



# Crop Prospects and Food Situation

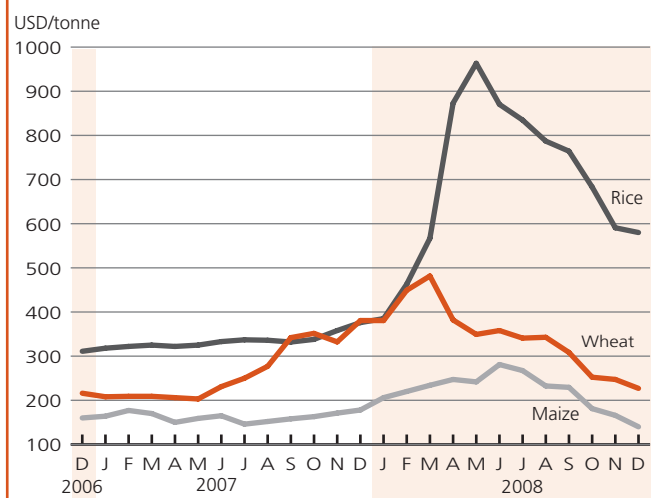
## HIGHLIGHTS

- **As the year draws to a close, FAO's latest estimates confirm that a new record high level of global cereal production was achieved in 2008,** sufficient to cover the expected increase in utilization in 2008/09 and also allow for a moderate replenishment of world reserves.
- **Most of the increase in production this year has been among the developed countries, with that in the developing countries rising just marginally.** In the developing group, outputs rose somewhat more among the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, especially in countries where agriculture production support was provided by governments.
- **International cereal prices have continued to fall over the past months.** In the first two weeks of December, the prices for wheat and coarse grains averaged respectively 40 percent and 20 percent less than the December average last year. For rice, however, the price of the benchmark Thai variety, although well down from its peak in May, remained 54 percent above the December average last year.
- **Despite the decline of international cereal prices, food prices remain at high levels in developing countries and in several continue to increase, affecting the food security of large numbers of vulnerable populations.** In **Afghanistan, Eritrea** and **Ethiopia** prices of food staples are twice or more their levels of a year earlier.
- **Smaller winter wheat plantings for the 2009 harvest are reported in several major producing countries in Europe and North America,** in response to lower international prices and prospects of reduced demand in view of the global economic crisis, and the high cost of inputs.
- **In Southern Africa, where the food situation is tight following last year's reduced harvest in several countries and persistent high food prices,** the late start of the 2008/09 rainy season and anticipated lower plantings in the largest producer **South Africa** may negatively affect 2009 production.
- **In Western Africa, a bumper 2008 cereal harvest is being gathered, particularly in the Sahelian countries where the aggregate output is estimated to have increased by one-third from 2007.** This reflects good weather and production support measures.
- **In Eastern Africa, the "short-rains" season from October has been very favourable for pastoral and agro-pastoral areas including central and southern Somalia, north-western Kenya and south-eastern Ethiopia** where millions have suffered severe food problems after repeated poor seasons.
- **Notwithstanding an improved outlook for global cereal supplies in 2008/09, 33 countries around the world are estimated to be in need of external assistance as a result of crop failures, conflict or insecurity and high domestic food prices.** In **Zimbabwe**, where the number of food insecure is estimated at 5.1 million, a recent outbreak of cholera poses an additional serious threat to health and nutrition of the vulnerable population. In the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, an estimated 8.7 million people, or around 40 percent of the population, urgently need food assistance.

## CONTENTS

Countries in crisis requiring external assistance	2
Food emergencies update	4
Global cereal supply and demand brief	5
National food price review	10
FAO global cereal supply and demand indicators	16
LIFDC food situation overview	18
<b>Regional reviews</b>	
Africa	24
Asia	30
Latin America and the Caribbean	33
North America, Europe and Oceania	35
<b>Special features/boxes</b>	
Policy measures taken by governments to reduce the impact of soaring prices	20
Nigeria	25
Southern Sudan	28
<b>Statistical appendix</b>	<b>37</b>

### Selected international cereal prices



Note: Prices refer to monthly average. For December 2008, two weeks average.

# Countries in crisis requiring external assistance<sup>1</sup> (33 countries)

Nature of food insecurity	Main reason	Changes from last report (October 2008)
<b>AFRICA (20 countries)</b>		
<b>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</b>		
Lesotho	Low productivity, HIV/AIDS pandemic	▼
Somalia	Conflict, economic crisis	▼
Swaziland	Low productivity, HIV/AIDS pandemic	▼
Zimbabwe	Deepening economic crisis, adverse weather	▼
<b>Widespread lack of access</b>		
Eritrea	IDPs, economic constraints	■
Liberia	War related damage	▲
Mauritania	Several years of drought	▲
Sierra Leone	War related damage	▲
<b>Severe localized food insecurity</b>		
Burundi	Civil strife, IDPs and returnees	■
Central African Republic	Refugees, insecurity in parts	■
Chad	Refugees, conflict	■
Congo	IDPs	■
Côte d'Ivoire	Conflict related damage	■
Dem. Rep. of Congo	Civil strife, returnees	■
Ethiopia	Insecurity in parts, localized crop failure	▼
Guinea	Refugees, conflict	■
Guinea-Bissau	Localized insecurity	▼
Kenya	Civil strife, adverse weather, pests	▼
Sudan	Civil strife (Darfur), insecurity (southern Sudan), localized crop failure	▼
Uganda	Localized crop failure	▼
<b>ASIA (10 countries)</b>		
<b>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</b>		
Iraq	Conflict and insufficient rainfall	▼
<b>Widespread lack of access</b>		
Afghanistan	Conflict and insecurity, inadequate rainfall	■
DPR Korea	Economic constraints and effects of past floods	■
Myanmar	Cyclone/rodent damage	■
<b>Severe localized food insecurity</b>		
Bangladesh	Floods and cyclone	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Past drought	■
Nepal	Poor market access and drought/floods	■
Sri Lanka	Conflict/floods	■
Tajikistan	Winter crop damage, poor market access, locusts	▼
Timor-Leste	IDPs	■
<b>LATIN AMERICA (3 countries)</b>		
<b>Severe localized food insecurity</b>		
Cuba	Floods	■
Haiti	Floods	■
Honduras	Floods	■

# Countries with unfavourable prospects for current crops<sup>2</sup>

Country	Main reason	Changes from last report (October 2008)
<b>AFRICA</b>		
Ethiopia	Insufficient rainfall in parts	▼
Tunisia	Insufficient rainfall	▼
<b>ASIA</b>		
Afghanistan	Adverse weather, limited supplies and high food prices	▼
Tajikistan	Adverse weather	▼
Turkmenistan	Adverse weather	▼
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>		
Argentina	Insufficient rainfall	■
Cuba	Adverse weather	■
Haiti	Adverse weather	■

No change ■ Improving ▲ Deteriorating ▼

## Terminology

<sup>1</sup> Countries in crisis requiring external assistance 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.

<sup>2</sup> Countries facing unfavourable prospects for current crops are countries where prospects point to a shortfall in production of current crops as a result of the area planted and/or adverse weather conditions, plant pests, diseases and other calamities, which indicate a need for close monitoring of the crop for the remainder of the growing season.

# Food emergencies update

In **Western Africa**, a good 2008 cereal crop is anticipated reflecting regular and well distributed rains throughout the growing season, as well as various productivity-enhancing safety net programmes provided by governments. As a result, coarse grain prices (millet and sorghum) have started declining in most countries following the arrival of the 2008 harvests on the markets, although by November prices remained well above their levels of a year earlier. Improved food supply is expected to lower prices further as harvesting progresses across the subregion. However, despite increased rice output in several countries, regional production will fall short of requirements and domestic prices will continue to be determined to a large extent by world prices that have exhibited significant pass-through from the international market. In spite of the various measures taken by governments to cushion the impact of the sharp increase in world prices, rice prices remain very high in many countries including **Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso**. This situation continues to affect consumer purchasing power and access to food across the subregion.

In **Eastern Africa**, more than 15 million people face serious food difficulties due to the effects of localized drought, consecutive below-normal seasonal rains and ongoing or past conflicts coupled with unusually high food prices. Pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the region, including south and south-eastern Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia and northern Kenya, are particularly affected by current severe food problems.

