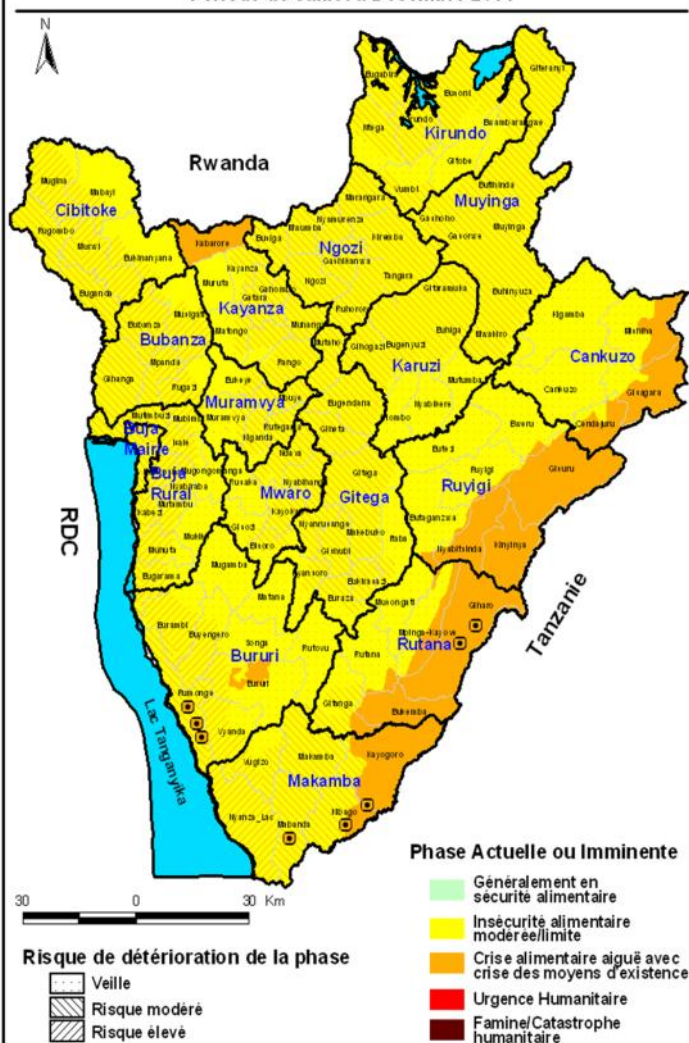


Cadre Intégré de Classification de la Sécurité Alimentaire au Burundi Période de Juillet à Décembre 2011

