No. 4 ■ December 2011

Crop Prospects and Food Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As the year draws to a close, FAO's latest estimate confirms a record high global cereal production in 2011,** which should be sufficient to cover the expected increase in utilization in 2011/12 and also allow a moderate replenishment of world reserves.
- **International grain prices remained mostly under downward pressure in November,** reflecting the confirmation of a strong recovery in production amid deteriorating world economic prospects and a stronger US dollar.
- **Based on the estimated increase in import requirements, the cereal import bill of LIFDCs for 2011/12 marketing season is forecast by FAO at a record level.**
- **In West Africa, in several parts of the Sahel, especially in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, agricultural production has been affected this year** by late onset of rains, prolonged dry spells and significant pest infestations, and may impact on regional cereal markets leading to rising prices and food insecurity.
- **In Eastern Africa, despite some improvements in Somalia due to substantial humanitarian assistance and favourable rains, food insecurity is expected to remain critical** in drought-affected areas until the harvest of short season crops in early 2012. Prospects for the current main season harvest have improved in Ethiopia.
- **In the Near East, prolonged civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen has disrupted trade and humanitarian aid distribution,** limiting access to food especially for the vulnerable households.
- **In Far East Asia, despite severe localized flood damages to main season crops in Thailand, Cambodia and other countries,** the subregional aggregate cereal harvest for 2011 is estimated at a record level.
- **In Central America, unfavourable weather conditions reduced Mexico's 2011 coarse grains harvest**, more than offsetting good production elsewhere in the subregion and lowering the forecast of 2011 aggregate cereal output.
- **In South America, the 2011 wheat crop is forecast below its level in 2010** due to prolonged dry weather conditions in Argentina and planting reductions in Brazil. By contrast, prospects for the 2012 main season maize crop are favourable.
- **FAO's latest estimates indicate that 33 countries around the world are in need of external assistance** as a result of crop failures, conflict or insecurity, natural disasters, and high domestic food prices.

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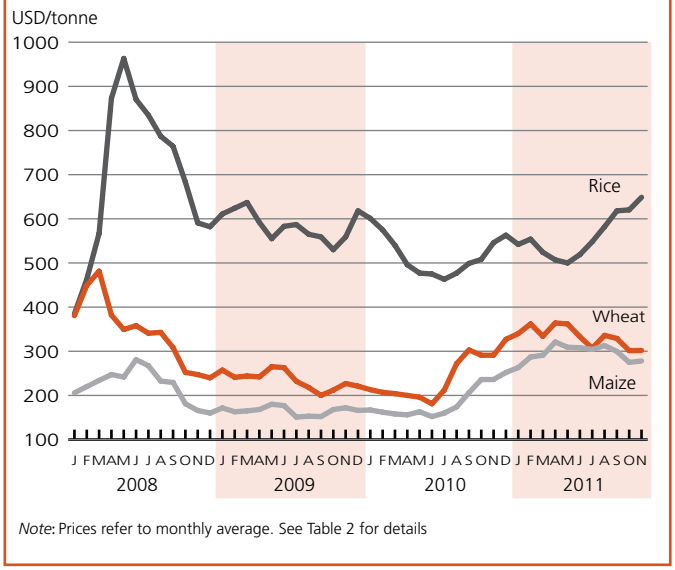
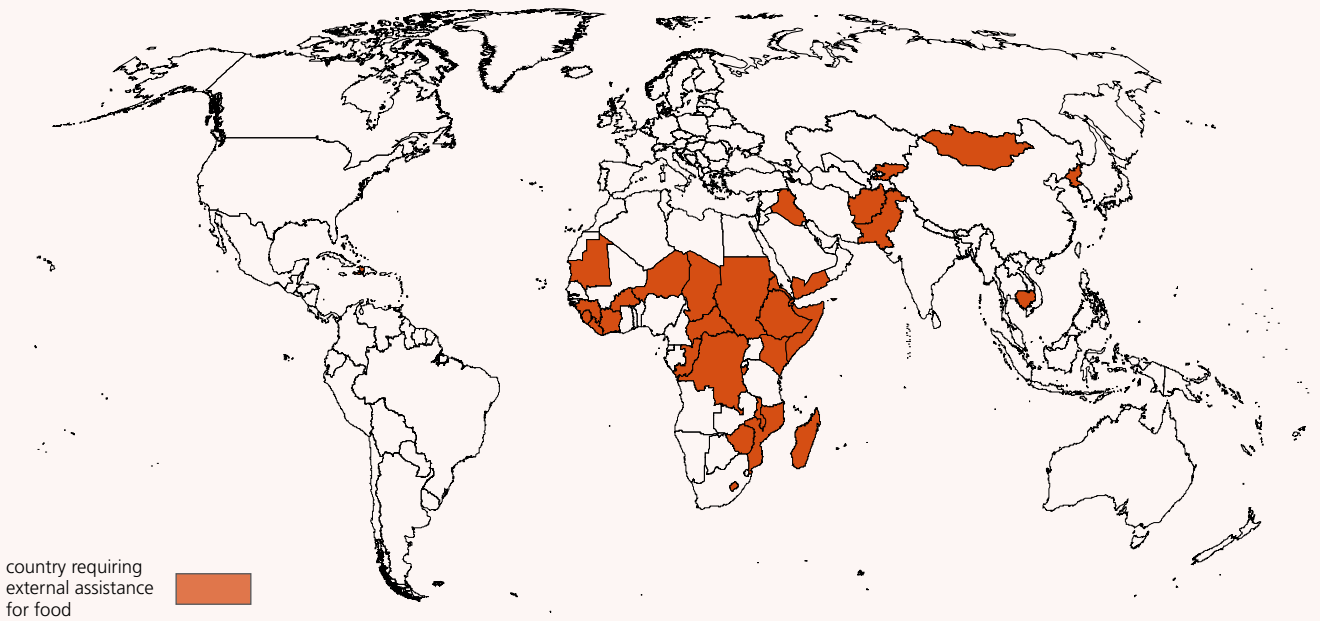
Selected international cereal prices



Note: Prices refer to monthly average. See Table 2 for details

Countries requiring external assistance for food[1]

World: 33 countries



AFRICA (24 countries)

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies

Burkina Faso
Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season caused a serious decline in 2011 cereal production. Consequently, cereal prices are expected to increase

Chad
Irregular rains and extended dry spells led to a sharp decline in cereal and pasture output in 2011 in both the southern Sudanian and the northern Sahelian zones of the country. Moreover, large numbers of refugees are located in southern and eastern regions of Chad (over 300 000 people from the Sudan's Darfur region and the Central African Republic). Also, the return of an estimated 79 000 Chadians from Libya is putting additional pressure on local food supply

Lesotho
Significant decline in national 2010/11 cereal production; 514 000 persons categorised as food insecure

Mauritania
The poor distribution of rainfall in 2011 growing season (July to October) resulted in a serious decline in cereal production. Pasture conditions were also severely affected in the pastoral and agropastoral zones of the country. Moreover the country is being affected by high international food prices due to its high import dependency

Niger
After the severe food crisis that struck the country in 2009/10, erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season led to a sharp decline in 2011 cereal and pasture output. In addition, rising numbers of refugees and returning national migrant workers from Libya are placing increasing demand on food: about 115 000 people arrived in Niger as of mid-August

Somalia
Famine persists in Middle Shabelle and among the IDPs in Afgoye and Mogadishu due to the past severe drought, the ongoing civil conflict and high international food and fuel prices. About 4 million people in need of food assistance

Zimbabwe
Reduced production in southern areas have impacted food security despite the overall improvement in availability of maize

Widespread lack of access

Djibouti
About 180 000 people, plus about 30 000 refugees, are in need of humanitarian assistance adversely affected by high food prices, the effects on pastoralists of several consecutive poor rainy seasons and conflict mainly in neighbouring Somalia

Eritrea
Vulnerability to food insecurity due to economic constraints, high international food and fuel prices, and the negative impact of dry weather especially for the pastoralists

Liberia
Slow recovery from war related damage. Inadequate social services and infrastructure, as well as poor market access and high food prices. Massive influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire: about 172 970 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of late August

Sierra Leone
Slow recovery from war related damage. Depreciation of currency led to higher inflation rates negatively affecting households' purchasing power and food security conditions

Severe localized food insecurity

Burundi
Low food stocks and high prices, particularly impacting deficit producing Cankuzo area. However, good output of the main season (B) improved national supplies

Central African Republic
Civil insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and food

Congo
Influx of more than 100 000 refugees since the end of 2009, mostly from DRC, has increased pressure on limited food resources

Côte d'Ivoire ▲
Conflict-related damage to agriculture in recent years and the lack of support services mainly in the northern regions. The recent post-election crisis has forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge mostly in eastern Liberia, where about 172 970 Ivorian refugees were still living as of late August

Democratic Republic of Congo ■
Civil strife, internally displaced persons, returnees and high food prices

Ethiopia ▲
About 4.6 million people (plus about 260 000 refugees) are in need of food assistance due to poor rains in southern and southeastern pastoral areas and in some secondary *belg* season crop producing areas

Guinea ■
Access to food is negatively affected by high food prices and general inflation

Kenya ▲
An estimated 3.75 million people (plus about 520 000 refugees) are food insecure, due to late and erratic 2011 long rains in northern, eastern and northeastern pastoralist and agropastoralist areas and in southeastern and coastal cropping lowlands

Madagascar ■
Decline in 2011 national rice harvest and higher rice prices contribute to aggravating overall food security conditions. However, improved production in southern areas alleviate conditions

Malawi ■
Production shortfalls in southern districts and increasing prices have exacerbated food insecurity conditions. However, good maize supplies have helped to stabilise national food security conditions

Mozambique ■
Overall national cereal supplies are satisfactory, and steady prices currently prevail, stabilising food security conditions, but southern areas affected by poor production remain a concern

South Sudan ■
About 1.5 million people are estimated to be food insecure due to a combination of factors, including civil insecurity, trade restrictions along the border areas with the Sudan; high food prices and increasing demand by IDPs and returnees

Sudan ■
About 4 million people are in need of food assistance (including about 2 million IDPs in Darfur), due to a combination of factors, including civil insecurity (mainly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur) and high food prices

ASIA (8 countries)

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies

Iraq ■
Severe civil insecurity

Widespread lack of access

Democratic People's Republic of Korea ▲
In spite of the improved food production this year, economic constraints and lack of agricultural inputs continue to lead to inadequate food supplies. Earlier severe winter conditions reduced wheat harvest and damaged stored seed potatoes; recent floods reduced the main harvest

Mongolia ▲
Lingering effects of *Dzud* in 2009/10 winter resulted in the death of nearly 6 million heads of livestock and affected livelihoods of some 500 000 people. The restocking of livestock is progressing slowly

Yemen ▼
Severe food insecurity persists as a result of recent socio-political unrest, high food prices, internally displaced persons (about 300 000 people still in camps) and refugees (about 170 000 people)

Severe localized food insecurity

Afghanistan ▲
Drought, conflict, insecurity and high food prices. Moderately food insecure areas are in the centre and northeast of the country. Poor 2011 wheat harvest exacerbated food insecurity

Cambodia ✚
Severe monsoon flooding in the Mekong and Tonle Sap River Basins in late September/early October 2011 affecting some 1.5 million people and damaging over 400 000 hectares of paddy crop

Kyrgyzstan ■
Lingering effects of socio-political conflict since June 2010 in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken Oblasts; and high prices of staple food after their sharp rise since July 2010

Pakistan ▲
Severe monsoon flooding in Sindh province affecting over 8 million people, destroying some 840 000 hectares of standing crops and causing death of large numbers of livestock

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (1 country)

Severe localized food insecurity

Haiti ■
Lingering effects of devastating earthquake of January 2010; resurgence of cholera epidemic

Countries with unfavourable prospects for current crops[2]

AFRICA (4 countries)

Kenya ▼
Delayed and insufficient 2011 long rains affecting crops, being harvested in southern and coastal marginal agricultural areas

Somalia ✚
Low plantings of 2011 *deyr* crops due to massive displacement of population; likely early cessation of *deyr* rains

South Sudan ■
Erratic rainfall in northern and northeastern areas; low plantings due to shortage of diesel

Sudan ■
High likelihood of reduced cereal output in main producing areas due to late onset of the rainy season followed by long dry spells in June and July

Key - Changes since last report (October 2011)

No change ■ Improving ▲ Deteriorating ▼ New Entry ✚

Terminology

[1] **Countries requiring external assistance for food** are expected to lack the resources to deal with reported critical problems of food insecurity. Food crises are nearly always due to a combination of factors but for the purpose of response planning, it is important to establish whether the nature of food crises is **predominantly** related to lack of food availability, limited access to food, or severe but localized problems. Accordingly, the list of countries requiring external assistance is organized into three broad, not mutually exclusive, categories:

- Countries facing an **exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies** as a result of crop failure, natural disasters, interruption of imports, disruption of distribution, excessive post-harvest losses, or other supply bottlenecks.
- Countries with **widespread lack of access**, where a majority of the population is considered to be unable to procure food from local markets, due to very low incomes, exceptionally high food prices, or the inability to circulate within the country.
- Countries with **severe localized food insecurity** due to the influx of refugees, a concentration of internally displaced persons, or areas with combinations of crop failure and deep poverty.

[2] **Countries facing unfavourable prospects for current crops** are countries where prospects point to a shortfall in production of current crops as a result of a reduction of the area planted and/or yields due to adverse weather conditions, plant pests, diseases and other calamities.

Global overview

GLOBAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND SUMMARY

Larger supplies than previously anticipated

This month's main feature is the significant upward revision to the 2011/12 global cereal supply estimate, following larger than anticipated opening stocks in the Russian Federation.

FAO's latest forecast for 2011 world cereal **production** has been lowered marginally since the previous update in November, but at 2 323 million tonnes is still confirmed as a record high, with a growth of 3.5 percent from 2010. Global wheat output is anticipated to expand by 6.5 percent to a level higher than predicted in November after some Asian countries and the Russian Federation raised their crop estimates. By contrast, the forecasts for coarse grains and rice production were reduced slightly. In the case of coarse grains, this largely reflects a downward adjustment for maize in the United States, while for rice, the revision is due to a deterioration of prospects in Indonesia.

The forecast for total cereal **utilization** in 2011/12 was raised marginally from November to 2 310 million tonnes, or 1.8 percent higher than in 2010/11. While consumption for food is to keep pace with population growth, total feed use is anticipated to rise by 1.8 percent, after falling for two consecutive seasons. An important emerging feature is a sharp 8 percent increase in the use of wheat for animal feed, reflecting competitive pricing compared to coarse grains, maize in particular. Coarse grains use for feed is forecast to increase by a mere 0.5 percent worldwide, with a fourth consecutive season contraction foreseen in the developed countries, traditionally the biggest users of coarse grains for feed.

The forecast for world cereal ending **stocks** by the close of seasons in 2012 has been raised by almost five million tonnes since the previous report, to 511 million tonnes. At this level, world cereal stocks would be 10 million tonnes higher than the previous year's revised level, which was raised by 11 million tonnes, following upward revisions to wheat and coarse grain inventories in the Russian Federation. As a result, the world cereal stocks-to-use ratio for 2011/12 would increase slightly to 22 percent. World wheat stocks are forecast to recover sharply following a strong production rebound in the CIS countries. Rice inventories are also likely to increase, driven by another year of record production.

A modest 2 percent expansion is forecast for world cereal **trade** in 2011/12. Nearly all of the increase is on account of wheat, while trade in rice and coarse grain is expected to change little. At 133 million tonnes, world wheat trade in 2011/12 would be 8 million tonnes, or 6 percent, above the previous season, boosted by strong world demand for feed wheat and large exportable supplies from the CIS countries, in particular the Russian Federation.

