

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Republic of Guinea is a West African country, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the South-West, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to the North, Mali to the North/North-East, Côte d'Ivoire to the South-East, Liberia to the South, and Sierra Leone to the West/Southern tip. It has a total land area of 245,857 km² (95,000 mi²).

Guinea has four distinct geo-ecological zones (Figure 1):

1. Lower Guinea (*Basse Guinée* or *Guinée Maritime*), in the western coastal plains, is mainly made of alluvial soils interspersed with lagoons and mangrove swamps. This zone includes the administrative Regions of Boké, Kindia and Conakry.
2. Middle Guinea (*Fouta Djallon*), in the North-west of the country, is a highlands area including the Administrative Regions of Labé and Mamou. It hosts the sources of three major West African rivers: the Niger, the Senegal, and the Gambia.
3. Upper Guinea in the North-east, bordering mainly Mali. This zone includes the Administrative Regions of Faranah and Kankan. The Niger River has also some tributaries originating in this zone; and
4. Forested Guinea in the South-East, which includes the Administrative Region of N'Zérékoré.

Figure 1. Map of geo-ecological zones and administrative regions in Guinea.



Source: [Nations Online Project](#)

The eight Administrative Regions are subdivided into 34 prefectures, which are subdivided into 340 communes.

Most of the country has a tropical climate with a long rainy season of eight months (April–November), a relatively uniform annual temperature (23 to 29°C), and high humidity. Annual rainfall, which peaks in July–August, varies between 1,500 and 4,500 mm. However, Upper Guinea has a shorter rainy season, a longer dry season (December to May) and higher temperatures closer to a Sahelian climate.

Natural resources

Guinea has an abundant estimated 226 km³ of renewable water resources and is known as the water tower of West Africa.

Guinea has about 6.2 million hectares of arable land and abundant forest resources. According to the Government of Guinea ([Centre d'échange d'informations de la Guinée](#)), in 2005, the percentage of land with tree cover represented 54 percent of total land area distributed as follows:

- Mangrove: 1 percent,
- Dense humid forests: 3 percent
- Dry forests and light forest: 7 percent, and
- Wooded savannahs: 43 percent.

The country has rich and diversified mineral deposits and is the world's largest exporter of bauxite. With an estimated 12 billion tons' reserves, Guinea has approximately a quarter of all known bauxite deposits in the world ([Wikipedia, 2013](#)). Guinea also has significant reserves of gold, diamond, cobalt, iron-ore, oil, and uranium. The [mining sector represents 26 percent of Guinea's GDP](#) and accounts for 72 percent of its exports.

Demographics

The last national census in Guinea was conducted in 1986. The National Statistics Institute (*Institut National des Statistiques—INS*) estimates the population of the country at about 11 million inhabitants in 2013. Conakry, the capital and largest city, had a population estimated at 2.2 million in 2012. About 70 percent of the population is estimated to live in rural areas and 30 percent in urban areas. Planning and execution of a new census anticipated in 2013/14 is underway. Annex 1 shows the distribution of the population by prefecture.

Macro-economy

The agricultural sector contributes for 22.1 percent in the GDP, industry (including mining) for 44.9 percent, and services for 33 percent. The agricultural sector (which contributed to 70 percent of employment) was not getting its fair share of the national development budget, since it was getting only 9.5 percent of that budget in 2006 ([WFP, 2010](#)). In the medium term, the economy is expected to continue to be led by the mining sector.

The main exports are alumina, gold, diamonds, coffee and fish, while the main imports are petroleum products, metals, machinery, transport equipment, textiles and food. Exports were 27 percent of the GDP, while imports were 38 percent of GDP, leaving a gap of 11 percent of GDP that had to be filled by development assistance, private investments, remittances from nationals living abroad, and debts. The [World Bank](#) estimated in 2012 the volume of official development assistance (ODA) at 392 million that year. This assistance was mainly supporting livelihood development and natural resource management. It is worth noting that apart from a spike in 2008, Guinea's receipts of ODA declined by about two-thirds to one-half of their level of 2002. Humanitarian aid, which was roughly 4.6 percent of ODA in 2007, has stayed at about 2.5 percent of ODA since 2008.

Though the current rate of inflation is very high, it has significantly slowed down in comparison with previous years. The GDP per capita was estimated at 990 USD in 2011 (2005 purchasing power parity prices; [UNDP, 2012](#)).

The [Bank](#) estimated that remittances amounted to 78 million USD in 2011. Foreign direct investments were estimated in 2010 at only 110 million USD dollars ([U.S. Department of State, 2012](#)). The slow implementation of the revised investment code and years of political uncertainty and violence have not been favorable to economic growth.

Please find a summary of key macro-economic indicators in Figure 2 below.

Poverty

Despite its natural resource endowments, Guinea is among the least developed countries of the world. According to [UNDP](#), the Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.335 in 2012, which puts it even below the average HDI for Sub-Saharan Africa (0.475). Guinea ranked 178th out of the 187 countries ranked. Life expectancy at birth was 54.5 years, under-fives mortality 130/1000, and adult literacy rate less than 40 percent in 2012 ([UNDP, 2013](#)). According to the World Bank, 53 percent of the population was living below the poverty line in 2013, then defined as the equivalent of 196 USD/person/year ([World Bank, 2013](#)).

