

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: 29th October, 2025

Farmers to Boycott 2025 Farmers' Day Celebrations

The leadership of rice producers and millers, maize farmers, mechanization service providers, input dealers, and apex farmer associations together with agribusiness stakeholders across Ghana have resolved to boycott the 2025 Farmers' Day celebrations at the district, regional, and national levels.

This unprecedented decision reflects the deep frustration of farmers over the worsening crisis in Ghana's food production sector, particularly among rice, maize, and soya producers.

Despite repeated government assurances, including a public statement issued on 23rd September 2025 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, promising that every grain of rice and maize would be purchased through the National Food Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO), farmers are still waiting. No action has been taken, and the situation has left many producers unable to sell their harvests.

Meanwhile, markets across the country are being flooded with cheap, expired, and smuggled imported rice, often backed by politically connected cartels. These actors benefit from government contracts and repackage expired imports, brought in through unapproved borders without paying the necessary taxes. Such practices are crippling Ghanaian farmers, who cannot sell at competitive prices and are being driven into debt and bankruptcy.

As of last week, over 200,000 metric tons of paddy rice from the 2024 season remain unsold in warehouses across the Upper East, Northern, and North East regions. The National Rice Development data projects that Ghana's harvest for 2025 will reach 1.5 million metric tons, an increase from 1.3 million in 2024. Already, significant volumes have been harvested: 300,000 MT in Upper East, 400,000 MT in North East, 300,000 MT in Northern, 50,000 MT in Savannah, 20,000 MT in Upper West, and 100,000 MT in Volta. All of this produce sits locked away without buyers.

Farmers' Demands

- Suspend all foreign rice imports for six (6) months and tighten border controls, effective November 2025.

- Develop a medium- to long-term importation strategy based on national production capacity, allowing only limited imports to cover shortfalls, and gradually phasing out imports altogether.
- Mandate all public institutions such as: schools, hospitals, prisons, and the security services to procure exclusively Ghana rice and maize from local farmers and millers.
- Instruct the Ministry of Finance to urgently release substantial funding for NAFCO to purchase surplus maize and rice and reduce the glut.
- Introduce a guaranteed minimum price for rice and maize to protect farmers from exploitation.

Our Stands

Farmers, processors, traders, and all actors along Ghana's agricultural value chain are united in this call. We will boycott the 2025 Farmers' Day celebrations at every level until these urgent demands are addressed.

This action is not an attack on the idea of honoring farmers. Instead, it is a firm and united statement that policies and practices which undermine farmers cannot be celebrated while our livelihoods collapse.

Actors Endorsing the Boycott

- Association of Rice Producers and Millers
- Chamber of Agribusiness
- Association of Soya Value Chain Actors
- Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG)
- Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen (GNAFF)
- General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU)
- CropLife Ghana
- Ghana Rice Inter-Professional Body (GRIB)
- National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG)
- Millers and Processors Associations
- Traders and Market Women Associations
- Association of Parboiled Rice Millers

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