

Rwanda | Food Security Update

HIGHLIGHTS

In the third quarter of 2017, food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index was about 27% higher than same time in the last five years. Key staple prices were also higher than their respective five-year averages; which erodes the poor's purchasing power as they rely on precarious livelihoods.

According to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), weather related disasters affected around 1,409 ha of crops and 2,569 houses, in addition to 20 human lives lost between August and the first 10 days of October.

As in previous years, Maize grain formal trade experienced a negative balance as of August 2017.

OVERVIEW

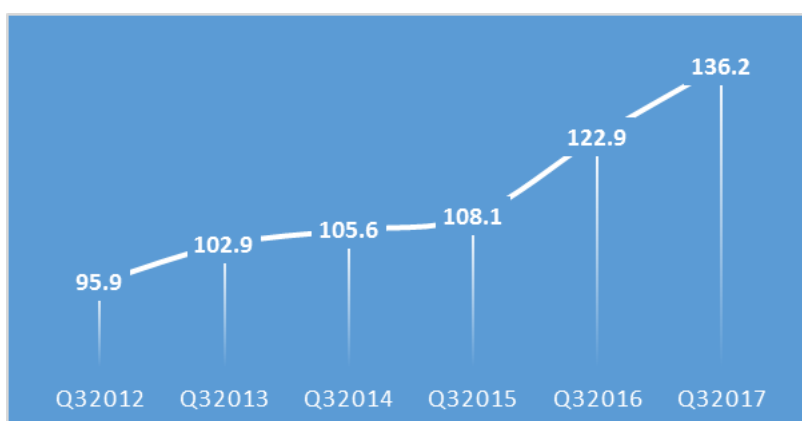
The third quarter of 2017 experienced higher food prices than average: The food and non-alcoholic consumer price index increased up to 27% compared to last five-year quarterly average (Figure 1).

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), main staple prices in September 2017 were higher than five-year-averages, with an increase of about 28 percent; whereby starchy types experienced the highest increases (Figure 2).

Rainfall performance as of the second 10 days of October is near normal, with localized negative effects: Following erratic and below average rainfall over March-May 2017 period; season 2018 A is experiencing

near normal rainfall as of mid-October, with the Eastern parts being wetter than other parts of the country (Figure 5). According to the 47th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 47), rainfall in Rwanda over the period of October-December 2017 will range between near to below normal; but continued rainfall monitoring will best inform seasonal moisture conditions' performance. Nonetheless, from August to October 10th, MIDIMAR estimates 20 lives lost, 1,409 houses and 2,569 hectares of crops damaged due to stormy rainfall and wind. This has negative impact on affected households' capacity to provide for themselves, and will most likely result into poorer food security outcomes.

Figure 1: Evolution of food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index



Source: Based on NISR
CPI data

Rwanda's formally traded Maize grain continued to experience a negative trade balance: Maize yield in 2017, respectively in season A and B was recorded at 1,536 and 1,009 kg/ha; which was 13 percent lower than 4 year-average of previous season A figures, and 4 percent lower than average season B. While production was 272,303 mt in season A and 86,114 mt in season B (Figure 4); trade balance as of August remained predominantly negative (Figure 3); with most of this commodity being imported from Uganda. Bush bean yields remained in line with average in both season A and B, while climbing types improved up to 33 percent and 10 percent compared to average. High prices are most likely influenced by low local agricultural production, and limited availability of cheaper imports as regional food demand remains high, following a series of conflicts and weather related shocks.