Figure 2. Summary of key macro-economic indicators for Guinea

Indicator	2012	2013	2014
GDP (billion USD)	33.9	39.6	45.0
Real GDP growth (%)	3.9	4.5	5.2
GDP growth per capita (%)	1.4	2	2.7
Inflation rate (%)	15.2	11.2	8.1
Total investments (% GDP)	25.6	28.7	51.3
Exports (% GDP)	29.7	26.9	28
Imports (% GDP)	62	51.7	73.1

Source: [IMF 2013](#)

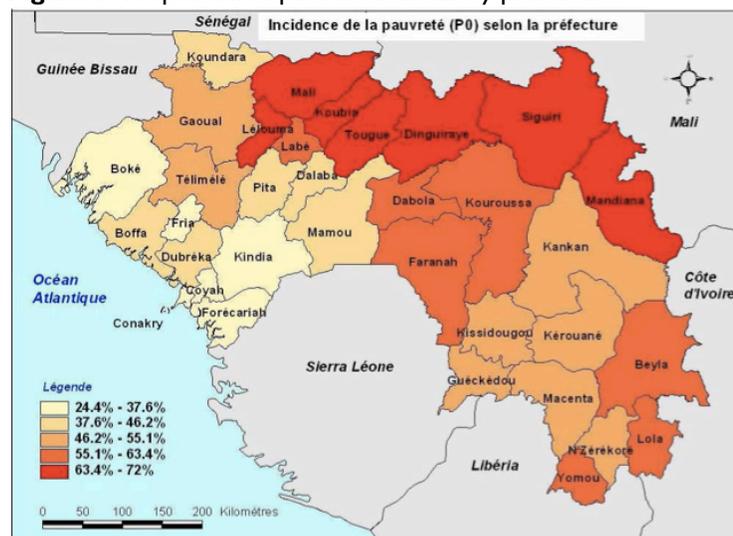
Poverty is primarily a rural problem. According to IFAD, “About 67 per cent of Guineans live in rural areas, and most practice subsistence farming on very small plots. Poverty is especially marked in these areas, where about 63 per cent of people are poor, compared with 30 per cent of the urban population” ([IFAD, 2013](#)). Figure 3 shows the national distribution of poverty, which is highest along the Malian border.

The social conditions of Guineans, resulting from persistent internal social and political problems have been aggravated by the civil wars that raged in neighboring countries. Those conflicts resulted in refugee movements from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, and in internal displacement of populations inside the country. As of January 2012 UNHCR/West Africa estimated the number of Ivorian and Liberian refugees in Guinea at approximately 16,000. At the same time, a similar number of Guineans remained classified as either refugees or asylum seekers in other countries.

Political context

After years of dictatorship followed by political instability, including a series of coups in 2008/09, Guinea is currently in transition to democracy after the first presidential elections of 2010. Elections for the currently dissolved legislative body, however, have been delayed. The political progress is significant enough to prompt changes in assistance and debt relief programming. In September 2012, Guinea was recommended to receive significant debt relief under the Enhanced Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

Figure 3. Proportion of poor households by prefecture.



Source: [DRSP2](#)

AGRICULTURE

About 70 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture, yet it generates only [14 percent of the GDP](#). The agricultural potential in Guinea is enormous, with soil, water, and climate providing perfect conditions for small-scale and large-scale irrigated farming and agro-industry. The Government estimates that the area suitable for agriculture is about 6 million hectares (25 per cent of Guinean territory), of which less than 2 million hectares are under cultivation. The land area that can be flooded at will is estimated at 180,000 hectares. Only about 0.7 percent of Guinea’s fresh water resources are currently used in agriculture (World Bank, 2003).

Despite this potential, Guinea does not cover its food needs, particularly in rice, due to the preponderance of subsistence agriculture. Even in a good year like 2011-2012, [Guinea imported about 10 percent of its cereal needs](#) and up to 25 percent of total food needs. Rice, sugar, wheat, maize, vegetable oil and maize constitute the largest food imports by volume.

Guinea's reliance on food imports renders it vulnerable to international price fluctuations such as the 2008 global food price crisis.

Because of its diverse agro-climatic zones, Guinea produces a variety of food and cash crops using many different production systems. The three main food crops grown in Guinea are rice, cassava and ground nuts. Maize, plantain, yam, potato, sweet potato, fruits and vegetables, are also important in some regions (Annex).

Rice

Rice production dominates Guinean agriculture, accounting for 61 percent of total national cereal production by volume (Figure 4). It is grown throughout the country, but particularly in Middle and Forest Guinea. It is mainly produced on hillsides (*coteaux*) using primarily the slash-and-burn system and often with long fallow periods up to seven years and/or with rotational cropping. Eighty percent of all farmers produce rice, primarily for own consumption. Yet, national rice production meets only about two-thirds of national rice demand.

The 2012 rice production in Guinea was estimated by the [FAO](#) at around 1.24 million tons (milled basis), about 15 percent higher than in 2011, due to more favorable weather conditions. USDA estimates that current rice consumption in Guinea is around 1.4 million tons, while import requirements stand at around 300,000 tons. So, even in a good year like 2012-13, rice imports are thus about 20 percent of needs, making it the first food import in the country.