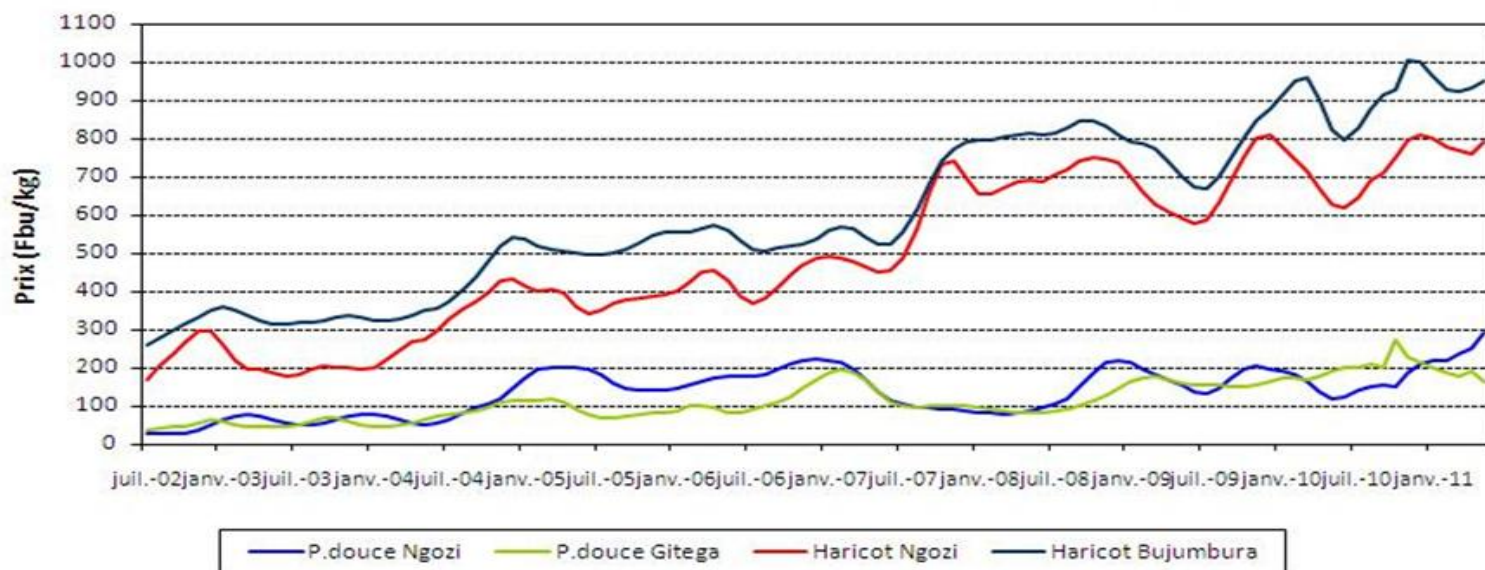


In this Issue

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- ⇒ Better agricultural performances have been recorded in the northern depressions in season 2011B. A 12% increase has been recorded comparing to season 2010B, for a national increase average of 3%... ;
- ⇒ Despite improvements in production recorded in season 2011B, the food deficit remains high for about 132 000 of the most vulnerable households ... ;
- ⇒ The production of coffee, an important cash crop for about 80 000 households, dropped from 24 000 tons of green coffee to 13 272 tons between 2010 and 2011 campaigns, that is a 44.7 % decrease... ;
- ⇒ The provisional report of the analysis and mapping of food security (IPC 2011B) for the second semester of this year shows an improvement in food security in the northern depressions and high altitude hills that had been hit by violent winds combined with hail, the food situation however remains very precarious in the eastern depressions... ;
- ⇒ The emergency assistance needs assessed after season 2011B show a 5% drop compared to those of last year (after season 2010B)... ;
- ⇒ The WFP office in Burundi distributed 1 149 tons of foodstuffs to 173 616 beneficiaries in July 2011 ...

□ To read in the bulletin...

Evolution des prix des denrées vivrières sur les marchés du pays (2002-2011)



This monthly bulletin aims to prevent serious nutritional crises and is used to distribute information regarding food security in Burundi. It emanates from the collaboration of FAO, MINAGRIE, WFP, UNICEF, and NGOs operating in the field, with support from donors and notably the EU delegation.

1. Security situation and population movements

Over the past decade, the population movement has remained low whereas it constituted one of major humanitarian concerns since 2000. UNHCR reports to have facilitated the repatriation of more than 510 000 since that period. Socioeconomic resettlement of those people is a major challenge. This operation has been rendered more delicate for land conflicts which are particularly acute in return zones.

Landless returnees, made up mostly of repatriates or descendants of those who fled in 1972, are being settled in Integrated Rural Villages built by the Government and its multi-sector partners in the provinces of Bururi, Makamba and Rutana. Supports, including those related to food security, have improved the food and nutritional situation. The gaps do, however, remain large, notably in building and consolidating livelihoods and in access to drinking water.

Currently, the repatriation process has not yet ended. The Mutabira camp is still populated by 38 000 Burundain refugees whose settlement deadlines will extend up to end December 2011, according to a decision issued at the end of a tripartite meeting attended by the Burundi Government, the Tanzanian Government and UNHCR on May 25, 2011.

At the same time, a mood of physical insecurity punctuated with murder cases, armed robbery and theft in crops and households persists. Lessons learnt from previous security crises show that such situations trigger serious food disturbances.

2. Rainfall situation

In July 2011, sporadic, even intensive rains, were recorded during some days, three to five, depending on regions, high altitude ones having been the most affected. These rains have been less destructive than those which occurred in June. They however stimulated the formation of flowers on coffee crops in some zones. Formed flowers will bear no seed after extended exposure to intense sunshine, which is normal during the current dry season, often extending to mid-September.

