

Foreign Agricultural Service

Global Market Analysis

International Production Assessment Division

Web: <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov>

June 14, 2021

**Commodity
Intelligence
Report****DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RICE: MY 2020/21 HARVEST NEARS COMPLETION FOR THE CARIBBEAN'S LARGEST PRODUCER**

The main season rice harvest in the Dominican Republic is ongoing for the marketing year (MY) 2020/21. USDA estimates rice production for MY 2020/21 at 630,000 metric tons (MT) (milled basis), down 2 percent from the record production in marketing years 2018/19 and 2019/20, but continuing to outpace the 5- and 10-year averages (see Figure 1). The gains in production in recent years are due primarily to increases in area. Harvested area for MY 2020/21 is estimated at 195,000 hectares (ha), down less than 1 percent from record area of 196,000 ha in both MY 2018/19 and MY 2019/20, but above the 5- and 10-year averages. Yield is estimated at 4.82 metric tons per hectare (MT/ha), down only 2 percent from the previous two seasons despite intermittent dryness throughout the season and challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic led to enhanced border restrictions between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, resulting in labor shortages in the agricultural sector, particularly in labor-intensive vegetable production. Remittances in Haiti were also affected since migratory labor from Haiti to Dominican Republic is an important source of funds. However, labor shortages have not been an issue for rice in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic is self-sufficient in rice production and the largest producer in the Caribbean. Rice is primarily grown in the Cibao Valley in northern Dominican Republic, benefiting from regional irrigation systems fed by the watersheds of the Yaque del Norte and Yuna Rivers and their tributaries (see Figure 2). More than 85 percent of total production occurs in six provinces, including Duarte, Monte Cristi, La Vega, Sanchez Ramirez, Maria Trinidad Sanchez, and Valverde (see Figure 3).

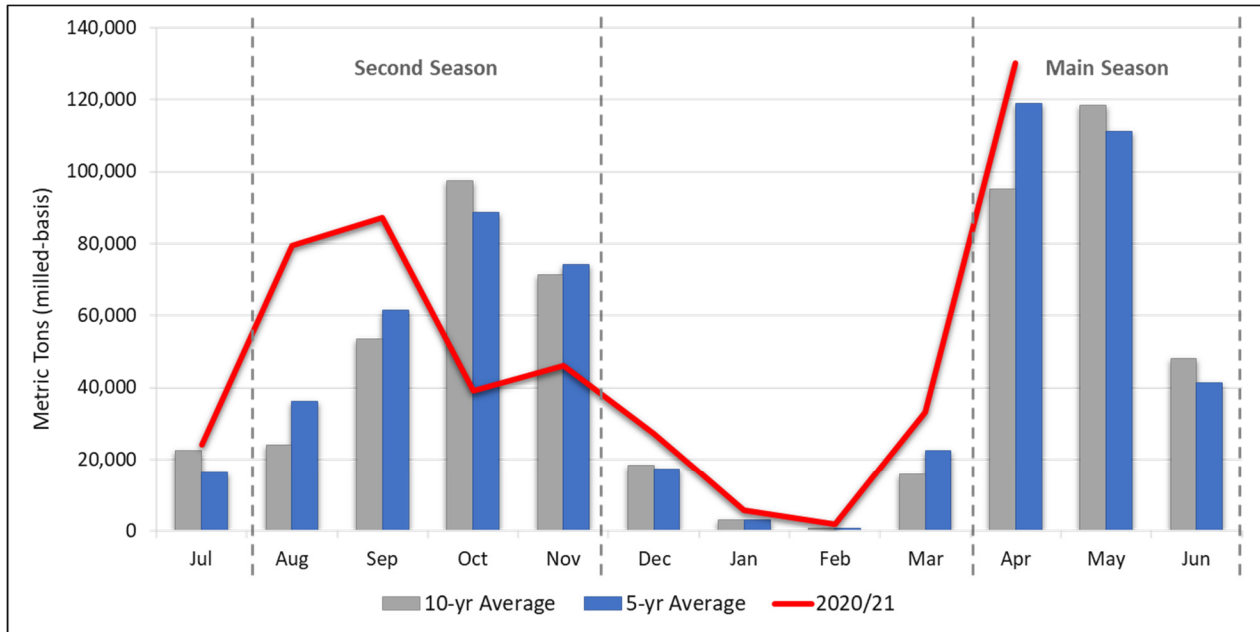
Rice is grown in two seasons (see Figure 4). The main season is planted over winter in December through February, and harvested in April through June. The second season crop is planted in April through July and harvested in August through November. Virtually all of the country's rice is produced under irrigation. Fields are typically flooded shortly after planting and kept flooded through plant maturation, often for two months or more. Figure 5 shows rice fields in the Monte Cristi province that have been flooded early in the planting season (December for the main crop, April for the second crop).