INTERNATIONAL PRICE ROUNDUP

Grain prices continue to decline

Reflecting the gradual improvement of the world cereal supply situation, amid deteriorating global economic prospects

Table 1. Basic facts of world cereal situation
(million tonnes)

	2009/10	2010/11 estimate	2011/12 forecast	Change: 2011/12 over 2010/11 (%)
PRODUCTION [1]				
World	**2 264.3**	**2 245.0**	**2 322.7**	**3.5**
Developing countries	1 240.5	1 305.3	1 328.3	1.8
Developed countries	1 023.8	939.6	994.4	5.8
TRADE [2]				
World	**276.0**	**280.1**	**286.8**	**2.4**
Developing countries	74.4	89.1	90.4	1.4
Developed countries	201.6	191.0	196.4	2.8
UTILIZATION				
World	**2 234.6**	**2 270.5**	**2 310.3**	**1.8**
Developing countries	1 369.7	1 420.9	1 450.4	2.1
Developed countries	864.8	849.5	860.0	1.2
Per caput cereal food use *(kg per year)*	152.1	153.1	153.4	0.2
STOCKS [3]				
World	**530.5**	**501.3**	**511.3**	**2.0**
Developing countries	342.7	353.6	364.4	3.0
Developed countries	187.8	147.7	146.9	-0.5
WORLD STOCK-TO-USE RATIO%	23.4	21.7	21.8	0.5

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown and include rice in milled terms.

[2] For wheat and coarse grains, trade refers to exports based on July/June marketing season. For rice, trade refers to exports based on the calendar year of the second year shown.

[3] Data are based on an aggregate of carryovers level at the end of national crop years and, therefore, do not represent world stock levels at any point in time.

and a stronger US dollar, grain **prices** continued their declining trend with the benchmark US wheat and maize prices averaging at USD 299 and USD 275 per tonnes, respectively, in November, down 3 percent and 10 percent, respectively, from the start of the season in July.

According to the FAO All Rice Price Index, international rice prices were stable in November, with the index remaining at the October value of 253 points. However, this reflected contrasting tendencies across various origins. Rice export prices in Thailand were up, underpinned by the recent flood-affected production prospects in the country, and especially by the launching in October of the new rice pledging programme, at prices 50 percent above those guaranteed under the previous price support scheme. The benchmark Thai rice price (Thai white, 100 percent B) averaged USD 649 in November, 5 percent up from its October level. Sluggish world import demand, on the other hand, prompted a slide of quotations in virtually all the other major export sources, including Viet Nam, India, Pakistan and the United States.

Figure 1. World cereal production and utilization

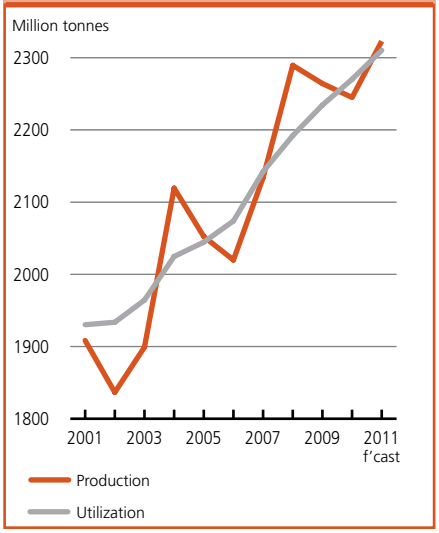
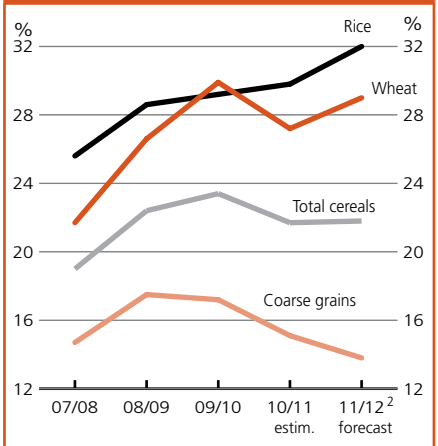


Figure 2. Ratio of world cereal stocks to utilization[1]



1 Compares closing stocks with utilization in following season.
2 Utilization in 2011/12 is a trend value based on extrapolation from the 2000/01-2010/11 period.

GLOBAL PRODUCTION ROUNDUP

Global wheat output reaches a new high in 2011

With the bulk of the world's 2011 wheat harvests already gathered or nearing an end, the forecast for world wheat output in 2011 now stands at a record 694.8 million tonnes, 6.5 percent up from 2010 and some 10 million tonnes above the previous high, which was set in 2009. Although prospects at the outset of the season did not point to such a strong growth, the record harvest materialized largely thanks to the bumper crops in the major producing countries in Asia and the sharp recovery in some CIS countries after drought last year, which more than offset significant reductions in North and South America.

Table 2. Cereal export prices*
(USD/tonne)

	2010	2011					
	Nov	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
United States							
Wheat[1]	291	333	307	336	329	301	299
Maize[2]	236	308	304	313	300	275	275
Sorghum[2]	234	285	279	304	285	265	275
Argentina[3]							
Wheat	295	341	310	292	300	260	239
Maize	246	306	300	312	295	276	271
Thailand[4]							
Rice, white[5]	541	519	548	582	618	620	649
Rice, broken[6]	430	421	445	471	497	505	553

*Prices refer to the monthly average.
[1] No.2 Hard Red Winter (Ordinary Protein) f.o.b. Gulf.
[2] No.2 Yellow, Gulf.
[3] Up river, f.o.b.
[4] Indicative traded prices.
[5] 100% second grade, f.o.b. Bangkok.
[6] A1 super, f.o.b. Bangkok.

Prospects for 2012 wheat crops generally favourable

In many parts of the northern hemisphere, the winter wheat crops for harvest in 2012 are already in the ground, or will be planted in the next few weeks. With current wheat prices similar to their levels a year ago and utilization expected to outstrip supply in 2011/12, the crop should remain an attractive option for producers. As a result, farmers are expected to maintain, or even increase, the area planted to wheat.

In the **United States**, early indications point to a considerable increase in the wheat plantings for harvest in 2012, contrasting with the relatively small coverage in the past two years. Ongoing dryness in the central and southern

Plains may influence farmers to plant more wheat rather than other crops that have a higher moisture requirement. In **Europe**, plantings may also increase in the **CIS** countries where, weather permitting, farmers would be keen to continue benefiting from attractive prices and strong demand in the region after the huge production shortfall in 2010. Conditions are reported to be generally satisfactory in the Russian Federation and Ukraine although more moisture would be beneficial, especially in the latter country. In the **EU**, however, with other crops competing strongly for land, the wheat area is expected to remain relatively unchanged. In **Asia**, planting of winter crops, mainly wheat and barley, is underway and will continue until mid-December. Prospects in **India** remain generally favourable, although the *Rabi* season rains have been much below the long-term average, irrigation reservoir levels are plentiful. Persistent dryness in parts of **China** and severe floods in the Sindh province of **Pakistan** could impact sowing in the affected regions.

Record coarse grains production in spite of smaller crop in the United States

FAO's latest forecast for world production of coarse grains in 2011 now stands at 1 147 million tonnes, 1.9 percent above the previous year's level and virtually matching the record harvest in 2008. The bulk of the increase is attributed to a strong recovery in **Europe's** production, mainly in the **European CIS** countries, after the drought in 2010. However, larger coarse grain crops are also forecast for **Asia** and **South America**. Early season forecasts had pointed to a larger increase at the global level, but adverse dry conditions affected major maize growing areas in the **United States**, the world's largest producer, causing the prospects for the global crop to be revised downward sharply as the season progressed. Planting of the 2012 maize crop is already underway in the southern hemisphere, with farmers in Argentina and Brazil expected to expand sharply the area planted in response to strong demand and attractive price prospects. Maize planting is also starting in Southern Africa under mixed conditions: rainfall has been generally satisfactory across eastern parts of the subregion but completely lacking or below average so far elsewhere. In South Africa, the largest producing country in the subregion, preliminary planting intentions indicate a possible expansion of plantings in response to the prevailing relatively high maize prices compared to last year.

Prospects for world rice production in 2011 downgraded but still forecast at a record level

Since the release of the November issue of Food Outlook, less than ideal weather conditions have been reported to have beset crops in Indonesia and in a number of western African countries, warranting a downgrading of their production prospects in 2011. Overall, such cutbacks resulted in a 2 million tonne downward revision of world rice production forecast, to 480.4 million tonnes. Compared with 2010, however, this would still entail a brisk 3 percent output growth and a record performance, a reflection of the excellent crops harvested in several key producing countries. While the 2011 season will not close until next year in some Northern Hemisphere countries, planting of the new 2012 crops has already started in countries situated along and south of the Equator.

Despite the extensive floods since August affecting a number of large producers, rice output in **Asia** is anticipated to grow by 3 percent to 435

Table 3. World cereal production[1]
(million tonnes)

	2009	2010 estimate	2011 forecast	Change: 2011 over 2010 (%)
Asia	**987.6**	**1 011.1**	**1 056.4**	**4.5**
Far East	885.4	917.8	946.2	3.1
Near East	67.2	67.9	68.4	0.6
CIS in Asia	35.0	25.4	41.8	64.4
Africa	**155.2**	**160.1**	**153.6**	**-4.0**
North Africa	39.3	32.6	36.6	12.3
Western Africa	49.6	55.0	50.1	-9.1
Central Africa	3.5	3.6	3.5	-4.7
Eastern Africa	32.7	37.2	33.7	-9.4
Southern Africa	30.1	31.7	29.8	-5.9
Central America and Caribbean	**37.6**	**40.4**	**38.6**	**-4.4**
South America	**118.9**	**143.2**	**143.6**	**0.3**
North America	**466.1**	**443.8**	**429.6**	**-3.2**
Europe	**463.4**	**405.6**	**460.5**	**13.5**
EU	296.5	278.9	289.9	3.9
CIS in Europe	150.4	110.1	154.2	40.1
Oceania	**35.5**	**40.8**	**40.4**	**-0.9**
World	**2 264.3**	**2 245.0**	**2 322.7**	**3.5**
Developing countries	1 240.5	1 305.3	1 328.3	1.8
Developed countries	1 023.8	939.6	994.4	5.8
- wheat	684.6	652.3	694.8	6.5
- coarse grains	1 123.7	1 126.1	1 147.5	1.9
- rice (milled)	456.0	466.6	480.4	3.0

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.
[1] Includes rice in milled terms.

million tonnes in 2011. Sustained by high price expectations and continued support from governments, large production gains are anticipated in Bangladesh, China, Viet Nam, and especially India, where the sector is forecast to breach the 100 million tonne landmark for the first time. In addition, output in Pakistan is expected to recover from the 2010 disastrous floods. On the other hand, successive storms in the Philippines, along with extensive and prolonged inundations in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and especially Thailand, are expected to depress output in those countries. In Indonesia, the authorities recently lowered their production forecast, which now points to a 1.6 percent contraction, reflecting the negative impact of a late start of the season, wetter than normal conditions during the development of the main crop, and subsequent drought problems. Afghanistan, the Republic of Korea and Japan are also expected to harvest smaller crops this season.

In **Africa**, production is now forecast at about 16.7 million tonnes, about 0.6 percent above last year. This compares with an earlier forecast of 17.0 million tonnes, with the difference reflecting a deterioration of output prospects in western Africa, particularly for Mali, Niger and Mauritania, where the pattern of the rainfall has been irregular and unevenly distributed. Grasshopper infestations are also threatening crops in part of the subregion. Compared with the exceptionally good results of 2010, production is now predicted to decline in Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. In southern Africa, erratic rainfall and the passage of tropical storms also depressed production in Madagascar. However, these contractions were mostly compensated by a sharp increase in Egypt, where high prices and a weak enforcement of cultivation limits by the Government fostered a strong expansion of plantings.

Although a number of countries in Central America were recently affected by heavy rains, the production outlook in **Latin America and the Caribbean** remains unchanged at 19.8 million tonnes, 12 percent above the low 2010 output. The recovery was led by Brazil, the largest producer in the area, by Argentina and Uruguay, which harvested record crops amid favourable climatic conditions, and by Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Paraguay and Venezuela. By contrast, Ecuador and Peru are likely to face a contraction, following lingering drought conditions.

In the **other regions**, abundant water boosted output in Australia. In the EU-27, progress in Italy is expected to fuel an overall recovery, while the Russian Federation harvested a bumper crop. By contrast, output in the United States looks set to fall to its lowest level since 1998, amid unfavourable weather.

Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries food situation overview[1]

2011 aggregate cereal production of LIFDCs is revised downwards mainly due to the anticipated reduction in harvests in West and East Africa

FAO's latest forecast of the 2011 cereal production of the 70 LIFDCs has been revised downwards to 552.9 million tonnes, or 3.2 million tonnes lower than the October estimate published in this publication. This level of production is marginally better than the record output of 2010. The downward revision from last October mainly reflects a reduced production in **Western Africa**, following irregular precipitation and prolonged dry spells in all Sahelian countries, namely **Burkina Faso**, **Chad**, **Mauritania** and **Niger** which caused a drop of 9.1 percent in cereal output (in milled rice terms) this year. Similarly, in **Eastern Africa,** the production is forecast to decrease by 9.4 percent compared to the previous year's record level, following one of the worst droughts in southern **Ethiopia**, northeastern **Kenya,** southern and central **Somalia** and **Djibouti** as well as irregular rains in **Uganda** and drop in planted area due to insecurity conditions of farmers in **the Sudan** and **South Sudan**.

On the other hand, bumper cereal crops were obtained in **Far East**, despite the localized flooding in several countries of Asia. The aggregate production increased to a record level of about 402.6 million tonnes, some 4.2 percent above the last year's another record output. India alone had its cereal output revised upwards by 4.7 million tonnes. Excluding India, the largest cereal producing country in this group, accounting for about 42 percent of the output, the aggregate production of the rest of LIFDC countries (69) declined by about 1.5 percent to 323 million tonnes.

Similarly, favourable harvests were gathered in **North Africa**, following adequate rains and in S**outhern Africa** owing to continued input support and expansion in area planted in most countries. Similarly, **Central America** gathered larger harvest in 2011.

In **CIS**, below-normal precipitation during autumn and shortages of irrigation water reduced crop yields in **Uzbekistan** and **Tajikistan**. Cereal production has recovered in **Georgia**, with the output increasing by 64 percent. In the **Republic of Moldova**, the only LIFDC in **Europe**, the 2011 cereal output has been slightly reduced due to a decrease in planted area. Elsewhere, the cereal production declined in 2011 as compared to 2010, particularly in the **Near East**.

Cereal import requirement of LIFDCs for 2011/12 expected to increase after declining for the previous two years

The aggregate cereal import requirements of the LIFDCs as a group in the coming marketing year are forecast to increase to 84 million tonnes, some 6 percent above the previous year's level, despite an improved domestic production in 2011 for the group as a whole. This reflects a forecast increase of over 2 million tonnes in **Near East** countries, where production is estimated to decline for the second consecutive year. Similarly, higher cereal import requirements were estimated in **Eastern Africa** following lower forecast harvests in several countries of the subregions. In **Asia, North Africa, Central Africa, CIS countries** and **Southern Africa**, despite the overall increase in aggregate subregional outputs,

Table 4. Basic facts of the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs)[1] cereal situation *(million tonnes, rice in milled basis)*

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Change: 2011/12 over 2010/11 *(%)*
Cereal production[2]	**519.8**	**545.5**	**552.9**	**1.4**
excluding India	316.1	327.3	322.5	-1.5
Utilization	**582.7**	**603.9**	**615.6**	**1.9**
Food use	468.6	482.6	494.2	2.4
excluding India	285.2	293.7	300.2	2.2
Per caput cereal food use *(kg per year)*	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7
excluding India	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Feed	51.5	54.2	55.5	2.4
excluding India	44.9	46.2	47.0	1.8
End of season stocks[3]	**107.3**	**111.6**	**113.0**	**1.2**
excluding India	64.0	67.4	65.3	-3.2

[1] The Low-Income Food-Deficit (LIFDC) group of countries includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 855 in 2008); for full details see http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc.asp.

[2] Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.

[3] May not equal the difference between supply and utilization because of differences in individual country marketing years.

[1] **The Low-Income Food-Deficit (LIFDC) group of countries** includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the World Bank's IDA assistance criteria; for full details see http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc.asp. The 2011 list of LIFDCs includes 70 countries as opposed to 77 on the 2010 list. Countries graduated from the list are Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco and Swaziland.

import requirements are estimated to increase due to lower harvests in the main importing countries.

Among the subregions, only **Central America** and **Far East** are expected to require lower cereal imports, mainly due to the improved domestic food availability in their major countries.

