

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

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## **Report Name:** Grain and Feed Annual

**Country:** Cote d'Ivoire

**Post:** Accra

**Report Category:** Grain and Feed

**Prepared By:** Isaac Yao

**Approved By:** Robert Tuebner

### **Report Highlights:**

Milled rice production for MY 2023/24 is projected at 1.2 million metric tons (MMT) an 11 percent increase from MY 2021/22. Post projects milled rice production for MY 2022/23 at 1.1 MMT, a 3 percent increase from MY 2021/22. Post projects MY 2023/24 imports at 1.4 MMT, a 16 percent decrease from the MY 2021/22 estimate of 1.65 MMT. Stock levels are estimated to be sufficient to satisfy any short-term supply disruptions. For MY 2023/24, Post anticipates a 14 percent increase in corn production to 1.3 MMT compared to the estimated amount of 1.15 MMT for MY 2021/22. Post also forecasts that national consumption of corn for MY 2023/24 will be 1.25 MMT, a 6 percent increase from MY 2021/22. Ending stocks are expected at 198,000 MT for MY 2023/24, an increase from MY 2022/23 when stocks were projected at 168,000 MT.

## *Rice, Milled*

### **Production:**

In MY 2023/24, Post projects milled rice production to increase to 1.2 MMT, an 11 percent increase from MY 2021/22 when milled rice was projected at 1 MMT.

Post estimates MY 2022/23 milled rice production at 1.1 MMT based on paddy rice projections, currently at 1.7 MMT. Production is projected to be three percent higher compared to MY 2021/22.

For the current growing season, irrigated rice accounts for only four percent of the total area harvested. Upland rain-fed rice accounts for 51 percent of the area harvested. Rice grown in lowland floodplains (which has historically been the largest contributor to national production) accounted for 44 percent of the total area harvested this season, a 14 percent decrease from last season. However, average yield in lowlands areas sees a considerable increase of 16 percent compared to last season. This is largely because the Government of Cote d'Ivoire (GOCI) has taken the initiative to rehabilitate lowland areas through development projects. This included the construction of canals, irrigation systems, and drainage systems to improve water management. These projects have motivated farmers to better manage their land and improve rice output.

Total area harvested in MY 2022/23 is unchanged from MY 2021/22. However, MY 2022/23 saw a decrease in average yield for rain-fed upland rice, post estimates a drop of 1 percent compared to the previous season. This is largely due to the fact that this type of cultivation is highly sensitive to variations with the weather and climate change. Rice cultivation of rain-fed upland areas is heavily dependent on rainfall, as it is the primary source of water for crop growth. Therefore, variations in rainfall can significantly affect rice cultivation. Furthermore, variations with the climate can also affect the timing of planting and harvesting. In areas with low rainfall, farmers may have to delay planting until they receive enough rainfall to provide sufficient moisture for the crops. Similarly, in areas with high rainfall, farmers must harvest earlier to prevent damage to the crops from excess water or flooding.

The most significant increase in yield has been observed with rice grown in low land floodplains, up 16 percent from MY 2021/22. Irrigated rice also saw an increase of 15 percent compared to MY 2021/22.

Post expects MY 2023/24 production to be at 1.2 MMT, a slight increase from the current growing season. Post estimates the total area harvested in MY 2023/24 to be 730,000 hectares. Even though variations with the weather and climate change are major concerns for rice producers, increased production costs, mostly due to the rising price of agricultural inputs have raised concerns about meeting national production targets. This growing season, the GOCI provided agricultural inputs to farmers at below market price. This is primarily in response to the ongoing war in Ukraine, which has caused the cost of fertilizers and other inputs to triple in price. Under this initiative, farmers can purchase fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides at 2.6 times less than the actual price. This initiative will help farmers continue rice cultivation and improve food security. The GOCI interventions in the target area is providing a much-needed boost to the agricultural sector while also helping to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

The struggle to meet national production targets is due to the fact that small-scale rice producers continue to use a combination of old and low-quality seed with inconsistent fertilizer usage. According to various sources, up until 2021, improved seed varieties were reaching less than five percent of rice

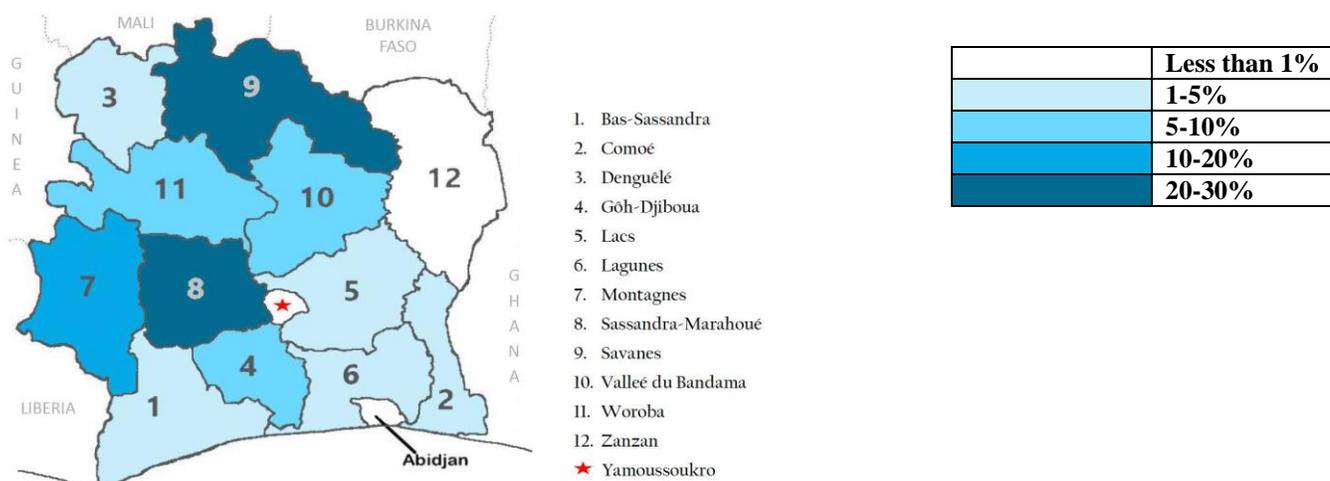
farmers<sup>1</sup>. To improve seed distribution, the GOCI initiated a strategy to develop the seed production sector.

