

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Haiti Agricultural Outlook Following Hurricane Melissa

Country: Haiti

Post: Port-au-Prince

Report Category: Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Between October 22-29, 2025, Melissa, a category five hurricane, brought strong winds and heavy rains to Haiti causing significant damage, particularly in the agricultural sector, where losses are estimated to reach nearly \$65 million. In addition to causing more than 40 fatalities, the hurricane is expected to worsen an already critical food crisis that affects more than half of the population.

Executive Summary

In late October 2025, Hurricane Melissa - a powerful Category 5 storm - battered Haiti with heavy rainfall and strong winds, despite not making direct landfall. Rural farming areas, such as West, Southeast, South, Nippes, Grand'Anse and the northwest departments, were severely impacted. Agricultural damages are estimated at approximately \$65 million, further worsening food security in a country already grappling with acute food shortages.

Agricultural and food consequences of Hurricane Melissa in Haiti

Hurricane Melissa devastated Haiti's agricultural sector, causing losses estimated at over \$65 million, according to a Post contact from the Ministry of Agriculture. The storm, which caused intense rainfall, high winds, flooding and landslides, damaged crop production and agricultural infrastructure in the West, Southeast, South, Nippes, Grand'Anse and the northwest departments - departments that account for nearly 50 percent of the agricultural land used. Melissa also destroyed hydro-agricultural infrastructure and disrupted access to irrigation, jeopardizing essential crops.

With respect to the country's main staple crops, initial assessments indicate losses exceeding 7,200 hectares of corn, mainly in the Grand'Anse and South departments, as well as approximately 900 hectares of rice out of the country's 55,000 hectares in the same departments. These losses are expected to reduce domestic supplies in the short term and increase the country's dependence on imports. The poultry sector has also reported losses of more than 10,000 birds, mainly among small-scale producers, raising concerns with regard to short-term market availability in some of those areas.

The hurricane also damaged rural roads, crucial for connecting production areas to markets, and limited marketing opportunities for producers. Many processing, storage, and commercial infrastructure facilities sustained heavy damage, disrupting local value chains. Livestock farming and fisheries suffered as well. Other crops affected include bananas, yams, Congo peas, vegetables, cassava, and beans. This widespread destruction has reduced the national agricultural supply, restricted physical access to food, increased post-harvest losses and undermined rural incomes, directly fueling greater food insecurity not only in the affected areas but across the country.

Impact of Hurricane Melissa on the MGD Project

The overall impact of Hurricane Melissa on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's signature in-country food assistance project – the McGovern-Dole Food for Education project implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) – was limited as the project areas were relatively far from the path of the storm. However, the northern and northeastern departments experienced above-average rainfall and some minor flooding. Project activities were not affected and continued as normal.

Response from the U.S. Government

The U.S. Government has dedicated \$11 million in financial assistance to support relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa in Haiti. The assistance will focus on interventions in the Grand Sud department, one of the most impacted regions. The funding will prioritize affected communities in the areas of in-kind food assistance, cash payments, distribution of seeds and agricultural tools, replacement of fishing equipment to restore livelihoods, and minor repairs to water supply systems.

Attachments:

No Attachments.