheaper products as they deal with diminishing purchasing power. The World Bank reports that 4 out of 10 Nigerians live below the National Poverty Line.

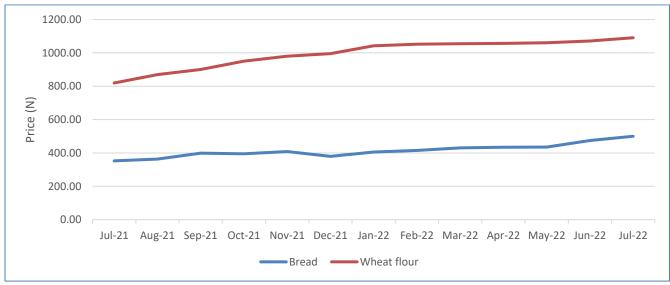


Figure 1 – Wheat Flour and Bread Price Trend (July 2021 to July 2022)

**Source: National Bureau of Statistics** 

## **Imports**

FAS Lagos estimates MY2022/23 wheat imports at 6.0 million metric tons (MMT), 3 percent decrease compared to MY 2021/22 figure. Ukraine- Russia war contributed to the decline in wheat imports. In 2021, Nigeria imported 51 percent of wheat demand from Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, and other Baltic countries.

Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports and the effect of sanctions imposed by the EU and other western countries have caused a surge in wheat prices. Wheat from Russia, Ukraine, and other Black Sea countries remains the cheapest option for many millers in Nigeria. Many millers blend Black Sea wheat

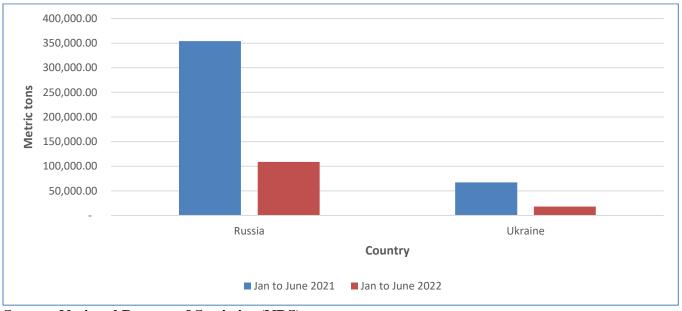
with costly superior wheat from the United States and Canada – to produce the dough needed for bread that Nigerian consumers will eat. Wheat millers have increased the cost of wheat flour to accommodate the high price of logistics and diesel cost – many millers use generators that serve as a viable source of power in Nigeria.

Nigerian bakeries are expecting a protracted Russia-Ukraine war. As a result, bakeries are exploring the options of blending wheat with cassava flour, millet flour, and sweet potato flour. Over the past decade, the government has pushed for cassava flour mixed in bread, hoping that the policy would significantly reduce wheat imports. Meanwhile, the government's cassava flour blending policy is still in play. The policy calls for cassava flour blending up to 40 percent. However, millers do not support the policy because cassava flour does not blend well with wheat flour to produce good-quality dough.

In July 2022, the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) approved the importation of genetically engineered (GE) drought-resistant wheat (HB4) from Argentina. The import of GE wheat is mainly for food and processing, not for planting. Currently, Nigeria is one of the leading African countries cultivating transgenic crops. The country has approved the commercialization of biotech cowpea and cotton.

The Russia-Ukraine war has prompted Nigerian officials to collaborate with the private sector in diversifying the country's wheat sources. The Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment approved Crown Flour Mill's request to import wheat from India. The disruption of the global wheat supply chain and local production challenges pressed public and private stakeholders to seek alternative wheat sources. Nigeria wheat millers have diversified their wheat sourcing, so that they are not limited to specific countries. For example, during the first half of 2022, Nigeria's wheat imports came mainly from North and South America.

Figure 2 – Wheat imported to Nigeria from Russia and Ukraine (Jan to June 2021 Vs Jan to June 2022)



**Source: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** 

The figure below shows the impact of the blockade of Black Sea ports by the Russian military forces. The blockade significantly affected wheat imports for April and May 2022 before the signing of the UN agreement (i.e., the Black Sea Grain Initiative) for the safe passage of ships.