With regards to different commodities, the aggregate LIFDC wheat imports are forecast at about 50.5 million tonnes in 2011/12. The imports of rice, wheat and coarse grains are forecast to increase in 2012 by 6, 4 and 10 percent, respectively, over their corresponding levels during the year before.

The cereal import requirement of the LIFDCs as a group for the previous year, has been revised slightly upwards to 79.6 million tonnes from the 78.9 million tonnes estimate reported in the October issue of this publication, and some 4 percent lower than the previous year's actual imports.

Table 5. Cereal production[1] of LIFDCs
(million tonnes)

	2009	2010 estimate	2011 forecast	Change: 2011 over 2010 (%)
Africa *(39 countries)*	**120.3**	**129.3**	**123.0**	**-4.9**
North Africa	20.9	18.8	20.5	9.3
Eastern Africa	32.7	37.2	33.7	-9.4
Southern Africa	13.6	14.8	15.3	3.9
Western Africa	49.6	55.0	50.0	-9.1
Central Africa	3.5	3.6	3.4	-4.7
Asia *(22 countries)*	**395.4**	**411.7**	**425.3**	**3.3**
CIS in Asia	11.6	11.4	11.1	-2.8
Far East	369.6	386.5	402.6	4.2
- India	203.7	218.1	230.4	5.6
Near East	14.2	13.8	11.6	-15.8
Central America *(3 countries)*	**1.9**	**2.0**	**2.1**	**9.3**
Oceania *(5 countries)*	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**1.3**
Europe *(1 country)*	**2.2**	**2.4**	**2.4**	**-2.7**
LIFDC *(70 countries)*	**519.8**	**545.5**	**552.9**	**1.4**

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Includes rice in milled terms.

Table 6. Cereal import position of LIFDCs
(thousand tonnes)

	2009/10 or 2010	2010/11 or 2011				2011/12 or 2012	
		Requirements[1]		Import position[2]		Requirements[1]	
	Actual imports	Total imports:	*of which food aid*	Total imports:	*of which food aid pledges*	Total imports:	*of which food aid*
Africa *(39 countries)*	**41 463**	**38 624**	**1 722**	**29 266**	**1 585**	**42 063**	**2 626**
North Africa	15 652	15 811	0	15 811	0	16 671	0
Eastern Africa	8 834	5 947	1 025	5 077	978	8 045	1 986
Southern Africa	2 175	1 758	225	1 758	170	1 970	203
Western Africa	12 939	13 190	356	5 669	279	13 446	293
Central Africa	1 863	1 918	115	952	157	1 932	144
Asia *(22 countries)*	**39 519**	**38 618**	**805**	**37 429**	**649**	**39 894**	**677**
CIS in Asia	3 979	3 948	51	3 948	53	3 975	20
Far East	19 671	21 970	588	21 350	437	21 087	492
Near East	15 868	12 701	166	12 131	159	14 832	165
Central America *(3 countries)*	**1 667**	**1 795**	**114**	**1 795**	**174**	**1 711**	**135**
Oceania *(5 countries)*	**423**	**441**	**0**	**367**	**0**	**449**	**0**
Europe *(1 country)*	**87**	**81**	**0**	**81**	**0**	**86**	**0**
Total *(70 countries)*	**83 158**	**79 559**	**2 641**	**68 939**	**2 408**	**84 202**	**3 438**

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

[1] The import requirement is the difference between utilization (food, feed, other uses, export plus closing stocks) and domestic availability (production plus opening stocks).

[2] Estimates based on information available as of early November 2011.

Record cereal import bill of LIFDCs forecast for 2011/12

The total cereal import bill of the LIFDCs is forecast to reach a record level of USD 33 billion, up by about 3.4 percent from the 2010/11 estimated amount (see Table 7). The increase is primarily driven by import quantities during the course of this marketing season. The aggregate import bill in 2011/12 is projected to increase by 5 percent for wheat and 21 percent for coarse grains. On the contrary, the import bill for rice is forecast to decrease by about 8 percent, mainly due to the anticipated softening of prices during the year.

While most of the countries are highly vulnerable to food insecurity caused by high international food prices, for those countries that are net exporters of cereals, mainly rice, the higher prices are a positive development.

Table 7. Cereal import bill in LIFDCs by region and type
(July/June, USD million)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 estimate	2011/12 f'cast
LIFDC	**21 102**	**32 986**	**26 705**	**24 845**	**32 166**	**33 255**
Africa	9 366	16 358	13 127	12 221	15 531	16 408
Asia	11 242	15 697	12 998	12 006	15 774	16 018
Latin America and Caribbean	385	633	421	456	636	609
Oceania	99	175	124	136	191	186
Europe	10	123	35	26	33	34
Wheat	12 414	19 512	17 548	14 364	18 401	19 257
Coarse grains	2 562	3 461	3 529	3 153	4 560	5 539
Rice	6 125	10 014	5 627	7 328	9 204	8 459

Regional reviews

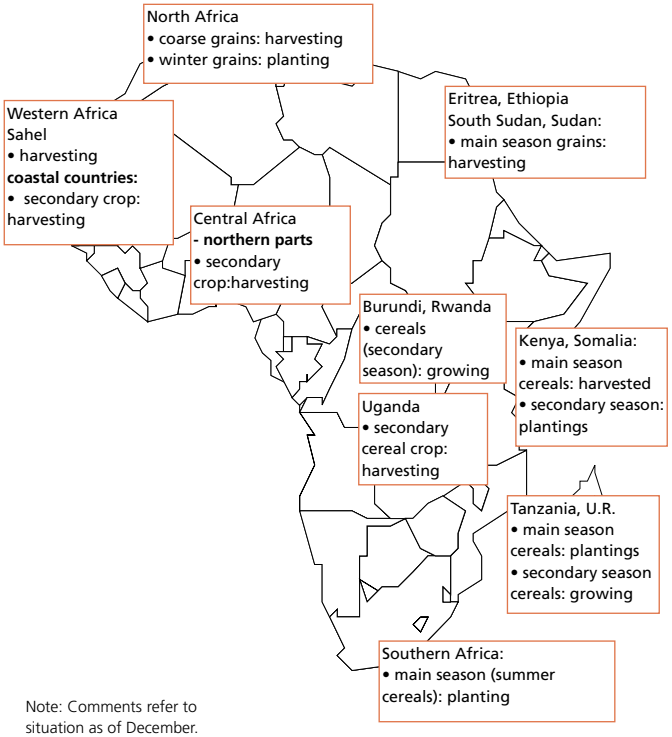
Africa

North Africa

Above-average cereal output estimated following improved weather

Planting of the 2012 winter wheat and coarse grains is underway throughout the subregion. Weather conditions have been favourable so far for planting in most countries.

Harvesting of the 2011 summer coarse grain and paddy crops is almost complete. FAO's latest estimates put the subregion's aggregate output of wheat (the main crop) at 19.3 million tonnes, an increase of 20 percent on last year and similar to the good output in 2009. Adequate rains and water availability in the main growing areas of **Algeria**, **Egypt**, **Morocco** and **Tunisia**, had a positive impact on yields. In **Egypt**, the largest producer in the subregion where most of the wheat is irrigated, the harvest is estimated at 8.4 million tonnes, or 17 percent above last year's poor crop and just below the bumper crop of 2009. The coarse grain production for the subregion is provisionally estimated at 13.3 million tonnes, about 6 percent above the five-year average.



Note: Comments refer to situation as of December.

Imports expected to remain high in 2011/12

Import requirements for the marketing year 2011/12 (July/June) are expected to be slightly lower than the previous year, following the good harvest of 2011. However, the subregion will still import about 23 million tonnes of wheat in marketing year 2011/12, well above the average of the previous five years. North African countries rely heavily on wheat imports from the international market to cover their consumption needs, with **Egypt** being the world's largest wheat importer with about 10 million tonnes imported in the 2010/11 (July/June).

For many countries, the hike in international food prices caused a sharp rise in their import bills. However, this has not translated into high domestic prices due mostly to government intervention aimed at maintaining subsidies on basic food items. For instance, in **Tunisia** in spite of the country's high import dependency ratio, the inflation rate in the food sector remained fairly stable in the first half of 2011. The year-on-year inflation rate in the food sector in September 2011 in **Algeria**, **Tunisia** and **Morocco** was around 5.7 percent, 4 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. By contrast, in Egypt, the year-on-year inflation rate in the food sector was estimated at 8.7 percent in October 2011, below the previous month and the peak of 22 percent in April 2011.

Humanitarian assistance needs for the refugees and returnees from Libya

Although the socio-political situation in **Libya** is slowly improving, the humanitarian needs of the refugees and returnees continue. The civil strife in Libya resulted in high levels of population displacements, both internally and externally. About 190 000 Libyan refugees were reported in Egypt and Tunisia as of early

Table 8. North Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
North Africa	**19.6**	**16.1**	**19.3**	**15.8**	**12.9**	**13.3**	**5.6**	**5.2**	**5.8**	**41.0**	**34.2**	**38.4**	**12.3**
Algeria	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	4.7	4.2	-10.5
Egypt	8.5	7.2	8.4	8.5	8.0	8.2	5.5	5.2	5.8	22.6	20.4	22.3	9.6
Morocco	6.4	4.9	6.3	4.0	2.8	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	7.8	9.1	16.3
Tunisia	1.7	0.8	1.8	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.1	2.6	140.6

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

September. As of late September, between 100 000 and 150 000 people were believed to be internally displaced. A recent FAO/WFP assessment reported that food stocks were being rapidly depleted in Libya, and together with increasing food prices there was a growing concern of serious food access problem. However, the resumption of oil and natural gas exports is expected to have a positive impact on Libya's capacity to replenish national food stocks.

In response to the humanitarian situation, a regional Emergency Operation was initiated by WFP in March 2011 to distribute food to about 1.5 million people in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt, which has been subsequently extended until February 2012 to cover a total of almost 1.6 million beneficiaries.

Western Africa

A reduced 2011 crop expected in the Sahel

The 2011 coarse grains harvest is nearly complete in the **Sahel** while in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea harvesting of the second season cereal crops is in progress. Joint inter-agency Crop Assessment Missions to the nine Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) and eight coastal countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo) have recently been completed. The Missions reviewed the evolution of the 2011 cropping season and preliminary cereal production estimates prepared by the national agricultural statistics services. FAO participated in most of these missions.

Following last year's record crop, a reduced harvest is anticipated in the subregion in 2011. Delayed rains, prolonged dry spells and significant pest infestations have affected 2011 crop production in several parts of the Sahel. Compared to 2010, cereal output is estimated to have declined sharply in all Sahelian countries, notably in **Burkina Faso**, **Chad, Mauritania** and **Niger** where production is estimated to drop by 17 percent, 44 percent, 53 percent and 27 percent respectively**.** In addition to the decline in cereal production, pasture conditions were seriously affected in these countries. Although harvest prospects are better in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, (such as Ghana, Togo and Nigeria) the expected average crop production in these countries will not be enough to offset the expected decline in production in affected Sahel countries. The overall harvest is expected to be about 5 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Prices of cereals increasing in several countries due to delayed and reduced harvests

Unlike the normal seasonal patterns, prices of locally produced cereals (maize, millet and sorghum), despite the ongoing 2011 crop harvests, have either increased or remained firm in recent months in several markets. The unusual price trends reflect delayed harvests and concerns over reduced crops. In most countries, prices are generally higher than at the same time last year. For instance, millet prices in markets in **Mali** (Bamako), **Niger** (Niamey), and **Burkina Faso** (Ouagadougou) in early November 2011 were, respectively, 58, 25 and 14 percent higher than in November 2010. In **Chad**, sorghum prices in September 2011 were about 42 percent and 28 percent above their levels of a year earlier in Sarh and Moundou, respectively. These two major cereal production areas are located in the Southern Sudanian zone. Similarly, in **Nigeria**, prices of maize remained stable in September while those of sorghum increased by 6 percent in Dawanau International Grains Market in Kano, the biggest in the subregion. Delayed harvests across the subregion have been exerting an upward pressure on maize and sorghum prices, which were about 30 percent higher than during the same month last year.

This year's drop in coarse grain production occurred against a backdrop of high international food prices, leading to increased prices of imported commodities in the domestic markets. In **Mauritania,** the country with the highest import dependency ratio, the average wheat price increased by 25 percent in September 2011 over September 2010 driven by trends in the international market. Similarly, domestic rice prices have been following an upward trend in recent months in **Chad**; and were about 9 percent higher in N'Djamena in September 2011 than a year earlier, while prices of imported rice remained firm in October in **Niger** and **Burkina Faso**. High international commodity prices, depreciation of local

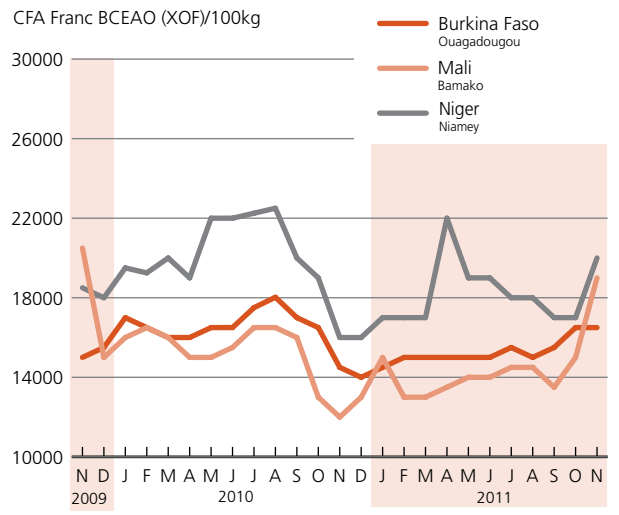
Table 9. Western Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals [1]			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Western Africa	**42.3**	**47.0**	**42.1**	**11.5**	**12.5**	**12.4**	**53.9**	**59.6**	**54.6**	**-8.3**
Burkina Faso	3.4	4.3	3.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	3.6	4.6	3.8	-17.0
Chad	1.4	3.1	1.7	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.6	3.3	1.8	-43.9
Ghana	2.2	2.4	2.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.9
Mali	4.4	4.1	3.3	2.0	2.3	1.9	6.3	6.4	5.3	-17.9
Niger	3.4	5.2	3.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.5	5.3	3.8	-27.1
Nigeria	21.3	22.3	21.8	4.3	4.2	4.3	25.7	26.5	26.1	-1.4

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Figure 3. Millet prices in selected Western African markets



Source: Afrique Verte.

currencies against the US Dollar and increased transport cost are also fuelling food price inflation in several cereal import dependent countries, notably in **Guinea**, **Liberia**, **Sierra Leone** and the **Gambia**.

Civil insecurity affects food security

The situation in Libya has had a serious impact on the food security of neighbouring countries, notably **Niger** and **Chad** where high numbers of returning migrant workers and refugees place increasing demand on food. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 94 000 and 82 000 persons arrived in Niger and Chad, respectively, as of late October. This has practically eliminated the remittances and has negatively affected the food security of the local communities. In addition, the recent post-election crisis in **Côte d'Ivoire** forced over 180 000 people to leave the country and seek refuge, mostly in eastern Liberia while thousands others were internally displaced. Most displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, following the improvement of the security situation but, as of late September, about 178 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia. Access to food is constrained for many households following the disruption in their livelihoods. The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) launched in April 2011 for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (including Liberia) was revised in July 2011, requesting USD 166.6 million in support of humanitarian efforts to cover the most urgent needs of refugees, displaced people and host population. As of 24 October, 50 percent of the EHAP has been funded.

Food and agricultural assistance is needed in the Sahel, notably in Chad, Mauritania and Niger

In the **Sahel**, countries affected by irregular rains this year experienced poor rangeland conditions, fall in coarse grains production, reduced cash crop returns and rising food prices. These problems, combined with the prevailing high poverty, could lead to a sharp increase in malnutrition. In particular, **Niger** and **Chad** were affected by a severe food crisis in 2009/10 that caused a drop in incomes, substantial loss of livestock and other assets, increased levels of household indebtedness, and deterioration of the nutritional status of pastoralists, agropastoralists and other farming groups. Thus, the rural population of these countries is still very vulnerable to food production shocks because of the exhaustion of their coping strategies. **Niger** and **Chad** are also most affected by the influx of returnees from Libya. Although livestock prices have remained relatively stable so far, certain parts of these countries may experience acute food insecurity if the upward trend in food prices continues. Large segments of the Sahel population will be at risk of food shortages in 2012 and will require targeted and timely assistance. In view of the current food supply situation and unfavourable import environment, the situation is likely to deteriorate further, notably in **Mauritania, Niger** and in **Chad**. Specific measures such as safety net interventions, distribution of farm inputs and children's access to therapeutic and feeding centres, should be considered.

