



2017/18 Guyana Rice Production Higher than Expected

2017/18 rice production in Guyana is expected to total 928,000 metric tons (mt) on a paddy basis, or 8 percent above 2016/17. Yield is forecast at 5.16 metric tons per hectare (mt/ha) this season, 8 percent above last year’s yield of 4.79 mt/ha. Harvested area is estimated at a total of 180,000 hectares (ha) for both the first and second crops, similar to 2016/17. Guyana produces two rice crops per year. For 2017/18 the first crop was planted from December 2016 through February 2017 and harvested from March through June 2017. The second crop was planted May through July and harvested from September through December.

Heavy rains during January 2017 in coastal growing Regions 2, 3, and 5 (Figure 1) slowed seeding and field activities for the first rice crop but very favorable conditions followed. Unusually low abandonment of about four percent in the first-crop rice also supported the larger production estimate. Estimated production of the first-crop rice is 526,702 mt, or over 8 million bags (Figure 2). This is greater than the previous three years. Average yield from the first-crop is estimated at 5.80 mt/ha. The first crop rice harvested area is estimated slightly above 90,000 ha.

In Regions 5 and 6 the second-crop rice (Figure 3) endured dry conditions in mid-October 2017, accelerating plant maturation and essentially lowering yield. Harvesting of the second rice crop is now complete. Guyana typically produces about half of its total annual rice in the first-crop and the other half from the second-crop.

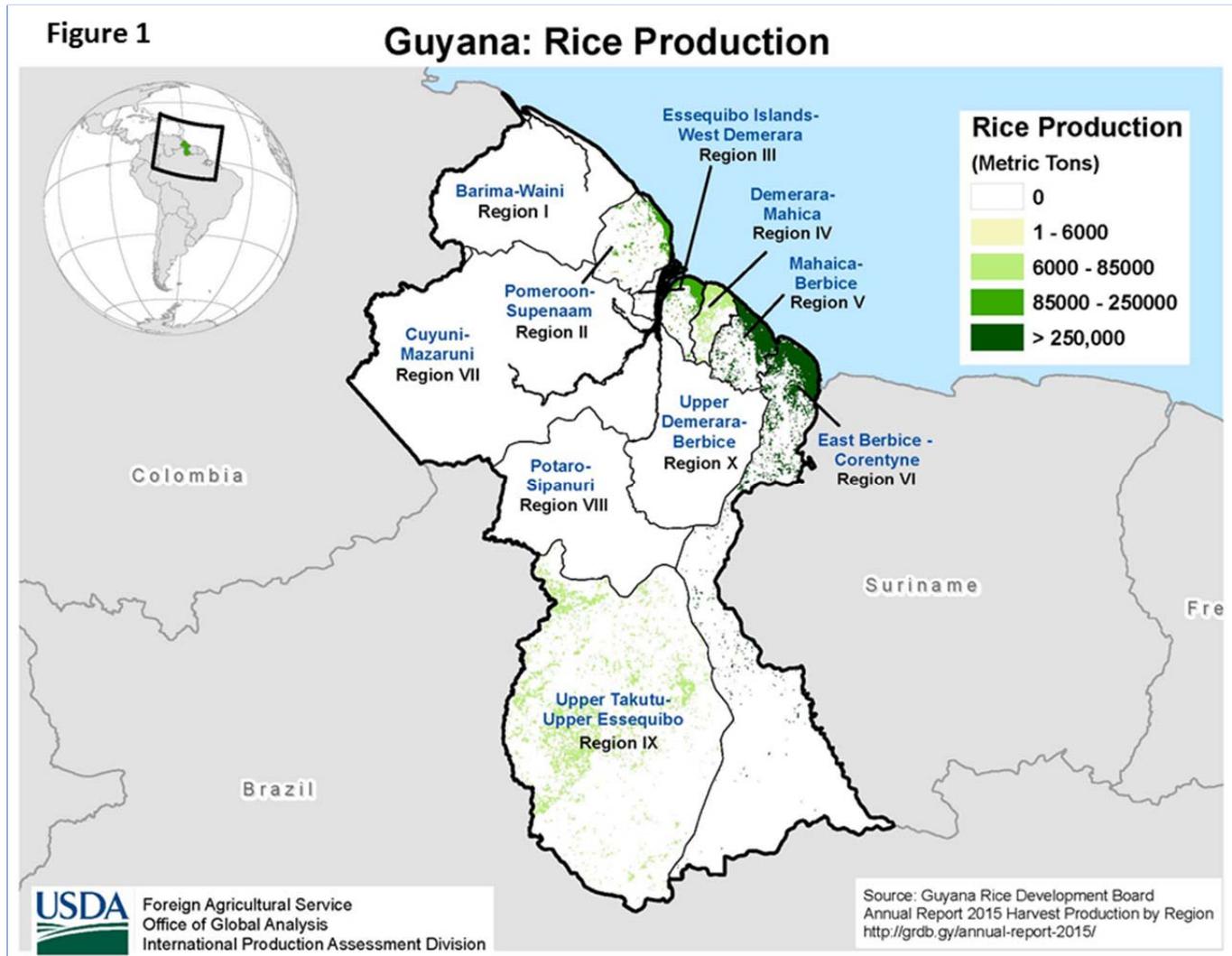




Figure 2. Sacks of rice being examined at a field day organized last year by the Guyana Rice Development Board. Photo from the Guyana Rice Development Board.