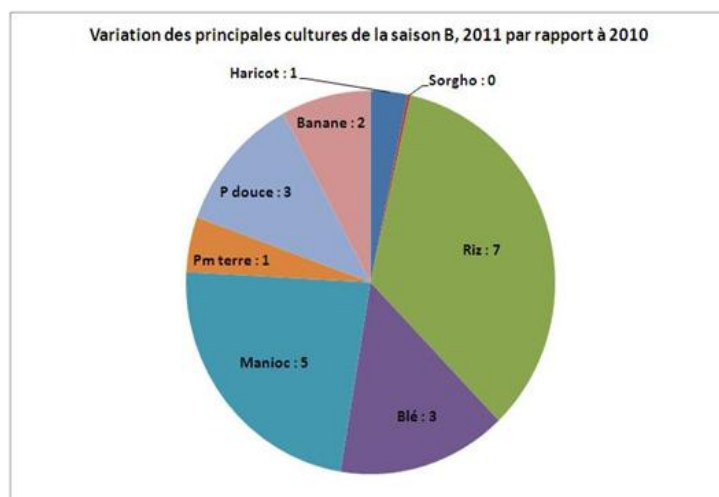
3. Agricultural situation

Harvests of season 2011B, the main season in Burundi, continue in July to which this bulletin is devoted. Season 2011B has been enhanced by a globally satisfactory rainfall on the major part of the country. Only the natural region of Moso, especially on the side of Cankuzo province, recorded low performance notably following rainfall deficits.

The distribution of cassava cuttings resistant to severe mosaic disease boosted production of tubers. Moreover, the various agricultural emergency,

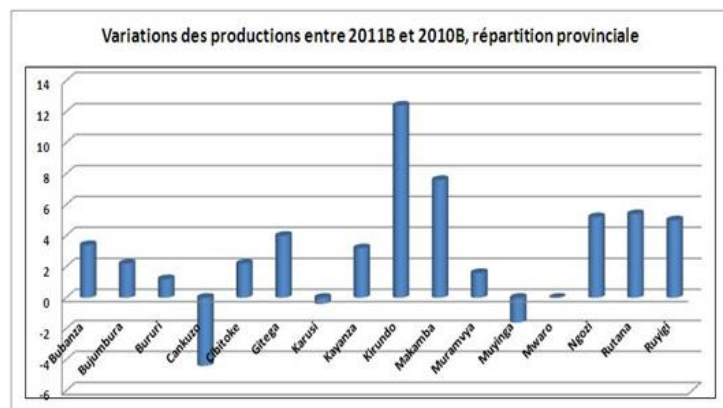
Rehabilitation and development support programs were valued to the maximum by the favorable climate conditions.

The improvement of agricultural production was also reported by the joint crop and food security assessment mission (CFSAM) made up of MINAGRIE, FAO, WFP and UNICEF. The mission stated a 3% increase of production in season 2011B compared to season 2010B. The mission findings have also been confirmed by the workshop of analysis and mapping of food security for the second semester of the year, held from August 1-5, 2011 in Ngozi (see the "At Glance" section on page 4). The recorded improvement however conceal some geographic imbalances varying with the kind of crops farmed there. To that effect, as the chart below showing the level of improvement of the main crops farmed in season B, rice and cassava recorded a major production boost; the increase almost reaches the overall average (3%) for wheat, sweet potato and banana, whereas the increase is lower for beans, potato and sorghum. The geo-



graphic distribution of performances for season 2011 B being described shows that the province of Kirundo which had been subject to recurring rainfall deficits since several years, was the most favored by the climate conditions that prevailed in the course of season 2011B. Some realities lead to the best performances recorded in that province:

- Rainfall has always constituted a major limiting factor in the region, and has, for this case, been a most favorable one. ;
- Following the successive years of food crisis, several humanitarian and rehabilitation actions were carried out in that province, and were in fact boosted by the particularly clement climate conditions.
- In a nutshell, the provinces of Kirundo and Makamba were the most productive (see chart bellow). On the contrary, season 2011 B production lowered, compared to season 2010B in the provinces of Cankuzo and Muyinga, respectively of 4 and 2%.