Central Africa

Prospects for the 2011 cereal crops are mixed

In **Cameroon** and the **Central African Republic**, harvesting of the second 2011 maize crop (planted from August-September) is about to start in the south. In the northern parts of these countries, characterized by only one rainy season,

Table 10. Central Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals [1]			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Central Africa	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**3.7**	**3.8**	**3.6**	**-4.5**
Cameroon	1.7	1.8	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	1.9	1.7	-9.0
Central Africa Rep.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.4

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

harvesting of millet and sorghum is underway. Similarly, in the **Republic of Congo,** harvesting of the main maize crop is about to begin. Overall crop prospects remain mixed. Erratic rains have caused some crop damage in **Cameroon**, while above average rainfall has benefited crops in the **Central African Republic** and the **Republic of Congo**.

Increasing food prices prevail in the subregion

Reflecting the uncertain crop prospects in **Cameroon**, prices of maize, the main staple in the country, followed mixed trends in September. In some areas of the country, prices of maize in September 2011 were up to 42 percent higher than in September 2010. In highly cereal import dependent countries, higher international cereal prices have resulted in increased domestic prices. For instance, in **Gabon**, the annual food inflation rate was estimated at 9.3 percent in August, up from 5.6 percent in July.

Eastern Africa

Lower cereal crop estimated in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 main season cereal crops is underway in Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Sudan, South Sudan, western Kenya, and the Karamoja region in Uganda. The harvest will continue through January 2012. Overall, cereal production is forecast at a below average level given the late onset of the rainy season with long dry spells during the critical planting period (June/July). In northern and western **Kenya**, heavy rains during the second half of October caused localized flooding and affected quantity and quality of maturing crops. In **the Sudan**, planted area is estimated to have reduced due to insecurity conditions that forced many farmers to flee their farms, especially in main producing areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. By contrast, crop prospects are favourable in main cropping areas of **Ethiopia**, despite some concern that the recent off-season rains may have affected maturing crops. Similarly, unimodal rainfall areas of Karamoja region in **Uganda** are expecting favourable harvests. Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) were fielded to **South Sudan** and **Ethiopia** in October-November; their findings are expected shortly and production estimates are likely to change from the ones shown in Table 11.

In **Somalia**, eastern **Kenya**, the **United Republic of Tanzania** and **Uganda,** the 2011 main season cereal harvest was completed in September. With the exception of Uganda, where yields have been particularly good in southern and central districts following beneficial rains, harvests in the other countries were estimated at well below average levels. In particular, in Somalia, the 2011 *gu* harvest has been exceptionally poor with only 36 000 tonnes of maize and sorghum, the lowest level since 1995. However, moderate *hagaa* rains in July/August and intensive irrigation activities in Shabelle and Juba regions have benefitted off-season crops, with a better than expected maize production of about 12 000 tonnes.

The 2011 short-rains cropping season (October-December) in East Africa started on time or even a bit earlier than usual in southern coastal lowlands of Kenya, southern Somalia and in bimodal areas of the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The weather forecast for the remainder of the season is favourable and is expected to benefit maturing crops to be harvested from early next year. However, main concerns remain in Somalia following significant reductions in planted area of the short *deyr* season crops especially in Bay, Bakool and Shabelle regions, due to massive displacements of farming households due to conflict, drought and lack of resources to cover planting costs. In addition, the forecast of an early cessation of rains, especially in Gedo and Juba, may offset some of the positive gains made at the beginning of the season.

The subregional aggregate cereal production in 2011 is provisionally estimated at 34.4 million tonnes, similar to the previous average of the last five years but about 9 percent below the 2010 record output.

Table 11. Eastern Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Total cereals [1]			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Eastern Africa	**4.2**	**3.8**	**3.6**	**27.3**	**32.1**	**28.8**	**33.3**	**37.9**	**34.4**	**-9.2**
Ethiopia	3.3	3.0	2.7	13.4	14.2	12.6	16.8	17.4	15.5	-11.2
Kenya	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.5	3.3	-7.3
Sudan [2]	0.4	0.3	0.5	3.1	5.3	4.6	3.6	5.6	5.1	-9.1
Tanzania U.R.	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.3	4.7	4.3	5.7	6.2	5.7	-7.9
Uganda	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.4	3.2	-5.9

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.
[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).
[2] Including South Sudan.

Food insecurity remains critical in most drought-affected areas

An estimated 18 million people, including 4.6 million in Ethiopia, 4 million each in Somalia and the Sudan, 3.75 million in Kenya, 1.5 million in South Sudan and 180 000 in Djibouti remain in need of emergency assistance. Poor crop production and high livestock mortality rates that

followed one of the worst droughts in the subregion, coupled with high food prices were the main factors behind the emergency requirement. The situation was also exacerbated by conflict, especially in southern and central Somalia, Darfur and Blue Nile states in the Sudan and in Abyei between the Sudan and South Sudan.

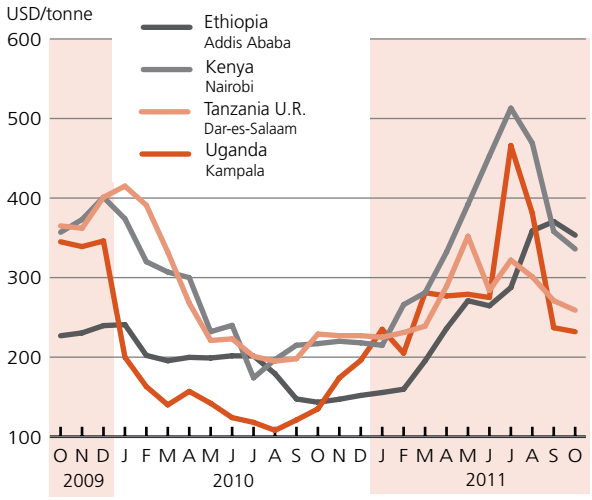
The food security situation is expected to improve in the coming months as newly harvested crops reach local markets. The early onset of October-December short rains has already brought some relief to the drought-affected agropastoral and pastoral areas of northern and northeastern Kenya, southeastern Ethiopia (Somali region) and southern Somalia, improving water and pasture conditions and reducing trekking distances. Despite these recent improvements, food access will remain difficult for millions of poor households in drought-affected areas due to low market prices of animals (due to poor body conditions and forced sales) and high prices of sorghum and maize. Herd sizes have been seriously reduced (in Kenya, losses are estimated at about 8 million animals) and successful restocking needs several favourable seasons. In Somalia, famine conditions are expected to persist in agropastoral areas of Middle Shabelle, and among IDP populations in Afgoye and Mogadishu. In areas of Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle, formerly classified as IPC Phase 5 (Famine), substantial humanitarian assistance and favourable rainfall have mitigated food deficit levels and reduced mortality rates. These areas, as of 18 November 2011, have been downgraded to IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Given the current forecast of a likely below-average 2012 *deyr* season production, large areas of southern Somalia are expected to remain in Emergency Phase until the 2012 harvest of *gu* season in August. In addition, the banning of several humanitarian agencies to operate inside Somalia by the rebel group, Al-Shabaab, is likely to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis and reverse any small gains made in recent months.

The drought-induced influx of Somali refugees into neighbouring countries has significantly declined in recent weeks, however, according to UNHCR, the total number of refugees hosted in camps has reached an unprecedented figure of about 745 000 people (including 30 000 new Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia). These refugees face an increasing risk of rise in diseases and limited access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, water and sanitation. Recent flood affected parts of Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, hampering aid delivery and increasing risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

Cereal prices decrease but still remain at high levels

Cereal prices continued to decrease in October in most countries of the subregion as supplies from the 2011 main season harvests progressively began to reach markets. In addition, food aid is also distributed in drought-affected areas. However, prices still remain at high or record levels. In Somalia, despite a drop of up to 60 percent from August to October 2011, wholesale maize and sorghum prices in Mogadishu, Marka and Baidoa markets are up to almost three times the levels in October 2010. When compared to the record levels reached in July 2011, maize prices dropped significantly also in Kenya and Uganda, by 35 and 50 percent respectively, but are still well above their levels of twelve months earlier. In Ethiopia, prices of maize reached all time highs in September 2011 in several markets, with about USD 370-400 per tonne, but declined moderately (around 5 percent) in October with the beginning of harvest of 2011 *meher* crops. Conversely, cereal prices have recently increased in most markets in the Sudan and South Sudan. In the Sudan, sorghum prices increased by 20-25 percent between September and October in the capital city, Khartoum, and in the main growing area of El Gadarif, reflecting the delayed start of the harvest and an anticipated reduction of the 2011 output. In South Sudan, food prices increased dramatically in main markets along the border with Sudan, especially in Northern Bahr El Gazal, Warrap and Unity, following trade restrictions established in May 2011 that drastically reduced imports from the Sudan and caused shortages of food supplies. In other parts of South Sudan, including the capital city Juba, October food prices are higher than one year ago also due to high fuel and transport costs as well as the higher food demand due to the returnee and IDPs population.

Figure 4. Maize prices in selected Eastern African markets



Sources: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network; Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise.

Southern Africa

Mixed start of the 2011/12 rainy season

Planting of the 2011/12 agricultural season (October-June) is underway. Following moderate rains across eastern parts of the

subregion during the first two dekads of October, favourable rains resumed at the end of October and beginning of November, aiding land preparation and planting. However, satisfactory rains have yet to start in Namibia, Botswana, central and western regions of Zimbabwe, and some southern parts of Zambia and Angola. Similarly, below-average rains have been recorded in Lesotho and western parts of South Africa, delaying planting activities in parts. Preliminary planting intentions in South Africa indicate a 10 percent increase in maize area. The possible expansion is attributed to the prevailing high maize prices compared to last year. Updated rainfall forecasts indicate increased likelihood of above normal rains in western and far northern parts of the subregion, while normal rains are expected in eastern areas between December and January. By contrast, northern areas of Madagascar and Angola area expected to receive below average rain over the same period.

Input support programmes continue to assist smallholder farmers with many programmes this season, with the shift from direct support to voucher schemes. In Zambia and Mozambique the support programmes have expanded their coverage, while in Zimbabwe input assistance will be combined with training programmes. However, despite the generally improved availability of seeds and fertiliser, utilization may be constrained for households accessing inputs outside of government and humanitarian programmes as a result of the increased cost of fertiliser products this year. In Malawi, foreign currency constraints have hampered imports and may impact the delivery of agriculture inputs, while in Swaziland, the distribution of subsidised inputs has been abandoned this year as a result of the national economic downturn.

2011 cereal harvest above average despite weather anomalies in some countries

The subregion's 2010/11 maize crop is estimated at about 23 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than last year's record level, but 16 percent above the subregion's previous five-year average (2006-2010). Continued input support and expansion in area planted in most countries resulted in the good outcome. However, torrential rains across the Zambezi basin and southern and western parts of the subregion caused localized flooding negatively impacting crop development and reducing national cereal production in **Angola**, **Lesotho** and **Namibia**. A period of relative dryness during February also caused crop wilting, notably in southern parts of **Malawi** and **Zimbabwe**, but at the national level, increased production in northern areas compensated for the lower productivity in the affected areas. Rice production is estimated to have contracted by 10 percent in **Madagascar** on account of late and erratic rains in the main producing areas, while the passing of tropical cyclone Bingiza in February also contributed to constraining the 2011 output. Rice production in **Mozambique** grew by 5 percent over last year's output, reaching a new record level of 271 000 tonnes (paddy terms) due to favourable rainfall and input support.

Wheat production in 2011 is estimated at approximately 2.2 million tonnes, nearly 30 percent above 2010. This is mainly due to the expansion in area in South Africa and Zambia, which account for about 95 percent of the subregion's wheat output. Yield levels have also improved in South Africa.

Higher cereal import requirements estimated in 2011 following lower harvests in several countries

Estimates for the 2011/12 (mostly April/March) marketing year indicate that the subregion's aggregate cereal import requirement is expected to expand to 6.4 million tonnes, compared to 6.1 million tonnes in 2010/11. The increase is predominantly in response to reduced cereal harvests in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar and Namibia. Disaggregated by crop, total maize import requirements are forecast to contract marginally, while

Table 12. Southern Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Southern Africa	**2.2**	**1.7**	**2.2**	**24.5**	**26.5**	**24.4**	**5.0**	**5.2**	**4.8**	**31.7**	**33.4**	**31.4**	**-6.0**
- excl. South Africa	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**11.3**	**12.7**	**12.8**	**5.0**	**5.2**	**4.8**	**16.6**	**18.2**	**17.9**	**-1.7**
Madagascar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	4.5	4.8	4.3	4.9	5.2	4.7	-8.6
Malawi	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	3.5	4.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.9	3.6	4.1	14.5
Mozambique	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.5	2.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.6	2.8	2.9	4.6
South Africa	2.0	1.4	1.8	13.2	13.8	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.1	15.2	13.5	-11.2
Zambia	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.0	2.9	3.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.2	3.1	3.4	8.6
Zimbabwe	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.6	1.7	3.6

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

wheat import requirements, which have been increasing over the last ten years, are estimated to rise moderately. Rice imports are forecast to increase for Madagascar and South Africa due to a reduced harvest.

Prices remain generally stable but rising prices observed in deficit areas

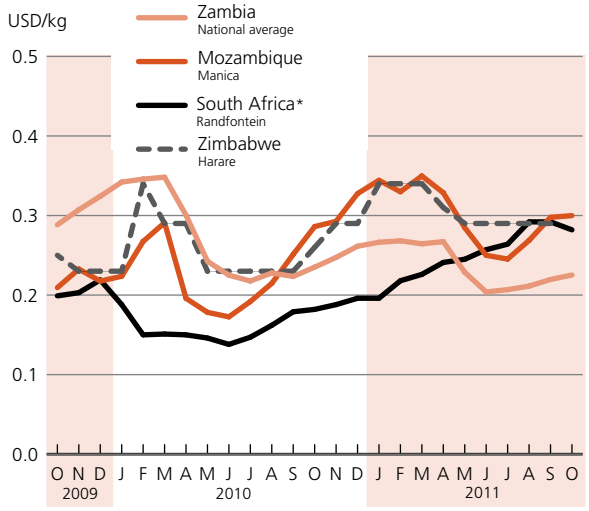
Prices of maize have risen from their seasonal lows in May to July; however, satisfactory national supplies have contributed to maintaining comparatively stable price levels and tempered significant seasonal increases in many markets. National average maize grain prices in Malawi and Zambia, reached their lowest levels last May and June since 2007 and 2008, respectively. However, prices began to rise in recent months; in October they were at slightly higher levels than at the same period last year. In the deficit producing southern areas of Malawi, grain prices have exceeded MWK 40 per kg, over 20 percent higher than the national average, and reached highs of MWK 50 per kg in Nsanje during October. Increasing costs of fuel and tight local supplies have contributed to the high prices. In Mozambique, maize prices remain at comparable levels to last year, while in Zimbabwe prices are slightly higher relative to the previous season. Rice prices in Madagascar continued to rise and in October 2011 exceeded the levels of last year, in response to a lower harvest and higher transport costs. By contrast, in Maputo, Mozambique, rice prices have fallen during the last two months and in October 2011 they were 10 percent below the level of last year.

In contrast to the subregion's general seasonal patterns, South Africa's monthly maize (white) prices have been increasing since mid-2010, and in October 2011 reached a record level of Rand 2 245 per tonne, an increase of nearly 80 percent on last year. The substantial rise in prices in Rand follows the drop in domestic production in 2011 and strong export demand, although, due to the strengthening of the US Dollar, the price in USD was slightly lower in October.