Like Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau and Liberia, Guinea has high per capita consumption of rice. In 2004, the average Guinean consumed over 100 kg per capita. Rice consumption is highest (100-200 kg/person/year) along the coast and in the surplus-producing Forest guinea, where average rice consumption is nearly double that of Upper or Middle Guinea. Rice is, however, the preferred cereal consumed by the both the poor and the wealthy households.

The Government of Guinea considers rice to be a priority food crop for the country and has been implementing a specific [rice development strategy](#) since 1998.

Other cereals

Maize is a common substitute for rice in Middle and Upper Guinea, and constitutes about 23 percent of national cereal production. It is often grown in home gardens, and even a small green maize harvest is a sign of the end of the lean season. Fonio makes up 14 percent of national cereal production but is mainly produced and consumed in Middle Guinea and somewhat in Upper Guinea. Millet and sorghum are marginal on a national scale (2 percent of national cereal production) and tend to be concentrated in the "Sahelian" northern band of the country bordering Senegal.

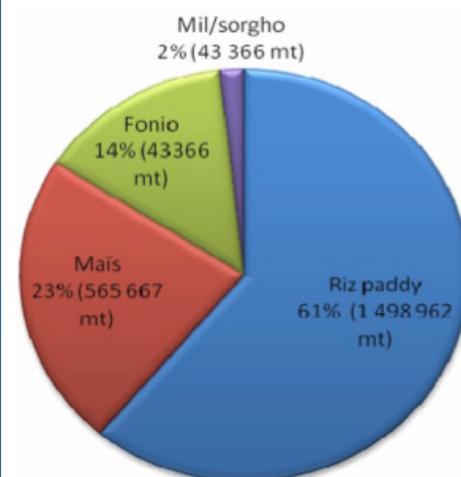
Cassava

The importance of cassava to household food security increased dramatically in recent years. The area under cassava has more than doubled since 2004 (from 58,424 hectares in 2004 to 122,550 hectares in 2011). About 775,500 MT of cassava were harvested last year, making it the second most commonly eaten food in the country. Cassava is grown in all regions and is regularly consumed by at least 25 percent of Guineans in most of the country.

Other crops

According to [WFP](#), ground nuts are the second most widely cultivated crop in terms of acreage, and the fourth in terms of tonnage. Other important food crops grown in Guinea include sweet potatoes, taro, yam, and Irish potatoes. Various fruits (pineapples, mangoes, bananas,) and vegetables (tomatoes, onions, okra) are also grown for household consumption and sales in the country. Food crop exports and agro-industry are limited by poor infrastructure.

Figure 4. National cereal production in Guinea 2009/10



Note: Mil/sorgho = millet/sorghum, riz paddy= rice paddy, mais = maize
Source: CILSS/FAO/FEWS NET/GoG crop assessment

The three main cash crops, which in 2007 constituted 89 percent of all agricultural exports by value are: coffee, cocoa, and rubber ([FAO, 2008](#)). Other cash crops grown in Guinea are palm oil and pineapple primarily in the forest region and cotton in Upper Guinea. A detailed list of agricultural exports, in quantities and value, is in annex.

Livestock and fisheries

In 2011 Guinea had over 5 million cattle and nearly 3 million sheep/goats ([Organisation Internationale des Epizooties, 2012](#)). Most livestock-dependent households are based in Middle Guinea with some in Upper Guinea. Coastal Guinea is a destination for transhumant cattle for access to salty grasses. Small ruminants, mainly goats, are important savings and investment vehicles for households of all wealth groups in all regions. Despite a mutual trade restriction with respect to livestock between Sierra Leone and Guinea, Guinea still supplies the live animals through informal routes to Sierra Leone.

The fishery sector, which involves over 450,000 people, plays also an important role in the national and local economies and nutrition.

MARKETS AND TRADE

Basic market structure

According to the [WFP](#), markets are classified in four categories, although not tightly delimited:

- 1) Production or supply markets (*marchés ruraux de collecte*) located in rural areas, close to production zones where producers and collectors meet. Key supply markets for local rice and maize are Sinko and Gouécké in Forest Guinea, while the key supply market for cassava is Maferenya in Upper Guinea.
- 2) Collector market where crops are gathered (*marchés de regroupement*). Those are weekly markets that do not just serve as food crops markets: most of those markets (e.g., N'Zérékore, Kankan, Labé and Kindia) play at the same time the role of wholesale markets for traders, and consumer markets for local urban population.
- 3) Wholesale markets, open for both for wholesalers and consumers. These markets are start points for the different products flows; they also sell non food commodities and offer both domestically produced and imported foods. The most important wholesale market of Guinea is Madina market in Conakry.
- 4) Consumers markets in rural or urban places where retailers and consumers meet. The quantities of produce sold on those markets are generally not important, but they can be quite diverse depending on the period of the year and on the demand.

There seems to be an [adequate number of rural markets in Guinea](#), and most people (63 percent nationally) do not need to walk more than 30 minutes to reach one. The regions where people had to walk for longest time were also the least densely populated (Kindia, N'zérékoré and Labé).

