THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Population: 545,993
- Urban: 357,625 (66%)
- Rural: 188,368 (44%)

Rice Availability\(^2\) (g/c/d): 135
- Urban: 151
- Rural: 164

Rice market:
White milled rice, largely from Thailand.

Production:
- USDA, 2016: No data
- FAO, 2011: 0

Domestic industrial rice milling: All imported rice

Regional trade: Limited regional trade with Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire

RICE IMPORTS

Number of importers: Unknown

Mode of imports: Unknown

Total imports:
- USDA, 2016: No data
- UNC, 2014: 30,275
- FAO, 2011: 33,000

Type & Origins\(^3\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>MT (% of imports)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown rice</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy rice</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken rice</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White rice</td>
<td>29,879 (98.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>18,065 (60.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>6,816 (22.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>2,597 (8.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1,771 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>413 (1.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
1. CIA Factbook 2015
2. Overall estimate is FAO 2011; Urban/rural estimates from Survey of Family Income and Expenses 2001/2002
3. UN Comtrade 2014; Abbreviations: MT = metric tons, USDA = United States Department of Agriculture, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, UNC = UN Comtrade

Cereal Investments Company is one of the rice importing companies active in Cabo Verde and other countries in West Africa. Photo: CIC
THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabo Verde is a 10-island archipelago 986 kilometers off the coast of Senegal. In this country of 545,993 people, the main staple foods consumed are rice, maize, and wheat. On average, the three grains are eaten in somewhat comparative amounts, with rice in slightly higher amounts. Only maize is grown in Cabo Verde—the entirety of the wheat and rice consumed in the islands are imported. Wheat flour fortification is mandatory as of 2014, but based on estimated consumption disparities in urban/rural populations, the rural population may be better covered through rice fortification.

Since no rice is grown in Cabo Verde, no rice industrial milling entities exist. Fortification of imported rice therefore could reach the majority of the population. However, with rice imports of only 33,000 MT in 2011, quantities are small. For improved economies of scale, pursuing rice fortification in Cabo Verde should be examined in the context of neighboring countries with similar rice origins. The region primarily imports white milled rice from Thailand and Latin America (Brazil and Uruguay).

### Table 1: Demographics and annual rice availability (milled equivalent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Availability (MMT)</th>
<th>Imports (MMT)</th>
<th>Exports (MMT)</th>
<th>G/c/d</th>
<th>Production (MMT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>545,993</td>
<td>65.5%</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 year trend (2007-2011):
- +1.36% per year
- +1.99 (2010-15)
- +0.14%
- +14.2%

G/c/d: grams per capita per day, converted from FAO's domestic supply (kg/p/yr); MMT, million metric tons; --: not applicable

*For Cabo Verde, USDA information is not available after 1975. FAO data is presented; the most recent five-year data is from 2007-2011.

1CIA Factbook, 2015
2FAO, 2011

GRAIN CONSUMPTION AND FORTIFICATION STATUS

The most important cereal grains in Cabo Verde are rice, wheat, and maize. The main agricultural activity is gardening for domestic consumption; other important carbohydrate sources include cassava, potatoes, and bananas.

The last Survey of Family Income and Expenses (Inquerito as Despensas e Receitas Familiares, IDRF) was conducted in 2001/2002, which estimated stratified cereal intake between poor, non-poor, urban, and rural populations. The most recent food availability estimates from FAO are from 2011. Table 2 compares the per capita food consumption/availability from IDRF 2001/2002 and FAO 2002 and 2011.

Wheat flour fortification was made mandatory in Cabo Verde in 2014, with iron (40 mg/kg

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1 Cabo Verde was not visited in person by Key Consulting. All information in this profile is secondary data collected by FFI.
NaFeEDTA or 60 mg/kg ferrous fumarate) and folic acid (2.6 mg/kg) as per WHO 2009 guidelines. The country has one industrial flourmill4.

### Table 2: Cereal grain consumption/availability and fortification status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereal grain</th>
<th>IDRF 2001/2002</th>
<th>FAO 2002</th>
<th>FAO 2011</th>
<th>Mandatory</th>
<th>% Industrially milled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>g/c/d</td>
<td>g/c/d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Survey of Family Income and Expenses 2001/2002  
2 FAO Food Balance Sheets  
3 Food Fortification Initiative. Cabo Verde Country Profile.

### Urban and rural consumption

About 65% of Cabo Verde’s population of 545,993 lives in cities. Half of those urban residents live in the two largest cities, Praia and Mindelo5. According to IDRF, rice consumption is approximately similar between urban and rural poor populations (140 g/d/c and 134 g/d/c respectively, Table 1). However, in non-poor households, rural households consume more rice than urban households (189 g/d/c and 153 g/d/c respectively)2. Urban populations, whether poor or non-poor, consume slightly greater amounts of wheat compared to rural populations. However, this difference is slight, only 10-20 g/d/c difference. Because some maize is grown domestically (perhaps 30-50% of total consumption)6, there is a greater discrepancy between maize consumption between urban and rural populations (52 g/d/c vs. 118 g/d/c respectively).

