



BULLETIN:
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HIGHLIGHTS

In November, food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index was about 7 percent lower compared to previous month, 2 percent lower than one year earlier and 18 percent higher than five years ago; which still compromises the poor's economic access to food.

According to Rwanda Governance Board's statement on the 2017 Citizen Report Card, least appreciated services involved Agriculture sector, especially input supply. This is will likely negatively impact on expected yields, especially for maize which is among key crops.

According to Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB), dry spells in previous months were experienced, mainly in eastern areas; which will most likely influence localized poor seasonal performance.

Rwanda | Food Security Update

OVERVIEW

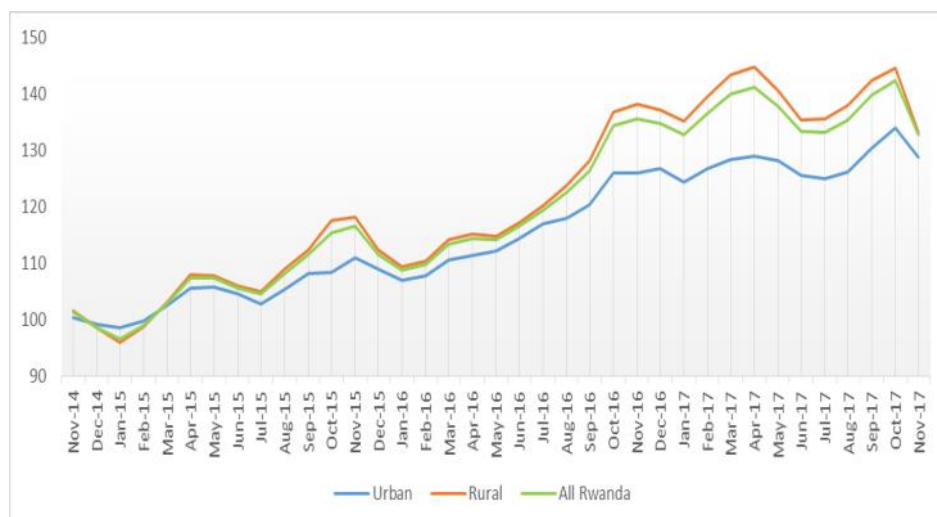
Prices in November were higher than average, with implication on limited purchasing power of the poor: The food and non-alcoholic consumer price index was about 7 percent lower compared to previous month, 2 percent lower than one year earlier and 18 percent higher than five years ago (Figure 1).

According to data from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), cooking banana, sweet potato and cassava flour prices remained higher than average, with changes ranging from 25 to 40 percent.

Nonetheless, cheaper imports and availability of fresh harvests alleviated high price challenge; which usually coincides with lean season and limits purchasing power of the poor.

Moreover, according to data from MIDIMAR, August-November period counts 48 human lives lost, 84 injured, 3,558 houses and 4,312 hectares of crops damaged mainly due to weather related shocks; which has an overall negative impact on socio-economic welfare of the affected.