Several years ago, the GOCI delegated seed production and its distribution to the private sector, however, this action led to some challenges in supplying rice producers. These challenges are mostly due to delays in payment for the private companies. To fix current challenges in the seed sector, the GOCI established several seed conditioning centers funded by the Islamic Development Bank. When fully operational, these seven centers will produce an annual seed supply of 26,000 MT. This strategy lays the foundation for a seed sector that meets the needs of modern and intensive rice production. The strategy will be implemented in the departments of Korhogo, Man, Bondoukou, Gagnoa, Odienné, Agboville and Yamoussoukro. It includes three components: the production of improved rice seeds, capacity building in rice seed certification, and the construction of seven regional seed packaging centers. Post expects this strategy to bear fruit soon, however, in the mid-term, Post estimates that MY 2023/24 milled rice production will be stable due to yield decrease.

While lowland and irrigated rice is widely distributed throughout the country, upland rain-fed rice cultivation is concentrated in the northernmost districts of Denguélé, Savanes, Vallée du Bandama, and Woroba. The largest concentration of irrigated rice is in the Sassandra-Marahoué and Montagnes districts, however, this form of rice production is not widely used. Rice producers in the upland growing areas are becoming increasingly concerned about less predictable rainy seasons and prolonged drought.

Côte d'Ivoire is the sixth-largest rice producer in Sub-Saharan Africa, behind Nigeria, Madagascar, Tanzania, Mali, and Guinea. In the current market year, it is estimated that 48 percent of the national crop will be kept by the producer for household consumption or within the immediate community.

**Figure 1 : Domestic Production Zones & Distribution**



**Share of National Production :**

Source: Agence pour le Développement de la Filière Riz en Côte d'Ivoire (ADERIZ)

<sup>1</sup> <https://cotedivoire.un.org/fr/142461-la-c-c3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-renforce-sa-production-de-semences-certifi%C3%A9es-pour-atteindre-son>

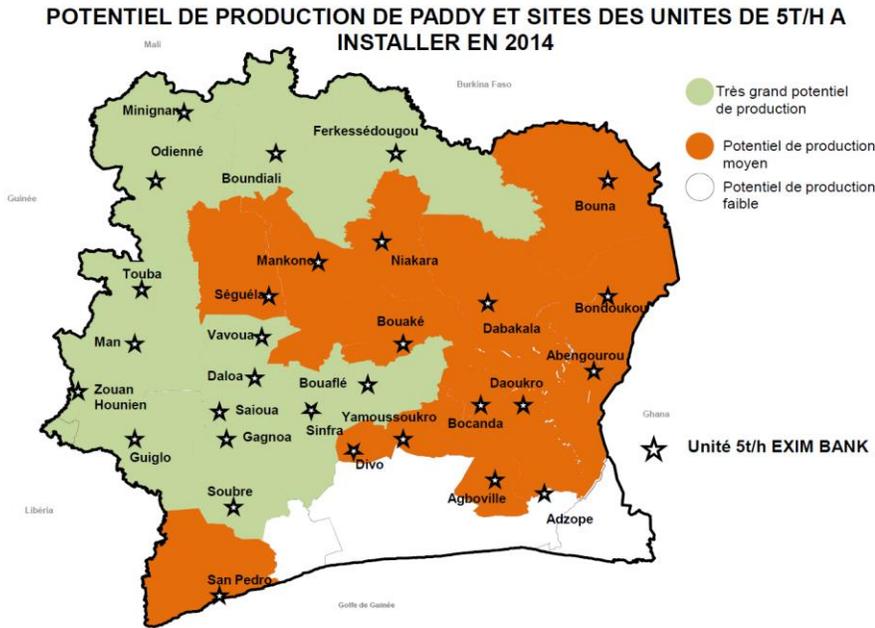
By implementing the 2020-2030 National Rice Development Strategy (SNDR), the GOCI intends to achieve a milled capacity of 2 MMT by 2025. The SNDR aims to enhance domestic milling capacity and provide improved inputs to producers in order to boost Ivorian rice production and competitiveness, with a long-term goal of becoming a regional exporter by 2030. Despite the SNDR's emphasis on increasing productivity and the commitment of the state, industry, and other stakeholders, there are still challenges to overcome, such as facilitating access to better inputs, financing, and infrastructure, which could impede the growth of the sector.