The situation in southern **Somalia** continues to be of particular concern with an estimated 3.25 million people facing severe food problems. In addition to the civil conflict, that displaced millions of people, aggregate harvest levels over the last five years have progressively declined. No substantial crop production is expected in these areas until the April-June 2009 rainy season. In **Eritrea**, the current high food prices and inflation continue to affect a large number of vulnerable people. In **Ethiopia**, the poor (March-May) rains led to a deterioration of food security in several parts of the country. Worst affected areas include the Somali region, where these rains constitute the main "gu" season rains and parts of Oromia and SNNP Regions. In addition, persisting above-normal food prices over most of the country, increased the number of people facing high or extreme food insecurity from about two million at the beginning of 2008 to over six million currently, with another 5.7 million people being assisted through the productive safety net program. In Somali Region, civil insecurity and market restrictions further exacerbated these conditions. In **Djibouti**, four

consecutive poor rainy seasons, high staple food prices, soaring inflation and lack of adequate government and donor resources, led to significant reductions in poor household food consumption in both rural and urban areas. Some 340 000 people, nearly half of the population, are reported to be currently in need of assistance. In **Kenya** and **Uganda**, recent reports indicate that the increased incidences of *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) – a virus that typically affects sheep and goats – in north-eastern Uganda and pastoral areas of Kenya is causing high rates of small stock mortality, undermining pastoralists' purchasing power, and reducing their food access. About 25 percent of sheep and goats in Uganda's Karamoja Region are estimated to have been killed, while in Kenya the losses were estimated at one billion Kenyan Shillings. In addition, large numbers of people, particularly in pastoral areas, continue to receive food assistance due to slow recovery from previous drought and continued pastoral conflict and cattle raids. In **Sudan**, insecurity remains a major factor in inhibiting access to food, particularly in the troubled Darfur region.

In **Southern Africa**, owing to a reduced cereal harvest (in aggregate terms, excluding South Africa) of the main season completed earlier in 2008, no significant improvement in the anticipated winter crops being harvested and generally high food prices in most local markets, the number of food insecure people during the 2008/09 marketing year is estimated to have increased by almost by one-third over the previous year. Various national Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VACs) and FAO/WFP Missions have placed the total number of food insecure at some 8.7 million, including those in **Zimbabwe** (about 5.1 million), **Lesotho** (353 000) and **Swaziland** (239 000), where external assistance is required. Lower than required food imports so far (both, commercial and food aid), combined with severe transport constraints have reduced food availability in most parts of **Zimbabwe**. In addition, a recent outbreak of cholera with recorded cases of 8 887 including 366 fatalities since August (OCHA) have posed a serious threat to health and nutrition of the vulnerable population there.

In the **Great Lakes** region, the renewed fighting in the north-eastern parts of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has displaced as many as 250 000 people who need food and non-food assistance. High food prices continue to adversely affect a large number of vulnerable households in **Burundi**, necessitating food and agricultural aid, especially for resettlements of returnees and IDPs.

In **Far East Asia**, despite an overall satisfactory food supply situation, serious food insecurity continues in several countries. Severe food shortages persist in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** and food assistance is urgently required. A recent FAO/WFP CFSAM estimated that the cereal deficit in the country for 2008/09 will be at least 800 000 tonnes. In **Myanmar**,

the 2008 Monsoon season rice production in cyclone Nargis affected areas has been significantly reduced and thousands of people still depend on food and agricultural assistance. The food security situation of a large number of people in **Sri Lanka** continues to be affected by the resurgence of civil conflict. Localized food insecurity continues in areas of **Nepal** that were affected by recent floods. Extensive damage has been reported in **the Philippines** due to recent floods.

In the **Near East**, the food security situation of vulnerable people in several countries, mainly in rural areas, continues to be a concern following the severe drought in the 2007/08 agricultural season, which drastically reduced the wheat and barley crops in the **Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq** and **Jordan**. In **Syria**, the poor season has seriously threatened the food security of farmers and herders in the affected areas. In response, an Emergency Operation was jointly approved by FAO and WFP in November 2008 for food assistance to forty thousand households (200 000 people), worth USD 5.2 million for a period of six months (15 November 2008 to 15 May 2009). In **Iraq**, despite the continued improvement in the security situation and financial incentives offered by the Government, which prompted many refugees in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to return home, the food security situation has deteriorated for large number of people. The drought has decimated crops and led to difficulties in the supply of adequate safe drinking water. Outbreaks of cholera spread throughout central and southern areas in

late August and UNICEF issued an urgent appeal to the Iraqi government to clean water storage tanks in all institutions as one preventive measure. Only 20 percent of families outside Baghdad are estimated to have access to sewage services, and Iraq's sewage treatment plants operate at just 17 percent of capacity. In **Afghanistan**, insecurity and widespread lack of adequate access to food has been exacerbated by a drought-reduced harvest in 2008. The cereal import requirement for 2008/09 is estimated at 2.3 million tonnes, more than double the previous year's level. With the commercial import capacity estimated at 1.5 million tonnes, this leaves a requirement of 700 000 tonnes to be covered as food assistance.

In the **Asian CIS**, in **Tajikistan**, widespread poor access to food has been exacerbated by a drought-reduced cereal crop in 2008 for the second year in succession. Reflecting the poor harvest, the cereal import requirement is estimated to be a high 560 000 tonnes. The country is having difficulties mobilizing its supplies commercially and food aid will be necessary to bring relief to the poor.

In **Central America and the Caribbean**, a particularly intense hurricane season in September-October that brought exceptionally high rainfall has afflicted the subregion, with damage to infrastructure and severe losses of cash and food crops, in particular bananas, plantains, cassava and paddy. Food vulnerability has increased dramatically in several of the worst hit Caribbean countries, namely **Haiti**, the **Dominican Republic, Jamaica** and **Cuba**.

## Global cereal supply and demand brief

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### Cereal supply outlook for 2008/09 improves

With the global cereal harvest in 2008 hitting a new record, a significant improvement in the global supply and demand balance for cereals in the 2008/09 season is expected. After allowing for a forecast 3.4 percent increase in utilization, larger than the estimated increase in the previous season, a 10 percent increase in world cereal stocks could now be possible. The bulk of the increase is expected in the wheat stocks of the major exporting countries, which could more than double from the previous year's low, while a notable growth in rice stocks is also forecast for the second year in succession, also mostly among the major exporters. Latest forecasts also point to a slight

increase in global coarse grains stocks, although relatively much less than for wheat or rice. And in the case of the major exporters, a decline is envisaged and their inventories are seen to drop back down to close to the relatively low 2006/07 level. Against this background of generally improved supply prospects, and also reflecting falling crude oil prices and the current global economic crisis, international cereal prices have weakened significantly since their record high levels earlier this year, raising questions over the possible level of returns in the coming 2009/10 season. Farmers already burdened by the persisting high cost of inputs may be less willing to expand or even maintain production next year. Already, early indications for the first of the 2009 crops just sown

in some major producing and exporting countries point to area reductions, such as for winter grains (mostly wheat) in Europe and the United States and for the main maize crops in South Africa and South America. By contrast, among the major producers in the LIFDC group, wheat areas look set to be maintained or increase: the Governments of India and Pakistan are supporting prices to encourage plantings, while in China early indications suggest that last year's large area has been maintained and conditions are favourable.

## PRODUCTION

### Record global cereal production in 2008

With the bulk of the 2008 cereal harvests complete or nearing an end, latest information confirms a significant increase in world production, by 5.4 percent, to a record 2 245 million tonnes (including rice in milled terms). By cereal, the bulk of the increase by far is from wheat, although the global coarse grains and rice crops are also seen to increase significantly (Figure 2). Turning to the regional distribution of the increase, output has risen or is expected to rise throughout most parts of the globe, with the exception of the Near East and the neighbouring CIS countries in Asia, where the season was negatively affected by drought, and in North America, where production of maize in the United States retreated from an exceptionally high level in 2007. However, although increasing in most parts, the bulk of the increase is confined to the developed countries, which accounted in particular for the strong recovery in wheat production (Table 1 and Figure 3). While in developed countries the 2008 cereal output is estimated 11 percent higher than last year, in developing countries the expansion is only 1 percent. This mainly reflects a weak supply response in Asia, accounting for three-quarters of the developing countries' production, where the aggregate cereal output remained

virtually unchanged. Although some moderate growth was recorded in the main producing countries in the Far East, taking production there to new record levels, this was offset by reductions in the Near East.

### Wheat production increases sharply in 2008

With the bulk of the world's 2008 wheat harvests already gathered or nearing an end, the forecast for world wheat output in 2008 now stands at 682 million tonnes, a very substantial (11.7 percent) increase from the previous year. Accounting for a large part of this year's strong growth have been the major producing countries in Europe, where latest estimates now point to a significant (26.1 percent)

increase in production in 2008 following larger plantings and generally above-average yields. The gains compare with the previous year are particularly notable in eastern parts, after drought-reduced crops in 2007. However, also in North America, favourable weather led to better yields in the United States and Canada, and significantly larger outputs are estimated in both countries. By contrast, aggregate 2008 wheat output in Asia could slip back somewhat from last year's record as persisting dry weather reduced yields, especially in the Near East subregion. Elsewhere in the northern hemisphere, aggregate output in North Africa recovered significantly from last year's drought-reduced level, although it remained at a below-average level.

