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Report Highlights:

Wheat consumption is projected to increase to 6.8 million metric tons (MMT) in MY 2026/27, with imports estimated at 7.2 MMT, driven by a stable exchange rate and improved consumer purchasing power. Corn faces a challenging outlook with production expected to decline as farmgate prices dropped by 52 percent through December 2025 compared to the prior year. Corn imports are expected to increase due to lower production and a stronger naira, making imports more attractive. Rice production is forecast to decline seven percent to 8.3 MMT as input prices remain high, imports help maintain lower domestic prices, and producers switch to less input intensive crops.

Market Overview

Nigeria's commodities markets in MY 2026/27 are expected to be characterized by improved macroeconomic conditions driving consumption growth, while producers face high input costs and unfavorable price dynamics. The stable naira exchange rate and enhanced consumer purchasing power are expected to boost and stabilize consumption across major grain commodities such as rice and corn, though these favorable consumption trends mask significant production challenges from elevated input prices.

Food inflation has declined dramatically from about 24 percent in February 2025 to 8.9 percent in February 2026, following the National Bureau of Statistics' adoption of a new 2024 base year for inflation calculations. This change in the inflation calculation, combined with an improved macroeconomic outlook and foreign exchange stability, is boosting consumer purchasing power and driving increased consumption of staple grains. As the 2027 election season approaches, food prices may experience additional temporary relief due to pre-election palliatives commonly distributed by political parties.

Despite increased grain consumption for food and feed, corn production faces a severe price-cost squeeze. Farmgate prices have declined sharply, in some cases by over 50 percent, while input costs including fertilizer, herbicides, fuel, and labor have increased. Some rice farmers report difficulty locating buyers and selling their harvests below production costs. Approximately 60 percent of rice mills are currently non-operational, as they are unable to compete with lower-priced informal milled rice imports entering through neighboring countries. Industry contacts consistently identify high input costs and weak competitive positioning against imports as the two most pressing challenges.

Wheat

Table 1. Wheat Production, Supply and Distribution

Wheat Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Jul 2024		Jul 2025		Jul 2026	
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	110	110	115	115	0	120
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	445	445	407	407	0	437
Production (1000 MT)	125	125	130	130	0	140
MY Imports (1000 MT)	6217	6217	6700	6700	0	7200
TY Imports (1000 MT)	6217	6217	6700	6700	0	7200
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	916	916	0	0	0	1000
Total Supply (1000 MT)	6787	6787	7237	7237	0	7777
MY Exports (1000 MT)	380	380	400	400	0	400
TY Exports (1000 MT)	380	380	400	400	0	400
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	6000	6000	6400	6400	0	6800
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	6000	6000	6400	6400	0	6800
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	407	407	437	437	0	577
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	6787	6787	7237	7237	0	7777
Yield (MT/HA)	1.1364	1.1364	1.1304	1.1304	0	1.1667

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Wheat begins in July for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = July 2026 - June 2027

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Production

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 wheat production at 140,000 MT, a seven percent increase compared to prior year's projection for MY 2025/26 (Table 1). This expected growth results from expanded planted area, driven by subsidized input costs and decreased insecurity in wheat-planting regions. Government of Nigeria and private sector support enables wheat producers to absorb higher input costs better than rice and corn producers.

According to contacts, wheat farmers are expected to receive increased input subsidies as the 2027 election season nears and candidates seek support from farming communities. Wheat production is expected to increase in MY 2026/27 due to government subsidies reaching farmers in time for the upcoming planting season (November 2026), this increase will primarily recover from the decline