### **Consumption:**

Post projects MY 2023/24 consumption at 2.65 MMT. This is a four percent increase compared to MY 2021/22. This increase in consumption is justified by the annual population growth rate of 2.5 percent and rice is the most in demand cereal grain in the country. Post expects that MY 2022/23 will reach 2.6 MMT. The government of Cote d'Ivoire (GOCI) has set a target to produce 2 million metric tons (MMT) of rice annually by 2025. However, this target may be too low because the production objective does not seem to consider the country's growing demand for rice over the next five years. Unofficial reports show that per capita rice consumption in the country has increased by 20 percent over the last decade, with an estimated 84 kilograms consumed per person annually in 2022. With a growing population and changing dietary habits, it is likely that this trend will continue to rise, making rice imports crucial for the country's food security in the foreseeable future.

Even though domestic rice production in the country is still not meeting national demand, the milling infrastructure has significantly expanded, which aligns with the government's goal of modernizing and expanding this sector. In 2014, the government planned to establish 30 milling facilities which can process five tons of paddy rice per hour. Currently, eighteen mills are operational but are not processing at their full potential. According to various sources 70 percent of the amount produced in the country is milled through small rice milling facilities which produces less than one ton per hour. The GOCI is in the process of establishing another ten rice milling facilities which will produce five tons of milled rice per hour. All the new mills are expected to be managed by private companies.

**Figure 2: Production Zones and Milling facilities**



★ = milling facilities to be installed

Post anticipates that modern mills, which have a processing capacity of five tons per hour, will require additional rough rice to ensure profitability until the national strategy is fully implemented. The companies that operate these mills are a mix of domestic and multinational organizations. Some of the multinational corporations include Louis Dreyfus (LDC), Gan Logis, RMG Concept, and Singapore Agritec. Meanwhile, the two largest domestic companies, Société Ivoirienne de Riz (SIRIZ) and Agricultural Management Company-Food and Commerce (AMC-FC), compete as the two largest national companies.

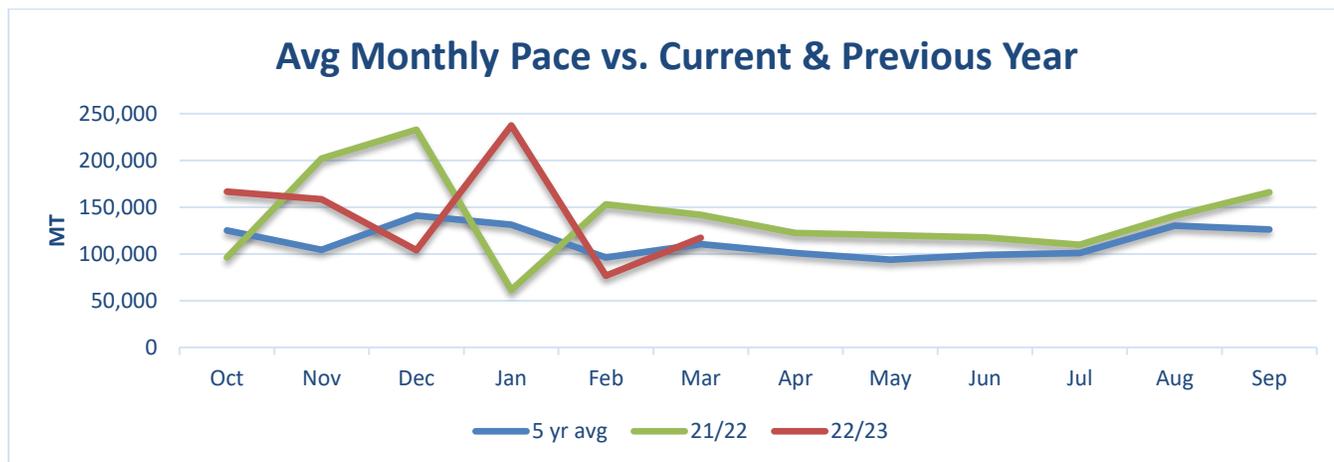
**Trade:**

Post projects MY 2023/24 imports at 1.4 MMT, a 16 percent decrease from the MY 2021/22 estimate of 1.65 MMT. The pace of imports has significantly slowed down in the current year despite production challenges. It is unlikely that this trend will change anytime soon due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and high shipping costs, as well as new export bans imposed by certain Asian countries like India. Although the international rice price index has not changed since the beginning of the Russian invasion, the import bill for rice in West Africa, already high for many countries, looks to increase even higher.<sup>2</sup>

Since February of the current growing season, the country reported a decrease in imports. Imports dropped by 49 percent in February compared to same month the previous year while the import pace in March decreased similarly by 17 percent. Overall, since the beginning of MY 2022/23, imports decreased by 17 percent compared to the last five-year average.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theafricareport.com/245521/nigeria-ghana-senegal-indias-export-restrictions-complicate-rice-supply/>