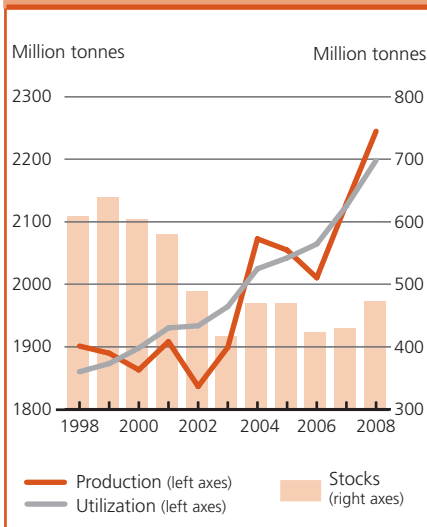
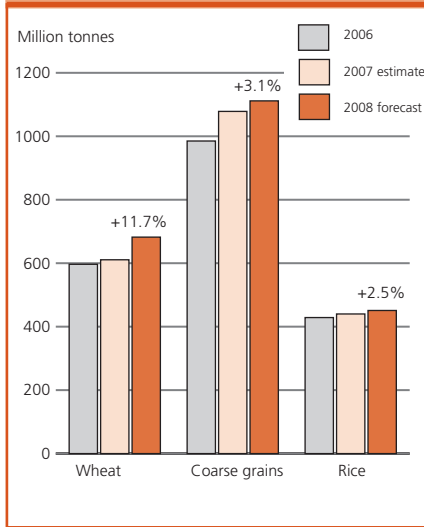
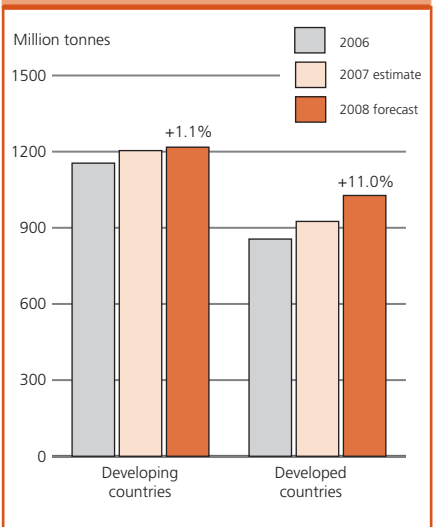
**Table 1. World cereal production<sup>1</sup> (million tonnes)**

	2006	2007 estimate	2008 forecast	Change: 2008 over 2007 (%)
<b>Asia</b>	<b>912.2</b>	<b>952.5</b>	<b>946.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Far East	809.4	849.6	861.3	1.4
Near East in Asia	72.9	69.1	55.3	-20.0
CIS in Asia	29.7	33.6	29.9	-11.0
<b>Africa</b>	<b>142.6</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>147.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>
North Africa	36.0	29.1	32.3	11.0
Western Africa	49.4	46.9	53.4	13.7
Central Africa	3.0	3.2	3.3	1.5
Eastern Africa	32.5	31.6	32.2	1.8
Southern Africa	21.7	22.1	26.8	21.0
<b>Central America &amp; Caribbean</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>110.8</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>136.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>384.5</b>	<b>462.1</b>	<b>452.1</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>404.4</b>	<b>389.0</b>	<b>490.5</b>	<b>26.1</b>
EU <sup>2</sup>	246.8	259.7	312.1	20.2
CIS in Europe	118.6	115.4	159.9	38.6
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>2 010.4</b>	<b>2 129.2</b>	<b>2 244.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Developing countries	<b>1 154.7</b>	<b>1 204.1</b>	<b>1 217.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Developed countries	<b>855.6</b>	<b>925.1</b>	<b>1 027.3</b>	<b>11.0</b>
- wheat	596.6	610.8	682.2	11.7
- coarse grains	985.1	1 078.4	1 111.6	3.1
- rice (milled)	428.7	440.0	451.0	2.5

<sup>1</sup>Includes rice in milled terms.

<sup>2</sup>EU-25 in 2006; EU-27 in 2007, 2008.

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

**Figure 1. World cereal production, utilization and stocks****Figure 2. World cereal production by type****Figure 3. Cereal production in the Developed and Developing country groups**

In the southern hemisphere, some of the major 2008 wheat crops are still being harvested. In South America, the impact of drought-reduced plantings and yields in Argentina will more than offset a good crop in prospect in Brazil, and overall, the subregion's output is forecast well down from last year. In Oceania, prospects for the wheat crop in Australia deteriorated further in the past weeks because of continuing dry weather but, nevertheless, this year's output is still set to recover sharply from last year's severe drought-reduced level.

### Favourable conditions for 2009 wheat crops but planted areas down in major producing countries

In many parts of the northern hemisphere the winter wheat crops for harvest in 2009 are already in the ground or planting is currently underway. Although planting conditions have been generally favourable, early indications point to smaller wheat areas in several of the main producing countries, largely in response to reduced price expectations and continuing high costs

of inputs. In the United States, planting was complete by the end of November under generally favourable conditions, but the final area sown is tentatively estimated to be down by about 3 to 4 percent. In Europe, early forecasts point to a decline of about 2 percent in the European Union's wheat area, even though compulsory land set-aside (which was set at 10 percent before its removal for the 2007/08 season) has not been reintroduced for 2008/09, and reduced areas are also reported in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the major producers in the east of the region. However, winter wheat areas have been maintained, or may increase somewhat in the major producing countries in Asia, where weather conditions for planting have been favourable and, moreover, in India and Pakistan government support policies have been put in place to encourage plantings.

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

FAO's latest forecast for world production of coarse grains in 2008 now stands at

an all-time high of about 1 112 million tonnes, 3.1 percent above the record of last year. The increase is attributed mostly to a strong recovery in Europe's production after drought in 2007 in eastern parts. However, the main southern hemisphere coarse grain crops also performed well in 2008. Record high crops were gathered in South America, where plantings increased and ideal weather conditions favoured above-average yields. In Southern Africa, the subregion's aggregate output reached a new record. However, the high production level was mostly attributed to a large crop in the major producing country of South Africa, as aggregate output in most other parts of the subregion fell. In Oceania, output of coarse grains in Australia is set to recover from the previous year's drought-reduced level. Elsewhere, in North America, coarse grains output (mostly maize) fell sharply in the United States, where plantings retracted from the exceptional high level last year, and declined somewhat in Canada. In Asia, output of coarse grains is also estimated down slightly, mostly in the Near East subregion because of drought. Output in Central America is estimated similar to last year's good level.

## Favourable prospects for the main 2008 rice harvests

Harvesting of the main 2008 rice crops is underway and prospects are favourable, reflecting generally good weather throughout the season in most main producing regions. Global paddy production in 2008 is now forecast at more than 675 million tonnes (451 million tonnes in milled terms), 2.5 percent or 16.5 million tonnes above the already excellent 2007 output. With the exception of Oceania and Europe, all the other regions are set to harvest larger crops in 2008, with part of the increase attributed to an improved access to seeds and fertilizers. In general however producers were encouraged to expand the area under rice by the exceptionally high prices that prevailed in the first half of the year. Overall, the increase in global output would be the result of a 1.6 percent increase in plantings to an estimated 158 million hectares, and a 1 percent gain in productivity to 4.3 tonnes per hectare.