The quality of road infrastructure also varies significantly between the rainy season and the dry season. Comparing the time it takes from the regional markets of Conakry, Labé, Kankan, Kindia and N'zérékoré to connect to each other by vehicle during dry and rainfall seasons, the Ministry of Transport of Guinea found that that time increased by an average of 23 percent (to N'zérékoré) to 36 percent (to Kindia) in rainy season. The transportation time between Kindia and Labé doubled during the rainy season. The reason for this situation is that the road network connecting the country's trade centers has been deteriorating due to lack of maintenance.

Food stocking is widely practiced in Guinea. However, stocking capacity varies from trader to trader, from 50 to 300 tons ([Ministère de l'Agriculture de Guinée and PROMISAN, 2008](#)), depending on financial means. Some large traders also have storage capacity in Sierra Leone or Liberia and may move stocks freely in the direction of greatest demand.

Cross-border trade

Foodstuffs are traded across the borders with Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Sierra Leone, the principal cassava flour source for the urban markets of Conakry, is emerging as potential big food supplier of Guinea. That country is already supplying substantial quantities of locally grown rice. The Kambia district of western Sierra Leone routinely exports

parboiled local rice to nearby Conakry. “According to the *Système d’Information sur les Produits Agricoles en Guinée* (SIPAG), Guinea was importing in late 2009 at least 360 tons of local rice from Sierra Leone monthly. Guinea also imports cassava flour and oil palm from Sierra Leone, and exports miscellaneous products such as cigarettes, Magi cubes, clothing, etc... ([Enterprise Development Services-EDS, 2012](#)”. EDS added that these numbers were probably underestimated, as they were only collected official Customs records at a border.

In addition to being a net food importer, Guinea functions as transit to regional markets (e.g. peanuts imported from Mali to Senegal through Guinea).

Kankan and Siguiri markets in Upper Guinea export local rice and maize across the border to Mali. Those two markets are also supplied in rice and maize by Sinko, Lola and N’Zérékoré markets in Forest Guinea. Upper Guinea markets export food produce to Mali. Forest Guinea markets serve also as entry points for Cote d’Ivoire produce (mainly maize). Guinean Irish potatoes are also exported to regional markets in Senegal, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Mali. Though the Government of Guinea occasionally restricts exports of rice, following the 2008 food price crisis for example, some foods like cassava, fonio and peanuts are freely traded.

Recent conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d’Ivoire have been an obstacle to regional trade. Internal factors such low production and security problems have also caused supply disruptions in the Guinean countryside. This situation also limits Guinea’s integration in its region and to expand its exports.

Market Performance

Urban households are almost entirely dependent on markets, which function well. 44 percent of households can buy their food in their neighborhood, while 28 percent buy it in the wholesale markets. With the exception of certain crisis periods usually temporary and related to civil insecurity, supplies have generally responded to those needs.

Domestic production, though still unable to meet national food needs, has been steadily growing, and traders have the capacity to import food from neighboring countries or from the international market. The domestic production has also responded quite well to price signals and to increasing food demand due to population growth, urbanization, and increasing demand from food processors.

In Guinea, prices vary seasonally, mainly due to road conditions, wholesale stock levels, and the availability of food staples on the market. Prices are typically highest during the months of June, July and August, which constitute the lean season. The prices for livestock, particularly sheep and goats, increase significantly before religious feasts such as Aid El Kebir, and at the end of the year.

Additional information on market structure and context is available in FEWS NET’s [production and market flow maps](#).

FOOD INSECURITY

Food consumption

In [2009 WFP](#) conducted a food security survey of household consumption during the week preceding the household interview (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Percent of households having consumed a food category within the 7 days preceding the interview

	Average score	Cereals	Tubers	Animal proteins	Milk/dairy	Legumes	Vegetables	Fruits	Fats	Sugar
Severe	20	100	80	18	2	35	30	24	78	31
Moderate	32	99	83	52	8	73	65	41	90	63
Food secure	57	100	80	92	35	92	75	56	96	86
Total	48	100	80	77	26	82	69	50	93	76

Source: [WFP ENSA 2009](#)

The data suggest that cereals, tubers, and fats form the cornerstone of the diet in Guinea. In addition, only about one third of the “severely” food insecure households consume a serving of vegetables, legumes, or sugar during the week. The data presented is eventually disaggregated by region, though not by wealth group or livelihood zone.

The World Food Programme (WFP) uses a definition of food insecurity based on consumption and primarily the quality of the food—variety and nutritional balance—rather than on whether energy needs are being met. This index could also be considered a symptom of chronic poverty. On this basis, in 2009 the WFP determined that 32 percent of the rural population was “moderately” food insecure with eight percent “severely” food insecure. The highest concentration of food-insecure people was in Nzérékoré, where about 17 percent of the population was identified as severely food insecure (Figure 6).

Nutrition

Following the analysis of its 2008 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), UNICEF reported that “40 percent of Guinean children under 5 years old suffered from chronic malnutrition (WHO standards); among them, 20.7% had severe chronic malnutrition.... In addition, nearly 21 percent of Guinean children under age 5 are underweight (WHO standards)”. The report stated, however, that the situation had improved since the previous survey in 2005. Nutrition conditions usually depend on the quality and quantity of the food consumed, water and sanitation conditions, and breastfeeding and care practices for children. Additional information on food consumption is provided in this section, while water and sanitation conditions are presented in next section.