**Figure 3: Avg. Monthly Pace vs. Current & Previous Year**

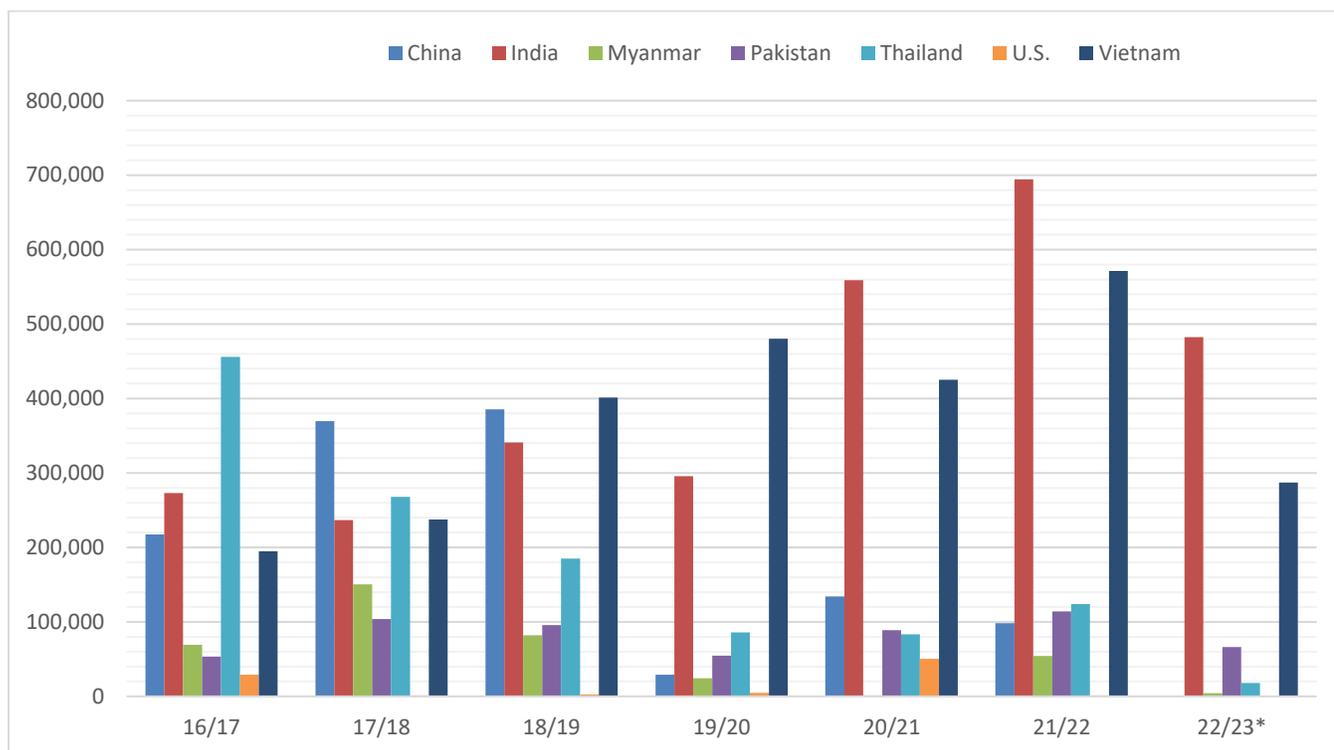


Source : PS&D; \*USDA/Post estimates

Post estimates MY 2022/23 imports to be 1.5 MMT, a nine percent decrease from MY 2021/22. The implementation of a 20 percent tax on high-quality rice exports and a ban on broken rice exports from India is expected to complicate the supply of rice for many West African countries, including Cote d'Ivoire. Despite the efforts made so far to increase domestic rice production, the country is still heavily dependent on Indian rice. This current regulation may explain the current decrease in imports.

Although there has been a slowdown in rice imports over the past two years, Côte d'Ivoire still ranks among the top five largest rice importers globally, sourcing about half of its consumption requirements from the global market. The primary rice exporting countries to Côte d'Ivoire are India, Vietnam, Thailand, and more recently, Pakistan and China. India and Vietnam continue to be the top exporters to the country, followed by Pakistan which has seen an 8 percent increase in imports since the beginning of the current growing season. In Abidjan, two companies are responsible for two-thirds of the country's rice imports, and the Port of Abidjan serves as the main entry point for rice which is consumed domestically and shipped to neighboring countries.

**Figure 4: Major suppliers to Cote d'Ivoire (MY, Oct-Sep)**



Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM); \*YTD, October 2022 – March 2023

