

Food Security Information Note - FOSIN

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Thanks to record productions and surplus foodstuffs obtained after the 2010/2011 cropping season, the food situation in the Sahel and in the West African sub-space is globally satisfactory. However, this does not in any way signify that the region is safe from possible food crises. Thus, targeted assistance actions to the vulnerable populations and mainly the urban populations must be conducted by the States, the sub-regional organizations (CILSS, UEMOA, ECOWAS) and the technical and financial partners.

>> Satisfactory food availabilities in the region



« Record production in the Sahel and in West Africa with cereal surpluses in Niger, in Burkina Faso, in Chad and in Mali »

Cereal production in the Sahel and in West Africa is estimated at 60 million tonnes, reflecting a rise by 16 % when compared to 2010. In the CILSS sub-space, cereal production is estimated at 22 million tonnes, being a rise by 39 % relative to last year and by 45 % relative to the average of the past five years. Cereal surpluses have been recorded in Niger, Burkina Faso, in Chad and in Mali.

The production of cowpea and peanuts has risen respectively by 23 % and 12 % when compared to the year 2010. Chad reaped an exceptional harvest in recessional sorghum cropping.

The region has also witnessed a record production of cowpea in Niger (1.8 million tonnes) and peanuts in Senegal (1.28 million tonnes).

On the other hand, the rise in cereal production is less pronounced in the coastal countries ranging from 5% when compared to last year and 9% when compared to the average of the past five years.

Generally, the terms of trade cattle/cereals are better than those of last year as a result of the satisfactory fitness of the livestock and the increase in the urban consumption of sahelian meat in the coastal countries to the detriment of imports from the international market.



«Markets that are well stocked by the 2010 harvests and an imported inflation restricted to the coastal capitals for the time being»

Cereal prices to the consumers are below those of last year but still above the average of the past five years. On the whole, agricultural produce prices are witnessing a normal seasonal evolution. However, since 2008 their levels remain high in the capitals of the hinterland in Ndjamená, Niamey and Ouagadougou. For the time being, there is no significant imported inflation except in certain coastal capitals: Bissau, Nouakchott, Abidjan, Conakry, Cotonou. The principal regional trade flows this year concern imported rice, cattle, cowpea.

Cereal trade flows will be moderate as a result of the good productions in most of the countries.

Generally, the principal trends observed on the regional markets are the following:

- A center basin that has been completely disorganized as a result of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire: surplus maize from the North of Côte d'Ivoire is shipped towards Burkina Faso and Mali. Sahelian cattle trade flows from Mali and Burkina Faso are exported towards Benin, Ghana and Nigeria where competition with cattle from Niger ushers in a lowering of prices;
- Flows of imported rice which go through Côte d'Ivoire before reaching the Northern zone through Guinea, Togo, Ghana and indeed Senegal and Mali;
- Flows of maize from the coastal countries towards Niger are tapering off as a result of the good cereal productions in the Sahel;
- Massive exports of cowpea from Niger towards Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin cause price drops in Nigeria;

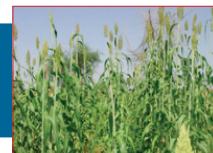
- Traditional trade flows of millet/sorghum in the Eastern Basin of the market in Kano, in Nigeria are moderate owing to the good production of dry cereals throughout the basin.

Caution !

Despite the huge availabilities of foodstuffs in the region, prudence is called for from a certain percentage of the populace as a result of the food insecurity risk factors. They are mainly:

- The poor populace from the urban centers who are witnessing a rise in price of certain foodstuffs;
- The populace from the agro-pastoral zones of Niger and Chad who were greatly hit by the pastoral crisis in 2010;
- The displaced people or migrants returning home following the crises in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya;
- The populace affected by the very high rate of global acute malnutrition surpassing the emergency thresholds (rates above 15%) in Niger, Chad and North of Nigeria, or the emergency thresholds (rates between 10-15%) in the regions of Matam and Tambacounda in Senegal, Gao and Kidal in Mali, and in the Sahel in Burkina Faso.

>> Start of the 2011/2012 cropping season in the bimodal zone of the Gulf of Guinea