Figure 3: Jan to June 2021 wheat imports Vs Jan to June 2022 wheat imports

**Source: National Bureau of Statistics** 

### **POLICY**

In July, the Premium Bread Bakers Association of Nigeria went on strike, demanding the government remove the 15% duty paid on all wheat imports. The main objective of the high duty is to provide the government with income to support wheat value chain development and the milling industry when in distress. Currently, millers are speaking out in favor of removing the duty amid global supply chain disruptions and the lack of foreign exchange – especially dollars. Despite mounting trade associations political pressure, the 15% duty is still in place.

### **STOCKS**

FAS Lagos estimates MY2022/23 stocks to be maintained at 616,000 metric tons (MT) and 276,000 metric tons (MT) for beginning stocks and ending stocks, respectively. The CBN's foreign exchange rationing and constant devaluation of the local currency are significant factors affecting stocks. Foreign exchange markets link a country's domestic economy to world product markets. In other words, the naira's devaluation leads to higher wheat import prices. Anytime the currency is devalued, holding large stocks means the mills will lose money. Furthermore, the mills' input cost will increase following a devaluation. In general, maintaining large stocks following devaluation increases the cost of milling.

Figure 4: Gap between Official and Unofficial rates 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0 Feb-22 Jan-22 Mar-22 Apr-22 May-22 Jun-22 Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 Month Official Rate ——Unofficial Rate

Source: Official rate from CBN and unofficial rate from black market sources

**CORN** 

# **Production, Supply and Distribution Table**

Corn	2020/2021 Oct 2020		2021/2022 Oct 2021		2022/2023 Oct 2022	
Market Year Begins						
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	5500	5500	6000	6000	6250	5800
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1072	1072	1222	1222	1517	1517
Production (1000 MT)	12400	12400	12745	12745	12500	12180
MY Imports (1000 MT)	300	300	200	200	200	50
TY Imports (1000 MT)	300	300	200	200	200	50
<b>TY Imp. from U.S.</b> (1000 MT)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	13772	13772	14167	14167	14217	13747
MY Exports (1000 MT)	50	50	50	50	50	50
TY Exports (1000 MT)	50	50	50	50	50	50
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	2500	2500	2600	2600	2600	3000
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	12500	12500	12600	12600	12600	13000
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1222	1222	1517	1517	1567	697
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	13772	13772	14167	14167	14217	14747
Yield (MT/HA)	2.2545	2.2545	2.1242	2.1242	2	2.1

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Corn begins in October for all countries. TY 2022/2023 = October 2022 - September 2023

### **PRODUCTION**

FAS Lagos estimates Nigeria's MY2022/23 corn production at 12.1 million metric tons (MMT), a roughly 5 percent decrease compared to the USDA MY 2021/22 figure of 12.5 million tons (MMT). MY2022/23 area harvested is about 5.8 million hectares (MH), decreased by nearly 3 percent compared with 6.0 million hectares (MH) in MY2021/22.

Regional insecurity across Nigeria's corn belt hampers corn production as farmers abandon their farms and escape to nonviolent areas in cities. In the Northwest, farmers pay taxes to armed gangs to access farms. https://guardian.ng/features/impact-of-banditry-insurgency-on-farmers-is-real/.

Corn accounts for the majority share of Nigeria's coarse grain production. However, production costs have increased significantly for corn farmers. For example, a bag of fertilizer currently cost more than 22,000 naira (\$52) compared to 15,000 naira in 2021. The Maize Grower and Processors Association of Nigeria underscores that the cost of cultivating a hectare of corn farm has increased by 43% compared to 2021.

The Russia-Ukraine war, especially the blockade of Black Sea ports, affected corn production in Nigeria. The Government of Nigeria imports Muriate of Potash (MOP), one of Russia's primary raw materials used for blending fertilizer. Two of the four primary raw materials used in mixing compound fertilizers (NPKs) are Di-ammonia Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) – both are sourced from Morocco and Belarus/Russia, respectively. On the other hand, Nigeria produces Urea and limestone locally. One of the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war is a global shortage of essential chemicals required to produce fertilizers. As a result, Nigerian farmers face higher fertilizer prices – the cost is beyond the reach of smallholder farmers. Although Nigeria produces enough urea, a corn farmer needs at least 4 bags (200kg) of NPK fertilizer for one hectare of farmland.

