



BULLETIN:  
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# Rwanda | Food Security Update

## HIGHLIGHTS

Data from WFP internal projects such as Farm to Market Alliance (FTMA) working with farmers, indicate delays in access to maize seeds for majority of cooperatives.

Rainfall has been below average during September-October period, except part of the East, while above normal countrywide during the first 10 days of November, and ranging from below normal to above normal in the second 10 days.

In October, food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index was about 6 percent higher than same time last year, and 2 percent higher than previous month.

## OVERVIEW

### Delays in access to maize seeds for season 2018A were experienced countrywide:

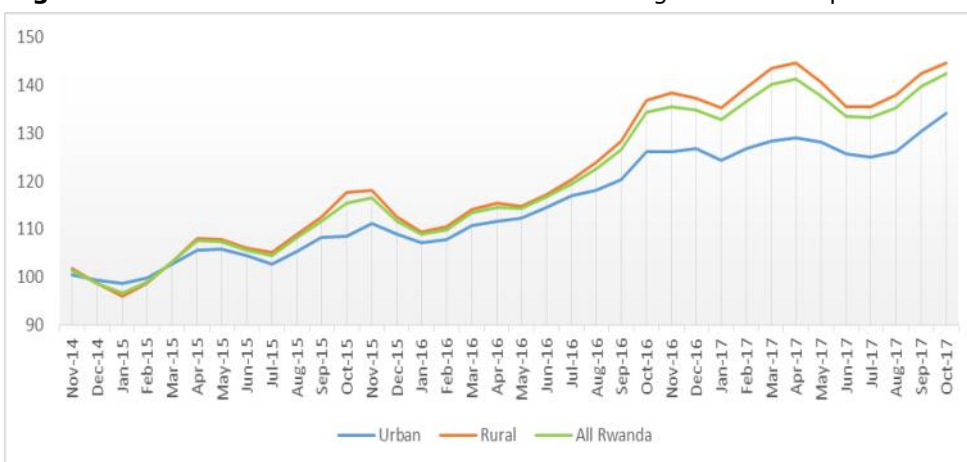
According to information from WFP internal projects closely working with farmers such as Farm to Markets Alliance (FTMA) and Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities (SZHC), majority of farmer cooperatives indicated delays in access to hybrid maize seeds, and supplied varieties were not the requested ones. There is limited knowledge on the overall performance, and close follow up will be paramount, to better understand the upcoming seasonal output. In addition, fall army worms were identified across districts, but high level community sensitization was achieved. Nevertheless, cost and labor implications in relation to overall performance will be important to

consider; at the end of the season when official figures will be available.

Rainfall has been below average during September-October period, except eastern locations, while reaching above normal levels (up to 40 percent) countrywide during the first 10 days of November (Figure 3). The second 10 days of November however, were around 20 percent drier than normal in most parts except central region.

**Prices in October were higher than average, with implications on purchasing power of the poor:** The food and non-alcoholic consumer price index was about 6 percent higher than same time last year, and 2 percent higher than previous month (Figure 1).