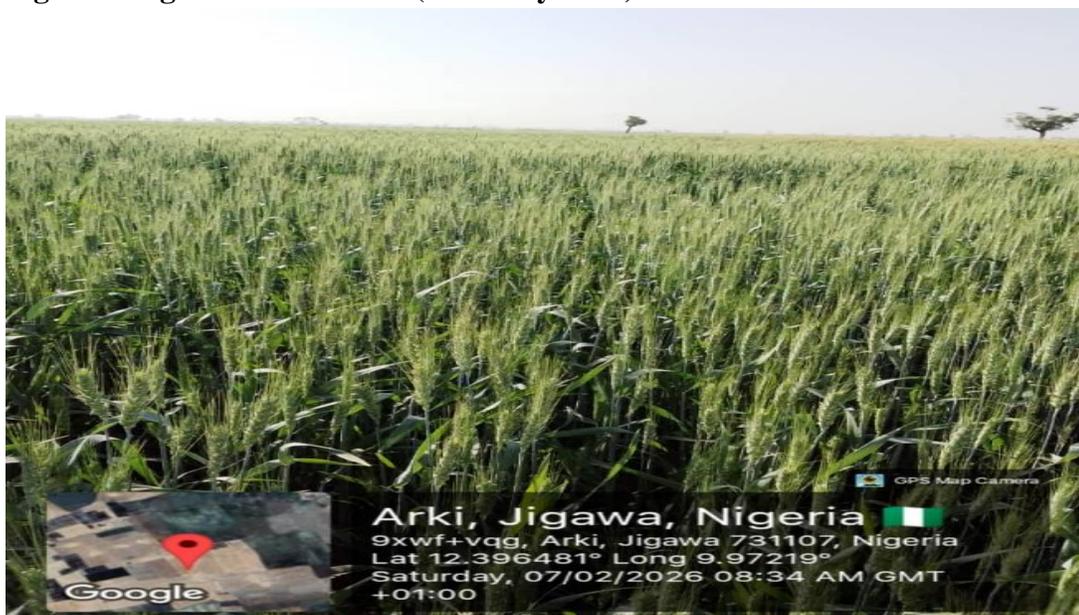
experienced in MY 2025/26. The MY 2025/26 production decline resulted from reduced area harvested after government subsidies arrived too late for the November 2025 planting season, leading to a smaller March 2026 harvest.

Jigawa and Kano states (Figures 1 and 2) account for over 70 percent of Nigeria's wheat production. Notably, more producing states are increasing production after nearly a decade of security challenges, with expanded area planted during the last marketing year.

Figure 1. Kano State Wheat (February 2026)



Figure 2. Jigawa State Wheat (February 2026)



Source: FAS-Lagos

Consumption

FAS-Lagos projects wheat consumption in MY 2026/27 to increase by six percent, reaching 6.8 MMT, compared to the MY 2025/26 forecast. This growth is attributed to improved macroeconomic conditions, a stable naira exchange rate against the dollar, and enhanced consumer purchasing power. The reduction in prices for wheat products is also expected to contribute to higher consumption.

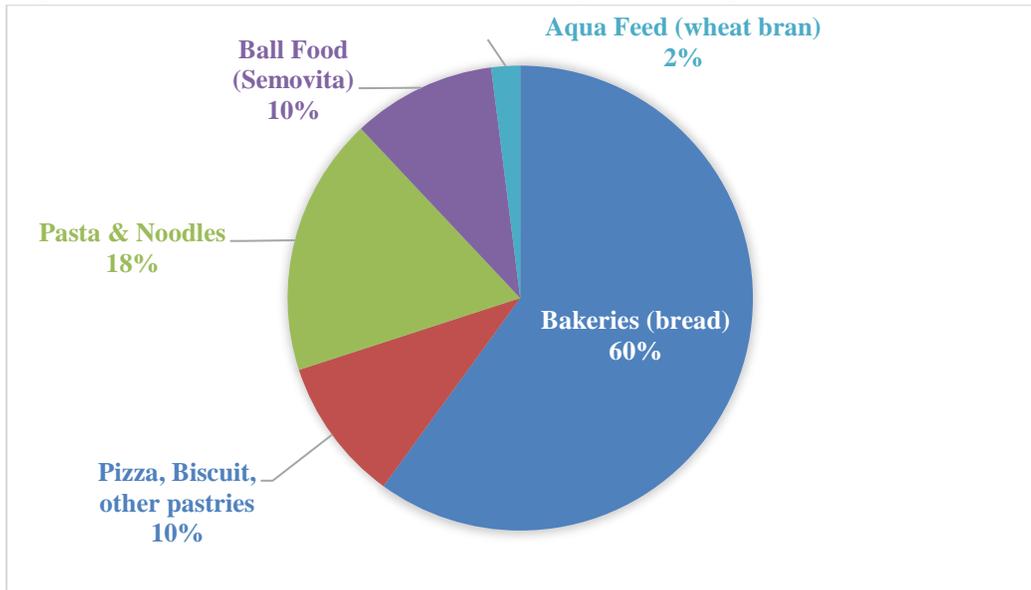
Many Nigerians have reportedly increased their consumption of wheat-based products due to favorable prices. Food inflation in Nigeria showed a significant year-on-year decrease in early 2026 compared to 2025, driven by the [National Bureau of Statistics](#) adopting a new 2024 base year inflation calculation. Following a 26 percent inflation rate in January 2025, food inflation dropped to 8.9 percent in February 2026.