### **CONSUMPTION**

Post estimates FSI consumption for MY2022/23 to be flat compared with MY2021/22 figure. Corn is the staple meal for many Nigerians and is the most critical ingredient in producing animal and aquaculture feed. Nigerians consume corn meal, especially for breakfast. The demand for breakfast food made from fermented corn has increased due to rising prices for wheat-based products – bread, etc.

The feed crisis in the poultry sector is heavily impacting smaller farms. Large poultry operators have access to corn. They buy in bulk during the harvest season when prices are very low. The Poultry Association of Nigeria informs Post that small-scale poultry farmers are going out of business. However, the price of corn was stable at the peak of the rainy season. Many poultry operators are turning to innovation by using cassava waste in livestock feeds. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) created the novel product with support from the CGIAR Research Program on roots, tubers and bananas (RTB) – the collaboration launched the Cassava Peel Project. Currently, smallholder poultry farmers use cassava waste products to reduce dependence on corn as an energy source.

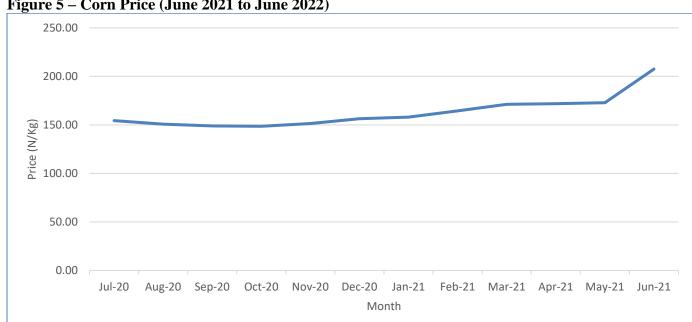


Figure 5 – Corn Price (June 2021 to June 2022)

**Source: National Bureau of Statistics 2022** 

### **TRADE**

## **Imports**

Post estimates imports for MY2022/23 at 50,000 metric tons (MT), a reduction from 200,000 metric tons (MT) recorded last marketing year by Post. Multinational companies producing food and animal feed products in Nigeria were the leading importers in 2021 – these companies received approvals from the CBN. In general, corn imports are partially banned from entering Nigeria as the CBN forbids banks from issuing foreign exchange form (Form M) to importers.

## **Exports**

FAS Lagos estimates MY2022/23 corn exports at 50,000 metric tons (MT). Nigeria's export ban on corn is still in place. However, informal trade between Nigeria and Sahel countries occurs. Nigeria's corn exports are mostly informal across countries in the Sahel region and West African neighbors.

### **POLICY**

The government will begin national performance trials (NPT) for GE TELA maize in a few months as Nigeria makes another leap toward increasing productivity, especially for smallholder farmers.

## **STOCKS**

Post estimates MY2022/23 opening and closing stocks at 1.517 million metric tons (MT) and 697,000 metric tons (MT), respectively. The devaluation of the naira makes holding large stocks a disadvantage. In other words, a currency devaluation affects the cost of operating mills - especially production decisions.

RICE
Rice Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics

Rice, Milled	2020/2021 Oct 2020		2021/2022 Oct 2021		2022/2023 Oct 2022	
Market Year Begins						
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	3600	3600	3650	3650	3700	3400
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1492	1492	1690	1690	1895	1895
Milled Production (1000 MT)	5148	5148	5255	5255	5355	4900
Rough Production (1000 MT)	8171	8171	8341	8341	8500	7800
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	6300	6300	6300	6300	6300	6300
MY Imports (1000 MT)	2200	2200	2200	2200	2200	1500
TY Imports (1000 MT)	2100	2100	2200	2200	2200	1500
<b>TY Imp. from U.S.</b> (1000 MT)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	8840	8840	9145	9145	9450	8295
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	7150	7150	7250	7250	7450	6900
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1690	1690	1895	1895	2000	1395
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	8840	8840	9145	9145	9450	8295
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	2.2697	2.2697	2.2852	2.2852	2.2973	2.2984