The marketing year for Dominican Republic rice begins in July and ends in June of the following calendar year. Figure 6 illustrates 5- and 10-year average monthly production

based on data published by the Ministerio de Agricultura. On average, April and May have the highest reported production during the main season harvest, and October and November are highest for the second season crop. Harvest for the MY 2020/21 season has generally followed this pattern, though most of the second season crop was harvested early this year, in August and September. Figure 1 indicates above-average rice production to this point in MY 2020/21. Media reporting suggests that this trend will continue in May and June, culminating in the anticipated above-average rice crop.

The contributions of staff at the USDA-FAS office in Santo Domingo are gratefully acknowledged.

Cumulative Monthly Rice Production

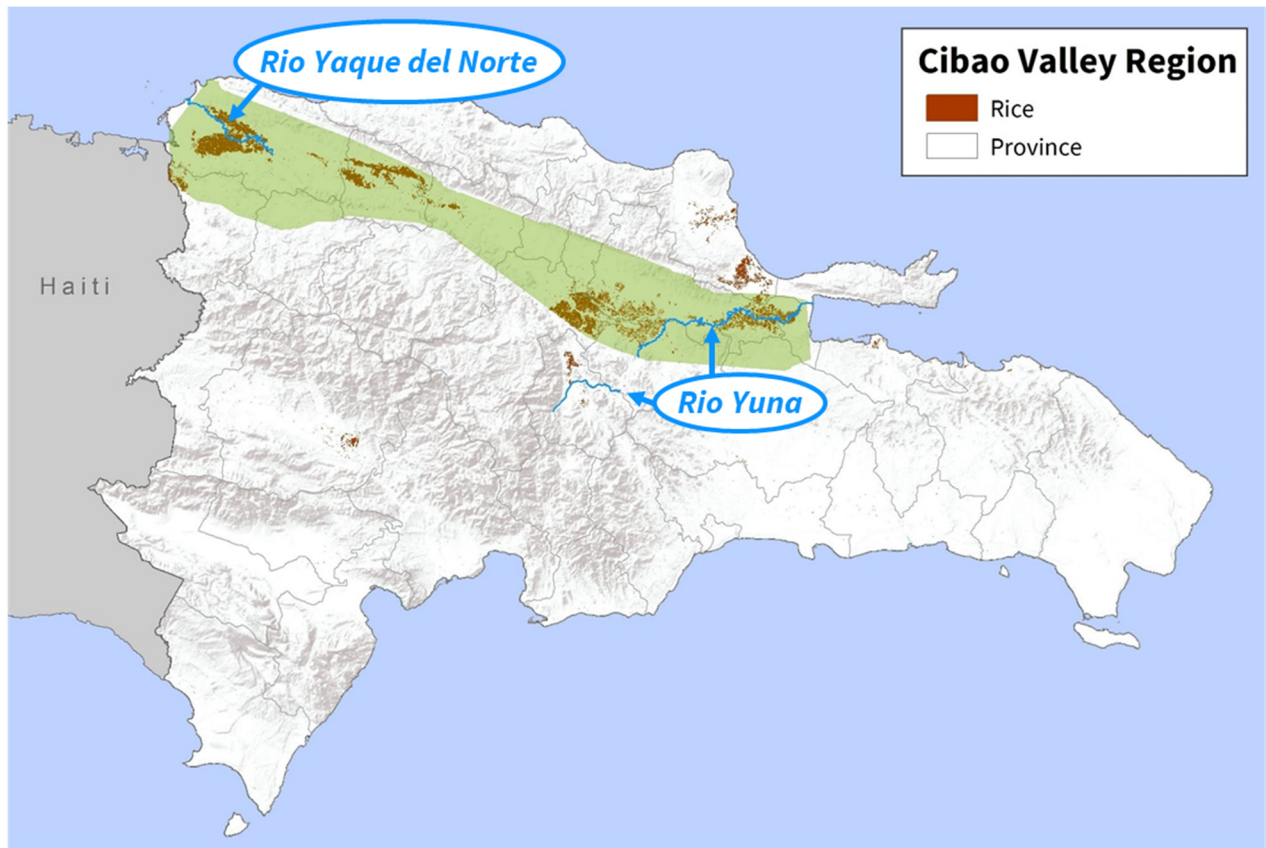


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Source: Ministerio de Agricultura