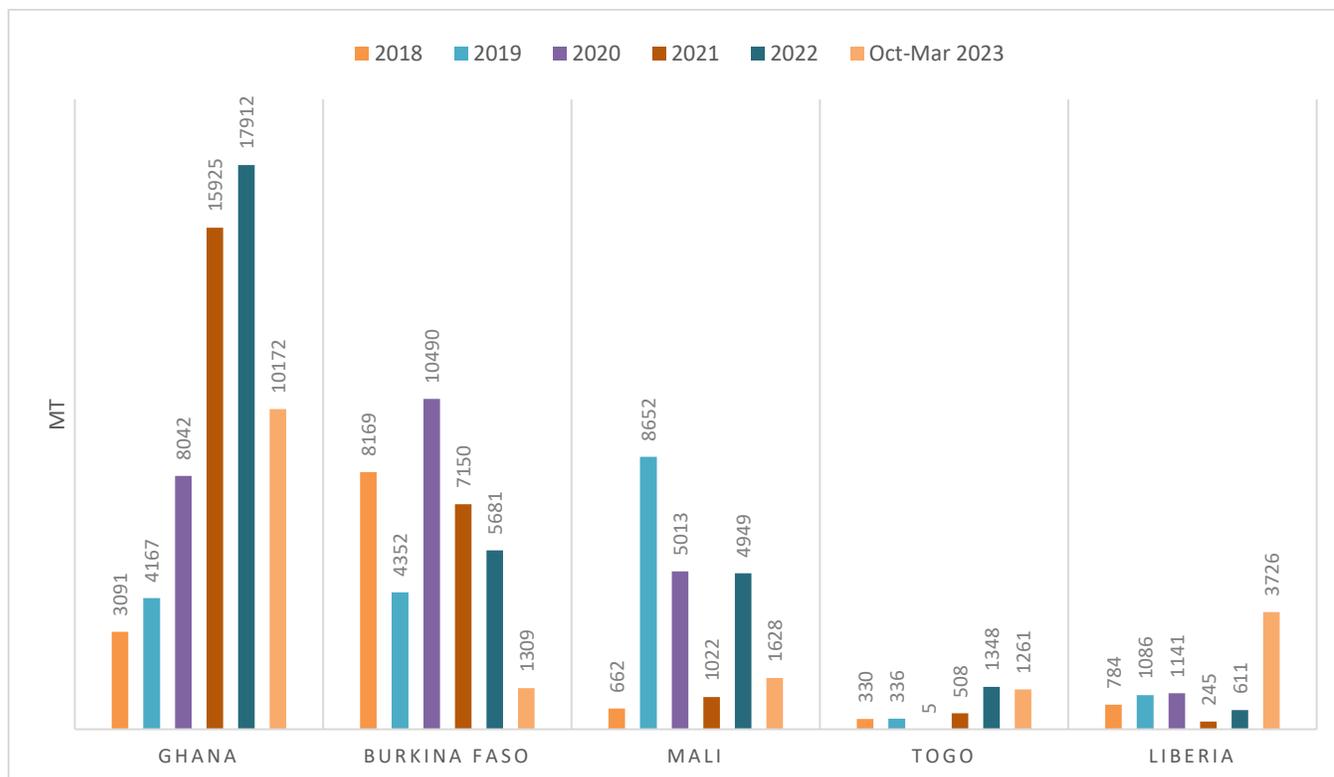
Monetization and food aid aside, American rice has not been present on the market for several years due to its high price compared to other options. Nonetheless, rice products that have an American brand or originate from the U.S. are viewed favorably and associated with superior quality. Many traders and customers remember a time when American rice was more readily available in the local market. However, recent imports have not included U.S. origin rice.

In tandem with the GOCI's goal of achieving an annual output of two million metric tons by 2025, the government is harboring aspirations of becoming a prominent exporter to the region by 2030. However, the quantity of paddy rice exported to neighboring countries has dwindled significantly since MY 2018/19, experiencing a remarkable 97 percent drop until last marketing year. The underlying reasons for this slump are primarily attributed to the political turmoil in some of the neighboring nations, compounded by pandemic-induced disruptions which resulted in the closure of borders.

Nonetheless, a considerable amount of milled rice that has been imported into the country is being shipped off to the sub-regional market. Over the past five years, the export of imported milled rice from various ports within the nation has been steadily increasing at a rate of 23 percent. Historically, Mali and Ghana have been the primary importers, exhibiting respective growth rates of 65 percent and 55 percent over the same five-year period. Agricultural commodities have traditionally been imported into the Sahel markets through Abidjan and other coastal ports. Other coastal countries such as Ghana may benefit from a lack of limitations and slightly lower applicable tariffs on milled rice from Côte d'Ivoire. However, Burkina Faso's pace of imports has diminished by 8 percent in the last two years, primarily

owing to border restrictions. The Port of Abidjan remains a significant transshipment point of Asian origin milled rice to other markets in the region.

**Figure 5: Countries that import rice from Cote d'Ivoire (MY, Oct-Sep)**



Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM); \*YTD, October 2022 – March 2023

Even though there have been some domestic exports comprising of small volumes of paddy rice, which were informally transported to neighboring nations, Post does not expect any significant exports to occur soon. Considering existing data and the reduced level of domestic production, Post's projections suggest that the export of paddy rice for MY 2022/23 will be limited to a maximum of 15,000 metric tons.

**Stocks:**

Post projects MY 2023/24 ending stocks at 190,000 MT. MY 2022/23 ending stocks are estimated at 275,000 MT, down from 283,000 MT in MY 2021/22. Sources indicate that as much as 60 percent of the stocks remain in the possession of the producers and farming organizations even after the culmination of the season. A minor proportion of these stocks will be retained for consumption within the nearby communities.

**Policy:**

In its endeavor to boost domestic production, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted a non-protectionist approach and has refrained from imposing trade restrictions. The GOCI has expressed its desire to compete with imported Asian rice by investing in its own sector and promoting innovation, instead of setting up barriers. The Strategic National Rice Development Plan (SNDR) was initially developed in 2012, with the aim of achieving self-sufficiency in rice production by 2016 through a substantial increase in

domestic production and milling capacity. The latest iteration of the SNDR, approved by the Council of Ministers on March 11, 2020, seeks to build upon the progress made under previous plans while rectifying the mistakes of the past. The overarching objectives of the new SNDR are twofold: A) to ensure self-sufficiency in high quality rice by 2025; and B) to establish Côte d'Ivoire as one of the largest African rice exporters by 2030.