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



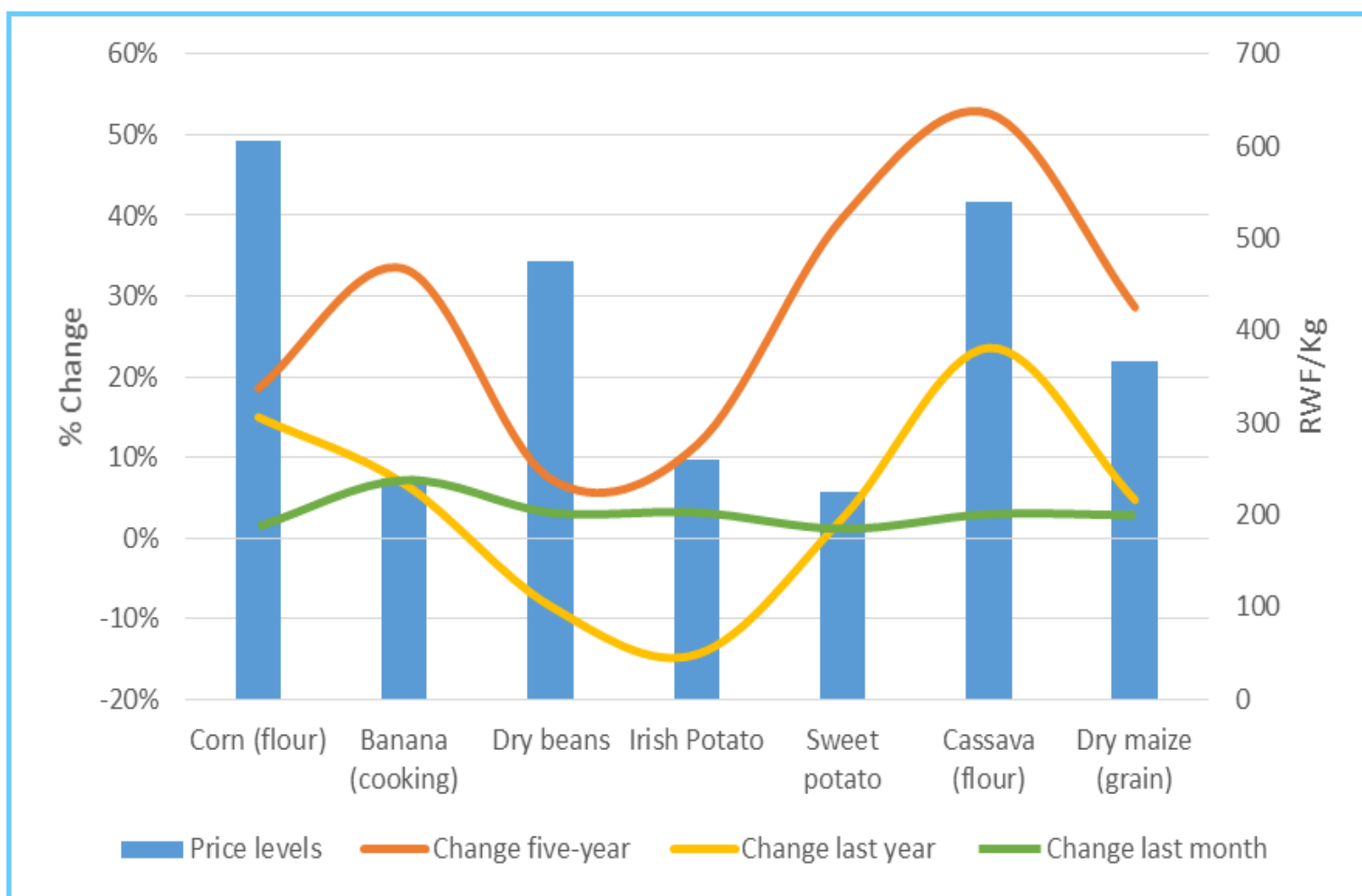
Source: Based on NISR CPI data (Base: 2014; Reference: February 2014=100)

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), main staple prices in October 2017 were higher than five-year-averages, with an increase of about 27 percent; whereby sweet potatoes which are the cheapest starch source, experienced up to 40 percent increase, second to cassava flour which was up to 53 percent (Figure 2). Cassava crop has been subject to diseases in recent years, and the revival process in terms of provision of better varieties is in process, with support from government. For households mainly involved in cassava cropping, this has negatively affected their food and income patterns.

High prices coincided with lean season (Figure 4), where most households stocks are depleted; awaiting availability of fresh harvests.

Moreover, according to data from MIDIMAR, August-October period counts 38 human lives lost, 80 injured, 3,315 houses and 2,747 hectares of crops damaged mainly due to stormy rainfall and floods; which has an overall negative impact on affected household socio-economic welfare.

