

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: August 19, 2025

Report Number: NU2025-0010

Report Name: Nicaragua Peanut Report Annual

Country: Nicaragua

Post: Managua

Report Category: Oilseeds and Products

Prepared By: FAS Managua

Approved By: Zeke Bryant

Report Highlights:

Nicaragua's peanut farmers are expected to reduce harvested areas by at least five percent in marketing year (MY) 2025/26 in anticipation of lower prices due to increased Brazilian peanut production. FAS Managua expects farmers to be more rigorous in selecting production areas based on historical yields in MY 2025/26, excluding marginal lands with less fertile soil. Even with fluctuating market prices and adjustments to planted areas, Nicaragua is expected to remain a stable peanut producer in the region, with exports of shelled peanuts exceeding 70,000 metric tons annually.

Area Harvested

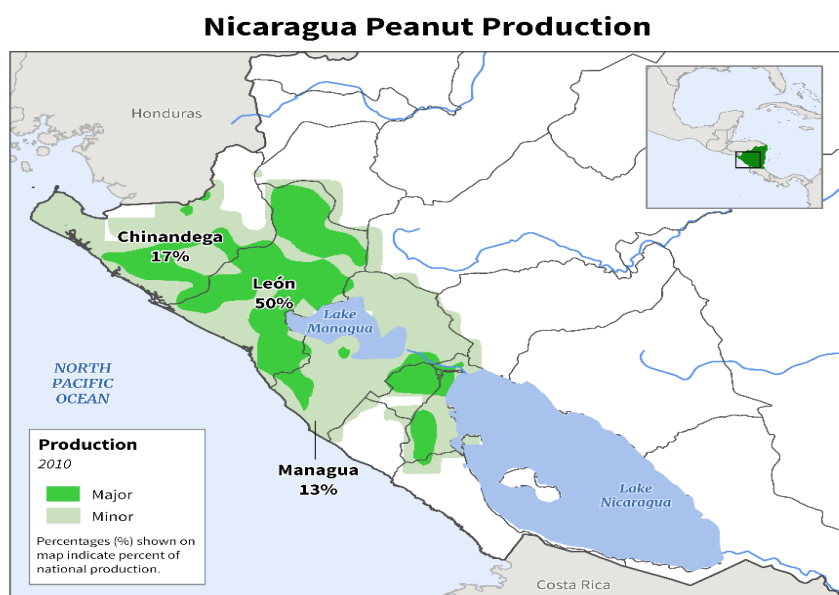
FAS Managua anticipates a drop in harvested areas of at least five percent to 42,000 hectares (ha) in marketing year (MY) 2025/2026 due to declining international peanut prices. Oversupply from a record crop in Brazil and a strong peanut harvest in Argentina have resulted in a 12 percent year-over-year (YoY) price decrease.

As of March 2024, peanut prices are estimated at twenty-five cents per pound, barely covering production costs, which are approximately \$1,600 per hectare, leaving minimal profit margins. Independent analysts report significantly increased production costs in recent years due to inflation and the 2019 Nicaraguan government tax reforms, which imposed new taxes and raised prices on agrochemicals. Planting intentions will depend on banks' willingness to secure loans under current market conditions and farmers' willingness to accept the risk of low international prices. FAS Managua expects farmers to be more rigorous in selecting production areas based on historical yields, excluding marginal lands.

In MY 2024/2025, planted areas reached 44,000 hectares, nearly identical to MY 2023/2024. However, MY 2023/2024 was characterized by a rain deficit caused by El Niño, which impacted production by reducing yields and peanut quality.

In Nicaragua, more than 90 percent of peanut production is concentrated in the departments of Leon and Chinandega on the West coast, where volcanic soils are highly suitable for peanut production. The remaining production occurs on the South-Central Pacific Coast in Managua and Masaya departments.

Image 1. Map of Nicaragua's Peanut Planted Areas.