In 2008, production in Asia is set to expand by 2 percent to 612 million tonnes. Much of the region's increase is likely to be concentrated in the largest producing countries, in particular China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Viet Nam, which all launched measures to boost rice cultivation in the wake of the soaring prices in the first half of the year. Large output gains are also expected in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, which benefited from excellent growing conditions this season. By contrast, production in Myanmar is set to shrink by 8 percent, reflecting the destruction of infrastructure by cyclone Nargis earlier this year. A contraction is also anticipated in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which have been affected by extended drought, and in the Democratic Republic of Korea, where, despite favourable weather, severe shortages of fertilizers led to poor yields. Expectations of record harvests in Africa have also been largely confirmed in recent months. The region's production is forecast

**Table 2.** Basic facts of the world cereal situation (*million tonnes*)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Change: 2008/09 over 2007/08 (%)
<b>PRODUCTION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2 010.4</b>	<b>2 129.2</b>	<b>2 244.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Wheat	596.6	610.8	682.2	11.7
Coarse grains	985.1	1 078.4	1 111.5	3.1
Rice (milled)	428.7	440.0	451.0	2.5
<b>SUPPLY<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2 481.1</b>	<b>2 553.4</b>	<b>2 675.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Wheat	776.3	767.9	832.4	8.4
Coarse grains	1 171.0	1 240.9	1 282.5	3.4
Rice	533.8	544.7	560.6	2.9
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	<b>2 064.3</b>	<b>2 125.2</b>	<b>2 198.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Wheat	622.0	617.5	647.6	4.9
Coarse grains	1 015.3	1 070.9	1 106.1	3.3
Rice	427.1	436.8	444.5	1.8
Per caput cereal food use ( <i>kg per year</i> )	151.8	152.3	152.4	0.1
<b>TRADE<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>256.8</b>	<b>271.6</b>	<b>265.0</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Wheat	113.3	111.2	120.0	7.9
Coarse grains	111.2	129.6	114.0	-12.0
Rice	32.3	30.9	31.0	0.3
<b>END OF SEASON STOCKS<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>424.3</b>	<b>430.7</b>	<b>474.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Wheat	157.0	150.2	182.9	21.8
- main exporters <sup>5</sup>	36.6	27.7	42.7	54.1
Coarse grains	162.5	171.0	175.2	2.5
- main exporters <sup>5</sup>	62.3	73.7	64.8	-12.1
Rice	104.7	109.6	116.2	6.0
- main exporters <sup>5</sup>	23.1	26.0	29.2	12.2

### Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs)<sup>6</sup>

<b>Cereal production<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>887.2</b>	<b>916.6</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<i>excl. China Mainland and India</i>	306.4	303.5	313.7	3.3
<b>Utilization</b>	<b>935.5</b>	<b>960.2</b>	<b>978.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Food use	650.4	663.5	673.1	1.5
<i>excl. China Mainland and India</i>	276.5	283.7	290.8	2.5
Per caput cereal food use ( <i>kg per year</i> )	155.5	156.3	156.3	0.0
<i>excl. China Mainland and India</i>	157.3	158.1	158.9	0.5
Feed	166.8	172.0	176.4	2.6
<i>excl. China Mainland and India</i>	48.9	49.2	50.1	1.9
<b>End of season stocks<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>238.2</b>	<b>255.9</b>	<b>278.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>
<i>excl. China Mainland and India</i>	58.0	52.4	53.0	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.

<sup>2</sup> Production plus opening stocks.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> May not equal the difference between supply and utilization because of differences in individual country marketing years.

<sup>5</sup> The main wheat and coarse grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and the United States.

The main rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>6</sup> Includes food deficit countries with per caput annual income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 675 in 2005).



to rise by almost 8 percent to a record 24.7 million tonnes, sustained by larger crops in Egypt, Madagascar, Nigeria and Senegal. Generally high price expectations, abundant and well distributed precipitation in major rice producing areas and improved access to fertilizers are largely behind the expansion in plantings and yields. In Latin America and the Caribbean, most of the major producing countries situated in the southern part of the continent concluded a very positive 2008 season in the first half of the year and are now planting the 2009 main paddy crops. These countries were largely behind an estimated 7 percent production increase in the region's output in 2008, as production stagnated in Central America and the Caribbean, partly constrained by the passage of hurricanes but also by the very high input prices that have prevailed this year. In the rest of the world, production is reported to have risen by 3 percent in the United States, despite the passage of cyclones Gustav and Ike, and in the Russian Federation, where government support and favourable weather boosted production by 6 percent.

## PRICES

### International cereal prices continue to decline

International **wheat** prices have decline further in the past months. The main fundamental behind the weakening of prices since March is the record level of world wheat production that has been achieved this year, but further to this, also a significant rise in the amount of exportable supplies that are available, facts that have become firmer as the year progressed and more of major crops were gathered around the globe. However, also adding to downward price pressure in the past few months has been the firmer US dollar, significant weakening of crude oil prices and the world financial

crisis. The US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b. Gulf) averaged USD 227 in the first two weeks of December, USD 20 per tonne below the November average and 40 percent down from the December average last year.

International **maize** prices have also been on the decline in the past months, starting to fall since June, when favourable global crop prospects and indications of a likely abundance of feed wheat in world markets started to pressure markets downward. As for wheat, apart from the fundamental supply pressure, maize markets have been influenced by the stronger US dollar in the past months, continuing drops in crude oil prices and the likely implications of a global recession, such as significantly lower feed demand. The US maize (No. 2 Yellow, Gulf) averaged USD 143 per tonne in the first two weeks of December, USD 23 per tonne below the November average and about 20 percent below the December average last year.

Expectations of record 2008 **paddy**

crops in the northern hemisphere and subdued world demand, are keeping downward pressure on rice export prices. The price of the benchmark Thai white rice 100% B averaged USD 580 per tonne in the first two weeks of December, USD 11 per tonne down from the November average, although still well above (54 percent) the price at the same time last year. However, the Thai export quotations may have fallen further had it not been that they remain sustained by the Thai Government's procurement programme, to which producers are selling heavily, as prices paid under the scheme are currently above market levels. Continuing export restrictions in some major exporting countries in particular Egypt and India, have also prevented prices from falling more heavily. In all the other major sources, in particular Viet Nam, Pakistan and the United States, export prices have been under stronger downward pressure, with some now approaching the levels observed in December 2007.

**Table 3. Cereal export prices\* (USD/tonne)**

	2007	2008				
	Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>United States</b>						
Wheat <sup>1</sup>	381	343	308	252	247	227
Maize <sup>2</sup>	179	232	229	181	166	143
Sorghum <sup>2</sup>	192	209	208	158	146	-
<b>Argentina <sup>3</sup></b>						
Wheat	310	307	280	235	189	168
Maize	171	217	203	169	156	140
<b>Thailand <sup>4</sup></b>						
Rice white <sup>5</sup>	376	787	764	683	591	580
Rice, broken <sup>6</sup>	342	525	487	385	320	311

\*Prices refer to the monthly average. For December 2008, two weeks average.

<sup>1</sup> No.2 Hard Red Winter (Ordinary Protein) f.o.b. Gulf.

<sup>2</sup> No.2 Yellow, Gulf

<sup>3</sup> Up river, f.o.b.

<sup>4</sup> Indicative traded prices.

<sup>5</sup> 100% second grade, f.o.b. Bangkok.

<sup>6</sup> A1 super, f.o.b. Bangkok.

# National food price review<sup>1</sup>

## Prices of basic food staples remain at high levels in developing countries

International cereal prices have fallen sharply from their record levels reached in mid-2008 but in many developing countries they remain high and continue to increase despite the various policy measures taken by governments to limit the impact of high international prices on domestic markets. In countries where prices have declined the reductions have been modest compared to those in export markets and, generally, national cereal prices remain above their levels of

a year earlier. Persistent high food prices in the developing world continue to affect access to food of large numbers of vulnerable population in both urban and rural areas. Given the precarious food security situation in many countries because of the sharp increase in food prices in 2008, continued monitoring of prices of staple foods in national and local markets is needed in 2009.

<sup>1</sup> The percentage figures displayed on all charts refer to the price change from one year earlier.

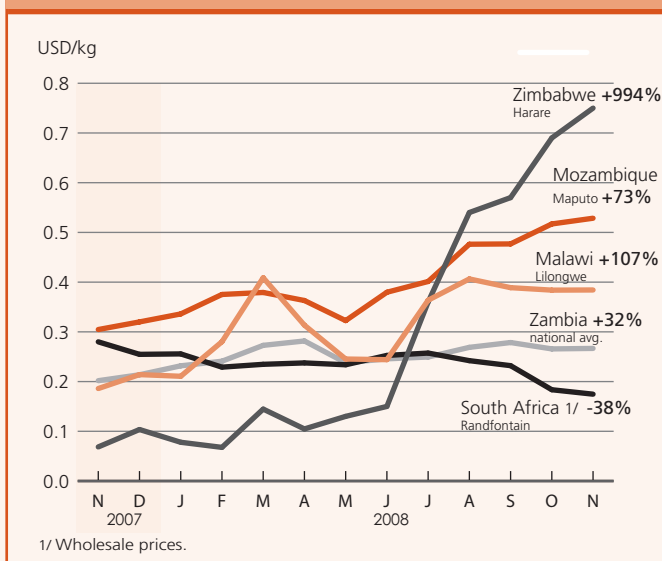
## Southern Africa

Prices of maize, the main staple food in the subregion have continued their upward trend in most importing countries, such as **Mozambique** and **Zimbabwe**, in spite of the stable or declining trend in South Africa, the region's main exporter. Prices in **South Africa** are following the international price pattern and have declines since July 2008. The decline is steeper in US dollar terms with significant devaluation of the Rand than in local currency. In most importing countries of the subregion the demand for maize on markets is high during this lean period when farmers' own stocks and supplies are being depleted. The slower pace of imports, compared to last year, may also be a contributing factor to the high domestic prices