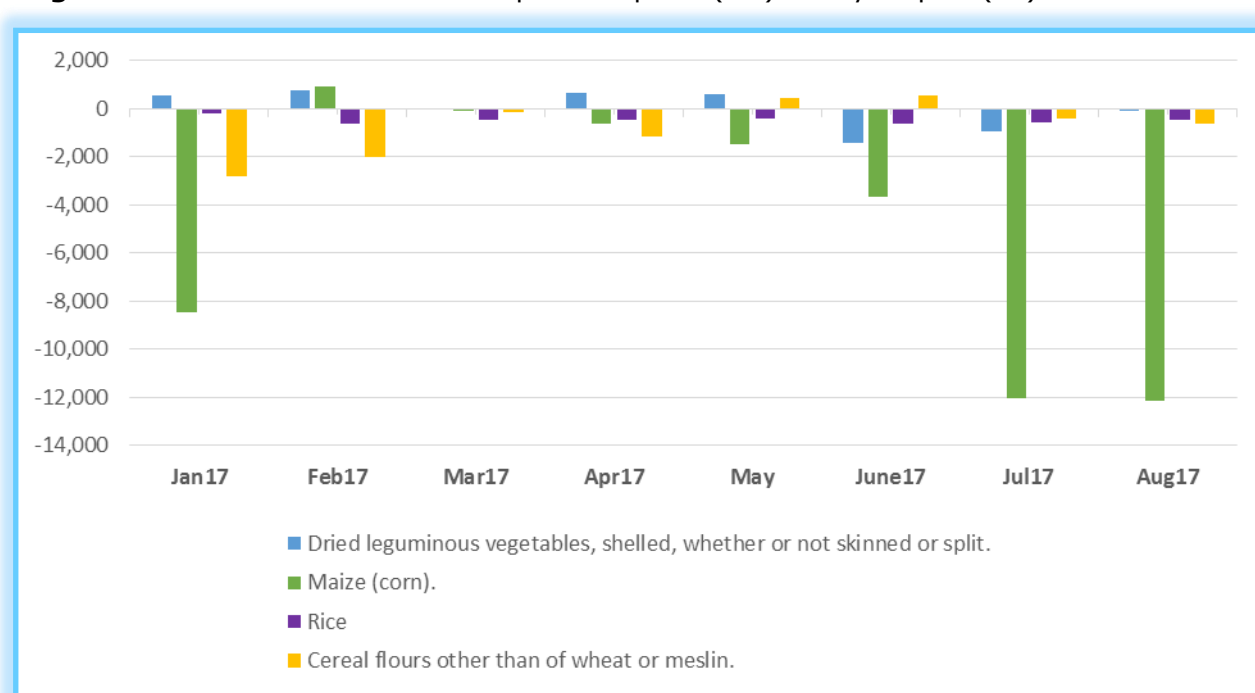


Figure 2: Prices and anomalies



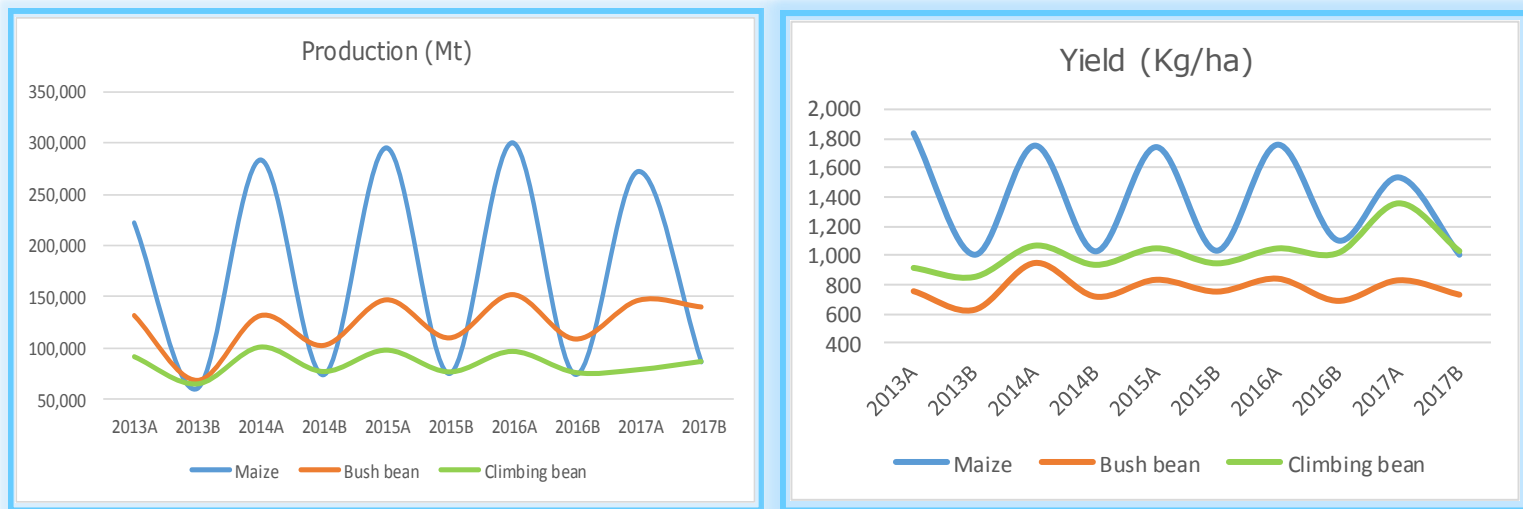
Source: Calculations based on NISR price data