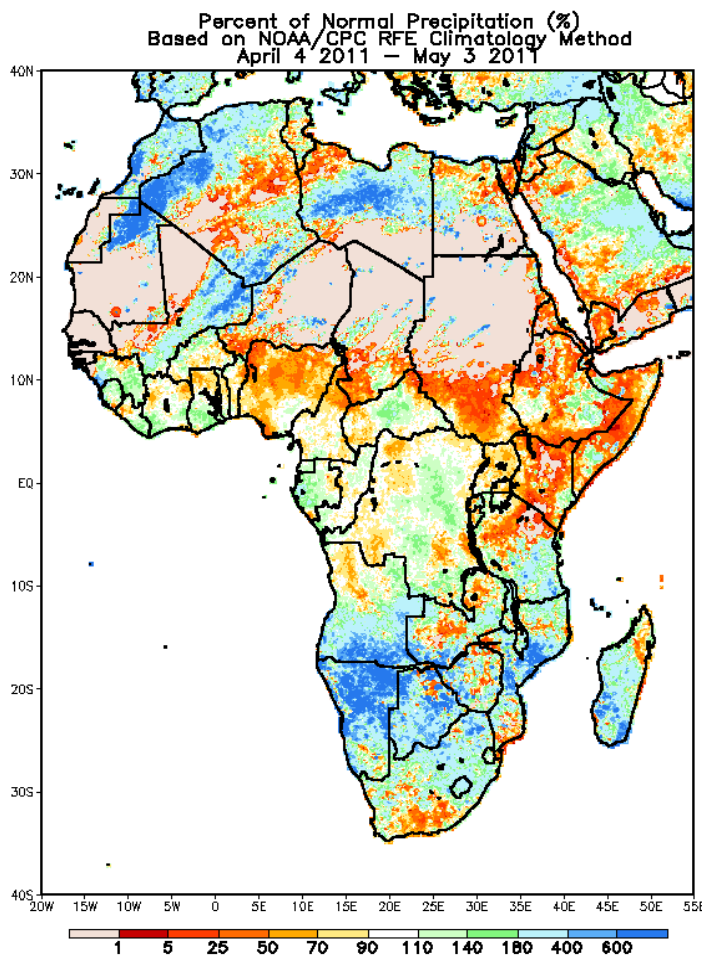
«An early start of the long season marked by good rainfall in most countries in the Gulf of Guinea»

According to observations emanating from the NOAA satellite, above normal rains have been recorded in Guinea in the month of April as well as in the south of Côte d'Ivoire and in the south of Ghana. In Nigeria on the other hand, a below normal rainfall pattern has been recorded in the month of April. The overall favorable installation of the season in the South of the coastal countries with the exception of Nigeria can cause the maize producers to reduce their stocks, increase offers and mitigate the rise in price just on the eve of the hunger period.

Rains in the Sudano-sahelian zone extended to the South of Mali and West of Burkina Faso where preparation of fields has already started.

This rainfall enables the good development of crops that have already been sown such as yam and also creates the conditions that are favorable to the progressive installation of maize in this zone.

Thus, the progressive reduction of farmer stocks in the zone and the abundance of offers on the cereal markets could either cause a drop or a probable stability in the price of maize right up to June 2011.



Cumulative rainfall in April 2011 compared to the thirty year average, Source : *Fews Net*

For more informations on other productions of the Network,

visit the FCPN website :

<http://www.food-security.net>



>> Measures and actions to take

Following all which precedes, it seems necessary to :

- Continuing targeted assistance to the urban vulnerable populace affected by price increases through social networks particularly purchase coupons for local foodstuffs;
- Putting in place and strengthening the prevention tools in the pastoral zones (food banks – cattle, rehabilitation of ponds, restoration of grazing lands);
- Develop short and medium term actions on malnutrition: nutritional rehabilitation, targeted food supplements for the vulnerable populace, nutritional education, promotion of consumption of local and nutritive foods;
- Strengthening the monitoring and analysis of the knock-on effect on the regional market following the rise in price of foodstuffs at the international market;
- Give an urgent response with respect to the displaced people and the populations in the host countries welcoming these victims following the crises in Côte d'Ivoire and in Libya.

For better access to information on the food and nutritional situation in the Sahel and in West Africa

In order to encourage access to information on the food and nutritional situation in the region for purposes of decision making for action, the FCPN has a Web site. For your questions relating to the food and nutritional situation particularly for your needs regarding analytical documents on the subject matter, this site is henceforth at your disposal: www.food-security.net.

The analytical paper of the FCPN was written on the basis of information or analyses provided by the different specialized institutions that are either members or non members of the Network. Further information can be obtained on the respective Web sites.

CSAO/SWAC
www.westafricaclub.org
sibirijean.zoundi@oecd.org
+33-1-45-24-19-82
leonidas.hitimana@oecd.org
+33-1-45-24-17-98

CILSS
www.cilss.bf
abdou.keita@cilss.bf
konate.amadou@cilss.bf
moussa.cisse@cilss.bf
+226-50-37-41-25/33

FEWS NET
www.fews.net
ssow@fews.net
+226-70204979
librahim@fews.net
+227-96-97-70-11

FAO
www.fao.org
jean.senahoun@fao.org
SMIAR/FAO- ROME
+39-06-57-05-30-99
joseluis.fernandez@fao.org
fao.org
FAO-DAKAR

WFP
www.wfp.org
Naouar.Labidi@wfp.org
Jean-Martin.Bauer@wfp.org

AFRIQUE VERT
www.afriqueverte.org

ECHO
www.ec.europa.eu/echo

OCHA
www.humanitarianinfo.org

OCHA
<http://ochaonline.un.org/>

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www.reliefweb.int/