

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Morocco

Grain and Feed Update

Morocco Grain Planting Update

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Report Highlights:

Morocco's grain planting season started under unfavorable weather conditions marked by three months rain delay. Total grain area planted is estimated to be down by 8 percent, at 4.74 million HA. Area planted with common wheat is reported at 1.9 million HA, durum wheat at 918,200 HA and barley at 1.9 million HA. Analysts predict that total grain production in 2010 would not exceed 7.2 million MT, compared to a record production of 10.2 million MT in 2009.

Grain Area Planting

Morocco's grain planting season this year started under unfavorable weather conditions marked by a delay in rainfall for almost three months for the planting season which normally starts in mid September. Estimates of the Moroccan Government show that a total of 4,738,800 HA of grain planting were completed by the end of January, of which about 1,910,700 HA of common wheat, 918,200 HA of durum wheat and 1,909,900 HA of barley.

The table below shows the breakdown of area planted to major grain crops in Morocco in this year compared to area planted in the previous years:

	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>Change</u>
Crop			
Durum Wheat	918,200	968,600	- 5%
Common Wheat	1,910,700	2,009,000	-5%
<u>Barley</u>	<u>1,909,900</u>	<u>2,182,800</u>	<u>-13%</u>
Total	4,738,800	5,160,4	-8%

Weather Conditions

Cumulative rainfall during the first three months of the planting season did not exceed 75 mm, representing a deficit of 20 percent compared to a normal year, and down about 60percent from rainfall levels in the previous season. In late November and early December 2009, however, rainfalls came very heavy throughout the country at rates exceeding historical averages. This prompted some farmers to resume grain plantings in several areas. There are indications that the crop situation has significantly improved and there have been noticeable increase in the groundwater supply and dam storage capacities this year.

As of end of January 2010, total water reserves for agricultural uses in Moroccan dams was estimated at about 12.05 billion cubic meters, compared 9.03 billion cubic meters for the same time period last year. Due to heavy rains and flooding situations, however, there has been some damage to the crops in the Gharb region. The crop damage in this region reported to be about 50,000 HA for cereals, in addition to 800 HA of sugar cane and 1500 HA of sugar beet.

Analysts predict that total grain production for MY 2010/2011 could reach about 7.2 million MT. It is worth mentioning that Morocco's total grain production in MY 2009/10 reached a record level of 10.2

million MT, with wheat production estimated at 6.4 million tons, of which about 2.1 million tons of durum and 4.3 million tons of common wheat. Barley production was estimated at 3.8 million tons.