It is estimated that more than half of Nigeria's people regularly consume processed food products. Bread, semolina, durum pasta, and other wheat flour-based products are major staples in urban areas. According to FAS-Lagos contacts, 60 percent of wheat flour is utilized by bakeries to bake bread (Figure 3). The Premium Bread Bakers Association of Nigeria reported that the cost of bread has stabilized between January 2025 and January 2026, compared to 2024, when prices increased year-over-year by 53 percent from 2023.

Supermarket operators have reported increased demand for wheat products such as bread and noodles. Flour milling contacts noted that production costs, which were driven by higher priced wheat imports, energy, and fuel costs in 2023-2024, have subsided, thereby making the milling business more profitable. The domestic wheat milling industry continues to expand to support growth in domestic consumption, particularly in the bakery sector.

Traditionally, wheat by-products (e.g., wheat bran) are used in animal feed. Flour milled from local wheat is generally not suitable for manufacturing bread, pasta, and noodles. This is largely due to the low protein content of the locally produced wheat. However, local wheat flour is used in preparing traditional meals in Nigeria and the Sahel region.

Figure 3. Estimated Wheat Flour Consumption in Nigeria



Source: FAS-Lagos

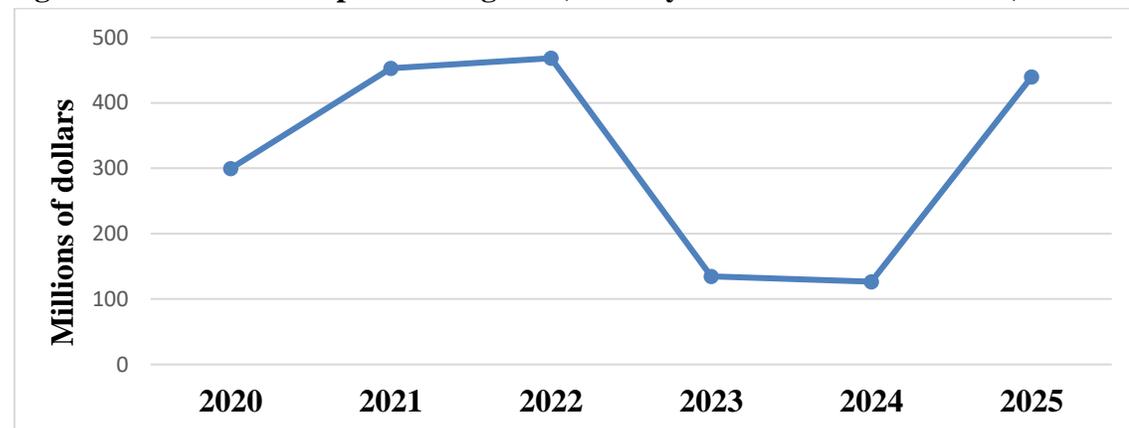
TRADE

Imports

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 wheat imports at 7.2 MMT, an increase of about seven percent compared to the estimate for MY 2025/26. This increase is attributed to foreign exchange stability, availability of forex, and the uptick in consumer wheat product consumption.

According to USDA/FAS [BICO data](#) from January to November 2025, Nigeria was the fifth largest destination for U.S. wheat at \$440 million, a 248 percent increase from same period in 2024. Post expects additional U.S. wheat exports to Nigeria in MY 2026/27, as major mills planned to import more U.S. wheat this year due to favorable price and quality.

Figure 4. U.S. Wheat Exports to Nigeria (January to November 2020-2025)



Source: USDA/FAS [BICO data](#)

Exports

Wheat exports in MY 2026/27 are forecast at 400,000 MT, unchanged from MY 2025/26 estimates. This is attributed to the expected increase in wheat production after the decline experienced in the last marketing year. The anticipated MY 2026/27 production recovery is expected to stabilize rather than expand exportable supplies, keeping exports flat year-over-year.