Figure 1. Cumulative monthly rice production during a marketing year for MY 2020/21 and the 5- and 10-year averages. Harvest periods are indicated for the main and second seasons.

Rice Production in the Cibao Valley

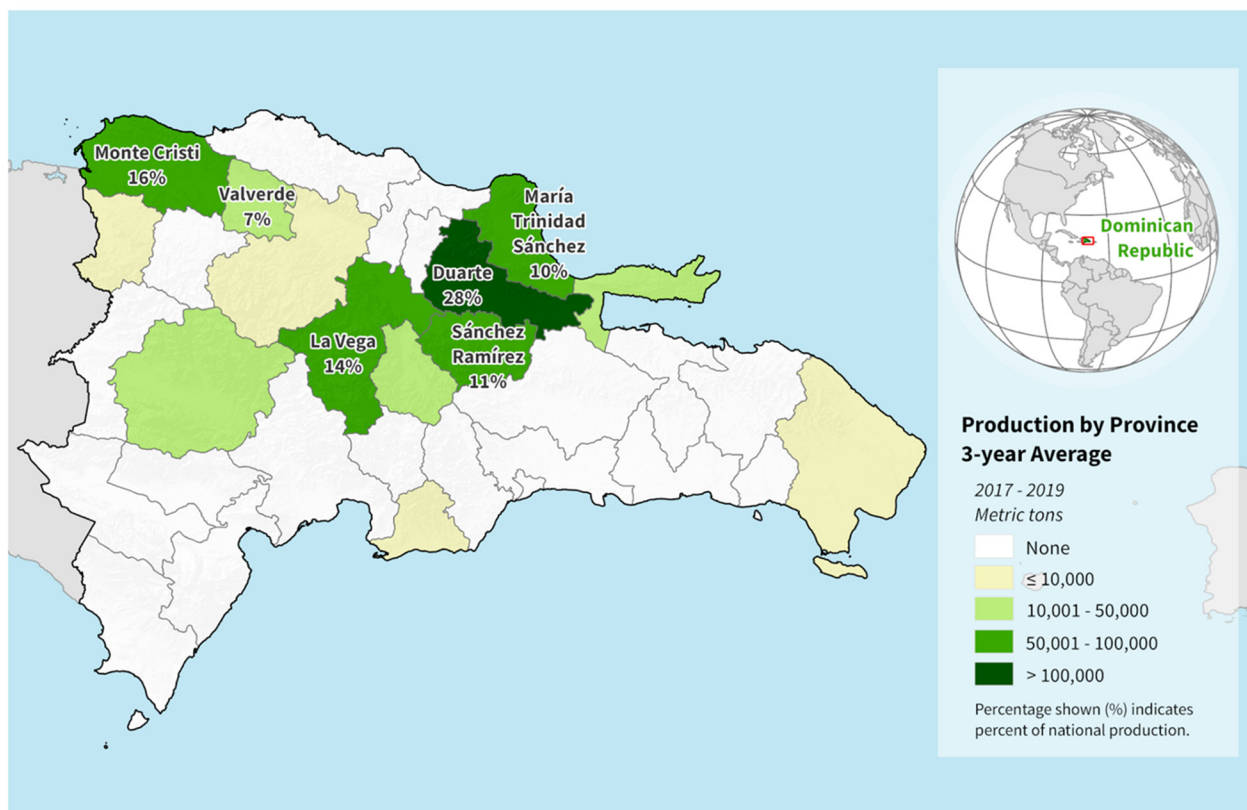


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Sources: ESRI; USGS; NOAA; NGA 2014
VISNAV LU/LC (30 meter)

Figure 2. The location of rice production in the Dominican Republic, which occurs primarily in the Cibao Valley (highlighted in green).

