COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Population\(^1\): 1,339,827
  Urban: 531,911 (40%)
  Rural: 807,916 (60%)

Rice Availability\(^2\) (g/c/d): 142
  Urban: --
  Rural: --

Rice market: Import market is ~70% white milled rice and 20% broken rice.

Production: USDA, 2016 0
  FAO, 2011 316 MT

Domestic industrial rice milling: Estimated none.

Regional trade: UN Comtrade 2014 reported 526 MT of rice re-exported (90% to UAE).

IMPORTS

Number of importers: Unknown

Mode of imports: Unknown

Total imports:
- USDA, 2016: 60,000 (MT)
- UNC, 2014: 57,093
- FAO, 2011: 57,696

Type & Origins\(^3\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rice Type</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>MT (% of imports)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown rice</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>529 (0.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough/paddy rice</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>3,104 (5.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken rice</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>12,735 (22.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi/wholly milled rice</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>40,725 (71.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>6,615 (16.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>2,296 (5.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: \(^1\)CIA Factbook 2015; \(^2\)FAO 2011; \(^3\)UN Comtrade 2014

Abbreviations: g/c/d = grams per capita per day; MT = metric ton; UAE = United Arab Emirates; USDA = United States Department of Agriculture; UNC = UN Comtrade; FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization
Rice is the second most important cereal grain in Mauritius after wheat flour, with availability approximately half that of wheat flour (147 g/c/d vs. 307 g/c/d). As domestically grown rice is (316 MT annually) almost negligible, imports are the key source of rice in the country. Mauritius is composed of three islands, but 97% of the population living on the main island. Availability of imported rice is widespread.

Almost 95% of rice is sourced from India and Pakistan, origin countries that are typified by small numbers of rice importers bringing in rice by the container (rather than bulk or break-bulk vessels). The specific nature of the rice importing industry requires confirmation.

Fortification of imported rice is the primary opportunity in Mauritius, but requires assessing the feasibility of fortification by importers. Mandatory fortification of wheat flour also should be considered given its greater availability as a staple cereal grain. The country has one industrial wheat flourmill and imports all its wheat.

GRAIN CONSUMPTION AND FORTIFICATION STATUS
The most important cereal grains in Mauritius are wheat and rice, which have both grown rapidly in availability since 2001 (Table 2). According to the Household Budget Survey 2012, household expenditure on bread and wheat flour is similar to rice (25% vs. 21%)\(^1\), but the tonnage for wheat flour is slightly more than double\(^2\) that of rice. The multiethnic cuisine in Mauritius reflects French, Indian, and Chinese influences; consequently wheat flour is used in local versions of paratha, roti, and noodles. Other cereals and tubers are not a significant part of the diet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereal grain</th>
<th>FAO 2001(^1) g/c/d</th>
<th>FAO 2011(^1) g/c/d</th>
<th>Mandatory?(^2)</th>
<th>% Industrially milled(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

G/c/d: grams per capita per day
\(^1\) FAO Food Balance Sheets
\(^2\) FFI Database

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1 FAO Food Balance Sheets 2011
2 FFI Database
$Urban vs. Rural$
Mauritius is comprised of three islands: Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Agalega. According to the 2011 Census, 97% of the population lived on the main island of Mauritius. Three percent lived on Rodrigues, and only 300 individuals lived on Agalega. Mauritius is 40% urban – its capital and the most urbanized city is Port Louis, but the city of Plaines Wilhelms has the largest population (362,000). Five other cities on the island have roughly equivalent populations, ranging from 100,000-130,000 (Port Louis, Pamplemousses, Riviere du Rempart, Flacq, and Grand Port).

With limited information on dietary patterns in Mauritius, it is not clear what proportion of rice is consumed in urban, rural, or regional populations.

$Rice varieties$
The market for imported rice in Mauritius is white milled rice (71%), with a smaller proportion of broken rice (22%).

$DOMESTIC RICE PRODUCTION$
Domestically grown rice (316 MT) only constitutes 0.05% of the rice available in Mauritius. Most cereals are imported, with less than 1,000 MT of maize and rice grown (Table 3).