Informal trade across Nigeria's northern and western borders continues to influence export flows. This corridor borders about seven wheat producing northern states and is a historical informal trade route with the Sahel. About half of the locally produced wheat finds its way to the corridors.

STOCKS

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 ending stocks at 577,000 MT, a 32 percent increase compared to MY 2025/26 estimate. Higher anticipated imports are expected to drive the increase in ending stocks.

CORN

Table 2. Corn Production, Supply and Distribution

Corn Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	5063	5063	5200	5200	0	4800
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	564	564	331	331	0	271
Production (1000 MT)	11217	11217	11440	11440	0	10900
MY Imports (1000 MT)	425	425	250	250	0	650
TY Imports (1000 MT)	425	425	250	250	0	650
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	85	85	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	12206	12206	12021	12021	0	11821
MY Exports (1000 MT)	75	75	50	50	0	50
TY Exports (1000 MT)	75	75	50	50	0	50
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	4800	4800	4900	4900	0	4900
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	7000	7000	6800	6800	0	6800
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	11800	11800	11700	11700	0	11700
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	331	331	271	271	0	71
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	12206	12206	12021	12021	0	11821
Yield (MT/HA)	2.2155	2.2155	2.2	2.2	0	2.2708

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Corn begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027

PRODUCTION

FAS-Lagos forecasts MY 2026/27 production at 10.9 MMT (Table 2), a five percent decrease compared to the prior year. This decline is attributed to an estimated reduction in harvested area, driven by high input costs and declining corn prices.

According to contacts, during the MY2025/26 corn harvest, the price of a 50-kilogram bag of fertilizer increased by about 50 percent, compared to the prior planting season, resulting in a price-cost squeeze that trapped farmers between high input costs and low farmgate revenue. The difficult pricing left farmers unable to substantially cover increased production expenses, which included fertilizer, herbicides, fuel, and labor costs that had for some reportedly doubled or tripled within the past year, leading to considerable financial losses.

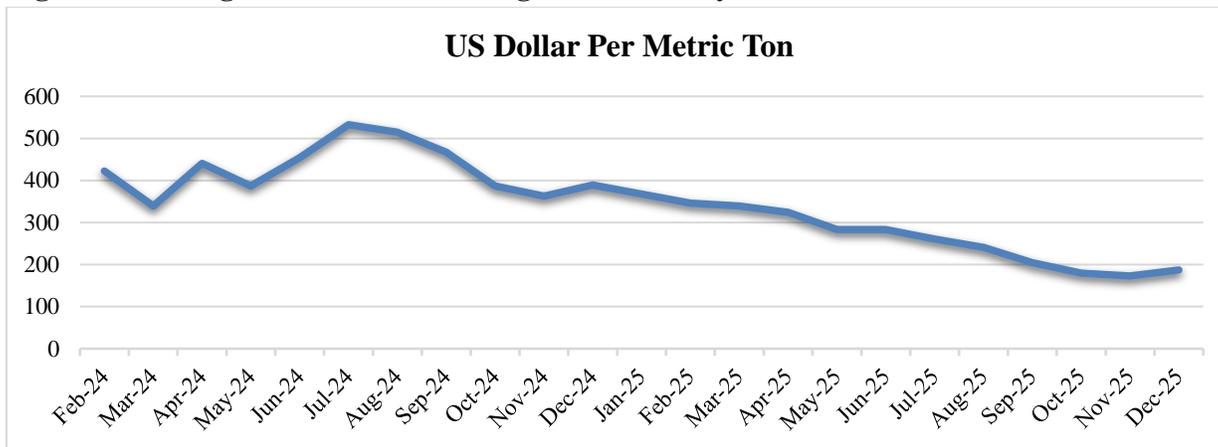
Some corn farmers are beginning to diversify into soybean production, considering that it currently offers better economic value and profitability compared to corn production. Meanwhile, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) forecast does not favor early planting of crops like corn, as farmers are being warned against acting on "pseudo rains." Post forecasts harvested area in MY 2026/27 at 4.8 million hectares, an eight percent decrease compared to the prior year projection.

