

**SIERRA LEONE**, between Guinea and Liberia on the West African coast facing the Atlantic Ocean, is a small country, with a population of 4.7 million (1999) in an area of 71,000 km<sup>2</sup>. It consists of a large, swampy coastal plain, inner agricultural areas that were previously tropical forest, and an eastern plateau. About 12% of the land is arable and just over half the workforce is engaged in agriculture, mainly at the subsistence level.

### General information

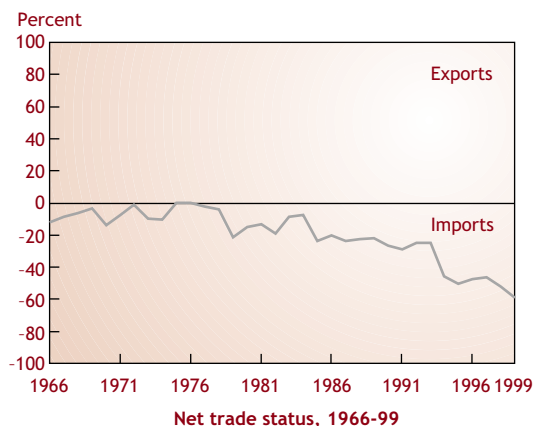
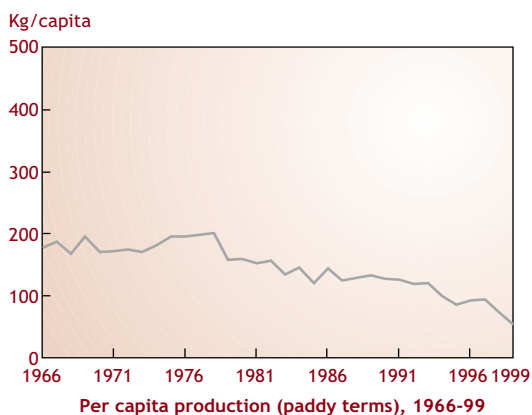
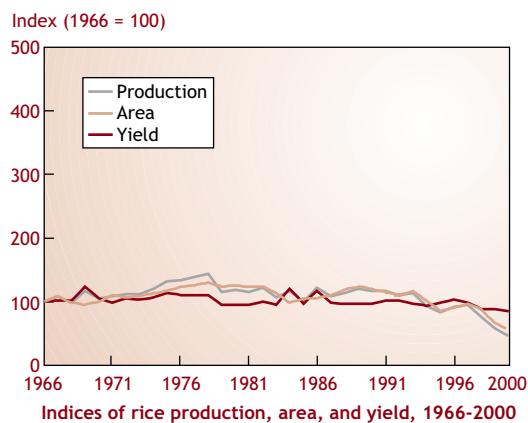
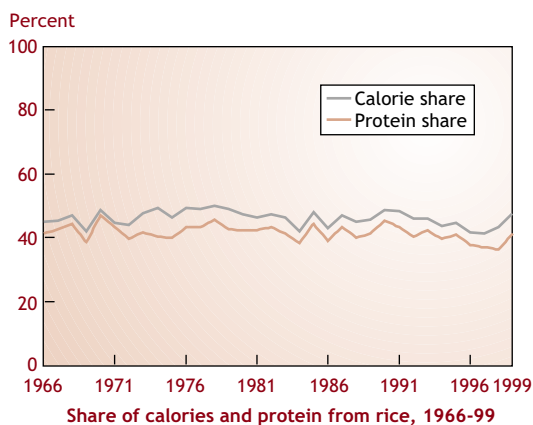
- GNI per capita PPP\$, 2000: 480
- Internal renewable water resources: 160 km<sup>3</sup>
- Main food consumed: rice, oil and fat, roots and tubers, pulses, wheat
- Rice consumption, 1999: 99.2 kg milled rice per person per year

### Production constraints

- Insecurity
- Poor road network
- Rice policy environment

### Production season

	<b>Planting</b>	<b>Harvesting</b>
Main season	Apr-Jul	Sep-Jan



### Basic rice statistics, Sierra Leone

	1985	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000
<b>Rice</b>						
Area harvested (ha)	339,865	392,600	274,500	284,770	213,054	183,214
Yield (t/ha)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
Production (t)	430,000	503,700	355,500	328,310	247,235	199,134
Rice imports (t)	92,193	123,700	243,200	243,200	243,200	na
<b>Others</b>						
Population, total ( $\times 10^3$ )	3,583	3,994	4,188	4,568	4,717	na
Population, agriculture ( $\times 10^3$ )	2,458	2,694	2,716	2,889	2,958	na
Agricultural area ( $\times 10^3$ ha)	2,732	2,744	2,741	2,740	na	na
Irrigated agricultural area ( $\times 10^3$ ha)	28	28	29	29	na	na
Total fertilizer consumption (t)	3,600	1,300	3,000	3,000	na	na
Tractors used in agric. (no.)	470	200	100	81	na	na

Source: FAOSTAT online database.