Production:

FAS Managua forecasts peanut production at 186,000 metric tons (MT) in-shell for 2025/2026, down five percent from MY 2023/24. This is in line with a five percent drop in planted area due to unfavorable market conditions, including Brazilian oversupply and price competition, which have driven peanut prices down to twenty-five cents per pound as of March 2025. In MY 2024/2025, peanut production totaled 196,000 MT, up 12 percent from the previous year, with average yields of 4.4 MT per hectare.

In MY 2023/2024, Nicaragua suffered a severe drought that negatively impacted crop yields and overall peanut quality. Farmers planted over 45,000 hectares but experienced very low average yields of 3.8 MT per hectare. The relatively favorable prices in 2023/24 (0.30 cents per pound) compensated for the decrease in yields. In MY 2024/2025, Nicaragua experienced the La Niña phenomenon, typically associated with abundant rainfall, but the rains were well distributed, contributing to production growth. No major problems with pests and diseases were reported in 2024/2025, and yields increased 17 percent, from 74 quintals to 87 quintals per hectare (one quintal equals 100 pounds).

In Nicaragua, farmers usually prepare production areas in late April, May, and June, before planting the new crop in July and August, weather permitting. Harvest begins in November and concludes by early January. However, peanut farmers have reported that weather variability has delayed the peanut harvest in Nicaragua. Previously, peak harvest occurred in November, but now it starts in December and continues into January, with significantly reduced peanut volume harvested in November.

Nicaragua produces runner-type peanuts, with more than 90 percent of the crop and its co-products destined for export. Peanut exports are primarily directed to Europe, Mexico, and Central America. The local peanut industry accounts for more than 20,000 workers along the value chain, contributing over \$90 million in total industry revenue to the Nicaraguan economy in 2024.

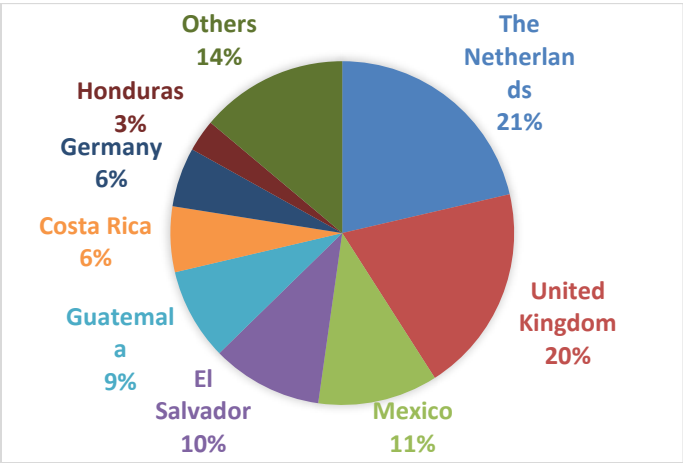
Consumption

FAS Managua projects MY 2025/26 Nicaraguan peanut consumption at 34,000 MT, of which an expected 20,000 MT is intended for crushing. Crushing for oil is a residual activity in Nicaragua, as edible grade peanuts command economically significant price premiums above so-called “oil stock” peanuts. Farmers retain approximately five percent (about 10,000 MT) of the total crop every year for planting seeds. A very small percent of the total peanut crop (approximately 5,000 MT) is consumed in the local Nicaraguan market as snack foods, confections, and desserts.