Consumption

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 consumption at 11.7 MMT, unchanged from the MY 2025/26 projection. Despite favorable market conditions including lower corn prices, a stable naira exchange rate with the dollar, and improved consumer purchasing power, consumption is expected to remain flat.

Nigeria's corn market has transitioned to favor buyers, marked by dramatically reduced prices. Local farmers have borne the most immediate and significant consequences of this price drop as opposed to consumers. In December 2025, corn prices declined by approximately 52 percent from the previous year's highs, with farmgate prices dropping to USD 187–190 per metric ton (Figure 5). Lower world corn prices are anticipated to further moderate Nigeria's corn prices and enhance affordability and availability for millers and processors.

Figure 5. Average Price of Corn in Nigeria (February 2024 to December 2025)

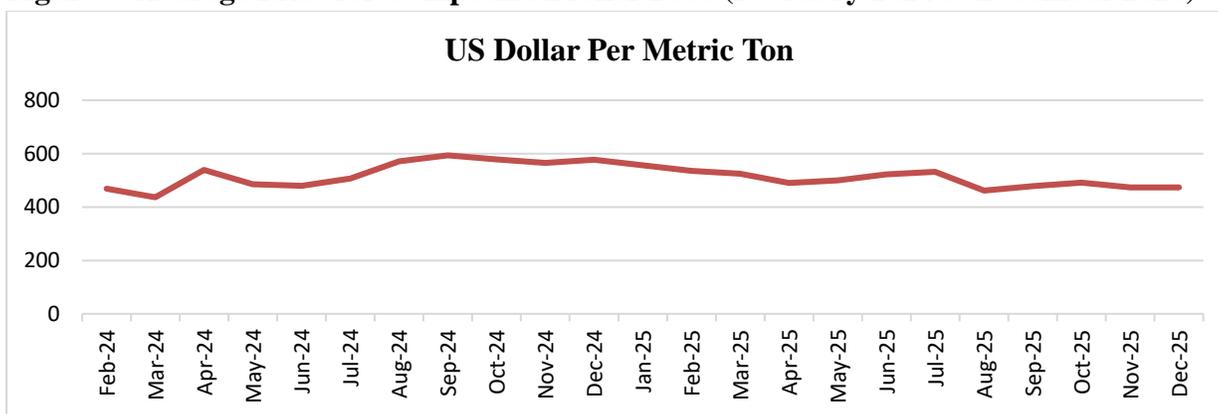


Source: [U.S. Grains & Bioproducts Council](#)

As Nigeria's 2027 election season approaches, food prices may experience temporary relief due to pre-election palliatives commonly distributed by political parties seeking voter support. Global grain prices are expected to decline relative to domestic prices, and the recent strengthening of the naira against the dollar is expected to persist. These factors combined may make imports more cost-effective, potentially enabling politicians to import corn and other staples for distribution as palliatives. While the decline in production might result in a slight supply gap, the palliatives could provide relief and prevent inflation that would otherwise reduce consumption, thereby helping to stabilize it. This could temporarily increase supply and reduce prices in local markets, particularly in rural areas.

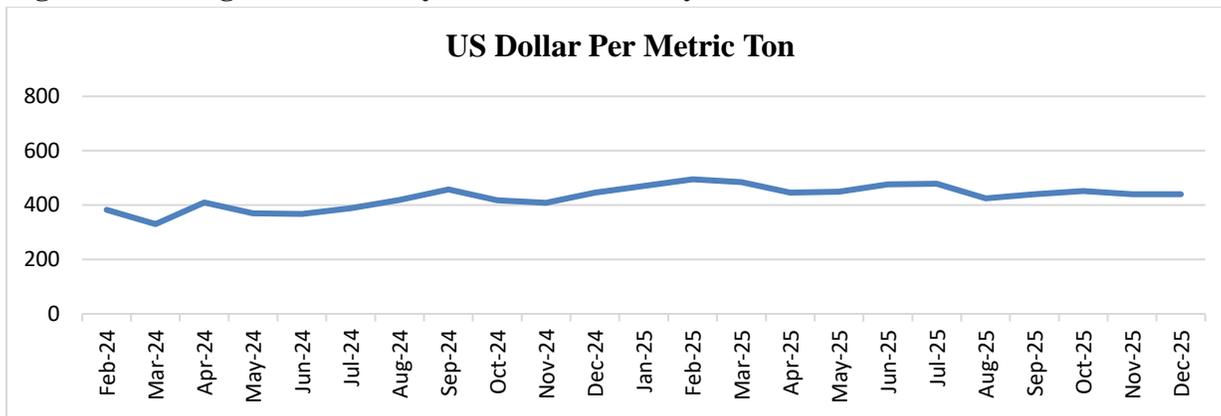
The decline in corn prices has had a ripple effect on feed costs, particularly benefiting feed millers more than poultry farmers. Feeding costs in poultry farming generally account for 60 to 70 percent of total operating expenses, making it the largest single expense for most producers. Of all feed components, corn constitutes approximately 65 percent of poultry feed, but the dramatic decline in corn prices has not resulted in a corresponding decline in feed prices supplied by millers (Figure 6 and 7).

