

Quake threatens 12,000 hectares of rice harvest and milk output in Azuero

When	No date given
Where	Azuero (Tonosí, Los Santos), Veraguas
Source	prensa
Published	2026-10-19 00:04-05:00
Discovered	2026-10-19 05:00-05:00
Link	https://www.prensa.com/politica/el-terremoto-pone-a-prueba-la-cosecha-de-12-mil-hectareas-de-arroz-y-la-produccion-de-leche/

Summary

La Prensa reports that road and bridge damage from the 9 October earthquake could block the harvest of some 12,000 hectares of rice in Tonosí, Mariato and Arenas, while dairy farms report lost milk and sick cows. Chiriquí production continues, so no immediate shortage is expected.

Details (summary of the article)

According to La Prensa, the 9 October earthquake has left Azuero farmers racing to get their rice out of the fields before damaged roads and bridges make it impossible. The biggest harvest volume is due within 10 to 15 days, but sunken road sections and landslide risk hamper combines and trucks, especially on the route to Macaracas. Fapagrap president Omar Spiegel says the crops themselves are in good shape; the problem is transport, and some 12,000 hectares (about 1.2 million quintales, roughly a quarter of the national crop) in Tonosí, Mariato and Arenas could be compromised. He does not expect immediate shortages because Darién, Chiriquí and Coclé continue producing, but losing a million quintales could exhaust national reserves by May or June 2027. Dairies also suffered: MIDA estimates about 30,000 litres of milk could not be shipped over three days, a Nestlé collection centre in Tonosí lost a 7,000-litre load and had its tanks displaced, and interrupted milking caused mastitis in 20 of 72 cows at one farm, each needing at least 15 days out of production. Salt water entered rice parcels near the coast at Isla Cañas, with about 35 hectares of rice and some watermelon lost. MIDA plans drone surveys, and the ISA is inspecting Herrera, Los Santos, Veraguas and Coclé to separate quake damage from earlier El Niño losses before any soft-credit support is considered.

Original (es)

El terremoto pone a prueba la cosecha de 12 mil hectáreas de arroz y la producción de leche

Los daños en caminos y puentes amenazan la salida de la cosecha de arroz en Azuero, mientras las lecherías enfrentan pérdidas y afectaciones en sus animales.