Overall food security satisfactory but concerns remain in areas affected by production shortfalls

Current food security conditions at the subregional level are satisfactory, on account of the good 2011 maize harvest, which followed three consecutive years of above-average production. Adequate household and market stocks have contributed to limiting significant price increases in most areas of the subregion, to the benefit of net-purchasing households, particularly low income households in urban areas. Brisk trade, within and between countries, has also improved flows of grains from surplus to deficit areas. Overall, there has been a decrease in the number of food insecure persons in 2011. However, Lesotho and Namibia

Figure 5. White maize prices in selected Southern African markets



*Wholesale prices, all others retail prices.

Sources: Central Statistical Office, Zambia; Sistema de Informação de Mercados Agrícolas de Moçambique, Mozambique; SAFEX Agricultural Products Division, South Africa; WFP/CFSAM/FEWSNET, Zimbabwe.

experienced significant production short-falls due to excessive rains at the start of the year and the number of food insecure people rose substantially to 514 000 and 243 474 respectively, compared to the previous year. Other areas of concern include southern parts of Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, following weather related shocks earlier in the year and subsequent production declines.

Great Lakes Region

Favourable rains benefit cropping activities

Planting of the 2012 A secondary season crops in **Burundi** and **Rwanda** was completed in October. The timely onset of seasonal rains (October-February), which have been above average and well distributed, benefited planting activities and early crop development. The good rains followed favourable cereal harvests earlier in 2011, with Burundi and Rwanda registering production increases of 2 and 14 percent, respectively, over last year's level. Despite generally satisfactory food security conditions, pockets of vulnerability exist in parts of eastern Burundi, following irregular and insufficient rains that led to some crop losses, while heavy rains around the harvesting period caused damage to the bean crop. The occurrence of banana bacterial wilt, as well as the prevalence of cassava mosaic disease (CMD) and emergence of cassava brown streak disease (CBSD) continue to impact production in the Great Lakes subregion, with negative consequences for household incomes and food consumption, given the importance of cassava in local diets.

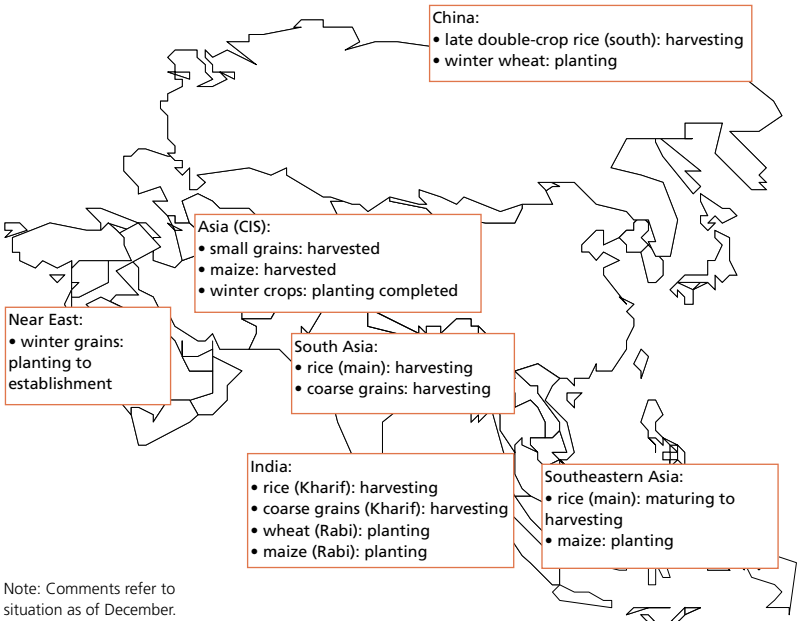
Food prices stabilise at high levels

Prices of beans and maize were stable during the post-harvest period, between July and October. However, maize prices in October were 80 and 15 percent higher in Kigali (Rwanda) and Bujumbura (Burundi), respectively, while bean prices were slightly lower than last year. Limited import opportunities, following trade restrictions imposed in the United Republic of Tanzania, which have recently been lifted, contributed to maintaining elevated price levels. Rice prices have also risen over the same period, reflecting recent increases on the international market. Given the large portion of poorer households' income allocated to food purchases, the higher prices are expected to impede food access and further aggravate the food insecurity conditions of vulnerable groups and households.

Asia

Far East

Record 2011 aggregate cereal harvest despite reduced production in the flood-affected countries



Note: Comments refer to situation as of December.

Harvesting of the 2011 main wet season rice and coarse grains is nearly completed. Despite localized flooding in several countries in the subregion, the 2011 aggregate cereal output is estimated at a record level of about 1.16 billion tonnes (including rice in paddy terms), some 3.1 percent above last year's record output. Significant gains in national aggregate cereal production is anticipated in **Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, **India**, **Pakistan,** the **Philippines** and **Viet Nam.** The monsoon rains this year, however, had a mixed performance, with several countries experiencing heavy rains and localized flooding and consequent reduction in their national harvests. Particularly affected were **Japan**, **Myanmar** and **Thailand,** with an estimated decrease in 2011 cereal production ranging from 2.3 percent in Myanmar to 5.7 percent in Thailand compared to their respective output last year. In **Indonesia,** production of both rice and coarse grains is expected to contract due to unfavourable weather. The remaining countries, namely **Cambodia** and **Sri Lanka** are expecting a total cereal output more or less similar to that of the year before.

Harvest of **paddy**, the major staple crop in the subregion, is forecast at a record level of 646 million tonnes, or 3 percent over the bumper harvest of 2010, mainly reflecting a recovery in India and Pakistan. In China, in spite of the reported drought conditions during the year, the 2011 aggregate paddy production is estimated at 203 million tonnes, about 3 percent up from the last year's level given the corrective measures undertaken in the affected areas. On the other hand, a poor paddy harvest is estimated due to severe flooding in Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand, while a powerful earthquake on 11 March 2011 and ensuing tsunami, as well as the Fukushima nuclear plant radioactive leakage have damaged the crop in Japan this year.

The harvest of 2011 winter **wheat**, gathered earlier in the year, reached 231 million tonnes, an improvement of 3.6 percent above the generally poor production in 2010. Significant increase was observed

Table 13. Far East cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Far East	**223.4**	**223.3**	**231.4**	**253.7**	**275.7**	**283.5**	**611.6**	**627.7**	**646.2**	**1 088.8**	**1 126.7**	**1 161.1**	**3.1**
Bangladesh	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	48.4	50.3	51.9	50.2	52.3	54.2	3.5
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	7.6	8.2	8.2	8.5	9.0	9.1	0.8
China	115.1	115.2	116.8	172.8	186.6	193.9	196.7	197.2	203.0	484.6	498.9	513.8	3.0
India	80.7	80.8	85.9	33.9	42.0	41.4	133.6	143.0	154.5	248.2	265.8	281.9	6.1
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.6	18.3	17.2	64.4	66.5	65.4	82.0	84.8	82.6	-2.6
Japan	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	10.6	10.6	10.3	11.5	11.7	11.3	-2.8
Korea Rep. of	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	6.6	5.8	5.7	7.0	6.2	6.0	-2.6
Myanmar	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	31.0	30.8	30.0	32.6	32.4	31.7	-2.3
Nepal	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.4	4.0	4.5	4.5	7.5	8.4	8.7	2.8
Pakistan	24.0	23.3	24.3	3.8	3.9	4.1	10.3	7.2	9.7	38.1	34.4	38.2	10.8
Philippines	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	6.4	7.3	15.5	16.7	16.4	22.5	23.1	23.7	2.5
Thailand	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	4.1	4.4	32.0	34.5	32.0	36.8	38.6	36.4	-5.7
Viet Nam	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.7	4.8	39.0	40.0	42.0	43.4	44.6	46.8	4.8

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

in **India** and **Pakistan**, two of the main wheat producers in the region.

Planting of the 2011/12 winter crops, mainly wheat and barley is underway and will continue until mid-December. Given the current attractive prices of wheat, the plantings are expected to be buoyant. The *Rabi* crop rains have been much below the long-term average in **India** but the irrigation reservoir levels are above average. Much of the crop is irrigated. Persistent dryness in parts of **China** and severe floods in the Sindh province of **Pakistan** could impact sowing in the affected regions.

Rice exports are expected to remain almost unchanged but wheat imports to decrease

In general, the Far East subregion is a net exporter of rice and net importer of wheat. In spite of the improvement in the aggregate production of rice, exports in 2012 are preliminarily forecast to remain virtually unchanged mostly due to the estimated decline in production from the leading rice exporter of the region, **Thailand**. On the other hand, aggregate rice imports by all Far East countries in 2012 are expected to increase slightly from the previous year, following higher import requirements, particularly in **Indonesia** and the **Philippines**.

In the case of wheat, the 2011/12, July/June exports are estimated to increase mainly due to the forecast increases in wheat exports by **India**. In parallel, the aggregate wheat imports of the subregion in 2011/12 are expected to decline by 1.5 million tonnes, or 4.6 percent in comparison with the previous year, owing to generally good production in several importing countries, such as China and Bangladesh. Far East imports of coarse grains, consisting mostly of maize and barley, are expected to rise in 2011/12. The largest increase in imports is foreseen for China as a result of continuing strong demand for feed maize possibly being substituted for the more expensive wheat. The overall cereal trade volume, both exports and imports, are expected to strengthen in 2011/12, and remain much higher than the average of the previous five years.

Table 14. Far East cereal production and anticipated trade in 2011/12 [1]
(thousand tonnes)

	Avg 5-yrs (2006/07 to 2010/11)	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12 over 2010/11 (%)	2011/12 over 5-yr avg (%)
Cereals - Exports	31 862	32 375	34 242	5.8	7.5
Cereals - Imports	80 999	86 307	87 839	1.8	8.4
Cereals - Production	873 717	917 787	946 236	3.1	8.3
Rice-millled - Exports	24 554	26 595	26 600	0.0	8.3
Rice-millled - Imports	8 642	9 455	9 796	3.6	13.4
Rice-millled - Production	404 522	418 802	431 335	3.0	6.6
Wheat - Exports	2 441	1 988	3 450	73.5	41.3
Wheat - Imports	31 130	33 542	32 006	-4.6	2.8
Wheat - Production	215 417	223 302	231 410	3.6	7.4

[1] Marketing year July/June for most countries. Rice trade figures are for the second year shown.

Rice prices on the rise in most countries while those of wheat remain generally stable

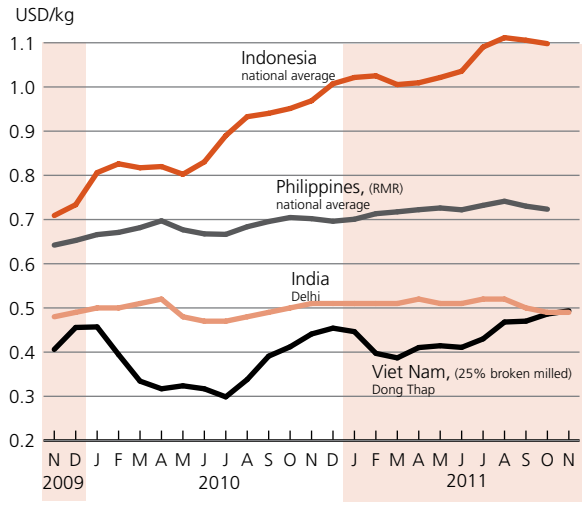
Prices of rice in US dollar terms have been rising steadily in most countries in the subregion, reaching record levels in **Viet Nam** and **Indonesia**. Concerns about floods, affecting the current main season standing paddy crops in South East Asia, put upward pressure on domestic prices. Typically, prices in the importing countries such as **China** and the **Philippines** are much higher and have risen faster than in the exporting countries. Similarly rice has been getting more expensive in the past months also in the exporting countries such as **Cambodia**, **Pakistan** and **Thailand**, supported by higher export prices, being 26, 23 and 27 percent, respectively, above their levels of a year ago. The prices are also considered to be high particularly in comparison with the pre-crisis period before mid-2008. In some other countries such as **India**, **Indonesia**, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, **Nepal** and the **Philippines**, prices have declined in the most recent month from the month before or have remained virtually unchanged since September/October of 2010.

Wheat prices remained generally constant in many countries of the subregion, such as **Bhutan**, **India**, **Lao People's Democratic Republic** and **Nepal,** reflecting adequate supply and lower international prices. However, in China, the average retail price of wheat has been rising since February 2011, being 18 percent higher in October than a year ago, mainly due to the tight supplies and rising feed demand.

Overall food security adequate but concerns remain due to the impact of floods and high prices in several countries

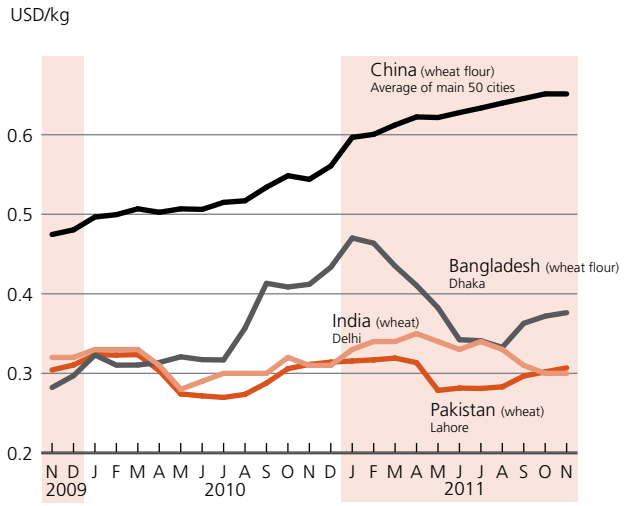
The overall food security conditions have improved in several countries, such as India, Nepal and the Philippines, mainly due to good harvest, increased incomes from employment opportunities and regular supply of food to the local markets. However, intense rains during this year's monsoon season caused significant localized flooding and devastation in several countries, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Viet Nam, further worsening the food insecurity in the subregion. In **Pakistan**, torrential rains adversely affected about 8.9 million people and destroyed at least 1.5 million houses and damaged cotton, sugarcane, rice

Figure 6. Rice retail prices in selected Far East countries



Sources: Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), Indonesia; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India; Bureau of Agriculture Statistics, Philippines; Agroinfo, Viet Nam.

Figure 7. Wheat and wheat flour retail prices in selected Far East countries



Sources: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India; Management Information System and Monitoring, Bangladesh; National Bureau of Statistics of China.

and vegetable crops. Similarly, in the **Philippines** and **Thailand**, official estimates indicate that over 4 and 2.4 million people, respectively, have been affected by floods with significant damages to standing crops of the main season. The floods caused significant losses of household food stocks, as well as livestock and poultry, and worsened food security of the vulnerable people that have been already coping with the high food prices.

Near East

Planting of 2012 winter crops has started under normal conditions

While harvesting of 2011 cereal crops is about to be concluded in **Yemen**, land preparation and planting of 2012 winter cereal crops are underway in the rest of the subregion. Aggregate 2011 cereal production is estimated at 68.4 million tonnes, about 3 percent more than the last five-year average. This essentially follows the near-record 2011 wheat and barley production in Turkey where major producing areas in central Anatolian highlands, the Cukurova region and throughout the south and southeast benefited from good weather. By contrast, the 2011 winter crops in **Afghanistan**, **Iraq** and **Syrian Arab Republic** were affected by general dry weather conditions and their production is estimated to have declined by 10 to 20 percent from the last five-year average.

High food prices and civil unrest affect food security

In the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, the security situation remains volatile and the prolonged civil unrest has disrupted trade and humanitarian aid distribution channels, affecting the food security situation, especially of the most vulnerable population. In Yemen, prices of basic food commodities have

Table 15. Near East cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Near East	**45.5**	**45.0**	**45.1**	**19.3**	**20.4**	**20.6**	**3.8**	**4.0**	**4.2**	**68.6**	**69.4**	**69.9**	**0.7**
Afghanistan	5.1	4.5	3.3	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	6.5	6.0	4.6	-24.2
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	13.0	13.5	13.5	3.5	4.7	5.0	2.3	2.3	2.4	18.8	20.5	20.9	1.9
Iraq	1.7	1.9	1.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.6	2.6	2.4	-6.7
Syrian Arab Republic	3.7	3.6	3.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	4.5	4.1	-8.9
Turkey	20.6	19.7	21.8	12.2	12.2	12.5	0.8	0.9	0.9	33.6	32.7	35.2	7.5

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

increased by an average of 46 percent since the beginning of 2011 due to high fuel prices that raised transportation costs. Food security for pastoralists, especially in Tihama region of Al Hodeidah governorate, is rapidly deteriorating as feed crops are scarce and expensive following the diesel shortage that led to an inconsistent water supply for irrigation. This situation has often forced pastoralists to sell animals, often at very low prices, and to reduce the size of their herds.