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2022/2023 = January 2023 - December 2023

### **PRODUCTION**

Post estimates MY 2022/23 rice rough production at 7.8 million metric tons (MMT), a 7 percent decrease compared to the previous year. Nigeria rice farmers in the northern part of the country experienced insecurity and flood incidents this year. These threats negatively impacted upland rice cultivation.

https://saharareporters.com/2022/09/24/nigerian-farmers-lament-floods-wash-away-rice-fields-may-bring-poor-harvests

Post contacted extension workers and farmers in the affected states, and they reported that the flood washed away thousands of hectares of rice farms. In the affected states, many farms were at the maturing stage when the floods occurred. Rain-fed rice harvest usually begins in September in some of the producing states.

MY2022/23 area harvested is down by 7 percent compared to the previous year. Yield in MY2021/22 increased marginally based on good weather and improved management practices. Improved rice varieties (Faro 44 and 45) are increasingly performing well. Meanwhile, farmers' high adoption and the use of good agricultural practices increase yield per hectare.

#### CONSUMPTION

Post estimates MY 2022/23 rice consumption at 6.9 million metric tons (MMT), a 5 percent decrease from last year. Market sources indicate that the decline caused price increases amid dwindling consumer purchasing power. Nigerians generally prefer imported rice because of the white color and the absence of impurities such as "rocks". Retailers are capitalizing on this by branding local rice in foreign bags. A decrease in consumption is because of a price increase. Paddy price is rising due to production costs like fertilizer and the flood issue. Other carbohydrates include yam, potato, cassava/garri, and plantain. Garri is made from casava and remains an essential food in Nigeria. In addition, Nigerians eat a lot of beans for their daily protein intake.

Rice is an essential cereal in Nigeria. Currently, the country's annual population growth rate is 2.6%, with a median age of 18. Nigeria imports rice due to a growing population and increasing demand – essential factors contributing to rice imports, Since January 2022, the government has closed several federal and state due to a lecturers' strike. As a result, many cafeterias, restaurants, and hotels within university communities are partially closed. Post spoke with one of the major bulk rice sellers in Lagos' main rice market, and she explained that sales had declined substantially due to the ongoing strike.

The price of 50kg of rice has increased more than 50% over the last 12 months amid the constant devaluation of the naira and rising inflation. According to the Rice Millers Association, millers are operating under a tight economic environment due to a lack of paddy, low milling capacity, high diesel cost, and lack of access to official foreign exchange to import parts and new equipment.

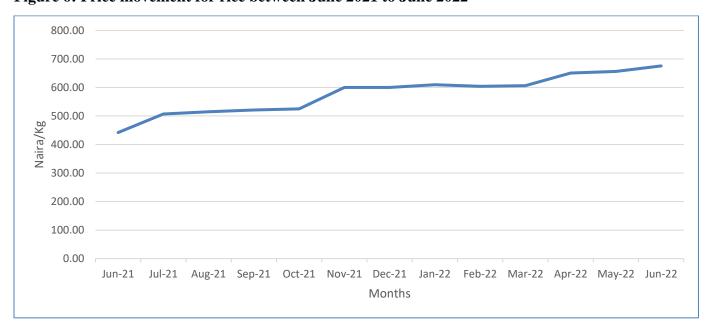


Figure 6: Price movement for rice between June 2021 to June 2022

**Source: National Bureau of Statistics** 

### **TRADE**

## **Imports**

FAS Lagos estimates MY2022/23 imports to be 1.5 million metric tons (MMT) compared to USDA's 2.2 million metric tons (MMT) projection for last year. The CBN prohibits rice importers from accessing funds through the Importers and Exporters (I&E) window. The difference between I & E window to the unofficial rate is about 50% as of August 2022. As a result, importers underscore that it does not make good business sense to utilize the unofficial foreign exchange rate to import rice - coupled with a 60% import duty. The current import tariff varies according to the importer's role in the value chain. For example, a rice trader will pay an import duty of 10% and a levy of 50%. In contrast an integrated miller with a verified backward integration program (i.e., rice farms) will pay an import duty of 10% and a levy of 20% for importing rice paddy.