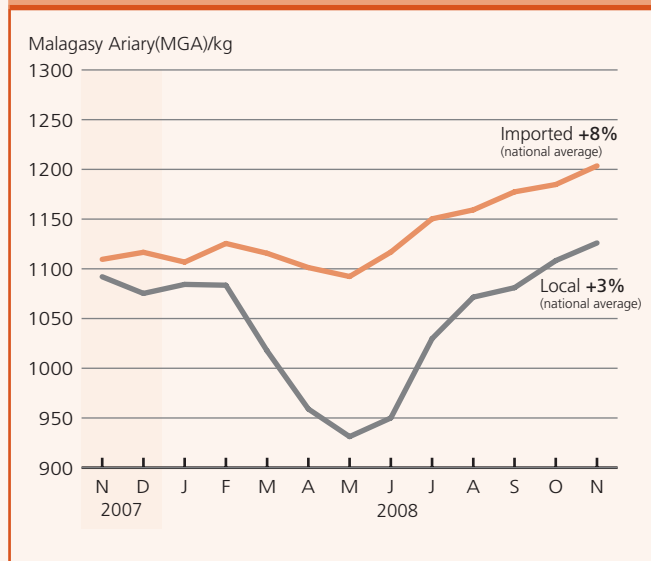
in these countries. Elsewhere, prices have stabilized in the past months in countries that have reached self-sufficiency in maize in marketing year 2008/09 (April/March), such as **Malawi** and **Mozambique**; however by November 2008 in markets of these countries' capital cities prices of maize remained 107 and 73 percent higher than a year earlier. These increase are higher in local currency terms.

In **Madagascar** prices of rice, the main staple food, need watching carefully as they have been augmenting since the immediate post-harvest period, increasing 22 percent from June to November, and the country is heading into the lean period until the next harvest in May. Further increase of rice prices could result in a critical food situation like last year.

White maize prices in selected Southern African markets



Rice prices in Madagascar



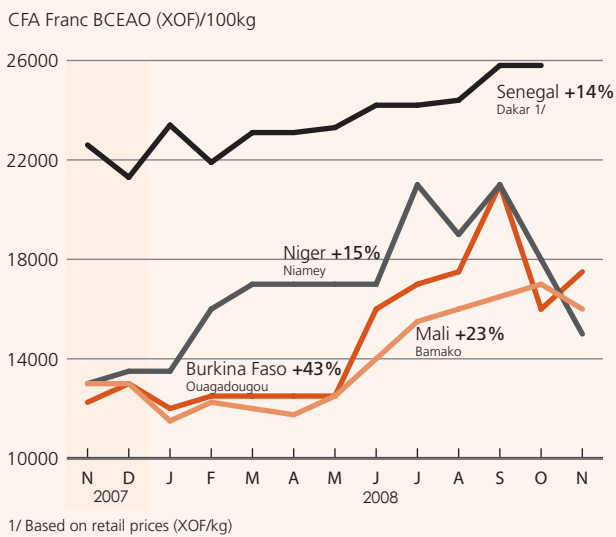
## Western Africa

Coarse grains prices have started declining in September, reflecting the arrival of bumper harvests into the markets; however, by November 2008 prices remained well above the levels of a year ago. For example, despite significant decreases in recent months, millet prices in markets of **Mali** (Bamako), **Niger** (Niamey) and **Burkina Faso** (Ouagadougou) were still 23, 15 and 43 percent higher than in November 2007. In general, domestic prices of non tradable crops such as millet and sorghum are driven by national and regional factors and fluctuate according

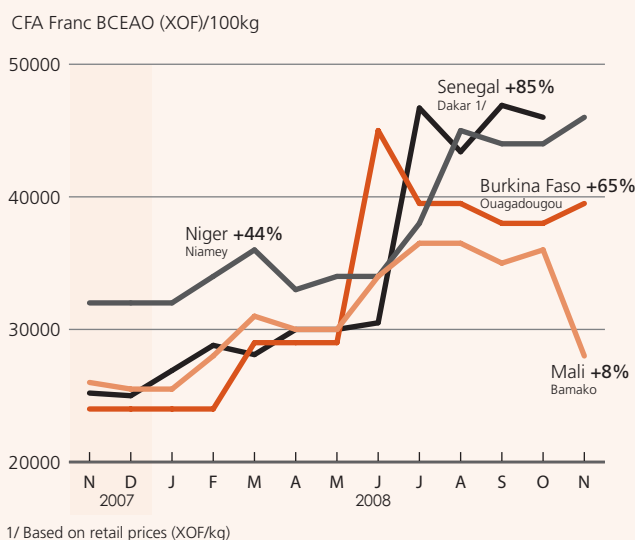
to local supply and demand, greatly influenced by erratic weather conditions.

The situation is different for rice prices which are determined by world prices and have exhibited high pass-through from the international market. In **Senegal**, **Niger** and **Burkina Faso** rice prices continued to increase, being 85 percent higher in Senegal in September and 44 and 65 percent respectively higher in Niger and Burkina Faso than a year earlier. These increases occurred despite a series of measures implemented by governments aimed at offsetting the impact of higher world prices, including waiving of import tariffs and food distributions. In most francophone countries of Western Africa no impact was observed on prices due to the relatively low initial tariff level and the recent depreciation of the CFA (which is pegged to the Euro) against the dollar. By contrast, the Nigerian Government reduced import duty on imported rice from 100 to 2.7 percent for 6 months, up to 31 October 2008, targeting the importation of not less than 500 000 tonnes of milled rice. A significant price decline was observed in markets in **Nigeria** between May and September 2008 (for example 16 percent in Bodija market, Ibadan) due to the initial level of the tariff and the appreciation of the naira.

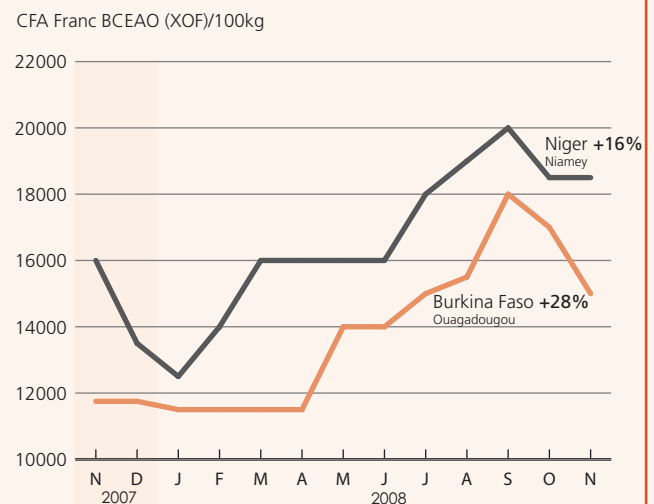
### Millet prices in selected Western African markets



### Imported rice prices in selected Western African markets



### Sorghum prices in selected Western African markets



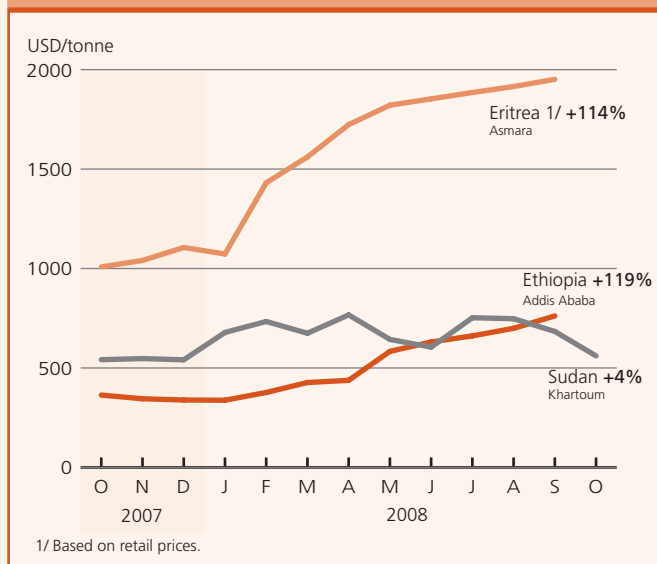
## Eastern Africa

Throughout the region, food prices have generally increased in the past months and are at above-average levels for this time of year. In **Eritrea**, prices of the main staple wheat in Asmara have been increasing since the beginning of the year and by September had almost doubled the price prevailing a year earlier. In **Ethiopia**, the price of the main food staple maize in Addis Ababa was quoted at USD 600 per tonne in September 2008, nearly three times higher than its quotation in September 2007. The harvesting season of coarse grains has just begun and some decline in prices is likely to occur. In **Sudan**, the price of the food staple sorghum