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



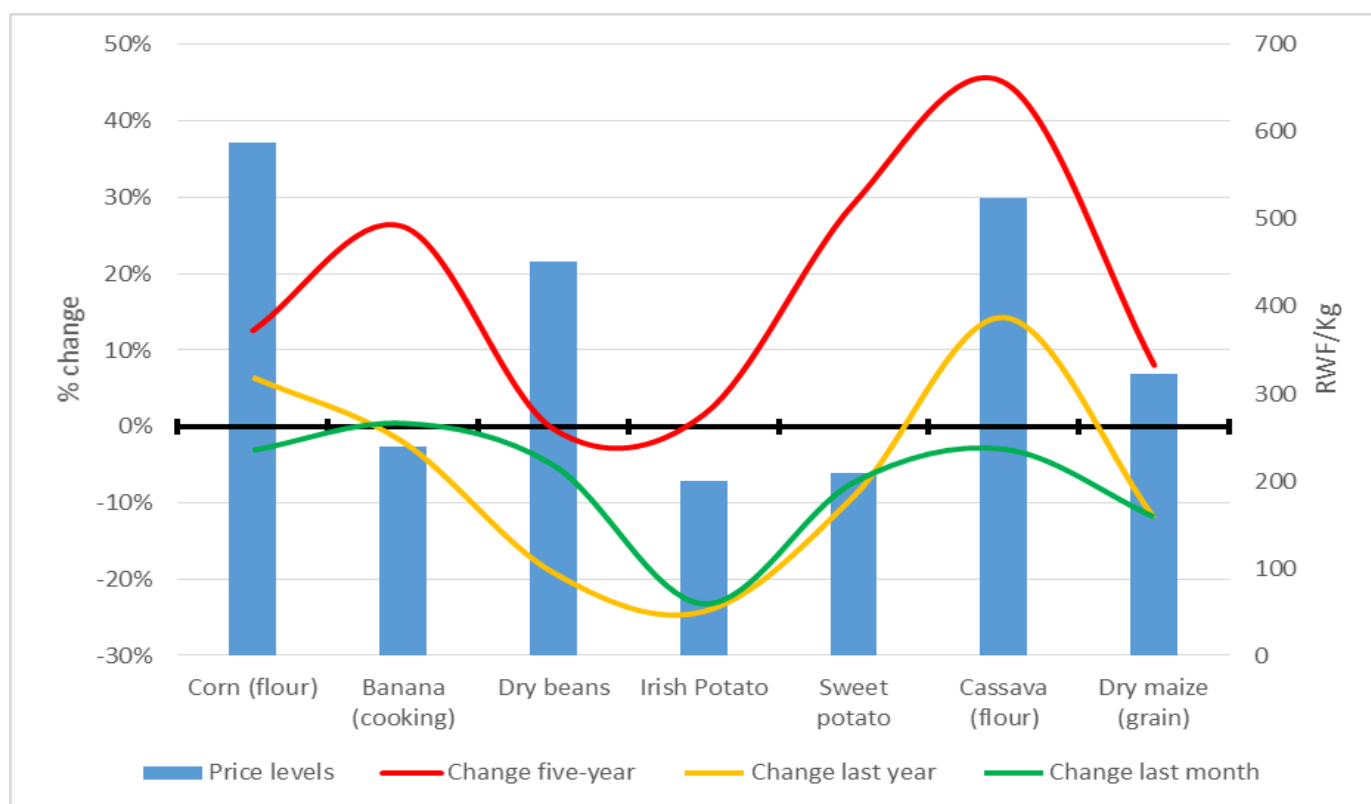
Source: Based on NISR CPI data (Base: 2014; Reference: February 2014=100)

Delays in access to maize seeds for season 2018A were experienced countrywide: According to Rwanda Governance Board's statement on the 2017 Citizen Report Card, least appreciated services involved Agriculture sector, especially input supply. This was in line with information from WFP internal projects closely working with farmers, such as Farm to Markets Alliance (FTMA) and Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities (SZHC), where majority of farmer cooperatives indicated delays in access to hybrid maize seeds, and supplied varieties were neither usual, nor expected.

Localized areas in eastern parts of Rwanda experienced below average rainfall: According to RAB, farmers in 17 sectors, including Karangazi, Nyagatare, Rukomo and Katabagemu of Nyagatare district; Rwinkwavu, Ndego, Kabare, Murundi, Mwili and Rukara of Kayanza district, as well as Mpanga, Kigarama and Nyamugali sectors in Kirehe District, and Rweru, Rilima, Gashora and Shara in Bugesera were experiencing low rainfall levels throughout the season. RAB also indicates that yields from areas which received optimal rainfall will fill the gap.

However, the first 20 days of December has been up to 60 percent below average; which, in conjunction with delayed planting, will adversely affect maize yields. 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.