Most of the imported rice consumed in Nigeria enters through unmonitored land borders. Meanwhile, importers in neighboring countries find it challenging to import rice from Asian countries, especially India. Recently, India banned broken rice exports and increased export duties for white and brown rice. India accounts for 40 percent of world rice shipments, with competition from Thailand and Vietnam. Most of the foreign rice entering Nigeria originates from India and Thailand.

### **POLICY**

Rice self-sufficiency is a key political goal of the current government and the central bank. As part of its efforts to strengthen rice production and milling capacity, the government approved an intervention fund to complete 10 large-scale rice mills with a total capacity of 320 metric ton per day in 10 states. In addition, government supports are underway to strengthen existing dams in Nigeria for irrigation purposes. Dry-season rice farming performs better than rainfed farming in Nigeria.

In addition, the government is encouraging technology start-up companies to enter the agricultural sector - to transform rice farming, processing, and selling across Nigeria.

### **SORGHUM**

**Production, Supply and Distribution Table** 

Sorghum	2020/2021 2021/2022 Oct 2020 Oct 2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
Market Year Begins			021	Oct 2022		
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	5600	5600	5700	5700	5700	5800
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	117	117	107	107	132	132
Production (1000 MT)	6590	6590	6725	6725	7000	7200
MY Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	C
TY Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	C
<b>TY Imp. from U.S.</b> (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	C
Total Supply (1000 MT)	6707	6707	6832	6832	7132	7332
MY Exports (1000 MT)	50	50	50	50	50	50
TY Exports (1000 MT)	50	50	50	50	50	50
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	150	150	150	150	200	200
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	6400	6400	6500	6500	6600	6800
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	6550	6550	6650	6650	6800	7000
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	107	107	132	132	282	282
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	6707	6707	6832	6832	7132	7332
Yield (MT/HA)	1.1768	1.1768	1.1798	1.1798	1.2281	1.2414

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Sorghum begins in October for all countries. TY 2022/2023 = October 2022 - September 2023

## **PRODUCTION**

FAS Lagos estimates Nigeria's sorghum production in MY 2022/23 (October-September) at 7.2 million metric tons (MMT), up slightly from 7.0 MMT produced last marketing year. Post estimates MY2022/23 area harvested at approximately 5.8 million hectares (MH) compared to 5.7 million hectares (MH), USDA official figure recorded the previous year. Post estimates MY2022/23 yield per hectare at roughly 1.24 tons; a marginal increase compared to last year forecast of roughly 1.18 tons for MY2021/22.

Farmers cultivate Guinea sorghum widely throughout Nigeria's Northeastern states. The military's counter-insurgency program is reducing insurgency and improving communal farming activities. Over the past few months, farmers are returning to their fields after several years in Internally Displace People (IDP) camps. Furthermore, several governments in the Northeast support farmers through land-clearing programs - to facilitate agricultural development. Farmers' associations have identified land-clearing as a significant challenge facing sorghum farmers during the 2022 planting season.

#### **CONSUMPTION**

FAS Lagos estimates Nigeria's total sorghum consumption (including food, feed, and industrial usage/FSI) in MY 2022/23 at 6.8 million metric tons (MMT), an increase of 3 percent compared to approximately 6.6 million metric tons (MMT) recorded the previous year by USDA. In several Northern states, households consume sorghum widely, including varied industries. In addition, sorghum is proving its worth as a valuable source of food assistance – as a suitable food ration for internally displaced people across the northern part of the country.

Industrial end users are predominantly companies producing beverages, cereals, and confectionery. Industrial demand for sorghum by beverage, cereal, and confectionary producers is the primary driver in the market. Increasingly, animal feed producers use a small percentage of the grain. Meanwhile, industrial sorghum companies use less expensive sorghum-based intermediate products - to lower costs. In early 2020, several exporters made efforts to export sorghum to the United Kingdom. However, the Covid-19 pandemic destroyed prospective exports deals.
Attachments:
No Attachments