Despite intentions to attain a minimum of 2 MMT of domestic production, the Ivorian government acknowledges that domestic production has remained stagnant in recent years. The rice sector has undergone several changes in the past few growing seasons, with the Office National de Développement de la Riziculture (ONDR) being replaced by the Agence pour le Développement de la Filière du Riz (ADERIZ). Although ADERIZ is essentially the same organization as its predecessor, it has reportedly been granted increased flexibility to fund activities that align with the 2020-2030 Strategic National Rice Development Plan (SNDR) goals. In September 2019, the Ministry of Rice Promotion (MPR) was established by the Ivorian government to address the various challenges within the sector. However, since last year, the government announced that the MPR renamed *Direction de la Promotion du Riz* was integrated into the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and no longer operates as an independent entity.

During its brief existence, MPR initiated a policy to reduce the number of rice varieties in circulation from a hundred cultivated varieties to 5-7 varieties. This new approach was decided on to harmonize the quality of rice reaching factories and different points of sale. The National Agricultural Research Center (CNRA) and the African Rice Center (AfricaRice) signed this into law with the goal to produce and distribute high-yielding certified seeds to farmers.

Recently, the GOCI launched a new policy focused on improving seed supply at the national level and building capacity for its staff to improve the distribution of seeds to producers. This new policy will also establish seven new seed containment centers around the country. When fully operational, these centers will supply up to 26,000 MT of certified seeds annually, a significant increase from the 3,500 MT of seeds currently available. One of the major challenges facing the rice sector, however, is mechanization. Currently, the mechanization rate of the sector is estimated to be five percent while all the actions taken by the government is expected to see an increase in mechanization by 30 percent by 2025. Achieving this target will require further investments in infrastructure and equipment, as well as the adoption of more advanced technologies to improve efficiency and productivity throughout the value chain. Ultimately, the success of the Ivorian rice sector will depend on a coordinated effort by various stakeholders and international funding to address these and other challenges, while creating an enabling environment for sustainable growth and development.

### **Marketing:**

Even though modern milling facilities continue to come online, most milled rice continues to be processed in small and informal milling operations. The milled product is of low quality and rarely packaged or branded in a formal way. The supply chain for imported rice is operated by actors that possess extensive warehousing, purchasing centers, and means of transport that are extremely efficient. Local rice moves through numerous fragmented and informal supply chains in which small quantities are traded without formal packaging, and the storage infrastructure is much less developed. Suitable financing mechanisms for these distributors are also not widely available. Despite all this, a growing number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have recently emerged in the sector with an

integrated approach that spans across the entire value chain. These SMEs are striving to achieve a competitive edge by ensuring the quality of their rice is comparable to that of imported rice. The emergence of these SMEs has led to the rise of local rice brands, which are now being recognized in major supermarkets in Abidjan and other major cities in the country. It is evident that these local brands are gradually gaining market share and are becoming more appealing to consumers. This is a positive development for the local rice sector as it will encourage more investment and growth, leading to increased job opportunities and economic development in the region.

### Production, Supply and Distribution Table:

Rice, Milled	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Oct 2021		Oct 2022		Oct 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Year Begins						
Cote d'Ivoire						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	710	710	720	710	0	730
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	120	120	283	283	0	275
Milled Production (1000 MT)	1078	1078	1105	1112	0	1200
Rough Production (1000 MT)	1658	1658	1700	1711	0	1846
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	6500	6500	6500	6500	0	6500
MY Imports (1000 MT)	1665	1665	1550	1515	0	1400
TY Imports (1000 MT)	1560	1560	1500	1475	0	1350
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	3	3	0	0	0	20
Total Supply (1000 MT)	2863	2863	2938	2910	0	2875
MY Exports (1000 MT)	30	30	30	35	0	35
TY Exports (1000 MT)	20	20	20	36	0	35
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	2550	2550	2600	2600	0	2650
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	283	283	308	275	0	190
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	2863	2863	2938	2910	0	2875
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	2.3352	2.3352	2.3611	2.4099	0	2.5288

(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 2023/2024 = January 2024 - December 2024

*Corn,*

**Production:**

In MY 2023/24, Post projects corn production to increase to 1.3 MMT, a 14 percent increase from MY 2021/22 which is estimated at 1.15 MMT.

Post estimates MY 2022/23 corn production at 1.25 MMT based on current corn projections, a 9 percent increase from production set in MY 2021/22.

During the current growing season Post estimates the area harvested to be at 560,000 hectares, a four percent increase from MY 2020/21. While the crop is well-established throughout the country, larger production areas that produce surplus corn are primarily located in certain regions, notably the Northern part of the country where cotton is also the major cash crop (Savanes, Denguele, Woroba). In these areas, corn is almost always the second most grown crop, planted by most farmers. The production of corn is highly correlated with the production of cotton. Cotton farmers also get access various inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides to grow their crop.