Dominican Republic: Rice

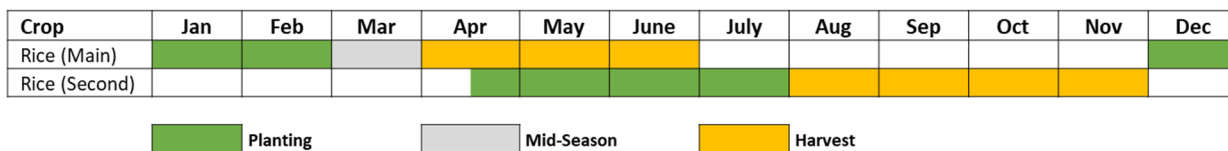


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Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Serie Histórica Nacional por Regional de La Siembra, Cosecha y Producción del Cultivo Arroz, Periodo 2017-2019

Figure 3. Average rice production by province (calendar years 2017 through 2019).

Crop Calendar: Rice

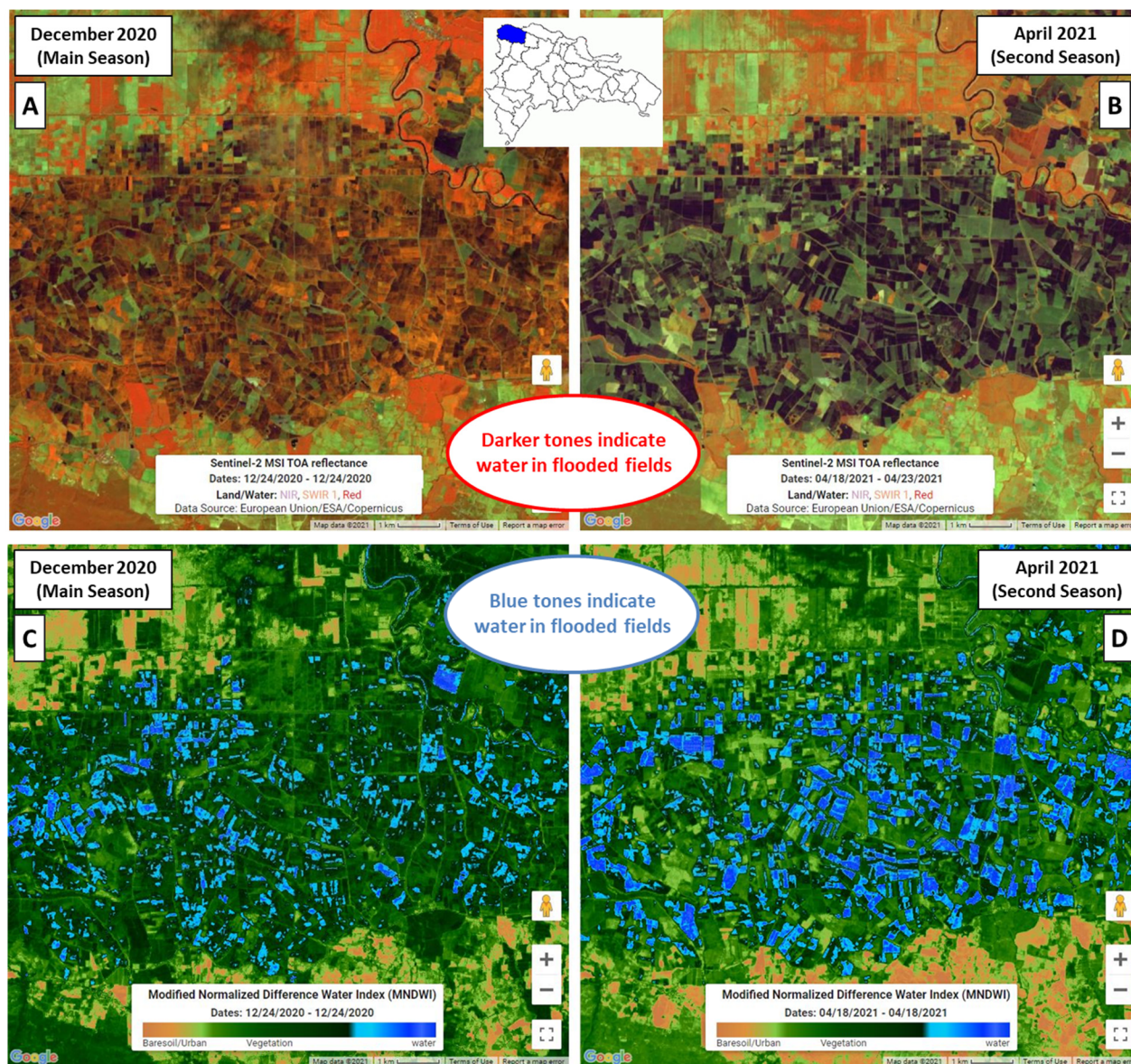


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Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)

Figure 4. Crop calendar for rice grown in the Dominican Republic.