CIS in Asia[1]

Record 2011 cereal production in the subregion

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops has been completed in countries of the subregion. The aggregate cereal output is estimated at 42 million tonnes, which is 64 percent above last year's reduced level and some 37 percent higher than the five-year average. Wheat output is estimated at 35.1 million tonnes, 69 percent up on 2010, while that of coarse grains increased 51 percent to a well above average level of 6.1 million.

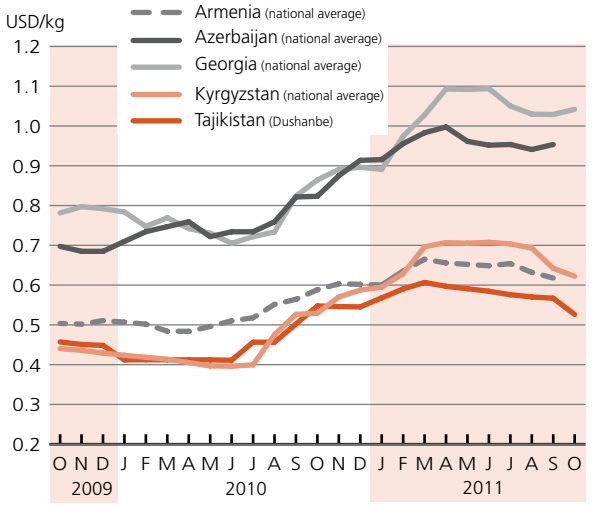
The significant increase mainly reflects a bumper harvest in the main producer of the subregion, **Kazakhstan,** where the output recovered from the drought-affected level of 2010. Following favourable weather conditions during the cropping season, the cereal output is estimated at around 28 million tonnes, more than doubling last year's production and 66 percent above the five-year average. The main wheat crop amounted to 24 million tonnes, 74 percent above the average of the past five years. As a consequence, the country has significant wheat exportable surpluses, estimated at approximately 8.5 million tonnes.

Elsewhere in the subregion, below-normal precipitation during autumn and shortages of irrigation water supplies dampened yields in some countries of Central Asia, namely Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, resulting in a decline in cereal production this year. However, the dry weather did not have significant impact on outputs of other countries where average crops were estimated.

In the Caucasus countries, growing conditions were satisfactory during the cropping season, and cereal production has recovered in **Armenia** and **Georgia**, with outputs increasing by 18 and 64 percent respectively over last year. In **Azerbaijan,** the total cereal output is estimated 27 percent above last year's level.

Planting of the 2012 winter cereal crops is almost complete in all countries of the subregion, although with low soil moisture in the countries of Central Asia. However, in Kazakhstan, the bulk of the production is planted during spring.

Figure 8. Retail wheat flour prices in selected CIS in Asia countries



Sources: National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia; National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic; State Committee on Statistics, Republic of Tajikistan; State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan; National Statistics Office of Georgia.

Wheat flour prices generally decreasing

Wheat prices, which started to decline in the past months in most countries of the subregion, continued to fall in October. Generally satisfactory outputs of the recently harvested 2011 crops have put downwards pressure on wheat prices. In importing countries, the declines also reflect lower export prices from the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, as a result of substantial exportable surpluses of wheat during the current marketing season (July/June). However, food prices are still above their high levels of a year ago, reflecting increased prices of fuel and other agricultural inputs.

[2] Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained temporarily.

Table 16. CIS in Asia cereal production

(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Total cereals [1]			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
CIS in Asia	**28.7**	**20.8**	**35.1**	**5.8**	**4.0**	**6.1**	**35.2**	**25.7**	**42.1**	**63.8**
Azerbaijan	1.8	1.3	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	27.1
Kazakhstan	17.1	9.6	24.0	3.3	1.9	3.7	20.7	11.9	28.1	135.3
Kyrgyzstan	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.9	1.5	1.6	3.4
Tajikistan	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	-12.2
Turkmenistan	1.1	1.3	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	1.5	1.5	-0.2
Uzbekistan	6.6	6.7	6.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	7.1	7.1	6.7	-5.6

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Latin America and the Caribbean

Central America and the Caribbean

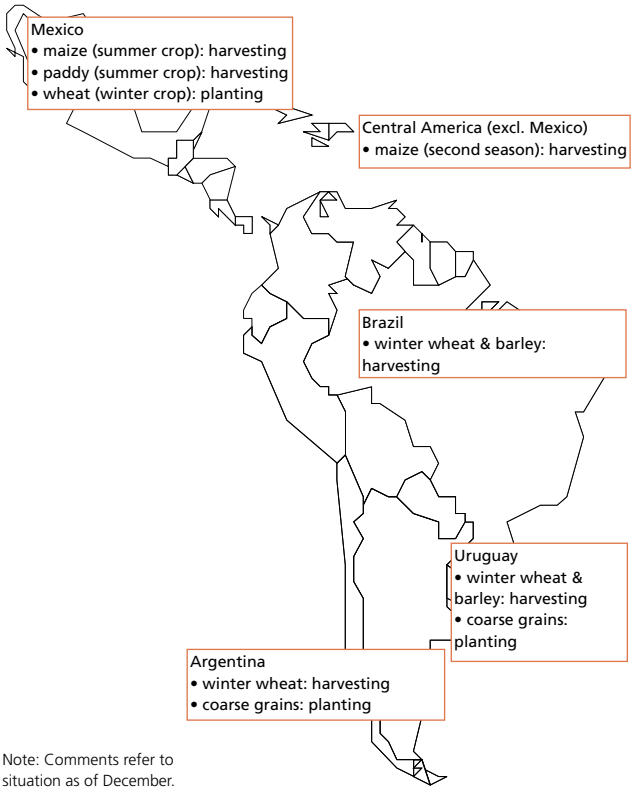
Cereal production in 2011 down from last year's good level

The 2011 aggregate cereal output of Central American and Caribbean countries is forecast by FAO at 39.6 million tonnes, about 4 percent below last year's above-average level and slightly below the average of the last five years.

In **Mexico**, where some 80 percent of the aggregate production of the subregion is produced, harvesting of the 2011 main rainfed summer coarse grain crops is underway under favourable weather conditions. Official forecasts of the 2011 coarse grains production point to a 9 percent year-on-year decrease. This is mainly driven by a sharply frost-reduced 2011 winter maize crop, harvested early in the year, and an expected reduction in summer crop due to lower plantings and reduced yields, following dry spells in April and May and freezing temperatures in early September in the key producing states of Mexico, Hidalgo, Tlaxcala and Puebla.

Sowing of the irrigated 2012 winter wheat crop is underway in northwestern states. Shortages of irrigation water owing to poor rains in the past months and a consequent drop in reservoir levels may cause a reduction in the area planted.

Elsewhere in the subregion, in **El Salvador**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**, harvesting of the 2011 second season (*de postrera*) maize and bean crops is underway. Most countries of the subregion were affected by heavy rains in mid-October, flooding and landslides that resulted in loss of life, approximately 700 000 displaced people, and caused damage to infrastructure and standing crops of the second season. Although a detailed assessment of the crop losses is not yet available, early reports indicate that the impact of the floods has been at localized level.



Note: Comments refer to situation as of December.

The main season (*de primera*) maize crop, gathered in August-September, was good in the four countries and as a result, the 2011 maize productions are forecast above both the average levels of the last five years and the reduced 2010 outputs.

In most countries of the subregion, harvesting of 2011 main paddy crops is underway. The 2011 aggregate paddy production is forecast at 2.9 million tonnes (1.9 million tonnes, milled basis), close to the production estimated for 2010. This is as a result of output gains in **Cuba**, the **Dominican Republic** and **Nicaragua**, which offset declines in **Costa Rica**, **El Salvador**, **Guatemala**,

Table 17. Latin America and Caribbean cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
Central America & Caribbean	**4.1**	**3.7**	**4.1**	**31.6**	**34.8**	**32.6**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**38.6**	**41.3**	**39.6**	**-4.3**
El Salvador	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	15.6
Guatemala	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Honduras	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	6.0
Mexico	4.1	3.7	4.0	26.9	30.2	27.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	31.3	34.1	31.9	-6.5
Nicaragua	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	18.0
South America	**19.0**	**26.1**	**22.6**	**82.7**	**101.3**	**103.2**	**25.6**	**23.6**	**26.6**	**127.3**	**151.0**	**152.3**	**0.9**
Argentina	8.8	15.3	12.6	16.2	30.0	31.0	1.3	1.2	1.7	26.3	46.5	45.3	-2.6
Brazil	5.0	6.0	5.1	53.7	58.3	58.9	12.6	11.7	13.6	71.2	76.0	77.6	2.1
Chile	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.5

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

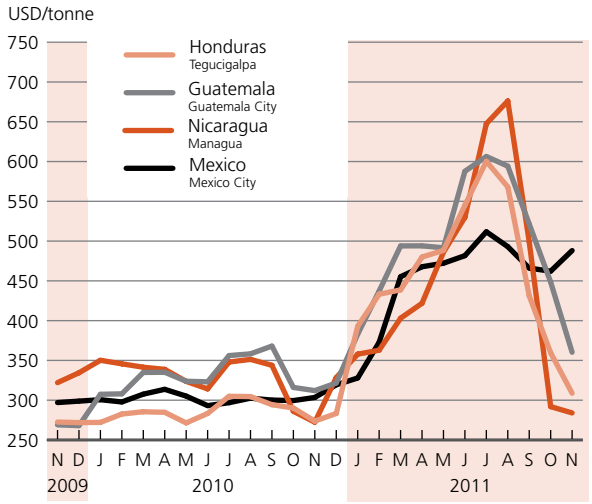
Haiti, **Honduras**, **Mexico** and **Panama**. However, the forecast level could be modified after the final assessments of the crop damages from the October floods are available.

Maize prices on the decline but still high while those of beans below last year's levels

Maize prices fell markedly in October for the second consecutive month, reflecting the good 2011 main season harvests that were recently completed in most countries. The overall decline was in spite of price spikes during the third week of October, following localized crop damages and disrupted trade activities caused by the floods. In **Nicaragua**, prices of white maize declined sharply in October, reflecting the ongoing 2011 main harvest but with quotations still some 9 percent higher than at the same month a year earlier. In **Guatemala** and **Honduras**, although maize prices declined by 10 and 15 percent respectively in the last month, quotations remained well above their levels in October 2010 (40 percent and 25 percent respectively). In **El Salvador**, in spite of a marked downturn in September, prices remained 45 percent higher than the same month last year. The Government has recently announced maize imports in an effort to ease prices. In **Mexico**, maize prices in October were still nearly 70 percent up on their levels of October 2010.

Prices of red beans continued their downward trend in October, reflecting new market supplies after the recently concluded secondary harvests. In **Nicaragua** and **Honduras**, they were 5 percent down compared to September and nearly 50 percent below the very high levels of the corresponding month last year. Similarly, in **El Salvador**, prices of red beans declined in September and were 18 percent down from their levels a year earlier. The Government has recently announced more imports of beans from China. In **Guatemala**, prices of black beans remained unvaried in October and were marginally below their levels at the same time last year. Meanwhile, in **Costa Rica,** prices decreased for the second consecutive month in September and were more than 10 percent lower than in September 2010. In **Mexico**, black bean prices remained high in October and above their levels a year earlier.

Figure 9. Wholesale white maize prices in selected countries in Central America



Sources: Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia, Honduras; Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Guatemala; Ministerio agropecuario y forestal, Nicaragua, Sistema Nacional de Información e Integración de Mercados, Mexico.

South America

Early prospects favourable for the 2012 main season maize

Planting of the 2012 main season maize crop is underway in most countries of the subregion. Early indications point to an expansion in the area planted in response to sustained feed demand and attractive prices. In **Argentina**, recent rains favoured planting and germination of early planted crops, after dry weather in October delayed field operations. The area planted is projected to increase by 7.5 percent compared to last year's level. Similarly, in **Brazil**, rains in October were conducive for planting and the planted area is forecast to increase by 7 percent.

Planting of the 2012 irrigated paddy crops is also underway. Early indications point to a reduction in the area planted in various countries, as a result of lower domestic rice prices, higher production costs and lower availability of water in the main reservoirs.

Harvesting of the 2011 wheat crop is on-going in most countries. The subregion's aggregate output is forecast at 22.6 million tonnes, 13.6 percent below last year's level. The decrease mainly reflects deteriorated prospects in the main producing countries, **Argentina** and **Brazil**. In Argentina, prolonged dry conditions from August to October adversely affected yields and are expected to be well below last year's records. Also, given a similar area planted, this year's wheat production is forecast to drop by almost 17.5 percent. In **Brazil**, where harvesting is well advanced, the area planted was reduced, while freezing temperatures at the end of June in the key producing areas of Paraná, Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo, lowered yields by some 11 percent from 2010 levels.

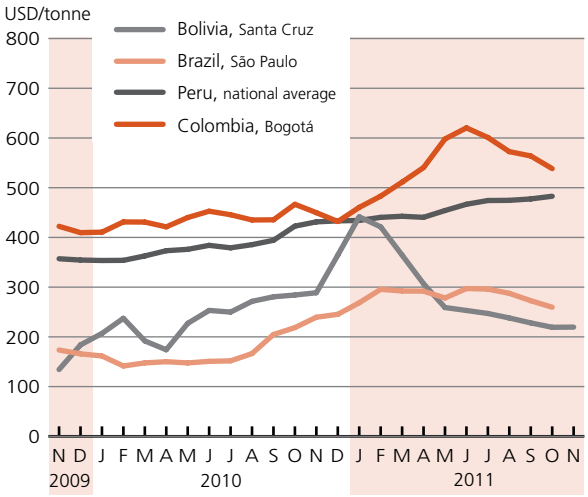
Maize prices declining or stable but generally high while those of wheat flour remain firm

Prices of yellow maize in the subregion, used mostly for animal feed, decreased from 2 to 4 percent in October, reflecting trends in the international markets, but remained relatively high. In **Brazil** and **Colombia,** prices remained 25 percent and 32 percent respectively above their levels of a year earlier. In **Peru**, prices have been stable in recent months and in October

were 12 percent higher than in October 2010. By contrast, in **Bolivia**, prices in October were 20 percent lower than at the same time last year, following marked declines since early 2011.

Prices of wheat flour in October remained relatively stable throughout the subregion and were about 10 to 15 percent higher than at the same month last year with the exception of **Brazil**, where they have declined since August, corresponding with the period of the 2011 main wheat harvest.

Figure 10. Wholesale maize (yellow) prices in selected countries in South America



Sources: Servicio Informativo de Mercados Agropecuarios, Bolivia; Instituto de Economía Agrícola, Brazil; Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática, Peru; Agronet, Colombia.

North America, Europe and Oceania

North America

Winter wheat area could be up slightly in United States

In the **United States**, winter wheat planting for the **2012** harvest was virtually complete by the end of November and crop development was reported to be normal in most areas. Regarding crop condition, mid-November ratings were a little better than the previous year's, with slightly less of the crop rated poor and slightly more rated as excellent. Although final estimates are not available yet, the winter wheat plantings, which account for over 80 percent of the country's total wheat area, are thought to be slightly above the previous year's level. Although continuing high wheat prices will undoubtedly have contributed largely in encouraging farmers to increase their wheat areas, ongoing dryness in the central and southern Plains may also be playing a part. Where soil moisture is limited, wheat tends to be the preferred option rather than other crops such as maize or soya beans that have a higher moisture requirement.

The latest official estimate of the United States **2011** wheat crop has been revised downward slightly in the past month to 54.4 million tonnes. Despite an increase in overall wheat plantings for the 2011 harvest, drought conditions in major growing areas in the south of the country resulted in an above-average level of abandonment of winter wheat this year and contributed to a lower average yield in 2011 compared to 2010. As for coarse grains, production in 2011 is now estimated at 323.6 million tonnes, just 7 million tonnes short of last year's level. Maize accounts for about 313 million tonnes of this total, 1 percent down from 2010.