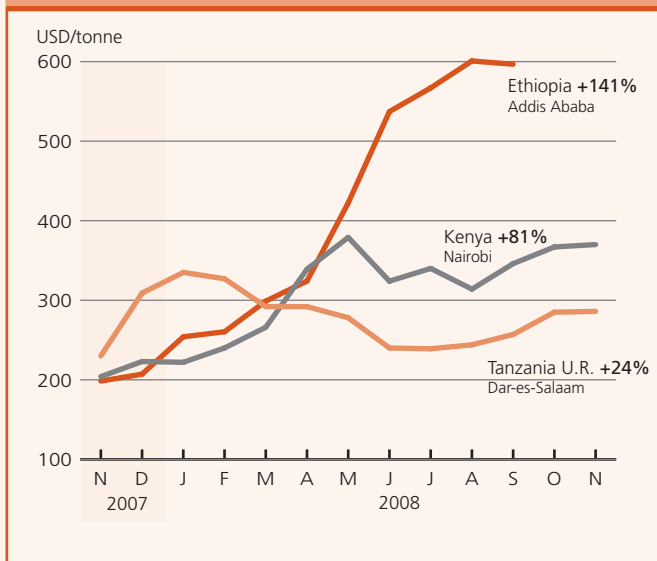
in Khartoum was quoted at USD 406 per tonne, which was more than double the price in October 2007. The harvesting season of coarse grains is also underway in Northern Sudan and a decline in prices is expected.

In **Kenya**, the price of maize in November 2008 in the Nairobi market, quoted at USD 370 per tonne, is bouncing back to the peak of USD 379 reached in May 2008 and is 81 percent higher than in November 2007. Similarly, the price of maize in the Mombasa market in October rose back to USD 370 per tonne, exceeding the previous peak of USD 363 per tonne last June. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, the price of maize, which began to steadily decline in February/March 2008, following the maize harvest in the southern lowlands, has increased since July. In November, the wholesale price of maize in Dar-es-Salaam averaged at USD 286 per tonne, registering an increase of 11 percent on the September level and of 24 percent compared to November 2007. In **Uganda**, despite an average main season crop, the retail price of maize in Kampala, after a decline in July to USD 259 per tonne, has increased steadily to USD 353 per tonne in November 2008.

Wheat prices in selected Eastern Africa markets



Maize prices in selected Eastern African markets

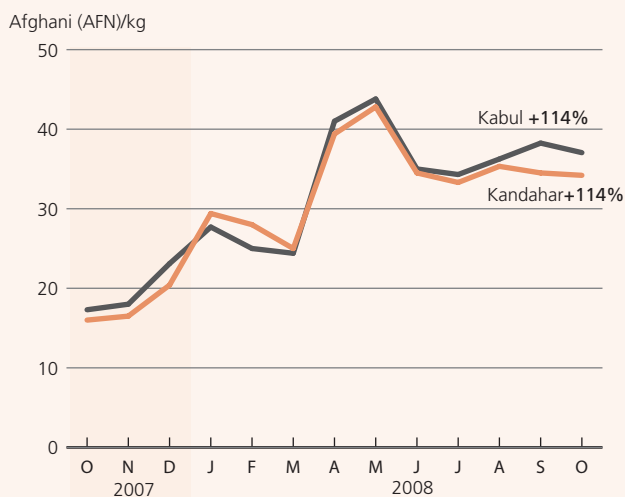


## Asia

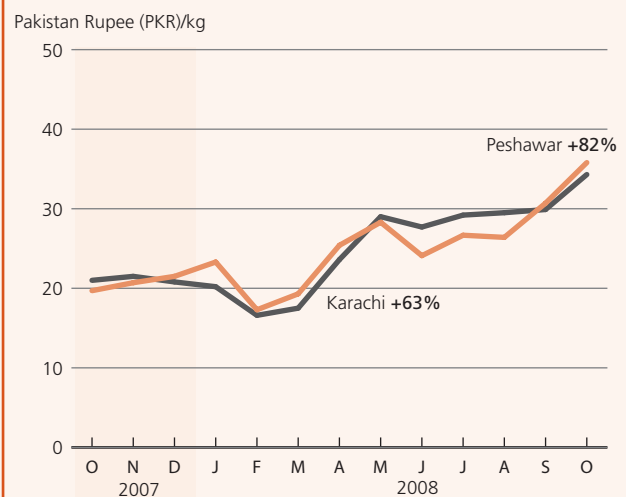
Prices of rice and wheat continue to increase in several countries of the region. In **Afghanistan**, quotations of the main staple wheat flour by October 2008 were more than twice their levels of a year earlier, following a sharply drought-reduced cereal crop this year. In **Pakistan**, despite substantial wheat imports by the Government, prices in October were well above their levels of a year earlier reflecting substantial crossborder trade with Afghanistan where quotations of wheat flour in US dollar terms, are about 70 to 100 percent higher than in neighbouring Pakistan. In **Thailand**, wholesale prices of rice in Bangkok have declined from their peak in April reflecting prospects for another

record production this year; however, in October they remained 73 percent higher than a year ago. In **Sri Lanka**, prices have generally been on the increase since the beginning of the year, and despite another bumper crop recently gathered, in November 2008 they were one-third higher in November 2007. Similarly, in **India** despite a good 2008 crop and continuing export restrictions, prices of rice have increased since the beginning of the year and by November 2008 had reached 22 rupee per kg, an increase of 38 percent from a year ago. In the **Philippines**, prices of rice have declined since July but in November, the quotation for the most popular variety (well milled rice), was still 36 percent higher than the previous year's level.

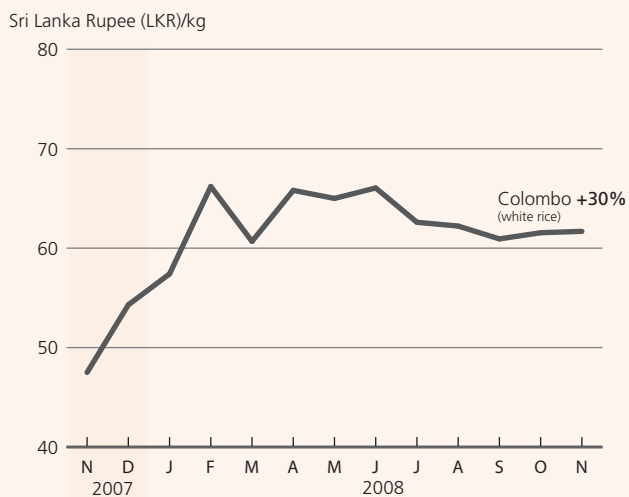
### Retail wheat flour price in Afghanistan



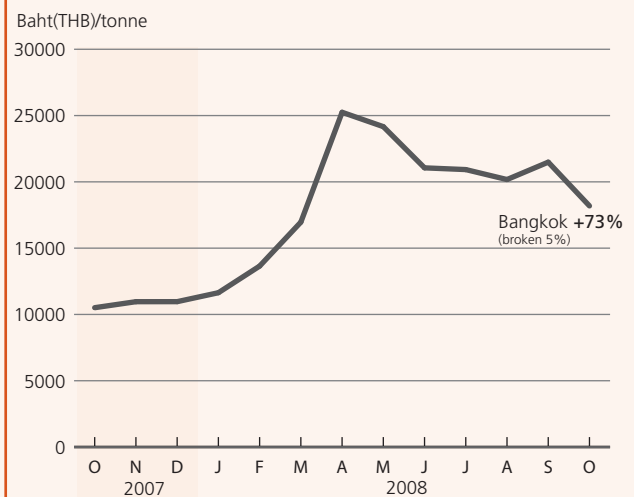
### Retail wheat flour price in Pakistan