Seasonal Flooding After Planting, Main and Second Crops in Monte Cristi

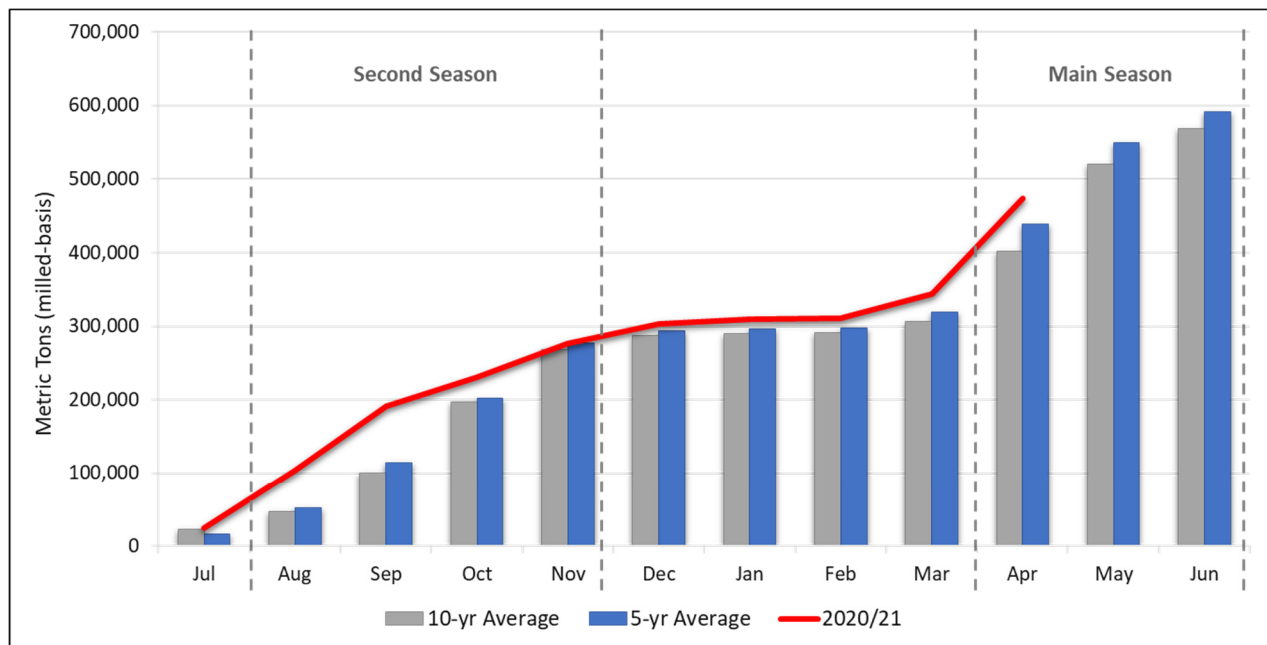


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Source: Copernicus, Sentinel-2 Imagery
with 10-meter resolution

Figure 5. Seasonal flooding of rice fields early in the planting season in Monte Cristi. A) and B) highlight land/water contrast using the NIR/SWIR/Red bands from Sentinel-2 imagery, with dark tones indicating flooded fields. C) and D) contrast flooded fields (indicated in blue) from other surrounding surfaces such as vegetation or bare soils, using the Modified Normalized Difference Water Index (MNDWI). Water is left on the fields until crop maturation.

Monthly Rice Production



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Source: Ministerio de Agricultura

Figure 6. Monthly rice production for MY 2020/21 and the 5- and 10-year averages. Production peaks in April and May during the main season harvest, and October and November during the second season harvest. In MY 2020/21, the second season harvest peaked early, in August and September.

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Crop Explorer
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Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS)
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