Figure 6. Average Price for Compound Broiler Feed (February 2024 to December 2025)



Source: [U.S. Grains & Bioproducts Council](#)

Figure 7. Average Price for Layers Feed (February 2024 to December 2025)



Source: [U.S. Grains & Bioproducts Council](#)

[In February 2026, the Poultry Association of Nigeria](#) (PAN) demanded that feed millers urgently reduce finished feed prices, citing a sharp decline in key ingredient costs, such as corn and soy. According to a feed miller, even when raw material ingredients (like corn and soybeans) for poultry feed are relatively cheap, several critical non-ingredient factors directly influence millers' ability to decrease final prices. The inability to reduce feed prices is driven primarily by logistical, energy, and macroeconomic challenges that add significant overhead to commodity costs. For example, due to the erratic public power supply, most mills rely on diesel-powered generators. The poor condition of roads, especially those leading from rural producing areas to more urban milling areas increases transportation costs. Additionally, unofficial charges such as money paid to pass through checkpoints can add about 10 percent to the cost of goods, as transporters pass these costs to the millers.

Most poultry farmers are switching to homemade, cheaper feed formulations rather than buying finished feed from millers and are forming cooperatives for bulk ingredient purchases to maximize profit. One poultry farmer stated:

"My friend and I both produce broilers and layers, and we have switched to milling the feed we use on our farm, which we find very profitable. After milling our own compound layer feed, the cost of producing a 25kg bag was 10,750 naira [\$7], while the same quantity of layer feed from a feed manufacturer costs 16,000 naira [\$11]."

With the mitigation strategies adopted by most poultry farmers, prices of eggs and poultry meat have declined. The price of a crate of 30 eggs ranges between \$3 and \$3.40 depending on size and location, compared to 2023, which ranged between \$4 and \$5. While these factors support continued activity within the broiler and layer sectors, with farmers benefiting from lower operational costs, overall corn consumption is expected to remain stable at previous year's levels. Feed millers, who consume the largest quantity of corn through bulk purchases, now face reduced patronage from poultry farmers. Rather than experiencing increased sales, corn consumption by feed millers is expected to remain flat.

TRADE

Imports

Post forecasts imports for MY 2026/27 at 650,000 MT, a 160 percent increase compared to MY 2025/26. This is attributed to the expected decrease in corn production, which could result in relative corn scarcity, expected increases in consumption, and stabilizing foreign exchange availability. In 2024, the value of corn imports reached \$108 million, or 539,000 MT the highest volume since MY 2020/21, according to Trade Data Monitor (TDM) Inc. This increase followed approximately a 14 percent decline in corn production in 2023. This significant import volume is one of the key factors behind the revised import projection for MY 2026/27. The government may encourage corn imports amid the expected decline in production in order to distribute them as palliatives.

Exports

FAS-Lagos forecasts MY 2026/27 corn exports at 50,000 MT, unchanged from the prior year estimate. This is attributed to the expected increase in domestic demand and anticipated decline in corn production. While corn is on the Nigeria Customs Service export prohibition list, informal trade persists in northern states.

Stocks

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 ending stocks at 71,000 MT, about 74 percent decline compared to the prior year estimate. The decrease is attributed to the expected decline in production.