As cotton farmers often receive cotton, rice, and corn seeds from ginning companies, the purchase of seeds is less frequent. According to various sources, corn consistently occupies a prominent position in both its prevalence on agricultural holdings and the extent of land devoted to its cultivation. Since the beginning of MY 2022/23, cotton farmers have been faced with the impact of the jassid insect, which has decreased production by 55 percent. While cotton farmers will continue to grow cotton, Post estimates that farmers will decrease the area planted and focus more on corn production to mitigate future risks from the jassid pest. In comparison to other crops such as cassava, yam or rice, manual cultivation of corn is less labor-intensive and would be the primary choice for many farmers. Post estimates the area harvested for corn to be at 580,000 hectares, an increase of seven percent compared to MY 2021/22.

**Consumption:**

Post forecasts national consumption of corn for MY 2023/24 to be at 1.25 MMT a six percent increase from MY 2021/22.

Post expects national corn consumption to be stable at 1.1 MMT for MY 2022/23, unchanged from the season 2021/22.

Human consumption accounts for up to 60 percent of the total supply, with most of it consumed by the farmers themselves. In general, the market for corn is very active, which gives farmers the flexibility to decide between consuming their own crops, saving them for future use, or selling them in large quantities for a considerable profit.

Feed consumption represents the second major use of corn in the country accounting for up to 40 percent of the total supply. While the industrial usage of corn (excluding animal feed) is still quite low,

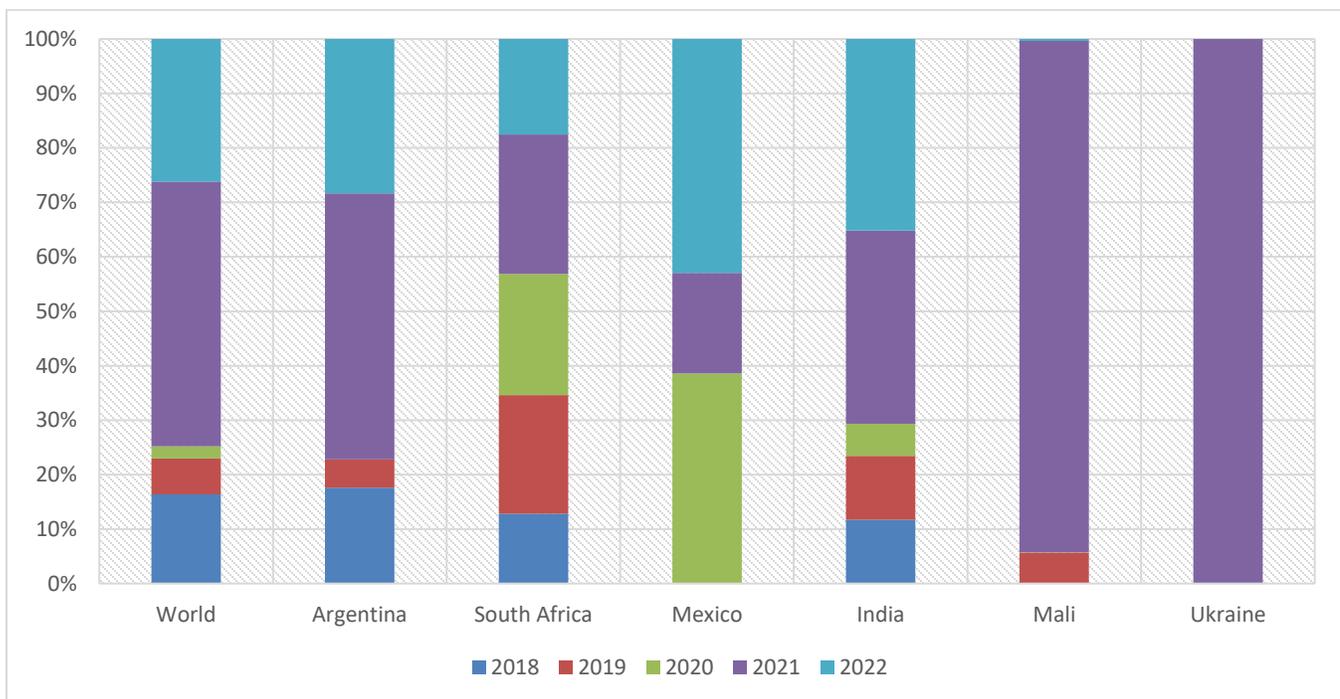
major industrial buyers acquire less than five percent of total production. However, the potential for increasing local industrial demand is significant, particularly if more producers can meet the highly specific quality requirements for the industrial sector.

**Trade:**

Post projects MY 2023/24 imports at 60,000 MT, a 26 percent decrease from MY 2021/22 estimate of 82,000 MT.

Corn imports come mostly from Argentina which accounts for 80 percent of total market over the last five years. Corn from South Africa represents the second largest supply for Cote d’Ivoire while Mali supplies less than five percent. Post expects MY 2022/23 imports to be stable at 60,000 MT. Annual imports remain marginal and are only used to satisfy highly specific quality requirements for the growth of industrial demand, which can resort to the international market. This situation is beneficial for the poultry sector in particular.