Maintaining the recorded agricultural performances will have to take into account some challenges including :

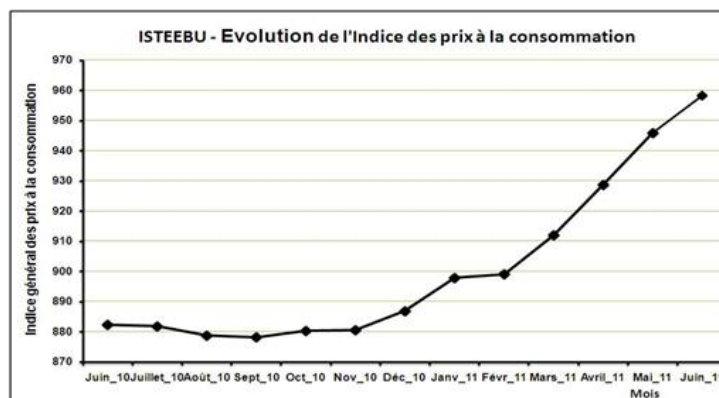
- Climate hazards following the often recorded irregular rainfalls ;
- Attack by the banana wilt caused by the bacterial disease called BXW: "*Xanthomonas campestris pv. Musacearum*", a real threat to banana production, particularly in the provinces of Cankuzo, Bubanza, Muyinga, Makamba, Kirundo, Rutana, Mwaro and Gitega where the disease is spreading ;
- Serious outbreaks of the white mould caused by « *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* » from the natural regions of Bututsi and Mugamba ;
- Persistence of severe cassava mosaic disease in the Eastern (Moso) and Northern (Bugesera) depressions and threat of brown-streak on the same crop.

4. Food availability and access

The increase of production recorded in season 2011B reflects an improvement in food availability and access for the second semester of this year. However, formed stocks remain not a panacea, following a series of specific problems, adding to those linked with the agricultural aspects evoked previously. Whereas resorting to the market to get supplies is maintained, even during harvest periods (about 40% of foodstuffs) and within a context of price rises, sources of income diminish, notably in the zones of coffee production. Production of this excellent cash crop for about 80 000 households varied from 24 000 tones to 13 272 tons between the 2010 and 2011 campaigns, that is a fall of 44%. The same situation occurred to fish production. Furthermore, the previous deep food crises have a negative impact on recorded harvests, thus households devote part of those harvests to reimburse the debts contracted to cope with periods of food shortages and/or have already staked the harvests for the same cause. It is worth mentioning the ascending curve of prices particularly for food items. This trend significantly reduces food access (See the following chart of consumption price index).

The index has doubled between 2010 and 2011 for comparable periods in the food sector.

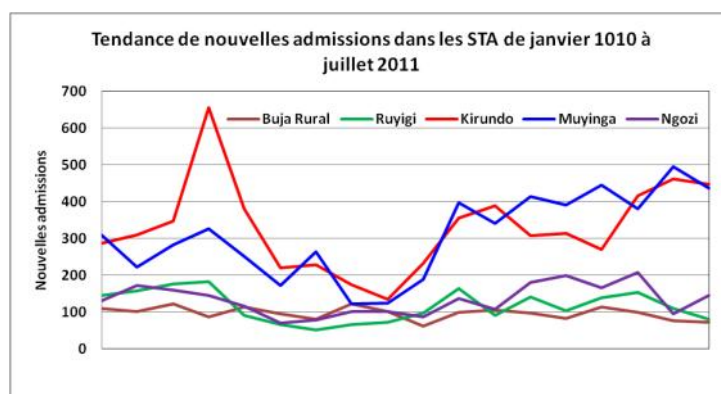
The harvests assessment report for season 2011B shows that about 132 000 households, that is nearly



10% of the population will not be able to cover food needs until December 2011. The regions that have been weakly supplied have been identified by the food security assessment and mapping of August 1-5, 2011 (see the map on the first page and the "At Glance" section on page 4).