Water and sanitation conditions, as well as hygiene and feeding practices, likely contribute significantly to poor nutrition outcomes in Guinea. However, significant progress has been made in water and sanitation in recent years (Figure 7).

Summary

FEWS NET, Action Contre la Faim, and the Government of Guinea completed a [livelihood zone mapping and descriptions product](#) that synthesizes some general conclusions regarding food insecurity in Guinea. The Guinean climate is generally favorable to agriculture; though shocks such as disease, pests, floods, and occasional drought do occur on a limited scale, impacts on food security are rarely widespread. Food shortages are rare; the most common concerns for food security relate to the consumption of less-preferred or wild foods and use of credit to buy food, particularly during the lean season. It is relatively uncommon, for example, for households to reduce the quantity of food eaten at each meal (8 percent of households used this strategy in [WFP’s 2009 ENSA](#)).

However, poor households in Guinea generally depend on markets for food for about half of the year, making them highly vulnerable to high prices of staple foods, particularly during the lean season between June/July and August/September. Food access for poor households is, therefore, primarily constrained by access to income, thereby making poverty the main, underlying cause of food insecurity. The most important source of income for poor households across all of the livelihood zones is labor, though mining and self-employment (bush product collection and sale, handicrafts) are also important in many areas.

Food insecurity is mainly a rural problem in Guinea ([WFP, 2009](#)). In addition to poverty, other causes of food insecurity identified included the under-developed agricultural sector, inadequate farm and road infrastructures, low education level (34 percent literacy rate), resource (land, labor) competition from expanding formal and informal mining sector, poor governance, and political instability. WFP also found that female-headed households were at greater risk of food insecurity than male-headed households, though poverty in general was the greatest single indicator of food insecurity.

FOOD SECURITY AND EARLY WARNING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Government of Guinea through [SIPAG](#) (*Système d’information sur les Produits Agricoles en Guinée*) re-established in 2013 a market information system. SIPAG is a pilot, semi-autonomous public service, located under the Bureau of Strategies and Development in the Guinean “*Ministère de l’Agriculture, Elevage, Environnement et Eaux et Forêts (MAEEEF)*”. Being still

Figure 6. Estimated prevalence of food insecurity (based on dietary quality) by administrative region

Region	Food insecurity	
	Severe	Moderate
Boké	2.4%	9.1%
Faranah	4.5%	20.2%
Kankan	4.1%	19.5%
Kindia	10.2%	17.1%
Labé	10.4%	27.6%
Mamou	2.8%	28.5%
N’Zérékoré	16.9%	35.8%
Average	8.4	23.7

Source: [WFP ENSA 2010](#)

Figure 7. Proportion of households with access to potable water and improved sanitation.

Access to		2004	2013
		Potable water (%)	Urban
	Rural	35%	65%
	National Average	50%	~75%
Improved sanitation	Urban	31%	N/A
	Rural	11%	N/A
	National Average	18%	N/A

Source: [UNICEF 2004, 2007, 2013](#)

relatively new, it is supported technically by [RESIMAO](#), the Bamako-based West African network of market information systems.

As such, the government currently monitors on a weekly basis the producer, wholesale and consumer prices for major crops, agricultural inputs and livestock in Kankan, Mandiana, Barama, Komodou, Labé, and Madina in Conakry, N'zérékoré, Gaoual, Bangouye and Timbi-Madina. Monitored commodities include local rice, imported rice, cassava, maize, fonio, Irish potato, onion, peanut, palm oil, yams, shea butter, millet, sorghum, and plantain.

SIPAG recently published its first analytical market report for the [first quarter 2013](#). SIPAG is also publishing special studies on occasion, including a study on import parity prices for rice and maize, conducted in 2010 in collaboration with [Michigan State University](#).

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ANNEXES

Population estimate by sub-prefecture from most recent LandScan

Prefecture	Female	Male	Total
Boffa	112,553	112,631	225,184
Boké	206,621	206,768	413,389
Fria	58,708	58,750	117,458
Gaoual	98,021	98,089	196,110
Koundara	64,169	64,215	128,384
Conarky	779,151	779,700	1,558,851
Dabola	80,521	80,572	161,093
Dinguiraye	99,084	99,154	198,238
Faranah	105,914	105,991	211,905
Kissidougou	149,181	149,285	298,466
Kankan	189,605	189,740	379,345
Kérouané	112,604	112,679	225,283
Kouroussa	108,503	108,580	217,083
Mandiana	121,956	122,041	243,997
Siguiri	193,744	193,878	387,622
Coyah	79,401	79,455	158,856
Dubrêka	76,331	76,385	152,716
Forécariah	138,845	138,944	277,789
Kindia	207,552	207,698	415,250
Télimélé	165,140	165,257	330,397
Kouba	65,991	66,039	132,030
Labé	181,374	181,504	362,878
Lélouma	99,660	99,732	199,392
Mali	147,084	147,188	294,272
Tougué	83,164	83,221	166,385
Dalaba	98,416	98,488	196,904
Mamou	172,237	172,357	344,594
Pita	173,501	173,625	347,126
Beyla	123,451	123,540	246,991
Guéckédou	249,543	249,717	499,260
Lola	93,082	93,150	186,232
Macenta	199,151	199,292	398,443
Nzérékoré	203,662	203,808	407,470
Yamou	96,177	96,244	192,421