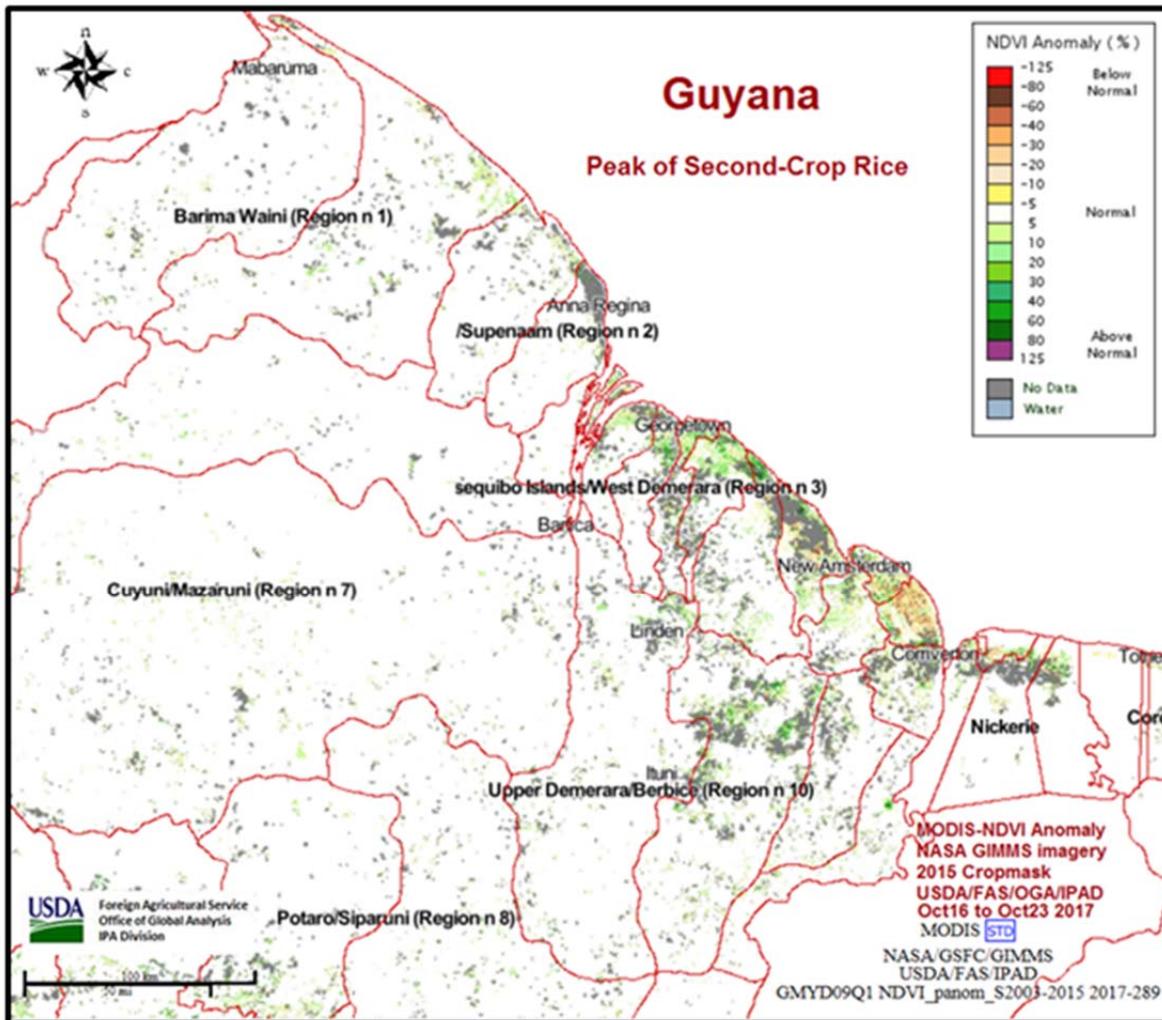


Figure 3. Regions of Guyana crop production and MODIS-NDVI Anomaly of the second-crop rice at its peak during full crop heading back in mid-October 2017, showing some signs of dryness in Region VI and parts of V in the second crop.

FAS [World Agricultural Production \(WAP\)](#) circular
(<https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/world-agricultural-production>)

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