### Retail rice price in Sri Lanka



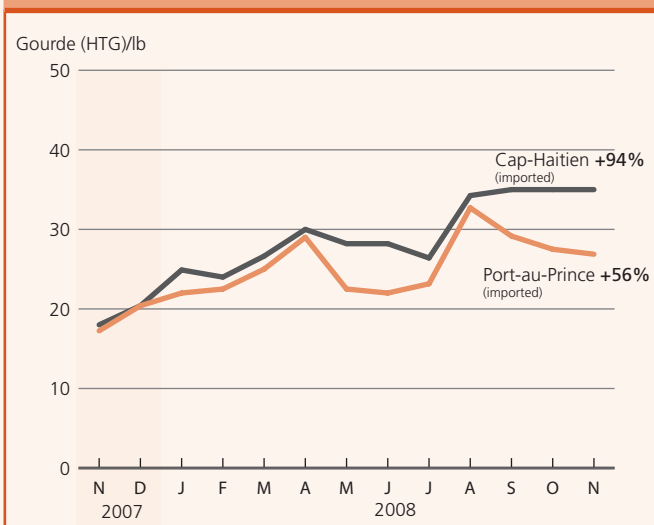
### Wholesale rice price in Thailand



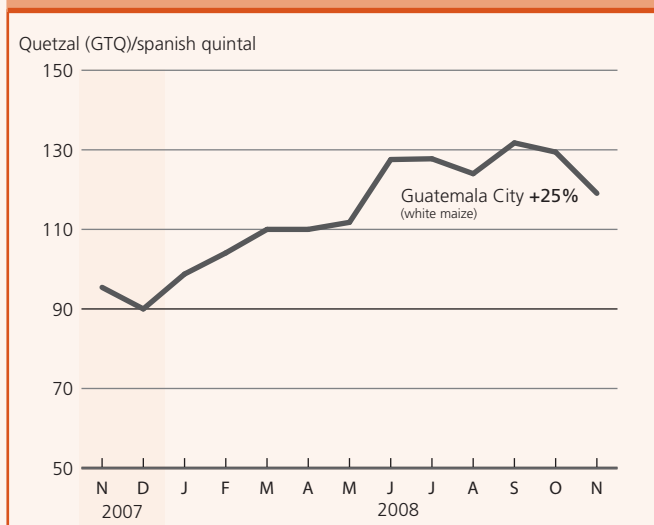
## Central America and Caribbean

Prices of basic staples maize and rice remain well above their levels of a year ago. In **Guatemala** and **Honduras**, the retail price of maize in November 2008 was between one-quarter and one-third higher than at the same time last year. Prices of mostly imported rice have been increasing since the beginning of the year in most countries of the subregion and in November in **Haiti** (Cap-Haitien) and **Nicaragua** (Managua) were 94 and 54 percent respectively higher than a year ago.

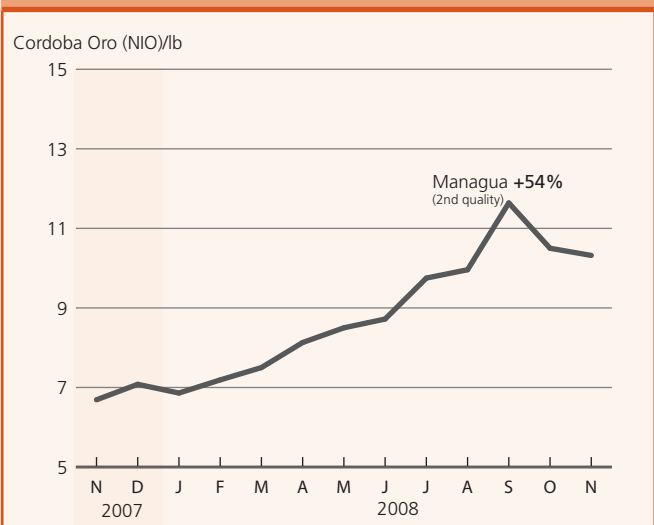
Retail rice price in Haiti



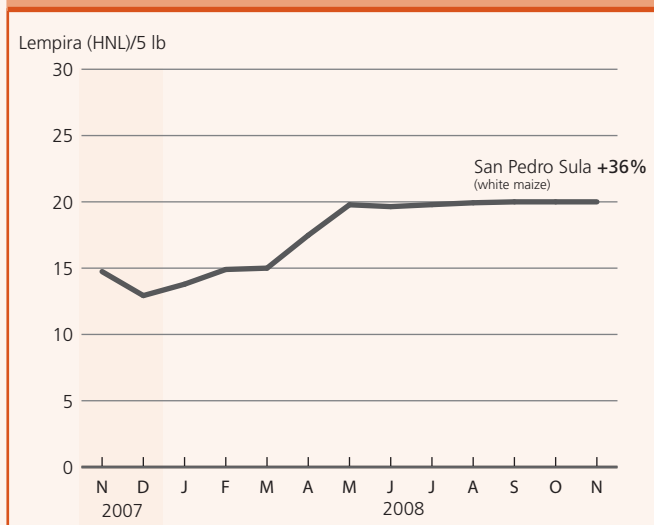
Wholesale maize price in Guatemala



Retail rice price in Nicaragua



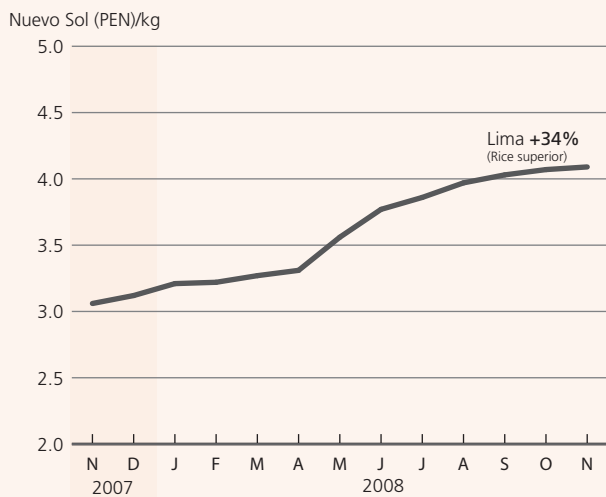
Retail maize price in Honduras



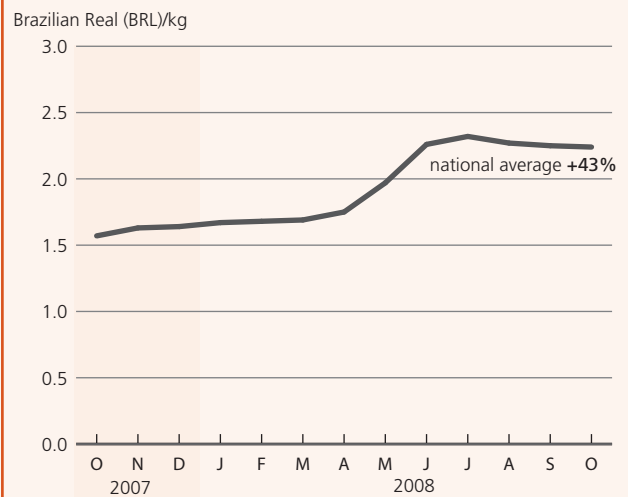
## South America

Prices of rice, one of the basic foods in the subregion have shown an upward trend in the past year and in October/November 2008 were one to two-thirds higher than a year earlier in **Bolivia**, **Colombia**, **Brazil** and **Peru**. Similarly, prices of bread, another main staple in these countries, have increased by about one-quarter from the levels of one year ago and well above the general inflation rates.