Source: [Population Explorer](#)

Agricultural production systems in Guinea by region

Geo-ecological zone	Regions	Agricultural Production System	Proportion of national crop origin (%)									
			Rice	Cassava	Groundnut	Fonio	Maize	Yam	Irish Potato	Banana	Pineapple	Onion
Coastal Guinea	Boké Kindia	Mangrove rice cultivation predominates with some irrigation. Hillside crops further inland. The main crops are rice, peanuts, and fruits and vegetables.	27	13	7	9	7	-	-	-	-	-
Middle Guinea	Mamou Labé	Maize, gombo, taro, and potatoes are grown in home gardens (<i>tapades</i>); fonio, peanuts, and rice production depend on "slash and burn" agriculture. This is a preferred area for cattle, sheep, and goat-raising, as well as for market gardening.	10	50	-	50	56	-	98	-	-	-
Upper Guinea	Faranah Kankan	Rice is grown on large, irrigated areas. Tubers, cotton, and cattle raising are also important in these areas.	25	37	35	37	30	95	-	-	-	60
Forest Guinea	N'Zérékoré	Perennial crops such as coffee, oil palm, cocoa, rubber trees predominate, though rice is grown in lowlands. Tubers and pigs are tertiary activities.	38	10	37	5	4	-	-	60	97	-

Source: [MAEEEF 2003](#)

Crop production, 2004-2012

Crop	Indicator	Seasons							
		2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Rice	Area (ha)	691,077	723,973	758,434	788,771	820,322	853,135	887,260	922,751
	Yield (t/ha)	1.75	1.76	1.77	1.78	1.79	1.80	1.81	1.84
	Production paddy (t)	1,207,956	1,272,415	1,340,313	1,401,592	1,465,673	1,532,683	1,602,758	1,701,872
	Net Production (T)	821,410	865,242	911,413	953,083	996,658	1,042,225	1,089,875	1,157,273
Maize	Area (ha)	304,432	326,260	349,653	374,723	401,590	430,385	461,243	494,314
	Yield (t/ha)	1.51	1.54	1.56	1.59	1.61	1.64	1.67	1.69
	Net Production (T)	460,994	502,051	546,765	595,460	648,493	706,249	769,148	837,650
	Maize bran	32,270	35,144	38,274	41,682	45,395	49,437	53,840	58,635
	Net maize	428,725	466,908	508,491	553,778	603,098	656,811	715,308	779,014
	Maize flour	385,852	420,217	457,642	498,400	542,789	591,130	643,777	701,113
Fonio	Area (ha)	182,913	190,943	199,326	208,076	217,211	226,746	236,700	247,091
	Yield (t/ha)	1.14	1.15	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.19	1.20	1.21
	Production (t)	208,381	219,443	231,093	243,361	256,280	269,885	284,212	299,300
	Fonio bran	52,095	54,861	57,773	60,840	64,070	67,471	71,053	74,825
	Fonio net	156,286	164,582	173,320	182,520	192,210	202,413	213,159	224,475
Millet	Area (ha)	143,874	153,530	163,834	174,829	186,562	199,080	212,439	226,693
	Yield (t/ha)	1.18	1.22	1.26	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.44	1.49
	Net Production (T)	169,771	187,307	206,431	227,278	251,859	277,977	306,803	338,619
Sorghum	Area (ha)	34,587	38,863	43,667	49,066	55,131	57,154	59,252	61,426
	Yield (t/ha)	1.32	1.33	1.35	1.37	1.38	1.40	1.42	1.44
	Net Production (T)	45,494	51,774	58,920	67,053	76,308	80,121	84,124	88,328
Groundnuts	Area (ha)	186,195	196,231	206,808	217,955	229,702	242,083	255,132	268,883
	Yield (t/ha)	1.38	1.40	1.42	1.45	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.54
	Production (t)	257,210	275,222	294,494	315,116	337,182	360,793	386,057	413,090
	Shelled groundnut	180,047	192,655	206,146	220,581	236,027	252,555	270,240	289,163
	Groundnut oil	81,021	86,695	92,766	99,261	106,212	113,650	121,608	130,123
Cassava	Area (ha)	129,358	132,761	136,252	139,836	143,513	147,288	151,161	155,137
	Yield (t/ha)	7.49	7.66	7.84	8.02	8.21	8.40	8.60	8.80
	Net Production (T)	968,785	1,017,430	1,068,518	1,122,171	1,178,519	1,237,695	1,299,844	1,365,112
Sweet Potato	Area (ha)	16,052	16,681	17,344	18,056	20,000	20,820	21,674	22,562
	Yield (t/ha)	3.99	4.02	4.07	4.12	4.36	4.42	4.48	4.54
	Net Production (T)	64,055	67,133	70,558	74,476	87,200	92,037	97,142	102,531
Taro	Area (ha)	28,244	29,128	30,074	31,108	34,077	35,249	36,462	37,716
	Yield (t/ha)	4.36	4.44	4.52	4.62	4.96	5.07	5.18	5.30
	Net Production (T)	123,135	129,217	136,018	143,819	169,022	178,718	188,970	199,810
Yams	Area (ha)	3,790	4,121	4,458	4,806	5,634	6,073	6,546	7,056
	Yield (t/ha)	13.78	14.98	16.21	17.47	14.85	14.93	15.01	15.10
	Net Production (T)	52,237	61,754	72,266	83,967	83,665	90,678	98,280	106,518
Irish Potato	Area (ha)	2,273	2,613	2,956	3,304	4,088	4,569	5,107	5,708
	Yield (t/ha)	8.93	8.55	8.19	7.87	7.47	7.49	7.51	7.53
	Net Production (T)	20,294	22,336	24,216	25,999	30,537	34,217	38,340	42,960