RICE

Table 3. Rice Production, Supply and Distribution

Rice, Milled Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	4500	4500	4500	4500	0	4200
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1412	1412	2177	2177	0	2421
Milled Production (1000 MT)	5765	5765	5544	5544	0	5244
Rough Production (1000 MT)	9151	9151	8800	8800	0	8324
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	6300	6300	6300	6300	0	6300
MY Imports (1000 MT)	3300	3300	3200	3200	0	3500
TY Imports (1000 MT)	2900	2900	3200	3200	0	3500
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	10477	10477	10921	10921	0	11165
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	8300	8300	8500	8500	0	9000

Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	2177	2177	2421	2421	0	2165
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	10477	10477	10921	10921	0	11165
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	2.0336	2.0336	1.9556	1.9556	0	1.9819

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = January 2027 - December 2027

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Production

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 rice production at 8.3 MMT, a six percent decrease compared to the MY 2025/26 projection of 8.8 MMT (Table 3). This decline is attributed to an expected decrease in planted area, insecurity in some producing regions, and elevated input costs. Industry contacts noted that rice production costs have doubled over the last two marketing years. Due to high production costs, harvested area in MY 2026/27 is forecast at 4.2 million hectares, approximately seven percent lower than the 4.5 million hectares in MY 2025/26. One industry contact stated:

"The area of my land planted with rice used to be between 200-300 hectares when I started farming a decade ago. From 2024 until now, I have only been able to cultivate 100 hectares because I am not breaking even. My last harvest only generated enough revenue to cover operational costs, with no profit remaining."

Low rice prices continue to discourage farmers from expanding production, even amid expected increases in rice consumption. According to contacts, informal imports of lower-priced milled or semi-milled rice from India and Thailand enter the market, while domestic unmilled rice prices remain low. Farmers sell their paddy below production costs, and some farmers report difficulty locating buyers. Approximately 60 percent of mills across the country are not currently operational due to the scarcity of paddy. These mills face challenges competing with market rice prices, with some mills having closed and others operating at a loss.

Some rice farmers are exploring diversification into cultivation of sesame, soybean, and black cumin (*Nigella sativa*), which offer lower input costs and export market potential. While some farmers face constraints in accessing optimal input levels for rice production, the majority continue rice cultivation. Rice remains a staple crop across the country, with farmers maintaining moderate planting patterns year after year.

Consumption

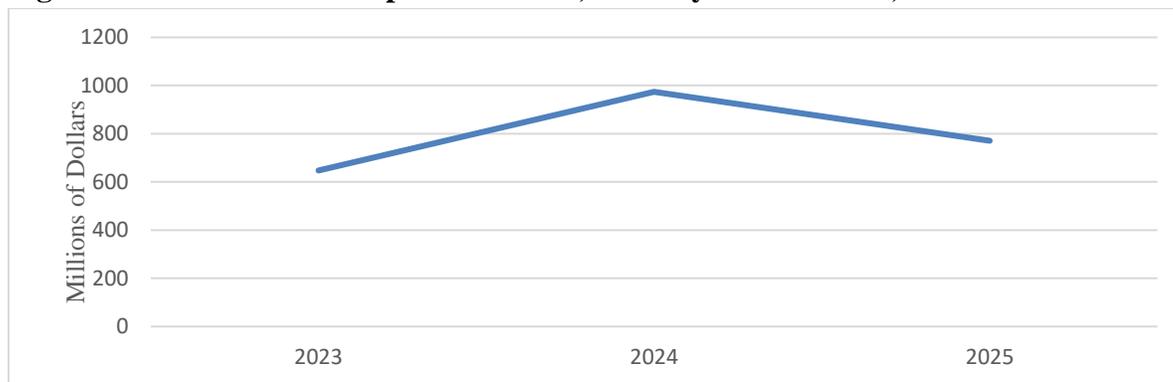
FAS-Lagos forecasts MY 2026/27 rice consumption at 9 MMT, a six percent increase compared to the prior year projection of 8.5 MMT. This increase is attributed to the anticipated decline in domestic rice

prices, driven by informal rice imports and improved consumer purchasing power. Nigeria is a price-sensitive market, which means that lower rice prices would improve consumption.