Table 3: Mauritius cereals production - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereals (MMT)</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Sorghum</th>
<th>Millet</th>
<th>Rice (milled)</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 USDA 2016 / Indexmundi. Small amounts of maize and rice grown, but the data rounds to the near 1,000 MT.

$International development support$
Limited information on rice-related international development efforts in Mauritius.

$IMPORTED RICE INDUSTRY$
The key rice importers are not known in Mauritius. However, similar to its neighbor Madagascar, imported rice in Mauritius is primarily sourced from India and Pakistan. As in the case with other countries with Indian and Pakistani-origin rice, there could be multiple small-rice importers importing by the container.

Table 4: Annual rice import volumes, 2012-2016 (MT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0.059</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 USDA 2016 / Indexmundi

$Rice origins$
According to 2014 UN Comtrade data, 71% of the rice imported to Mauritius is milled white rice, 22% broken rice, and 5% paddy rice. India is almost the exclusive source for broken rice.

4 http://www.citypopulation.de/Mauritius.html
7 The BACI International Trade Database is only available to UN Comtrade subscribers. However, the data is visualized on the Observatory of Economic Complexity: http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/
(98.6%), while for milled white rice the key origin countries are India (77%), Pakistan (16%), and Thailand (5.6%). Other countries import small quantities as well (less than 1% of the total share).

Mode of imports
Port Louis is the only seaport in the country. Port Louis has a container terminal with 0-24 MT lifts. It is not known whether rice is imported in break-bulk, containers, or bulk.

Rice importers
There is limited information on the rice importing industry in Mauritius. According to the Household Budget Survey, the government imports a small proportion of rice (quantity unknown), although a past World Bank rice commodity profile described the para-statal State Trading Corporation (STC) as holding an “import monopoly on non-luxury rice and imports luxury rice alongside private traders”. Ten rice importers are listed online and provided in the appendix.

Imported rice storage
There is a total of 70,000 m² of bonded warehouses at Port Louis.

GOVERNMENT RICE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
The government recognizes that 100% self sufficiency is not possible in Mauritius, given limited land mass. The Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security’s 2013-15 Strategic Plan called for focus on activities to improve farm production and efficiency, but did not mention wheat flour or rice production.

RICE MILLING
There is limited information on the local rice milling industry in Mauritius. However, since local production is so limited, and paddy supply for an industrial mill would be inadequate, it is likely that milling is practiced only on a local, village-milling scale. A company called Vita Rice Limited has plans to invest in domestic rice production and milling – however the company’s focus is on premium low glycemic index rice.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

Wholesale
Unknown.

Retail
There is limited information on rice retailing in Mauritius. Rice is most likely sold in traditional marketplaces out of bulk bags, but in urban areas bagged rice may also be likely. During 2014-2016 the average cost of 1kg of imported rice was 62 rupees (~1.79 USD).
REGIONAL TRADE
There is limited information about regional rice trade between Mauritius and its neighbors. However, UN Comtrade indicates that small quantities of rice (526 MT) are re-exported globally to United Arab Emirates, France, and Seychelles\(^\text{14}\).

REGULATORY MONITORING
Imports are managed by a country-adapted electronic computer system\(^\text{15}\). Food standards under the Food Act of 1998 are under the authority of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life\(^\text{16}\).

RICE FORTIFICATION – SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths
- Almost all rice is imported.
- Urbanized population is located on main island of Mauritius, increasing likelihood of easy access to imported rice for the majority of the population.

Weaknesses
- Quantity of rice imported is low, limiting economies of scale.
- Wheat may be a more appropriate vehicle for fortification, given its higher consumption levels.

Opportunities
- More detailed understanding of the rice importing industry is necessary, and whether rice fortification would be more feasible at origin or destination.
- More detailed understanding of wheat and rice consumption patterns in Mauritius would help inform which subpopulations each vehicle would impact.

Threats
- Quality of regulatory monitoring of imported foods unknown.

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\(^{13}\) 35 rupee =1 USD. November 2, 2016. https://www.oanda.com/currency/convert/


Appendix 1. RICE MILLING COMPANIES

State Trading Corporation
Girasol Trading
Shamz Co Ltd
Memon Brothers Pvt Ltd
Zeihan Co Ltd
Eastern Combined Co Ltd
Soondron Store
EntiCier International Company
Rays Sun Ltd
Epicerie de l'inchest ltee