Figure 3: Trade balance—Formal Exports-Imports (E-I) of key staples (Mt)



Source: Based on NISR trade data

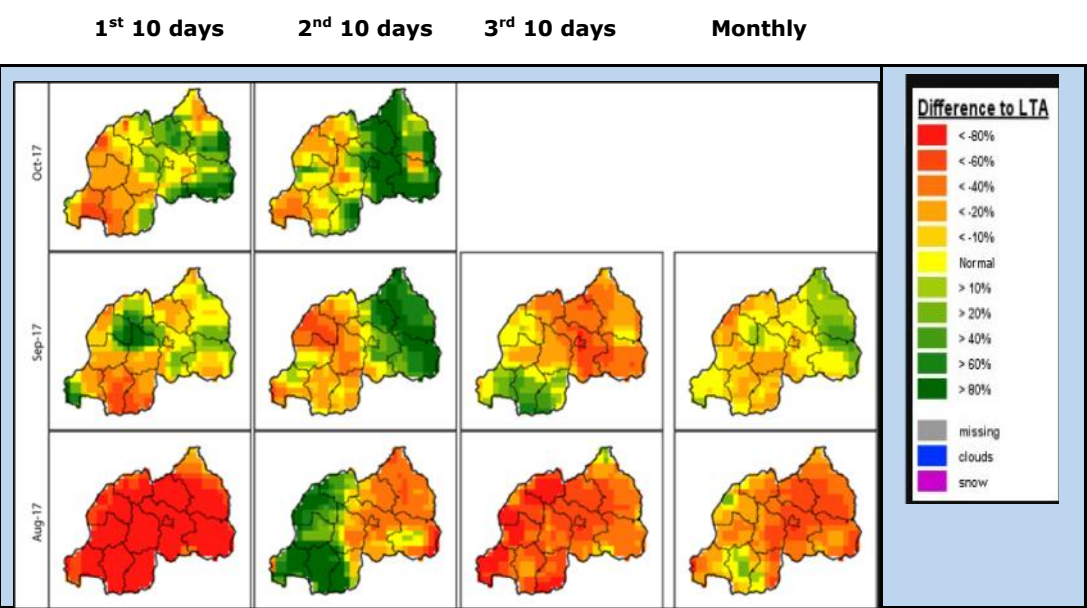
Figure 4: Production of key staples



Source: Based on NISR data

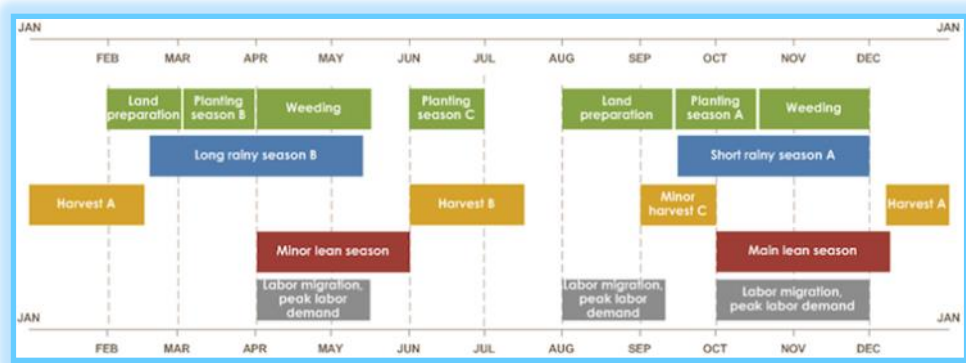
Figure 5: Rainfall anomalies.

Anomalies depict the deviation of current rainfall from the average. In other words, current rainfall compared to the Long Term Average (LTA) back, might result in positive (above average) or negative (below average) percentages. As indicated below, June-August rainfall anomaly levels ranged from 20 to 80 percent below normal.



Source: www.fao.org

Figure 6: Seasonal calendar



Source: www.fews.net