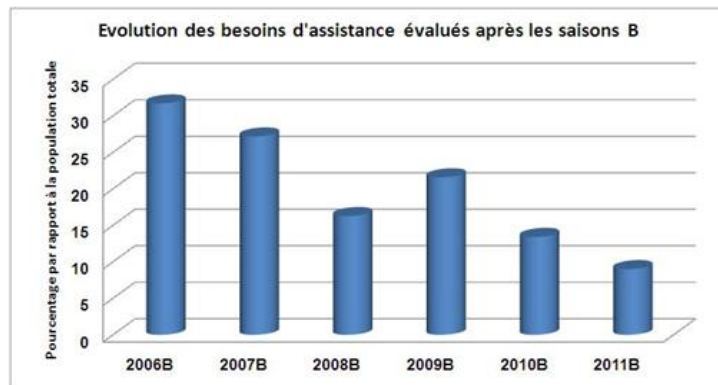
5. Nutritional situation

Data on new admittances of malnutrition cases in integrated malnutrition care taking services recorded until June 2011, have started to show a fall in the average number of admittances. However, most populated regions and those hit by La Niña at the beginning of the year, are facing a longer food shortage period and continued to record the biggest number of cases, the health district of Gashoho in Kayanza province included. Figures from the provinces of Muyinga and Kirundo overall show that the impact of the food availability consecutive to the harvests of season 2011B is not noticeable on the nutritional status of households, regarding nutritional data for June-July. Fundamentally, the impact of season B has started to show effects with the months of June-July but it is crucial to analyze the overall situation by taking into account other factors likely to keep the nutritional situation of the population fragile enough, notably with the measles disease that prevailed in Kirundo province since October 2010 and episodes of cholera epidemic recorded in the province of Cibitoke and the health district of Rumonge.



6. Emergency Responses

The relatively favorable climate conditions recorded in season 2011B obtained agricultural assistance. FAO notably assisted more than 160 000 households through emergency programs (seed fairs and direct distributions) and rehabilitation (quality seed production). The major part of the assistance was extended to Kirundo province which benefited from the best of the seasons advantages . The good performances of season B sharply reduced the level of emergency assistance needs, established among more than 10% of the total population for the next season, mainly targeted in the East of the country and in the zones hit by various: mainly climatic hazards and plant diseases.



In the course of July 2011, WFP assisted 173 616 beneficiaries with 1 149 tons of food, mainly via programmes. A cumulated deficit equivalent to 218 000 US dollars for all foodstuffs is predicted between September and December.

At Glance : Integrated Framework of Food Security Classification (IPC), provisional results of the analysis and mapping of food security from June to December.

Burundi adopted Analysis of food security by applying the tool of the Integrated Framework of Food security Classification since 2007. The ninth cycle of such an analysis was held at Ngozi in a retreat of August 1-5 that gathered 43 specialists in that tool, to establish the mapping of food security of July-September 2011, updating the one that was prevailing since the beginning of the year. Even though the same phases II (**Limited/ Moderate Food security**) and III (**Acute Food crisis and Livelihoods Crisis**) remain among the Burundian populations (see the map on the first page), the number of those in emergency phase have lowered down thanks to an improvement in food access, owing to agricultural productions.

Food related progress is more significant in the Northern Depressions (Kirundo province) and in high altitudes hills and where the populations have shifted from phase III to phase II. On the one hand, the zones of Northern Depressions have been the most favored by agricultural production factors of season 2011 B (see chapters on agricultural situation, food availability and access). On the other hand, whereas the hills evoked here were hit by tornadoes mingled with hail early this year , they have this time got regular rains.

However some households of the Eastern Depressions (Moso natural region), dwellers of the Integrated Rural Villages (VRI) of Kabarore commune (Kayanza province) remain in Phase III. The assistance provided to the integrated villages is likely to significantly improve food access, while the food crisis gradually becomes chronic in the Depressions of the Eastern part of the country. Vulnerable populations of these very fragile zones are facing water deficits, effects of severe cassava mosaic, very high prices in a context of low income opportunity , adding to shortage of drinking water and a very precarious health situation. This results in a very high rate of chronic malnutrition of over 60%.

The improvements recorded in the Imbo Lowlands since the beginning of the year are consolidated until the end of this year. This part of the country is geographically among the most exposed to rainfall deficits but offering an advantageous environment: intensive farming of fruits mainly in Bujumbura city, rice farming on an adequate industrial scale for the sale of agricultural manpower, notable small and medium sized businesses and other economic activities to which unqualified persons can access. Significant assistance provided in the zone by the Government and FAO as well as other stakeholders have sharply increased profitability of livelihoods in that zone: intensive rehabilitation of the hydro-agricultural system, control of severe cassava mosaic, significant support to fruit farming, etc.

Actions carried out in the Imbo Lowlands can inspire development actors in food security to resist to the growing food insecurity in the rest of the country.

The Session of the 2011B analysis pointed out a set of major challenges including: (i) the upgrading of the level of food availability and access in the zones in phase III of **Acute Food Crisis and Livelihood Crisis** (ii) Socio-economic relocation of repatriates in sites to be prepared by the Government and taking into account precariousness of vulnerable households of the host area (iii) minimization of the impact of price increase on vulnerable households (iv) swift fight against the Banana Wilt , recently confirmed in some communes bordering Tanzania and DRC and (v) taking into account of cassava brown streak.