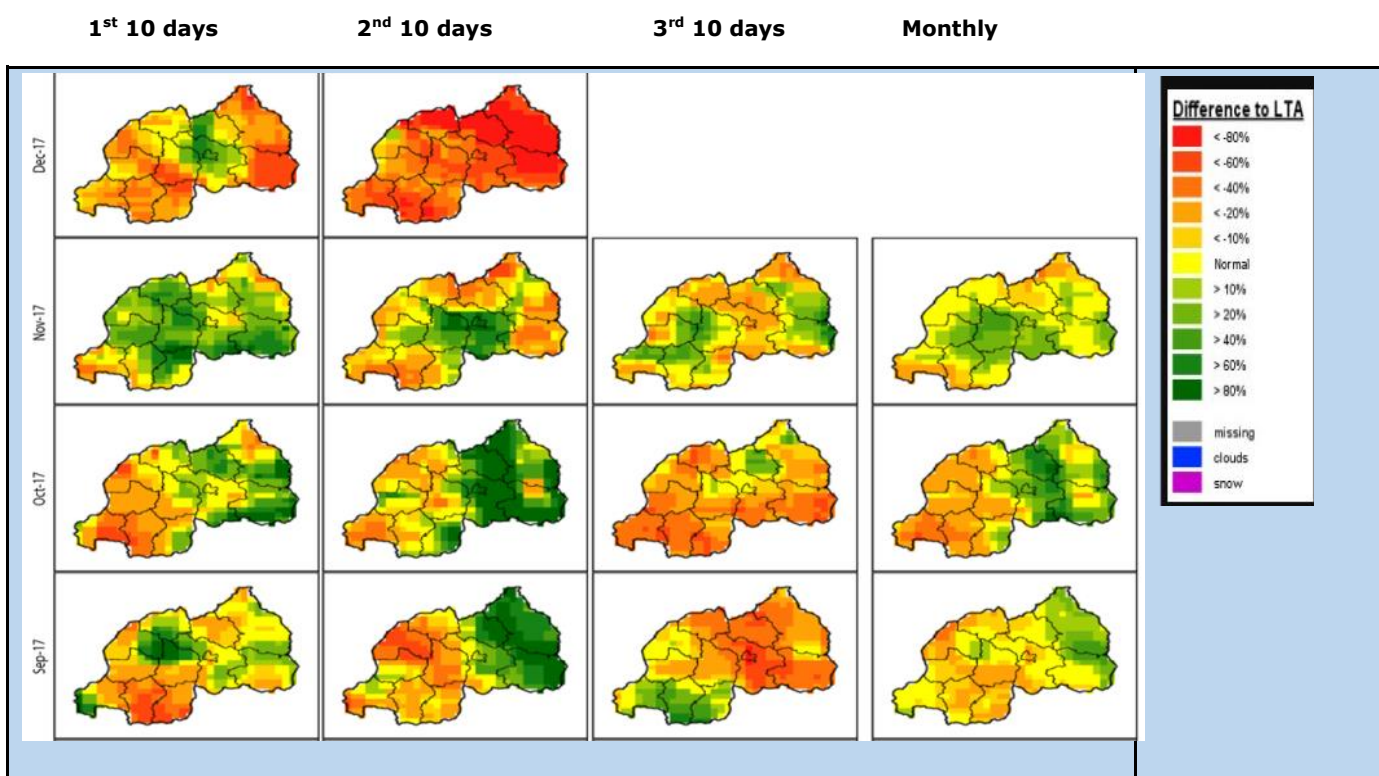
Figure 2: November 2017 prices (RWF/kg) and anomalies



Source: Calculations based on NISR price data

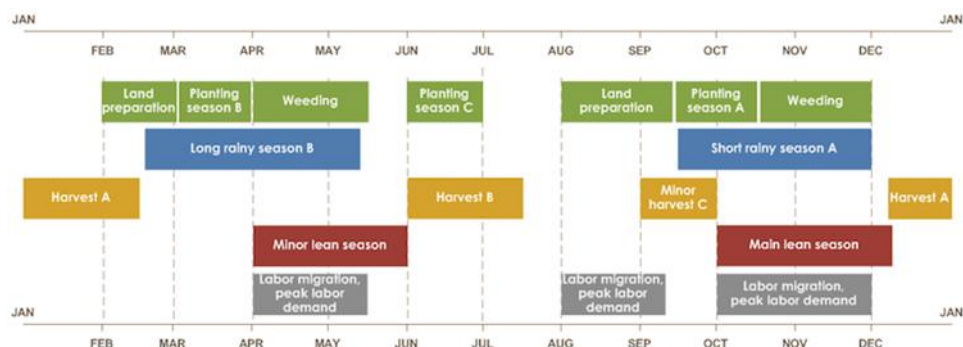
Figure 3: Rainfall anomalies

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.



Source: www.fao.org

Figure 4: Seasonal calendar



Source: www.fews.net