**Figure 2:** October 2017 prices (RWF/kg) and anomalies



Source: Calculations based on NISR price data

**Figure 3:** Rainfall anomalies.

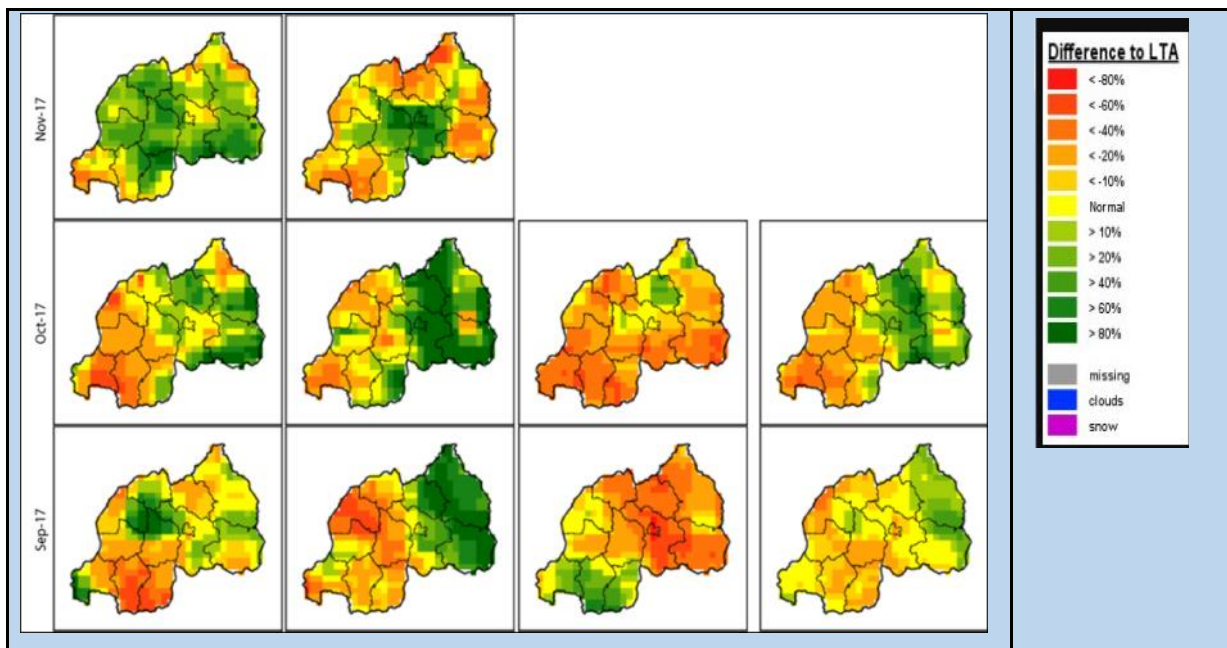
Anomalies depict the deviation of current rainfall from the average. In other words, current rainfall compared to the Long Term Average (LTA) back, might result in positive (above average) or negative (below average) percentages.

1<sup>st</sup> 10 days

2<sup>nd</sup> 10 days

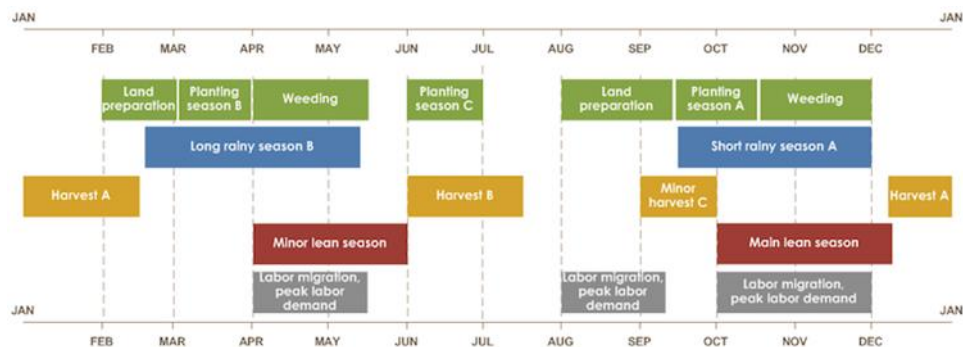
3<sup>rd</sup> 10 days

Monthly



Source: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

**Figure 4:** Seasonal calendar



Source: [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net)