



OVERVIEW OF RICE PRODUCTION

Rice has become a highly strategic commodity in West Africa and is the largest source of food calories in the region (Seck et al 2013).

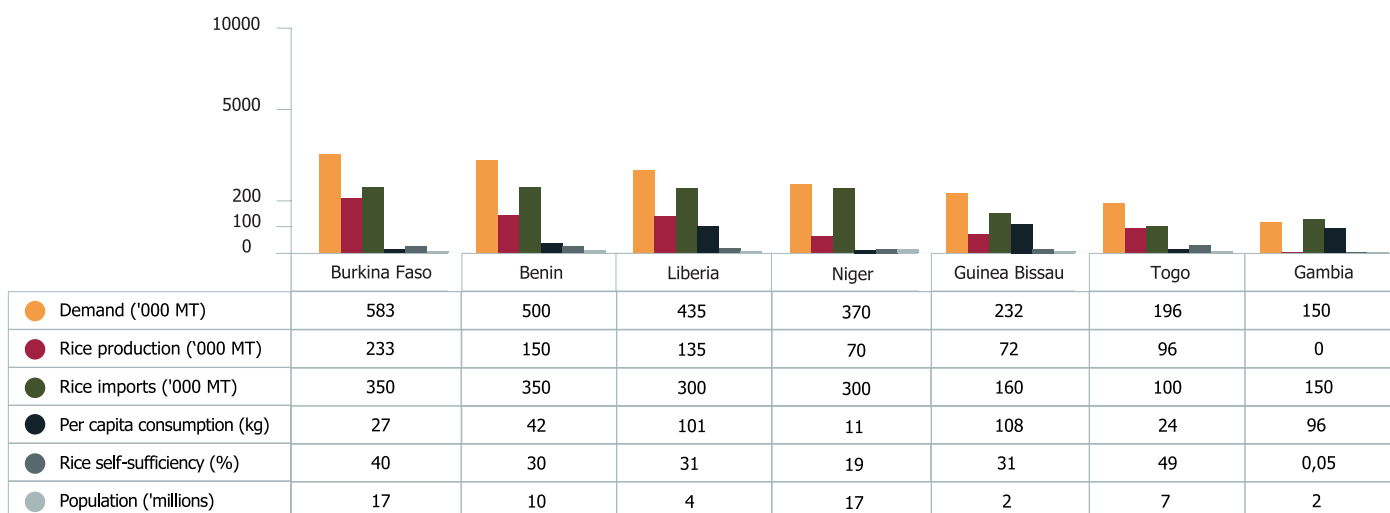
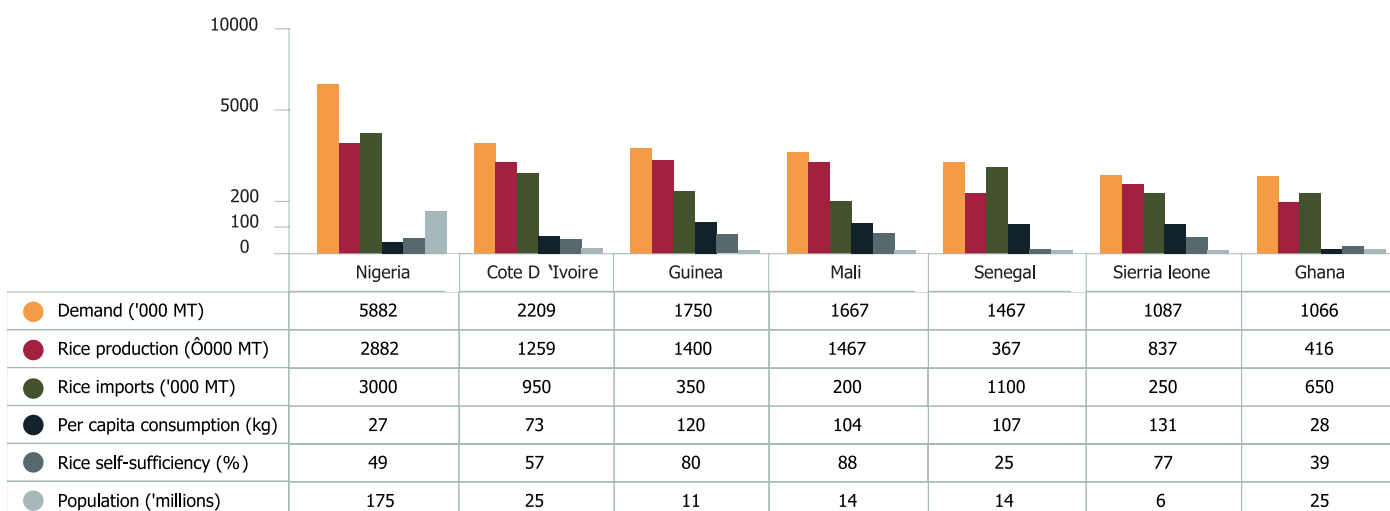
Rice consumption is increasing rapidly because of population growth, urbanization and changes in eating habits, and is the largest source of food calories in the region. A major constraint to rice productivity in the ECOWAS region is the weak linkages between the rice value chain actors.

ECOWAS countries imported around 9 million tons of milled rice in 2014, representing a cost of 4 billion €. EE

SOURCE USDA

¹ Production data unavailable for Cape Verde

ECOWAS RICE SUMMARY



See individual country fact sheets for more detail

VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS

PRODUCTION	PROCESSING	END USE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate irrigation leads to highly volatile Irrigated production is less than 5% of the 233,500 ha of land suitable for irrigation productivity levels • Low levels of farming technologies– mostly rudimentary, for subsistence • Yields hampered by inability to mitigate impact of weeds, insects, and birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional manual processing and outdated equipment of Mill processors generate high physical and quality losses of grains • Bigger mills have difficulty sourcing sufficient quantities of good quality paddy to maintain their facility at full capacity • Power failures increase costs dramatically • Limited use of by-products like husks n straws due to lack of appropriate technology • Limited access to finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local produce passes through several middlemen, squeezing margins for retailers • Perceived high quality of imports because of cleanliness and packaging leads consumers to shun local rice • Fragmented supply dominated by smallholders with low bargaining power • Open market most dominant retail channel

KEY CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACHIEVING SELF SUFFICIENCY

Constraints	Recommendations
Yield	Introduction of high yielding disease resistant short duration varieties.
Access to inputs	Decision support on fertilizer management through technology.
Machinery (traditional manual processing and outdated equipment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Non-motorized, mechanical seeders and weeders. • Power tillers and locally made attachments – a motorized machine for land preparation and transportation of agricultural inputs and crops. • Rice reaper – a motorized machine which cuts rice straw at harvest for threshing. Improved rice milling. • GEM parboiling technology – non-motorized equipment which enhances grain quality and improves energy efficiency.
Land and Water Management	Improving land and water management in inland valley lowlands. The 'Smart-Valleys' approach developed in Benin and Togo doubled farmer yields to 4 t/ha. Inland valleys, with an estimated surface area of 190 million ha in sub-Saharan Africa, will play a crucial role in boosting Africa's rice production in Africa. Irrigation could be extended to about 24 million ha.

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