Per capita rice consumption in Nigeria is approximately 25 kilograms. Being Africa's most populous country, with population growth at 3.2 percent annually, and increasing urbanization, are continuously driving up total demand for staple foods like rice. There is a growing preference for rice over other staples due to its ease of preparation, convenience, and current affordability, which is increasingly favored in urban areas.

According to contacts, as of early 2026, rice sellers in both traditional markets and convenience stores are reporting a significant, oversupply-driven drop in prices, with 50kg bags of local rice selling for \$37–\$44. While consumers are relieved by the increased affordability, traders are experiencing reduced margins due to this surplus, with many expecting low prices to persist. Traders who held stock in anticipation of higher prices are struggling. Despite the current low prices, some traders remain cautious, noting that instability in logistics and security could lead to future price fluctuations. According to Trade Data Monitor, Inc 2025, the value of parboiled rice exports to the Benin Republic declined by about 27 percent compared to the prior year (Figure 8). This is due to the high purchase by Nigeria traders who stocked up in 2024.

Figure 8. Parboiled Rice Imports in Benin, January to November, 2023-2025



Source: Trade Data Monitor, Inc.

TRADE

Imports

Post estimates MY 2026/27 imports at 3.5 MMT, a nine percent increase compared to the prior year estimate of 3.2 MMT. This is attributed to the further decline in the global rice prices, especially from South Asian exporters. Furthermore, imports may be further encouraged by the anticipated increase in rice consumption and the decline in domestic rice production.

Officially, rice imports through land borders are prohibited while there are high tariffs on sea-freight rice imports. However, low import tariffs in neighboring countries have traditionally funneled imported rice to Nigeria through informal trade networks. India is the major source for parboiled rice.

Stocks

FAS-Lagos estimates MY 2026/27 ending stocks at 2.1 MMT. Post foresees a decrease in stocks due to the expected decline in local production and expected increase in consumption.

SORGHUM

Table 4. Sorghum Production, Supply and Distribution

Sorghum Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
Nigeria	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	5246	5246	5320	5320	0	5700
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	121	121	105	105	0	140
Production (1000 MT)	6417	6417	6500	6500	0	7000
MY Imports (1000 MT)	17	17	10	10	0	10
TY Imports (1000 MT)	17	17	10	10	0	11
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	17	17	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	6555	6555	6615	6615	0	7150
MY Exports (1000 MT)	50	50	50	50	0	55
TY Exports (1000 MT)	50	50	50	50	0	55
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	100	100	125	125	0	130
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	6300	6300	6300	6300	0	6800
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	6400	6400	6425	6425	0	6930
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	105	105	140	140	0	165
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	6555	6555	6615	6615	0	7150
Yield (MT/HA)	1.2232	1.2232	1.2218	1.2218	0	1.2281

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Sorghum begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Production

FAS-Lagos forecasts sorghum production in MY 2026/27 at 7 MMT, about eight percent increase compared to the estimate for MY 2025/26 (Table 4). This can be attributed to expansion in area planted due to the growing demand for sorghum as an industrial raw material in the domestic brewing and

milling industries. This increase is also attributed to the crop's tolerance to adverse weather conditions and comparatively inexpensive production costs.

Area harvested in MY 2026/27 is forecast at 5.7 million hectares, about eight percent increase from the MY 2024/25 estimate.

Consumption

Post estimates total consumption in MY 2026/27 at 6.9 MMT, about eight percent increase compared to the 6.4 MMT estimate for MY 2025/26. This estimated increase is attributed to the popularity of sorghum utilization as an alternative to corn in animal feed and use by beverage, cereal, and confectionary manufacturers.

Contacts noted that due to the increasing awareness of using sorghum as an excellent substitute for wheat among households - given the low price of sorghum compared to wheat. In Northern Nigeria, consumers eat sorghum in various forms. Sorghum is consumed in various forms, either as porridge, in a dough eaten with soup, fermented pancakes, flour paste, or roasted grain. Traditionally, Nigerians use fermented sorghum grain for malting and producing local brewing products. It is also used as a seasoning and sweetener.

TRADE

Exports

Post estimates MY 2026/27 exports at 55,000 MT, a 10 percent increase compared to the prior year estimate. The increase is attributed to the expected increase in the production of sorghum.

Attachments:

No Attachments