### Rice varieties and quality

White medium grain rice from Thailand is the main variety consumed in Cabo Verde, most likely several grades of broken rice are in the market.

### DOMESTIC RICE PRODUCTION

Rice is not grown in Cabo Verde. Only about 20.8% of the land in the country is arable7. Of the three main cereal grains, maize is the only one that is grown domestically – 7,000 MT according to USDA 2016 (Table 3), or approximately 26% of domestic needs for maize (7MT/27MT)8.

### Table 3: Cabo Verde cereals production - 20161

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereals (MMT)</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Sorghum</th>
<th>Millet</th>
<th>Rice (milled)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 USDA 2016 via IndexMundi; no data available for sorghum, millet, or rice.

### Government policy and programs

Cabo Verde does not have a national policy to improve self-sufficiency in rice production.

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8 USDA 2016, via Index Mundi. http://www.indexmundi.com/agriculture/?country=cv&commodity=corn&graph=domestic-consumption
International development support
Cabo Verde is a member country of FAO’s Regional Initiative for Rice Development in Africa, which seeks to improve food security and stability in Africa through investments in the rice value chain.

IMPORTED RICE INDUSTRY

Table 4: Annual rice import volumes, 2011-2014 (MT)\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.036</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) UN Comtrade, 2014

Rice origins
According to UN Comtrade 2014\(^9\), 98% of the rice imported to Cabo Verde is milled white rice (as opposed to broken, paddy, or brown rice). Of this, in 2014 the majority came from Thailand (18,065 MT, 60%) and Brazil (6,814 MT, 22%), with smaller amounts from Uruguay (2,597 MT, 8.7%) and Viet Nam (1,771 MT, 5.9%).

Mode of imports
ENAPOR is the Cabo Verde ports authority. The main ports in the country are Mindelo and Praia. It is not known whether rice is imported in break-bulk, containers, or bulk.

Rice importers
A para-statal company, Empresa Publica de Abasteciment (EMPA), previously monopolized rice imports. Since 1998, private traders have also been allowed to import rice\(^10\).

Cereal Investments Company (CIC), based in Switzerland, has a local presence in Cabo Verde. The quantities imported through CIC are unknown. CIC also imports sugar, vegetable oils, milk powder, corn, wheat flour, and tomato paste\(^11\).

Specific quantities by importer are not available.

Imported rice storage
CIC Cabo Verde owns and operates warehouse facilities on three main islands; Santiago, with storage capacity of 12,500 MT; Sao Vicente with storage capacity of 2,100 MT; and Fogo with storage capacity of 3,000 MT\(^11\).

GOVERNMENT RICE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
Cabo Verde does not appear to have a national policy to improve self-sufficiency in rice production.

RICE MILLING
Cabo Verde does not import paddy rice or brown rice for processing so there are no mills.

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

Wholesale
Imported rice likely has very well developed national distribution networks, as evidenced by the penetration of imported rice into poor and rural households.

Retail
Rice is most likely sold in traditional marketplaces out of bulk bags. Between May 2011 and February 2014 the average cost of 1 kg bag of white rice in Cabo Verde was approximately 1.05 USD.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
WFP has no active program in Cabo Verde, but does not directly implement any food assistance programs. After 30 years of funding and managing the national school-feeding program, WFP began transitioning that role to the Government of Cabo Verde in 2007. The government took 100% ownership in 2010. From 2011-2015 WFP provided capacity development assistance through the One UN Joint Office.

REGIONAL TRADE
There is limited regional trade of rice between Cabo Verde and its neighbors. According to UN Comtrade, in 2014 0.32% of the rice imported to Cabo Verde came from Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire.

REGULATORY MONITORING
Decreto-Lei n. 32/2003 de 1 de Setembro defines the required characteristics for rice used for human consumption. It indicates the methods for analysis, the classification and the technical norms related to commercialization, market preparation, labeling and quality control. Annex I provides the characteristics of common rice; Annex II provides the characteristics of special rice; Annex III provides the analytic tolerances.

According to WHO, the Ministry of Health is responsible for regulating standards in Cabo Verde.

The SYDONIA (i.e. ASYCUD) computer system was launched in September 2015.

RICE FORTIFICATION – SWOT ANALYSIS

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Strengths
• Imported rice is broadly consumed throughout the population; estimated reach of rice fortification would be 100% of the population.
• Rice importers likely to be consolidated given the relatively small quantity imported; however this requires confirmation.

Weaknesses
• Low quantity of rice imported limits economies of scale.
• Regulatory monitoring of an island archipelago with multiple ports can be challenging. Analysis of which key ports allow imports of rice is necessary to understand where regulatory resources are required.

Opportunities
• More detailed understanding of the rice importing industry is necessary
• Helen Keller International was the leading NGO supporting wheat flour fortification in Cabo Verde and may be able to provide information about regulatory monitoring of fortified wheat flour (both domestic and imported).
• The existing decree on characteristics of rice for human consumption could be amended to include fortification.

Threats
• Cost of rice fortification could be relatively greater than in neighboring countries due to shipping and small quantities.