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Report Highlights:

This quarterly publication provides a summary of local and regional developments relevant to U.S. food and agricultural trade covering Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Highlights in the Spring 2021 edition focus on the impact of a wide range of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) activities in the region, including the development of premium market linkages in the cocoa sector, a study conducted by a USDA Borlaug fellow on the nutritional value of a soy-gari blend, and the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Ghana office involvement in a national livestock and fisheries tradeshow.

FAS Accra Regional Ag Developments

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Spring 2021

Disclaimer: This monthly update provides a summary of the regions fast-changing agricultural trade landscape through information gained from field travel, various media sources, host-country contacts, and analysis of agricultural trends. Links are provided where appropriate. Inclusion in this report does not reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. government agency's opinion or policy.

GHANA:

USDA Ghana Office Partners with National Livestock and Fisheries Tradeshow: FAS Ghana and the USDA-funded Ghana Poultry Project partnered with Agrihouse Foundation to support the 3rd Annual Livestock, Poultry and Fisheries (LiPF) tradeshow, which took place on May 21-22 in Accra. The show provided both exhibitions and learning/training opportunities on a broad range of topics in the animal agriculture sector, including standards and certification programs, marketing, logistics, sustainability, and youth engagement. ([MyJoy Online](#))

USDA Borlaug Fellow Publishes Promising Study on Soy-Gari Blend's Nutritional Value: Research led by a USDA Borlaug Fellow on the commercial possibility of using soy flour in a West African staple food, gari, yielded results with the potential to reduce iron deficiency, anemia, and protein-energy malnutrition among gari consumers in Africa. Ghanaian research scientist Leticia Amoakoah Twum and her colleagues at the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Research Institute (BNARI) found that an iron-fortified soy flour-gari blend not only produces a greater yield for consumption, but it also provides an increased nutritional value that traditional gari lacks. Leticia praises her three months at Purdue University in Indiana as a Borlaug Fellow for providing her with valuable food technology training, stating it was part of her motivation to take up this project of improving the nutritional quality of gari. ([WISHH Perspectives](#))

CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

Cote d'Ivoire's Growing Cashew Processing: Cote d'Ivoire, the world's largest cashew exporter, is estimated to now be the third largest cashew nut processor in the world. However, reports of smaller crops in Vietnam and India, which could push those countries to seek more raw cashew nut from other sources, could increase competition for West African supply. ([Commodafrica, RFI](#))

Ivorian Rice Representative Visits U.S. Rice Producing Areas: A representative from Côte d'Ivoire recently visited the United States to link with the U.S. rice industry and explore further trade opportunities. As Côte d'Ivoire scales up its own rice production and milling capacity, there is a potential role for U.S. rough rice exports. ([Stuttgart Daily Reader](#)) The 2021 Côte d'Ivoire Grain & Feed Annual drafted by FAS Accra also provides additional information on the country's rice situation. ([GAIN Report](#))

Local Cotton Industry Projects Production Increase Next Year: Cotton production for the market year 2021/22 is expected to reach 580,000 tons, according to the Professional Association of Cotton Companies of Côte d'Ivoire. 460,000 Ha is expected to be harvested for the 2021/22 campaign, which will increase the rate of production by 4% compared to the 2020/21 campaign. Increase on production is

mainly due to cotton price stability to farmers. The national farm gate price is also one of the highest offered in the West Africa region. ([Commodafrica](#)).

Power cuts in Cote d'Ivoire: The Covid-19 situation, added to a long period of dry weather, have contributed to severe power cuts in the country with negative impact to the agribusiness industry across the region. The very dry weather has significantly reduced the water levels from the hydroelectric dams. This contributed to an energy deficit of around 200 MW, about 10% of the national total capacity. Additionally, Covid-19 has gradually delayed the planned investment made for alternative energy production across the country. Agricultural sectors are highly impacted by the outages, especially the cocoa sector which needs a stable energy source for its grinding machines. According to analysts, the shortage of energy supply could lead to an increase in the price of semi-finished products from cocoa processing and other food processing sectors. ([EcoFin](#)).

Food for Progress Project Creates Premium Market Linkages in the Cocoa Sector: The Maximizing Opportunities in Cocoa Activities (MOCA) project, funded by USDA and led by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA), recently released a case study on working with Ivorian cocoa producer organizations to develop linkages with premium chocolate makers in the United States. ([Fine Chocolate Industry Association](#), [CNFA MOCA Case Study](#))

LIBERIA / SIERRA LEONE / TOGO:

Togo Experiences Sharp Decline in Cotton Production: According to the national cotton company, a range of factors over the last year contributed to Togo's cotton production being cut nearly in half, from 117,000 metric tons (mt) the year prior to 66,000 mt in the current campaign. This comes despite official objectives to increase national production to 225,000 mt by 2025. Singapore-based firm, Olam, recently acquired a majority stake in the country's state-run cotton company. ([Togo First](#))

Attachments:

No Attachments.