In **Canada**, the bulk of the wheat is spring planted and the 2012 crop will not be sown until March-April next year. Latest information regarding the 2011 cereal harvest mostly confirms earlier expectations: output of wheat rose slightly to 24.2 million tonnes, up 4.3 percent from 2010, while production of coarse grains (mainly barley, maize and oats) has decreased by 4.6 percent to 21.4 million tonnes.

Europe

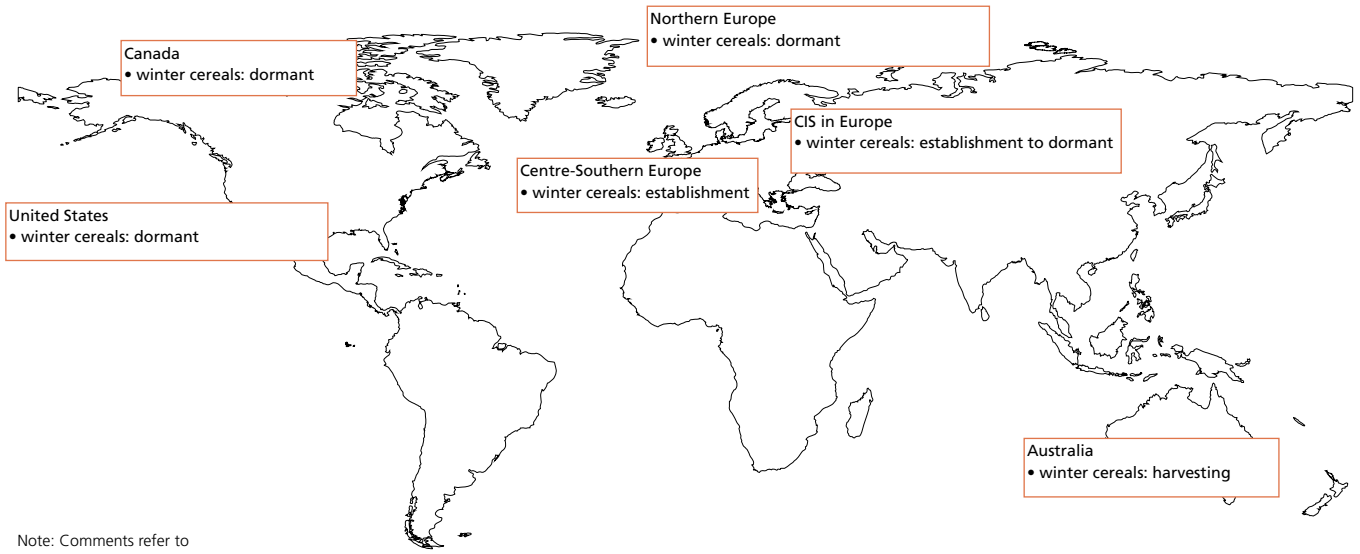
European Union

Winter grain plantings for 2012 harvest similar to last year

The bulk of the winter grain crops have now been sown throughout the **European Union** countries. Weather conditions were reported generally favourable throughout the central parts where dry top-soils facilitated planting operations and above-average temperatures promoted rapid germination/emergence. However, adversely wet conditions have affected some parts of the United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy, Slovenia and Bulgaria. By contrast, soil moisture availability was less than ideal in some important eastern growing countries such as Hungary and Romania.

The aggregate wheat area in the EU is tentatively estimated unchanged from last year. Although wheat prices remain relatively high, crop rotation requirements and attractive prices for other crops will also influence farmers planting decisions.

The EU's aggregate cereal output in **2011** is now estimated at 291.2 million tonnes, slightly up from the forecast in November and 3.9 percent up from 2010. Good harvest results in some eastern countries more than offset early-season drought losses in western parts. The increase in production this year came



Note: Comments refer to situation as of December.

entirely from an increase in the harvested area, with the average overall cereal yield for the group of countries remaining virtually unchanged from 2010. By cereal type, output of wheat and maize increased by 1.7 percent and 18.3 percent respectively, while production of barley, the other major cereal crop decreased by 2.2 percent.

CIS in Europe

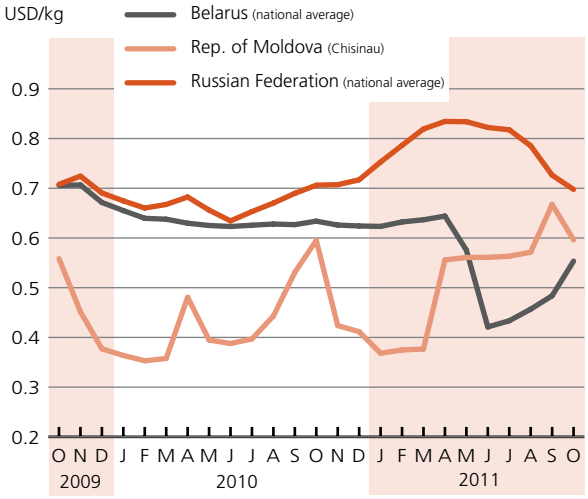
The 2011 cereal production in 2011 markedly recovered from last year's drought-reduced level

In the **European CIS**, favourable growing conditions during the 2010/11 cropping season resulted in a sharp recovery in this year's cereal production in all countries of the subregion. The 2011 aggregate cereal output is estimated at around 154.7 million tonnes, 40 percent higher than in 2010 and 16 percent above the five-year average.

In the **Russian Federation**, cereal production is put at 92.4 million tonnes, 47 percent above last year's level. Wheat and barley outputs increased by 40 and 64 percent respectively. In **Ukraine,** the cereal production is estimated at a well above average level of 51.7 million tonnes, compared with 38.4 million tonnes produced last year. Both the Russian Federation and Ukraine have substantially increased export availabilities. In **Belarus**, the 2011 cereal harvest, mainly coarse grains, is officially reported at 8.1 million tonnes, 18 percent higher than in 2010, while in the **Republic of Moldova** it is estimated slightly below last year's level.

Planting of the 2012 winter cereal crops is close to completion and overall conditions are satisfactory. In the Russian Federation substantial rains, in particular around the Black Sea and in southern regions, improved soil moisture and allowed planting to progress, nevertheless more precipitation is required in some areas. The area planted to winter cereal crops has increased by 0.8 million hectares, or 6 percent higher, compared to last year but still lower than in 2009. In Ukraine, most of the grain producing areas suffer from lack of soil moisture; if sufficient rain is not received in the coming weeks, re-planting in spring may be required. In Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, planting of winter cereals has been completed under normal weather conditions.

Figure 11. Retail wheat flour prices in Belarus, Russian Federation and Republic of Moldova



Sources: National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus; ACSA, Rep. of Moldova; Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

Food prices of staple products went down to last year's level except for Belarus

In the European CIS, prices of main staple products showed further declines during October mainly reflecting the good 2011

Table 18. North America, Europe and Oceania cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	2009	2010 estim.	2011 f'cast	Change: 2011/2010 (%)
North America	**87.2**	**83.2**	**78.6**	**371.7**	**353.0**	**345.0**	**10.0**	**11.0**	**8.5**	**468.9**	**447.2**	**432.1**	**-3.4**
Canada	26.8	23.2	24.2	22.7	22.4	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	49.5	45.6	45.6	-0.1
United States	60.4	60.1	54.4	349.0	330.6	323.6	10.0	11.0	8.5	419.4	401.6	386.5	-3.8
Europe	**228.2**	**201.8**	**226.2**	**232.6**	**201.1**	**231.5**	**4.3**	**4.4**	**4.6**	**465.1**	**407.3**	**462.3**	**13.5**
Belarus	1.6	1.7	1.8	5.7	5.1	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	6.9	8.1	17.9
EU	138.6	136.8	139.2	156.0	140.2	148.9	3.2	3.1	3.2	297.8	280.2	291.2	3.9
Russian Federation	61.7	41.5	58.0	33.1	20.2	33.2	0.9	1.1	1.2	95.7	62.8	92.4	47.2
Serbia	2.1	1.7	2.0	6.8	7.6	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.9	9.2	9.1	-1.0
Ukraine	20.9	17.0	22.0	24.6	21.2	29.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	45.6	38.4	51.8	34.8
Oceania	**22.2**	**26.6**	**26.5**	**13.3**	**14.0**	**13.4**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.8**	**35.6**	**40.9**	**40.7**	**-0.4**
Australia	21.9	26.3	26.2	12.7	13.5	12.8	0.1	0.2	0.8	34.7	40.0	39.8	-0.5

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

wheat and potato harvests. The prices of wheat flour significantly decreased in the Russian Federation and Republic of Moldova and are currently at their levels of a year earlier. However, in Belarus prices of wheat flour and bread have continued their increasing trend and are well above last year's levels due to the acceleration of inflation in the current macroeconomic situation.

Following increased export availabilities and the removal of trade restrictions in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, export prices of milling wheat have also fallen significantly in recent months.

Oceania

Winter grain harvest underway and bumper output expected

Australia remains on track to harvest a bumper wheat crop this year, close to the record output in 2010. Widespread rains in the lead-up to harvest in the past few weeks have caused some concern over a possible downgrading of quality but the situation is not seen to be anywhere as bad as last year when about one-third of the crop in eastern and southern areas was downgraded to feed quality. Latest official estimates forecast the 2011 wheat output at 26.5 million tonnes. Regarding the summer grain crop for harvest in 2012, the total area planted to grain sorghum (the major crop) is reported to be down by about 3 percent in response to below average winter rainfall and poor soil moisture availabilities in some growing areas. Assuming a return to average yields, sorghum production is forecast to fall by around 13 percent to 1.9 million tonnes.

Statistical appendix

Table A1. Global cereal supply and demand indicators

	Average 2004/05 - 2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
1. Ratio of world stocks to utilization (%)						
Wheat	26.2	21.7	26.6	29.9	27.2	29.0
Coarse grains	16.8	14.7	17.5	17.2	15.1	13.8
Rice	25.4	25.6	28.6	29.2	29.8	32.0
Total cereals	21.3	19.0	22.4	23.4	21.7	21.8
2. Ratio of major grain exporters' supplies to normal market requirements (%)	126.4	119.7	125.1	121.8	118.9	112.7
3. Ratio of major exporters' stocks to their total disappearance (%)						
Wheat	18.9	13.4	18.8	21.4	18.0	18.9
Coarse grains	15.1	12.2	14.8	14.9	10.6	8.7
Rice	16.8	17.5	21.7	20.8	20.2	21.3
Total cereals	16.9	14.4	18.4	19.0	16.2	16.3
	Annual trend growth rate 2001-2010	**Change from previous year**				
		2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
4. Changes in world cereal production (%)	1.8	5.7	7.3	-1.1	-0.9	3.5
5. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs (%)	2.7	4.4	3.5	0.2	4.9	1.4
6. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs less India (%)	3.8	1.4	4.7	4.8	3.5	-1.5
	Average 2004-2008	**Change from previous year (%)**				
		2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011***
7. Selected cereal price indices:						
Wheat	148.3	49.1	31.5	-34.6	9.6	43.9
Maize	135.9	34.1	36.5	-25.5	12.0	71.2
Rice	166.9	16.9	82.9	-14.0	-9.4	12.6

Notes:

Utilization is defined as the sum of food use, feed and other uses.

Cereals refer to wheat, coarse grains and rice; grains refer to wheat and coarse grains.

Major grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, and the United States; major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam.

Normal market requirements for major grain exporters are defined as the average of domestic utilization plus exports in the three preceding seasons.

Disappearance is defined as domestic utilization plus exports for any given season.

Price indices: The wheat price index has been constructed based on the IGC wheat price index, rebased to 2002-2004=100; For maize, the U.S. maize No.2 Yellow (delivered U.S. Gulf ports) with base 2002-2004=100; For rice, the FAO Rice Price Index, 2002-2004=100, is based on 16 rice export quotations.

*January-October average.

Table A2. World cereal stocks[1]

(million tonnes)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 estimate	2012 forecast
TOTAL CEREALS	**421.7**	**416.3**	**501.4**	**530.5**	**501.2**	**511.4**
Wheat	**158.1**	**140.3**	**175.6**	**198.6**	**186.1**	**194.9**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	40.0	32.7	50.8	55.6	49.5	50.2
- others	118.1	107.6	124.8	143.0	136.6	144.7
Coarse grains	**157.1**	**162.3**	**197.4**	**197.2**	**174.6**	**166.6**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	60.0	70.3	82.3	83.7	60.4	48.2
- others	97.1	92.0	115.1	113.5	114.2	118.4
Rice (milled basis)	**106.5**	**113.6**	**128.4**	**134.7**	**140.5**	**149.9**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	24.4	28.3	35.3	32.2	32.1	34.9
- others	82.1	85.3	93.1	102.5	108.4	115.0
Developed countries	**128.2**	**124.7**	**174.6**	**187.8**	**147.7**	**146.9**
Australia	6.3	5.2	7.2	7.6	9.4	9.6
Canada	10.5	8.5	13.0	13.6	10.8	8.8
European Union[3]	30.0	28.8	44.4	42.5	28.5	28.1
Japan	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.8
Russian Federation	3.6	5.2	17.7	19.9	16.1	17.3
South Africa	2.7	1.8	2.7	3.6	4.5	2.9
Ukraine	4.2	4.9	8.2	7.1	6.6	9.4
United States	49.9	54.3	65.9	75.9	57.3	47.7
Developing countries	**293.4**	**291.5**	**326.8**	**342.7**	**353.5**	**364.4**
Asia	**243.9**	**245.1**	**270.9**	**287.4**	**294.5**	**307.8**
China	152.3	145.1	158.5	171.0	177.5	188.6
India	30.4	40.9	47.9	43.3	44.2	47.7
Indonesia	5.2	6.1	7.4	9.1	10.9	11.3
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3.5	3.0	5.5	5.4	3.9	3.2
Korea, Republic of	2.2	3.0	2.9	4.1	4.1	4.2
Pakistan	2.4	3.2	3.4	4.0	2.4	2.9
Philippines	2.7	3.2	4.2	5.0	4.1	3.9
Syrian Arab Republic	3.0	1.9	1.6	2.4	1.9	1.6
Turkey	7.1	5.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.5
Africa	**29.1**	**23.9**	**26.9**	**31.4**	**33.6**	**31.5**
Algeria	3.7	3.4	2.7	3.6	3.9	3.7
Egypt	4.3	3.3	5.6	7.0	6.6	7.7
Ethiopia	0.7	1.0	1.3	2.0	2.0	1.2
Morocco	4.0	2.1	1.6	3.0	3.5	3.7
Nigeria	2.1	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
Tunisia	1.2	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.5
Central America	**5.1**	**5.4**	**6.0**	**4.5**	**5.4**	**4.6**
Mexico	3.0	3.2	4.1	2.7	3.4	2.7
South America	**15.0**	**16.7**	**22.6**	**19.0**	**19.7**	**20.1**
Argentina	5.3	7.7	4.2	1.6	5.9	6.1
Brazil	3.6	2.3	10.9	10.2	7.0	7.5

Note: Based on official and unofficial estimates. Totals computed from unrounded data,

[1] Stocks data are based on an aggregate of carryovers at the end of national crop years and do not represent world stock levels at any point in time.

[2] The major wheat and coarse grains exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and the United States. The major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam.

[3] Up to 2007 25 member countries, from 2008 27 member countries.

Table A3. Selected international prices of wheat and coarse grains

(USD/tonne)

	Wheat			Maize		Sorghum
	US No.2 Hard Red Winter Ord. Prot.[1]	US Soft Red Winter No.2 [2]	Argentina Trigo Pan[3]	US No.2 Yellow[2]	Argentina[3]	US No.2 Yellow[2]
Annual (July/June)						
2003/04	161	149	154	115	109	118
2004/05	154	138	123	97	90	99
2005/06	175	138	138	104	101	108
2006/07	212	176	188	150	145	155
2007/08	361	311	318	200	192	206
2008/09	270	201	234	188	180	170
2009/10	209	185	224	160	168	165
2010/11	316	289	311	254	260	248
Monthly						
2009 - November	227	204	214	172	175	182
2009 - December	221	207	240	166	177	182
2010 - January	213	197	236	167	177	177
2010 - February	207	192	221	162	164	169
2010 - March	204	191	211	158	160	167
2010 - April	200	187	228	156	161	160
2010 - May	196	190	243	163	170	164
2010 - June	181	183	206	152	163	156
2010 - July	212	218	212	160	171	168
2010 - August	272	257	277	174	198	185
2010 - September	303	276	299	206	229	215
2010 - October	291	266	294	236	248	231
2010 - November	291	276	295	236	246	234
2010 - December	327	310	300	252	260	251
2011 - January	340	317	317	263	272	262
2011 - February	362	336	347	287	288	276
2011 - March	334	302	348	291	288	279
2011 - April	364	318	352	321	314	302
2011 - May	362	309	351	309	303	277
2011 - June	333	282	341	308	306	285
2011 - July	307	264	310	304	300	279
2011 - August	336	280	292	313	312	304
2011 - September	329	270	300	300	295	285
2011 - October	301	255	260	275	276	265
2011 - November	299	256	239	275	271	275

Sources: International Grains Council and USDA.