Source: Agence Nationale des Statistiques Agricoles et Alimentaires

Food imports and exports

Exports					Imports				
Rank	Product	Quantity (T)	Value (000)*	Unit Value*/T	Rank	Product	Quantity (T)	Value (000)*	Unit Value*/T
1	Coffee, green	18,594	28,266	1,520	1	Rice Milled	313,573	89,889	287
2	Cocoa beans	16,950	24,000	1,416	2	Sugar Refined	103,594	44,000	425
3	Rubber Nat Dry	12,226	23,220	1,899	3	Cigarettes	5,001	34,131	6,825
4	Cashew nuts, with shell	8,456	4,264	504	4	Food Prep Nes	10,096	26,772	2,652
5	Bran of Wheat	12,723	1,854	146	5	Flour of Wheat	67,298	26,240	390
6	Food Prep Nes	513	721	1,405	6	Palm oil	26,700	17,900	670
7	Mangoes, mangosteens, guavas	525	574	1,093	7	Paste of Tomatoes	9,674	11,024	1,140
8	Cotton lint	301	337	1,120	8	Wheat	38,390	10,858	283
9	Wheat	2,008	291	145	9	Milk Whole Dried	2,675	8,278	3,095
10	Hides Wet Salted Cattle	256	278	1,086	10	Food Prep,Flour,Malt Extract	5,159	7,926	1,536
11	Sesame seed	333	238	715	11	Soybean oil	6,674	7,006	1,050
12	Pineapples	147	196	1,333	12	Sugar Confectionery	2,782	5,930	2,132
13	Beeswax	48	182	3,792	13	Rice Broken	16,825	5,501	327
14	Natural rubber	132	179	1,356	14	Milk Whole Evp	3,395	5,491	1,617
15	Skins Wet Salted Calves	119	166	1,395	15	Beverage Non-Alc	5,043	5,042	1,000
16	Cashew Nuts Shelled	48	127	2,646	16	Tobacco, unmanufactured	456	4,778	10,478
17	Bever. Dist. Alc	9	82	9,111	17	Pastry	3,323	4,496	1,353
18	Palm oil	280	71	254	18	Onions, dry	15,492	4,390	283
19	Coffee Roasted	9	70	7,778	19	Beer of Barley	4,644	4,258	917
20	Rice, paddy	160	60	375	20	Margarine Short	2,833	3,805	1,343

* International commodity prices

Source: FAO, estimates for 2007

Cropping seasons in unimodal areas by agro-ecological zone

Zone	Agricultural practices	Rice cropping season					Cassava cropping season				Maize cropping season						
		Season	Sowing		Days to maturity	Harvest		Season	Sowing		Harvest		Season	Sowing		Harvest	
			Start	End		Start	End		Start	End	Start	End		Start	End		
Northwest zone	Short rainy season requires short-cycle varieties. Rain-fed rice is almost exclusive crop of vast northern plains. Start of irrigation at end October. Rotation is rice or groundnut/cassava/fonio and rice/market gardening. Association is with maize-taro or potato and rice-sorghum. Issues include weeds and rodents, insects, and diseases.		3 rd dek Jun	End Jul	90-120	End Sep	Mid Oct		1st dek Jun	2nd dek Jun	1st dek Mar	1st dek Apr		2nd dek Jun	mid-Jul	mid-Aug	2nd dek Nov
Sudanian zone	Rain-fed crops in the plains in general, as well as on burned lands and lowlands. Use short-cycle varieties in the North of the zone around Niagassola. Irrigation of off-season crops begins at the end of October/beginning of November. Rotation is cotton/maize /groundnut, rice/yam/cotton, rice/cassava in the hills and rice/market gardening in the plains and lowlands/depressions. Association is groundnut/millet, groundnut/sorghum, and maize/groundnut. Issues include iron toxicity, diseases, and weeds.		1 st dek Jun	Mid-July	90-150	2 nd dek Sep	3 rd dek Nov		3rd dek May	3rd dek Jun	3rd dek Mar	3rd dek Apr		1st dek May/ Jun	1st dek Jun	2nd dek Sep	3rd dek Nov
Upper Niger basin	Rainfed plains rice on burned lands. Irrigation of off-season crops beginning end October; rotation rice cotton-groundnut-maize in the hills; rice-market gardening in plains. Controlling animal access to fields is a challenge, as well as insects and disease.		3 rd dek. May	End Jul	90-150	1 st dek. Sep	End Oct			2nd dek Jun	3rd dek Mar	2nd dek Apr		mid-May	3rd dek Jun	3rd dek Aug	3rd dek Oct

