



Agricultural Sector

A Top Export Prospect for Haiti

September 2013

Overview

The exodus of the rural population to major cities, coupled with a lack of agricultural capitalization, has hindered the development of food crops. Haiti imports most of its basic agricultural products due to an inability to produce enough food to meet domestic demand. In addition, roads to transport major food production inside the country are poor to nonexistent. The major food imports are cereals, vegetable fats and oils, dairy products, meat and poultry. U.S. exports of rice, processed food, wheat, and poultry are good market prospects. According to Haitian Central Bank (BRH) figures, Haiti's food

Sub-Sector Best Prospects

- Rice
- Cereal products; malt, starch, insulin, wheat gluten
- Meat and edible meat offal
- Animal and vegetable fats, oils
- Miscellaneous Food Preparations

Rice

Cereals are very important to the Haitian diet and rice is the main staple food. Eighty percent of rice consumed in Haiti is imported. The U.S. is especially competitive in medium quality (10 to 20 percent broken) milled rice and in best quality (2 percent) broken rice. The total amount of rice imported from the U.S. in 2012 was USD 197.7 million, which represents approximately 58 percent of total U.S. food exports to Haiti, valued at USD 340 million, and 79 percent of Haiti's total rice imports. U.S. exports of milled rice consist of 50 kg bags.

Statistical Data (USD Millions)

	2010	2011	2012
Total Market Size	299.7	305.4	439.4
Total Local Production	89.7	82.7	67

Total Exports	0	0	0
Total Imports	210	222.7	250
Total Imports from the U.S.	159.6	160.6	197.7

Figures are in million USD. U.S. figures derived from the U.S. Census Bureau and Trade Map - International Trade Centre.

Cereal Products -- Malt, Starch, and Wheat Gluten

After rice, other cereal products are the second largest category of U.S. agricultural exports to Haiti. The United States remain Haiti's largest supplier for rice, wheat, sorghum and millet over the past 3 years, while the Dominican Republic has become Haiti's largest corn provider. Cereal products, especially wheat and flour, are main components of the Haitian diet. Haiti, however, does not produce sufficient milled grains to satisfy domestic demand. U.S. exports of all cereal products reached USD 179 million in 2011 and USD 228 million in 2012.

Statistical Data (USD Millions)

	2010	2011	2012
Total Market Size	525.4	564.4	712
Total Local Production	311	331	317
Total Exports	0	0	0
Total Imports	214.4	233.4	395
Total Imports from the US	185	179	228

Figures are in million USD. U.S. figures derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, World Bank and Trade Map - International Trade Centre.

Poultry, Meat and Edible Meat Offal

The U.S. is the second major supplier of poultry (after the Dominican Republic). The increase in U.S. poultry imports is due to the illness of chickens as well as the high price of chicken feed and the closing of many Haitian poultry farms over the years. Following the detection of the H5N2 avian flu virus in the Dominican Republic, a ban on Dominican poultry and eggs products was instituted January 7, 2008, and technically remains in effect today. These

developments led to an increase in the import value of U.S. poultry and egg products in 2008. In 2012, chicken and meat imports from the U.S. reached valued USD 73 million, up from USD 67.8 million in 2011.

Statistical Data (USD Millions)

	2010	2011	2012
Total Market Size	82	85.6	**
Total Local Production	40	44	**
Total Exports	0	0	0
Total Imports	62.2	84.4	**
Total Imports from the US	49	67.8	73

** : Not Available

Figures are in million USD. U.S. figures derived from the U.S. Census Bureau and Trade Map - International Trade Centre.

Animal and Vegetable Fats

Most imported oils used to prepare food are received in large containers and then redistributed into smaller bottles by importers. The local sales preference is to use 8 to 10 ounce bottles for distribution.

Statistical Data (USD Millions)

	2010	2011	2012
Total Market Size	129.4	164.8	**
Total Local Production	**	**	**
Total Exports	0	0	0
Total Imports	129.4	164.8	**
Total Imports from the U.S.	40.8	28.8	14.3

** : Not Available

Figures are in million USD. U.S. figures derived from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Miscellaneous Processed Food

The total value of prepared foods exported to Haiti from the United States was USD 31.5 million in 2010, and declined to USD 18.9 million in 2011. Processed food imports from the U.S. reached USD 18.7 million for 2012. Haitian production of miscellaneous processed food products is controlled by the informal sector and accurate figures are unavailable for local production, and exports.

Statistical Data (USD Millions)

	2010	2011	2012
Total Market Size	73.5	69.5	74
Total Local Production	0	**	**
Total Exports	0	0	0
Total Imports	73.5	69.5	74
Total Imports from the US	31.5	18.9	18.7

** : Not Available

Figures are in million USD. U.S. figures derived from the U.S. Census Bureau and Trade Map - International Trade Centre.

For More Information

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