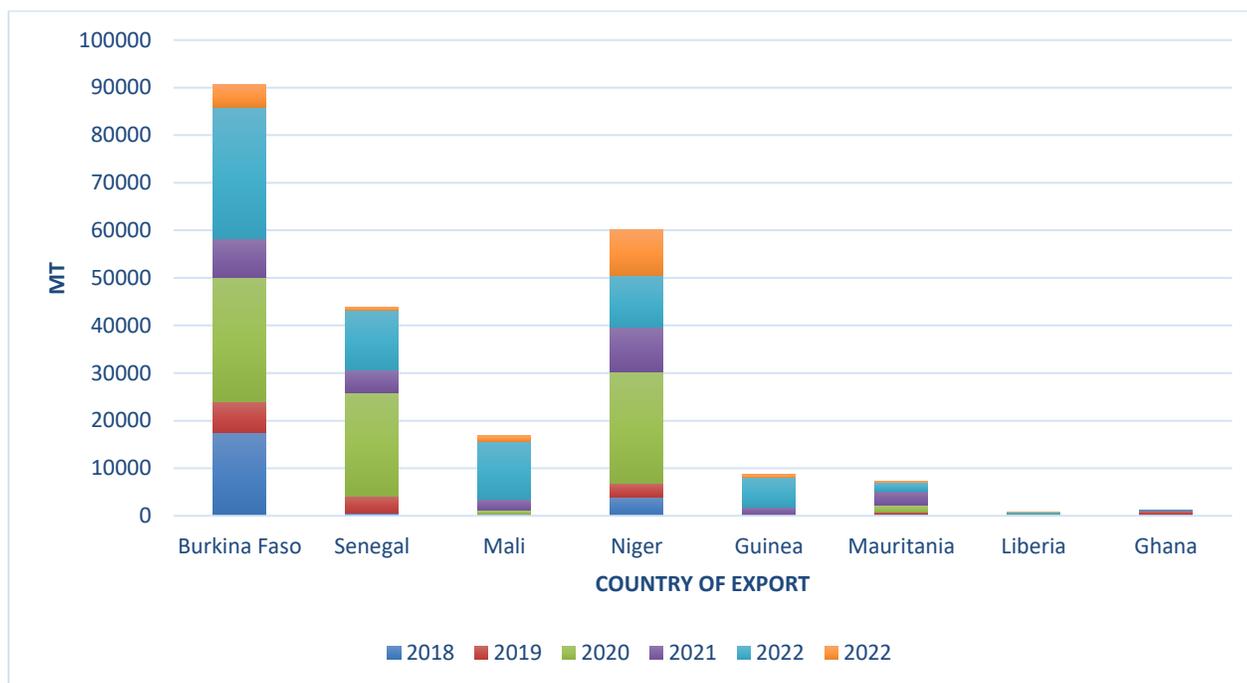
**Figure 6: Share of corn imports to Cote d’Ivoire (Jan-Dec)**



Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM)

Weather related risks in Sahelian countries (Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger) and their heavy reliance on dry cereals makes the corn market there especially vulnerable to volatility while at the same time makes Ivorian corn more attractive in the region. Previous growing seasons saw exports of 25,000 MT of corn to Burkina Faso, and 12,000 MT to Senegal and Mali while Niger imports from Cote d’Ivoire were estimated at 10,000 MT during the same period.

**Figure 7: Historical corn exports from Cote d'Ivoire to the region (Jan-Dec)**



Overall, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal are the three major destinations over the last five years.

**Stocks:**

Post expects ending stocks to reach 198,000 MT for MY 2023/24 while the stocks for the current growing season are estimated at 168,000 MT for MY 2022/23.

**Policy:**

The corn sector has historically been considered a low-priority industry and mostly viewed as raw material for animal production. However, the government has taken action in recent years to revitalize the sector. Several food sector revitalization programs now include corn cultivation in their programs. Additionally, the government intends to address seed issues in the sector. Despite the existence of numerous corn varieties developed by CNRA, the purchase of improved corn seeds through research remains relatively rare.

**Marketing:**

The marketing of corn in Côte d'Ivoire largely follows traditional channels of commerce that are predominantly informal and based on trust. This benefits producers with a diverse range of outlets that ensures easy product flow. Between 25 and 75 percent of corn producers are involved in its commercialization. The cultivation of cotton and the proximity to road networks that facilitate the flow of production appear to be the two main factors favoring the generation of corn surpluses for commercial purposes.

## Production, Supply and Distribution Table:

Corn	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Oct 2021		Oct 2022		Oct 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Year Begins						
Cote d'Ivoire						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	540	540	540	560	0	580
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	104	104	108	108	0	168
Production (1000 MT)	1140	1140	1200	1250	0	1300
MY Imports (1000 MT)	82	82	50	60	0	60
TY Imports (1000 MT)	82	82	50	60	0	60
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1326	1326	1358	1418	0	1528
MY Exports (1000 MT)	53	53	80	80	0	80
TY Exports (1000 MT)	53	53	80	80	0	80
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	65	65	70	420	0	450
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	1100	1100	1100	750	0	800
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	1165	1165	1170	1170	0	1250
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	108	108	108	168	0	198
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1326	1326	1358	1418	0	1528
Yield (MT/HA)	2.1111	2.1111	2.2222	2.2321	0	2.2414

(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 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024

### Attachments:

No Attachments

End of Report