Source: *FAO*

Cropping calendar for dual-season and bimodal zones by agro-ecological zone

Zone	Agricultural practices	Rice cropping season						Cassava cropping season						Maize cropping season					
		Season	Sowing		Days to maturity	Harvest		Season	Sowing		Harvest		Season	Sowing		Harvest			
			Start	End		Start	End		Start	End	Start	End		Start	End	Start	End		
Areas with 2 major seasons and bimodal areas																			
Coastal zone	Rainfed in the plains, lowlands, and on burned grounds. Irrigation of off-season crops. Rotation of rice/market gardening/maize or rice/groundnut/cassava. Issues include crabs and other pests, salinization in mangrove plains, weeds, insects, and disease.		Mid Jul	End Sep	118-160	Begin Nov	End Feb	1 st	3rd dek May	mid-Jun	mid-Mar	3rd dek Apr	1 st	3rd dek May	2nd dek Jun	3rd dek Aug	3rd dek Oct		
								2 nd	3rd dek Oct				2 nd	3rd dek Nov	3rd dek Dec	1st dek Mar	1st dek Apr		
Pre-Fouta Zone	Rain-fed cropping on burned lands (particularly in the northern parts), in the plains, and lowlands. Irrigation begins at the end of November for off-season crops, particularly market gardening (primarily in the southern parts). Rotation is rice/groundnut/cassava or fonio and rice/market gardening and maize/groundnut. Association is rice/sorghum and groundnut/maize. Issues include weeds, rodents, birds, and diseases and insects.	1 st	End May	Mid-Jul	90-150	1 st dek Sep	Mid-Dec	1 st	mid-May	mid-Jun	2nd dek Oct	2nd dek Apr	1 st	3rd dek May	3rd dek Jun	3rd dek Aug	3rd dek Oct		
		2 nd	1 st dek Dec	End Dec	90-120	2 nd dek Mar	2 nd dek Apr	2 nd	2nd dek Oct	1st dek Nov	mid-Jun	3rd dek Jul	2 nd	1st dek Dec	1st dek Jan	mid-Mar	2nd dek Apr		
Fouta Djallon	Agricultural system combines intensive cropping in <i>tapades</i> (home gardens) and extensive cropping in external fields. Livestock raising is widespread and associated with agriculture. Rain-fed agriculture on burned grounds with short fallow periods. Intensive production of vegetables and potatoes in rain-fed areas and irrigated during the dry season. Association of cassava, taro, potato, squash, and vegetables in <i>tapades</i> . Major issues include animal invasion, weeds, insects, and crop diseases.	1 st	3 rd dek. May	End July	90-150	End Aug	2 nd deka d Nov						1 st	3rd dek May	3rd dek Jun	3rd dek Aug	3rd dek Oct		
		2 nd	Mid Nov	End Dec	90-120	End Feb	Mid Apr		mid-May	1st dek Jun	2nd dek Mar	1st dek Apr	2 nd	mid Dec	3rd dek Jan	3rd dek Mar	3rd dek Apr		
Pre-forest Zone	Rain-fed cropping in plains, lowlands and cleared forest. Mix of Sudanian crops and some plantations from Guinéan (Forest) zone. Irrigation for off-season cropping begins in December in the West and in November in the East. Rotation is rice/groundnut/cassava in the uplands and rice/market gardening/maize in the lowlands or depressions. Association of maize/cowpea, rice/maize, and plantain/cereal crops. Issues include animal damage, agouti,	1 st	1 st dek Apr	1 st dek Jul	90-150	3 rd dek Jul	End Oct	continuous						1 st	2nd dek Apr	mid-May	mid-Jul	3rd dek Sep	
		2 nd	1 st dek Nov	End Dec	90-120	Mid-Feb	1 st dek Apr	continuous						2 nd	3rd dek Oct	3rd dek Nov	3rd dek Jan	1st dek Mar	
Forest Zone	Rain-fed cropping on burned lands, in plains and lowlands ; high cropping density. Irrigation begins in December and lasts only 3-4 months. Short dry season. Crop rotation includes rice/groundnut/maize or cassava in the highland parts and rice/market gardening in lowlands or depressions. Association of groundnuts/maize maize/cowpea, rice/maize, plantain/cereals or fruit trees. Issues include weeds, <i>agouti</i> (rodent), disease and insects.	1 st	3 rd dek Mar	End Jun	90-150	End Jun	2 nd dek Sep	continuous						1 st	3rd dek Mar	1st dek May	1st dek Jul	1st dek Sep	
		2 nd	Begin Nov	1 st dek Dec	90-120	1 st dek Feb	End Mar	continuous						2 nd	3rd dek Nov	3rd dek Dec	1st dek Mar	3rd dek Mar	

Source: FAO