[1] Delivered United States f.o.b. Gulf.

[2] Delivered United States Gulf.

[3] Up River f.o.b.

Table A4a. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1], 2010/11 or 2011 estimates

(thousand tonnes)

		2009/10 or 2010 Actual imports			2010/11 or 2011 Import position[2]			
	Marketing year	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements *(excl. re-exports)*	Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
AFRICA		**38 022.1**	**3 440.5**	**41 462.6**	**38 623.9**	**29 266.3**	**1 584.9**	**27 681.4**
North Africa		**15 652.0**	**0.0**	**15 652.0**	**15 811.0**	**15 811.0**	**0.0**	**15 811.0**
Egypt	July/June	15 652.0	0.0	15 652.0	15 811.0	15 811.0	0.0	15 811.0
Eastern Africa		**6 466.4**	**2 367.6**	**8 834.0**	**5 947.4**	**5 077.2**	**978.3**	**4 098.9**
Burundi	Jan./Dec.	99.6	35.4	135.0	133.1	50.3	27.3	23.0
Comoros	Jan./Dec.	53.2	0.0	53.2	53.0	13.5	0.0	13.5
Djibouti	Jan./Dec.	80.6	10.5	91.1	126.0	306.6	8.4	298.2
Eritrea	Jan./Dec.	322.0	0.0	322.0	337.0	95.4	0.0	95.4
Ethiopia	Jan./Dec.	262.8	1 312.5	1 575.3	531.0	510.7	509.7	1.0
Kenya	Oct./Sept.	2 402.7	168.0	2 570.7	1 264.1	1 264.1	127.8	1 136.3
Rwanda	Jan./Dec.	114.5	1.8	116.3	163.1	10.0	7.0	3.0
Somalia	Aug./July	213.1	174.1	387.2	395.7	395.7	29.5	366.2
Sudan[3]	Nov./Oct.	1 711.7	612.2	2 323.9	1 821.0	1 711.8	208.4	1 503.4
Uganda	Jan./Dec.	465.4	38.5	503.9	482.3	78.0	36.7	41.3
United Rep. of Tanzania	June/May	740.8	14.6	755.4	641.1	641.1	23.5	617.6
Southern Africa		**1 783.1**	**391.9**	**2 175.0**	**1 757.6**	**1 757.6**	**170.2**	**1 587.4**
Lesotho	April/March	228.3	3.1	231.4	209.0	209.0	0.5	208.5
Madagascar	April/March	213.5	21.9	235.4	186.7	186.7	24.5	162.2
Malawi	April/March	94.0	44.7	138.7	106.6	106.6	24.4	82.2
Mozambique	April/March	814.4	137.7	952.1	858.8	858.8	74.6	784.2
Zambia	May/April	39.0	2.1	41.1	30.9	30.9	4.0	26.9
Zimbabwe	April/March	393.9	182.4	576.3	365.6	365.6	42.2	323.4
Western Africa		**12 463.0**	**475.6**	**12 938.6**	**13 189.9**	**5 668.7**	**279.0**	**5 389.7**
Coastal Countries		***9 660.2***	***89.7***	***9 749.9***	***10 091.9***	***4 401.2***	***97.6***	***4 303.6***
Benin	Jan./Dec.	307.1	12.6	319.7	356.0	73.2	1.6	71.6
Côte d'Ivoire	Jan./Dec.	1 361.3	21.4	1 382.7	1 270.0	488.4	16.8	471.6
Ghana	Jan./Dec.	739.2	1.0	740.2	708.2	206.8	17.0	189.8
Guinea	Jan./Dec.	472.1	3.9	476.0	577.0	152.8	4.9	147.9
Liberia	Jan./Dec.	316.1	27.9	344.0	345.7	79.2	37.4	41.8
Nigeria	Jan./Dec.	6 120.0	0.0	6 120.0	6 420.0	3 166.6	0.0	3 166.6
Sierra Leone	Jan./Dec.	144.8	21.2	166.0	219.0	58.1	19.9	38.2
Togo	Jan./Dec.	199.6	1.7	201.3	196.0	176.1	0.0	176.1
Sahelian Countries		***2 802.8***	***385.9***	***3 188.7***	***3 098.0***	***1 267.5***	***181.4***	***1 086.1***
Burkina faso	Nov./Oct.	339.2	35.4	374.6	350.0	62.2	13.3	48.9
Chad	Nov./Oct.	137.4	103.4	240.8	208.5	143.6	92.9	50.7
Gambia	Nov./Oct.	161.6	18.4	180.0	165.0	40.8	1.6	39.2
Guinea-Bissau	Nov./Oct.	142.1	3.0	145.1	119.0	14.5	2.7	11.8
Mali	Nov./Oct.	138.7	13.9	152.6	191.8	93.8	1.9	91.9
Mauritania	Nov./Oct.	480.4	38.7	519.1	524.0	298.5	5.7	292.8
Niger	Nov./Oct.	270.7	152.2	422.9	377.7	75.1	55.2	19.9
Senegal	Nov./Oct.	1 132.7	20.9	1 153.6	1 162.0	539.0	8.1	530.9
Central Africa		**1 657.6**	**205.4**	**1 863.0**	**1 918.0**	**951.8**	**157.4**	**794.4**
Cameroon	Jan./Dec.	717.6	10.1	727.7	794.0	374.1	5.2	368.9
Cent.Afr.Rep.	Jan./Dec.	52.9	8.5	61.4	63.0	32.2	9.0	23.2
Congo	Jan./Dec.	319.7	7.3	327.0	328.0	145.2	5.2	140.0
Dem.Rep.of the Congo	Jan./Dec.	552.6	176.2	728.8	715.0	394.4	137.5	256.9
Sao Tome and Principe	Jan./Dec.	14.8	3.3	18.1	18.0	5.9	0.5	5.4

Table A4b. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1], 2010/11 or 2011 estimates

(thousand tonnes)

		2009/10 or 2010 Actual imports			2010/11 or 2011 Import position[2]			
	Marketing year	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements *(excl. re-exports)*	Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
ASIA		**38 891.9**	**626.8**	**39 518.7**	**38 618.1**	**37 428.7**	**648.9**	**36 779.8**
Cis in Asia		**3 932.1**	**47.3**	**3 979.4**	**3 947.9**	**3 947.9**	**52.9**	**3 895.0**
Georgia [4]	July/June	777.0	4.0	781.0	689.5	689.5	0.4	689.1
Kyrgyzstan	July/June	352.0	13.0	365.0	445.6	445.6	44.7	400.9
Tajikistan	July/June	870.0	30.3	900.3	969.5	969.5	7.8	961.7
Turkmenistan	July/June	95.1	0.0	95.1	69.3	69.3	0.0	69.3
Uzbekistan	July/June	1 838.0	0.0	1 838.0	1 774.0	1 774.0	0.0	1 774.0
Far East		**19 255.4**	**415.5**	**19 670.9**	**21 969.7**	**21 350.1**	**437.1**	**20 913.0**
Bangladesh	July/June	4 149.7	56.3	4 206.0	5 503.5	5 503.5	166.6	5 336.9
Bhutan	July/June	88.7	0.0	88.7	58.5	58.5	0.0	58.5
Cambodia	Jan./Dec.	52.0	4.7	56.7	40.0	23.8	1.8	22.0
D.P.R. of Korea	Nov./Oct.	328.9	44.7	373.6	512.0	327.2	59.5	267.7
India	April/March	273.3	7.2	280.5	337.9	337.9	0.0	337.9
Indonesia	April/March	6 742.6	0.0	6 742.6	8 420.6	8 420.6	3.1	8 417.5
Lao, P.D.R.	Jan./Dec.	23.3	12.2	35.5	43.7	2.3	2.3	0.0
Mongolia	Oct./Sept.	187.3	0.0	187.3	143.0	143.0	0.0	143.0
Nepal	July/June	359.5	45.6	405.1	462.0	462.0	16.0	446.0
Pakistan	May/April	87.8	146.8	234.6	297.5	297.5	146.5	151.0
Philippines	July/June	5 682.7	50.9	5 733.6	4 783.7	4 783.7	13.1	4 770.6
Sri Lanka	Jan./Dec.	1 209.4	46.3	1 255.7	1 296.1	918.9	17.8	901.1
Timor-Leste	July/June	70.2	0.8	71.0	71.2	71.2	10.4	60.8
Near East		**15 704.4**	**164.0**	**15 868.4**	**12 700.5**	**12 130.7**	**158.9**	**11 971.8**
Afghanistan	July/June	2 402.5	78.3	2 480.8	1 044.4	1 044.4	102.4	942.0
Iraq	July/June	5 005.6	21.3	5 026.9	4 525.0	4 525.0	0.2	4 524.8
Syrian Arab Republic	July/June	4 822.0	44.4	4 866.4	3 964.1	3 964.1	36.9	3 927.2
Yemen	Jan./Dec.	3 474.3	20.0	3 494.3	3 167.0	2 597.2	19.4	2 577.8
CENTRAL AMERICA		**1 472.5**	**194.5**	**1 667.0**	**1 795.4**	**1 795.4**	**173.8**	**1 621.6**
Haiti	July/June	440.7	192.5	633.2	635.4	635.4	149.4	486.0
Honduras	July/June	697.1	1.5	698.6	765.0	765.0	0.4	764.6
Nicaragua	July/June	334.7	0.5	335.2	395.0	395.0	24.0	371.0
OCEANIA		**422.6**	**0.0**	**422.6**	**440.5**	**367.1**	**0.0**	**367.1**
Kiribati	Jan./Dec.	8.7	0.0	8.7	8.7	8.6	0.0	8.6
Papua New Guinea	Jan./Dec.	365.3	0.0	365.3	382.2	334.1	0.0	334.1
Solomon Islands	Jan./Dec.	30.5	0.0	30.5	31.5	10.5	0.0	10.5
Tuvalu	Jan./Dec.	1.1	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Vanuatu	Jan./Dec.	17.0	0.0	17.0	17.0	13.8	0.0	13.8
EUROPE		**87.0**	**0.0**	**87.0**	**81.2**	**81.2**	**0.0**	**81.2**
Republic of Moldova	July/June	87.0	0.0	87.0	81.2	81.2	0.0	81.2
TOTAL		**78 896.1**	**4 261.8**	**83 157.9**	**79 559.1**	**68 938.7**	**2 407.6**	**66 531.1**

Source: FAO

[1] The Low-Income Food-Deficit (LIFDC) group of countries includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 855 in 2008); for full details see http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc.asp.

[2] Estimates based on information as of early November 2011.

[3] Including South Sudan.

[4] Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained temporarily.

Table A5. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1], 2011/12 estimates

(thousand tonnes)

		2010/11			2011/12			
		Actual imports			Import position[2]			
	Marketing year	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements (excl. re-exports)	Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
AFRICA		**19 518.5**	**351.0**	**19 869.5**	**22 174.0**	**2 737.0**	**181.1**	**2 555.9**
Northern Africa		**15 811.0**	**0.0**	**15 811.0**	**16 671.0**	**1 798.5**	**0.0**	**1 798.5**
Egypt	July/June	15 811.0	0.0	15 811.0	16 671.0	1 798.5	0.0	1 798.5
Eastern Africa		**2 120.1**	**180.8**	**2 300.9**	**3 533.0**	**230.9**	**84.0**	**146.9**
Kenya	Oct./Sept.	1 136.3	127.8	1 264.1	2 265.0	33.9	33.9	0.0
Somalia	Aug./July	366.2	29.5	395.7	528.0	53.6	49.6	4.0
United Rep. of Tanzania	June/May	617.6	23.5	641.1	740.0	143.4	0.5	142.9
Southern Africa		**1 587.4**	**170.2**	**1 757.6**	**1 970.0**	**707.6**	**97.1**	**610.5**
Lesotho	April/March	208.5	0.5	209.0	249.0	101.4	0.0	101.4
Madagascar	April/March	162.2	24.5	186.7	380.0	37.6	11.7	25.9
Malawi	April/March	82.2	24.4	106.6	122.0	77.5	28.8	48.7
Mozambique	April/March	784.2	74.6	858.8	825.0	429.5	36.9	392.6
Zambia	May/April	26.9	4.0	30.9	24.0	12.4	0.0	12.4
Zimbabwe	April/March	323.4	42.2	365.6	370.0	49.2	19.7	29.5
ASIA		**33 011.2**	**548.1**	**33 559.3**	**34 632.4**	**5 307.1**	**68.2**	**5 238.9**
CIS in Asia		**3 895.0**	**52.9**	**3 947.9**	**3 978.0**	**691.9**	**0.0**	**691.9**
Georgia [3]	July/June	689.1	0.4	689.5	758.0	220.9	0.0	220.9
Kyrgyzstan	July/June	400.9	44.7	445.6	276.0	29.2	0.0	29.2
Tajikistan	July/June	961.7	7.8	969.5	974.0	137.1	0.0	137.1
Turkmenistan	July/June	69.3	0.0	69.3	110.0	13.6	0.0	13.6
Uzbekistan	July/June	1 774.0	0.0	1 774.0	1 860.0	291.1	0.0	291.1
Far East		**19 722.2**	**355.7**	**20 077.9**	**19 297.4**	**3 985.5**	**68.2**	**3 917.3**
Bangladesh	July/June	5 336.9	166.6	5 503.5	3 250.0	348.5	68.2	280.3
Bhutan	July/June	58.5	0.0	58.5	59.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	April/March	337.9	0.0	337.9	283.5	0.8	0.0	0.8
Indonesia	April/March	8 417.5	3.1	8 420.6	9 604.1	3 473.4	0.0	3 473.4
Mongolia	Oct./Sept.	143.0	0.0	143.0	160.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nepal	July/June	446.0	16.0	462.0	491.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pakistan	May/April	151.0	146.5	297.5	235.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Philippines	July/June	4 770.6	13.1	4 783.7	5 140.4	162.8	0.0	162.8
Timor-Leste	July/June	60.8	10.4	71.2	71.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Near East		**9 394.0**	**139.5**	**9 533.5**	**11 357.0**	**629.7**	**0.0**	**629.7**
Afghanistan	July/June	942.0	102.4	1 044.4	1 687.0	41.2	0.0	41.2
Iraq	July/June	4 524.8	0.2	4 525.0	5 010.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Syrian Arab Republic	July/June	3 927.2	36.9	3 964.1	4 660.0	588.5	0.0	588.5
CENTRAL AMERICA		**1 621.6**	**173.8**	**1 795.4**	**1 710.5**	**171.7**	**8.9**	**162.8**
Haiti	July/June	486.0	149.4	635.4	655.5	14.8	8.9	5.9
Honduras	July/June	764.6	0.4	765.0	745.0	115.5	0.0	115.5
Nicaragua	July/June	371.0	24.0	395.0	310.0	41.4	0.0	41.4
EUROPE		**81.2**	**0.0**	**81.2**	**76.0**	**19.0**	**0.0**	**19.0**
Republic of Moldova	July/June	81.2	0.0	81.2	76.0	19.0	0.0	19.0
TOTAL		**54 232.5**	**1 072.9**	**55 305.4**	**58 592.9**	**8 234.8**	**258.2**	**7 976.6**

Source: FAO

[1] Includes food deficit countries with per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 855 in 2008), which is in accordance with the guidelines and criteria agreed to by the CFA should be given priority in the allocation of food aid.

[2] Estimates based on information as of early November 2011.

[3] Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained temporarily.

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This report is based on information available up to mid-November 2011.

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