Trade

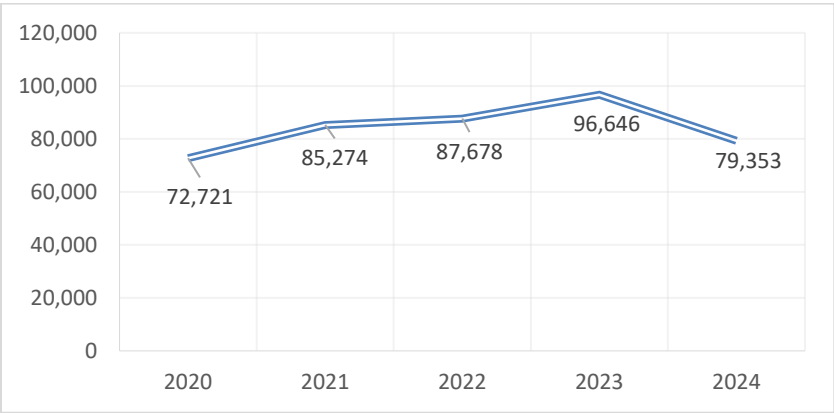
FAS/Managua projects MY 2025/26 peanut exports to drop at least five percent in MY 2025/26 due to the anticipated reduction in planted areas. Nicaraguan shellers’ exports to the European Union continue to grow gradually, and industry sources expect that trend to continue in 2025. Nicaragua has diversified its export markets in recent years as it can be seen in the chart below.

Chart. 1 Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Peanut exports to the World (79,353 Metric Tons).



Source: Nicaraguan Central Bank.

Chart 2. Evolution of Peanut Exports in the last five years (in metric tons).



Source: Nicaraguan Central Bank.

Stocks

FAS/Managua projects that shellers will generally not carry stocks from MY 2025/26 into the following year. The peanut industry distributes all the peanut harvest before the start of the new production cycle.

Peanut oil

Production

FAS/Managua projects approximately 20,0000 of “oil stock” peanuts to be crushed for oil in MY 2025/26, down 33 percent from historical volumes and crushing rates, generating a total of 7,000 MT of peanut oil due to a high percentage of high-quality grains. In MY 2024/25 approximately 30,000 MT of peanuts were crushed, as a result of poor quality seeds and yield reductions.

Consumption

FAS/Managua expects less than two percent of peanut oil produced in MY 2025/26 to remain in the domestic market. Industry sources indicate that none of the peanut oil produced in Nicaragua is consumed in the domestic market. Nicaraguan oil consumption is predominantly vegetable oils, such as soybean oil, that are more affordable for Nicaraguan consumers.

Trade

FAS/Managua projects MY 2025/26 peanut oil exports to reach 7,000 MT, down 30 percent from MY 2023/24 on expected improvements in peanut quality and lower volumes of oil-stock seeds in 2025. Practically all Nicaraguan oil production is exported as “crude” peanut oil. In recent years, Nicaragua exported roughly 60 percent of its oil to the European Union, followed by China with 30 percent, and the United States with 10 percent.

Stocks

FAS/Managua projects MY 2025/26 peanut oil stocks to be relatively small. Nicaraguan crushers generally do not hold appreciable volumes of oil stocks (if any) at the end of the marketing year.

Production, Supply, and Distribution (PS&D: Peanut Production)

Oilseed, Peanut	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Aug 2023		Aug 2024		Aug 2025	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Nicaragua						
Area Planted (1000 HA)	48	45	48	44	0	42
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	48	45	48	44	0	44
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	201	172	215	196	0	186
MY Imports (1000 MT)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	202	172	216	196	0	186
MY Exports (1000 MT)	150	121	165	151	0	152
Crush (1000 MT)	40	35	40	30	0	20
Food Use Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	7	4	6	5	0	6
Feed Waste Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	5	12	5	10	0	8
Total Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	52	51	51	45	0	34
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	202	172	216	196	0	186
Yield (MT/HA)	4.1875	3.8222	4.4792	4.4545	0	4.4285

PS&D: Peanut Oil

Oil, Peanut	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	May 2024		May 2025		May 2026	
Nicaragua	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Crush (1000 MT)	40	40	40	30	0	20
Extr. Rate, 999.9999 (PERCENT)	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.3333	0	0.35
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	14	16	14	10	0	7
MY Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	14	16	14	10	0	7
MY Exports (1000 MT)	13	16	13	10	0	7
Industrial Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Cons. (1000 MT)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	14	16	14	10	0	7

Attachments:

No Attachments.