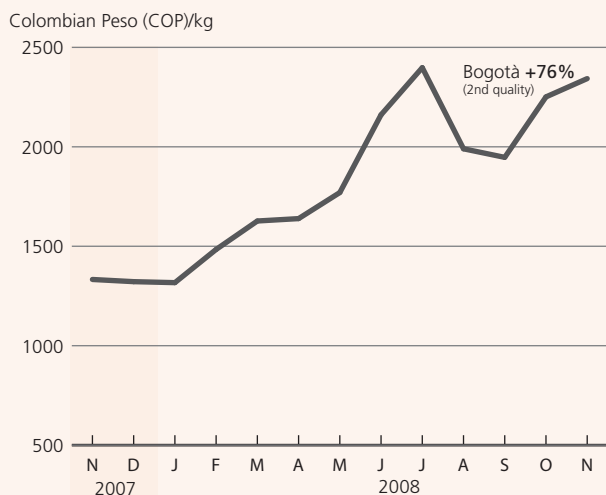
### Retail rice price in Peru



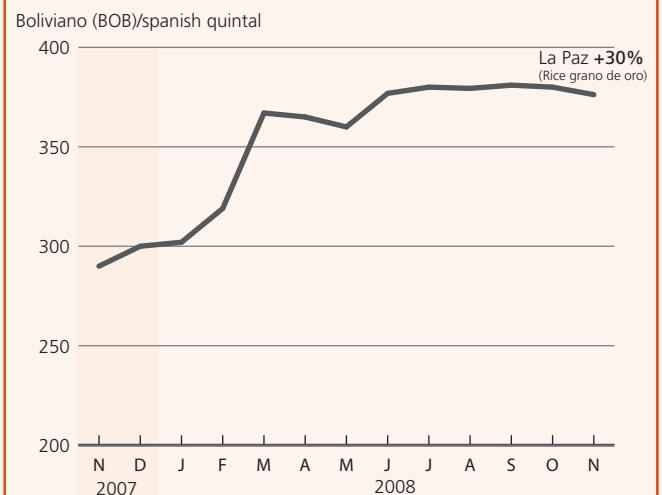
### Retail rice price in Brazil



### Wholesale rice price in Colombia

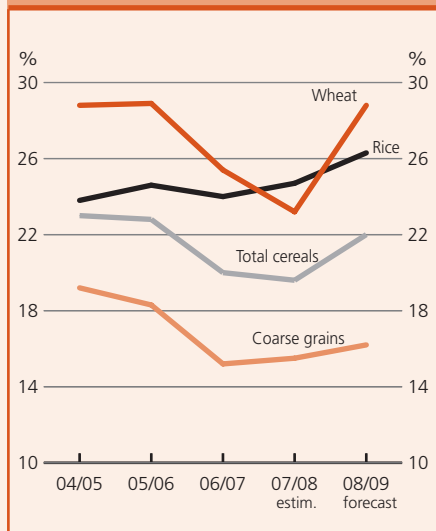


### Wholesale rice price in Bolivia

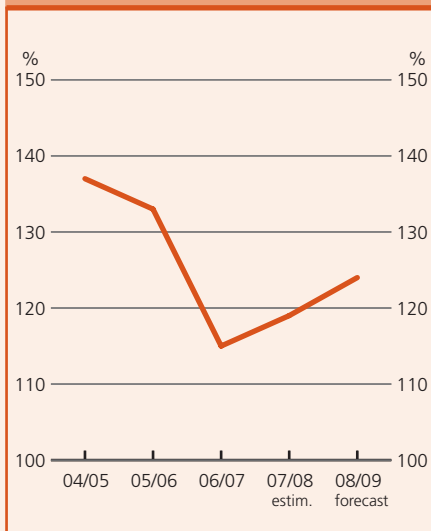


## FAO's global cereal supply and demand indicators

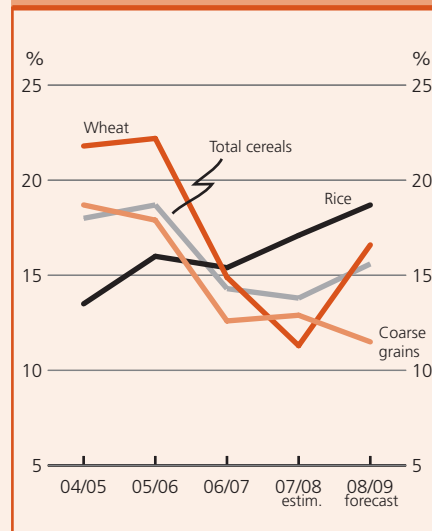
### 1. Ratio of world cereal stocks to utilization



### 2. Ratio of major grain exporters supplies to normal market requirements



### 3. Ratio of major exports stocks to their total disappearance



As evidence of some improvement in the current season (2008/09), from the particularly tight market situation in 2007/08, the ratio of world cereal ending stocks in 2008/09 to the trend world cereal utilization in the following season is expected to increase significantly to 22.0 percent. Among the major cereals, the ratio for wheat is expected to increase the most, rising to 28.8 percent from the low 23.2 percent of the previous year, following a significant increase in global production in 2008. For rice, the ratio is also expected to increase quite significantly, to reach 26.3 percent, the highest level of the past few years. Market conditions for coarse grains (maize in particular) are expected to remain the tightest. With the anticipated total utilization remaining close to world production, the stock-to-use ratio for coarse grains is forecast to increase only fractionally, to 16.2 percent, remaining close to the low level of the past two years.

1 The **first indicator** is the ratio of world cereal ending stocks in any given season to world cereal utilization in the following season. Utilization in 2009/10 is a trend value based on extrapolation from the 1998/99-2007/08 period.

Given the outlook for a relatively strong recovery in grain production in 2008 in major exporting countries, which suffered production cutbacks in 2007, the ratio of their aggregate grain supplies compared to normal market requirements in 2008/09 is estimated to increase from the relatively low levels of the preceding two years to reach 124 percent.

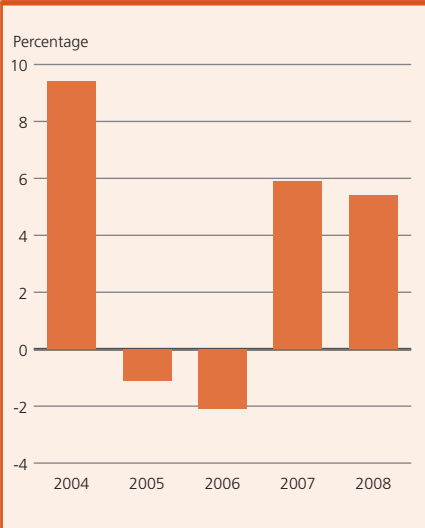
2 The **second indicator** is the ratio of the exporters' grain (wheat and coarse grains) supplies (i.e. a sum of production, opening stocks, and imports) to their normal market requirements (defined as domestic utilization plus exports of the three preceding years). The major grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and the United States.

The ratio of the major exporters' ending cereal stocks to their total disappearance in 2008/09 is forecast to increase slightly from last season's 30-year low, to reach 15.6 percent. For wheat, the ratio is expected to recover sharply to 16.6 percent, reflecting substantial production increases in all the major wheat exporting countries with the exception of Argentina. The ratio for rice is now also expected to increase slightly, to 18.7 percent. However, for coarse grains, the ratio is forecast to decrease further from the previous year's already low level to 11.5 percent. The anticipated drop in 2008 maize production in the United States against a rising use of maize for biofuels is the main factor behind this drop in the ratio.

3 The **third indicator** is the ratio of the major exporters' ending stocks, by cereal type, to their total disappearance (i.e. domestic consumption plus exports). The major **wheat** and **coarse grain** exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and the United States. The major **rice** exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.

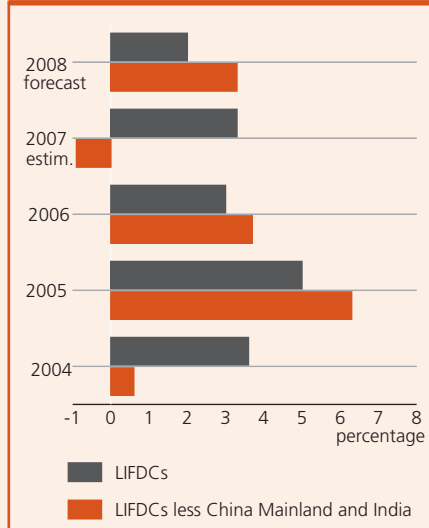


#### 4. Year-to-year change in world cereal production



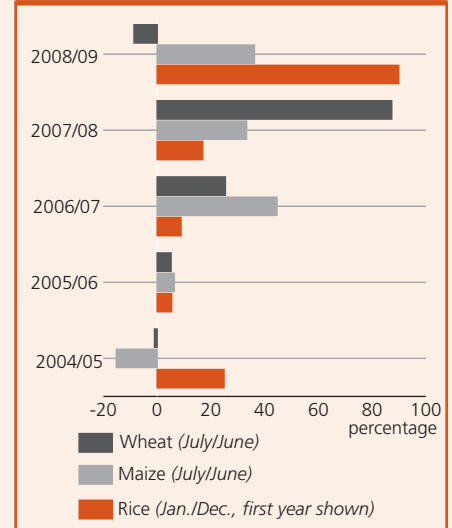
World cereal production is estimated to be up 5.4 percent in 2008, which would represent another relatively strong increase for the second year in succession, and is a welcome development in the face of the particularly tight global supply/demand situation at the outset of the 2008/09 season (July/June). However, with the first three indicators remaining relatively low, albeit slightly improved from the previous season, another good cereal harvest will be needed again in 2009 or global supplies could be quickly eroded to, or below, the reduced levels witnessed in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

#### 5 & 6. Year-to-year change in cereal production in the LIFDCs



While cereal production of the LIFDCs is forecast to increase further in 2008, the rate of growth, at just 2.0 percent, would represent a decline for the third consecutive year. However, contrary to 2007, excluding China (Mainland) and India, which account for some two-thirds of the group's aggregate cereal output, production in the rest of the LIFDCs is estimated to increase this year by 3.3 percent, this improvement is a positive feature after last year's decline and reflects government support to improve farmers' access to agricultural inputs and overall favourable weather conditions.

#### 7. Year-to-year change in selected cereal price indices



With cereal production forecast to exceed the expected utilization in 2008/09, for the first time in four years, and stocks likely to increase, prices of most cereals have started to come down in 2008. With wheat prices sharply below their level of a year ago, the wheat price index in the new season so far (July to November 2008) is 9 percent lower than that of 2007/08. Although maize prices have also been on the decline since June, given the huge increase in their prices during the first half of the year, the index for the current marketing season so far is still 36.2 percent up from 2007/08. For rice, with international prices still remaining well above their levels a year earlier, despite significant declines since March, the rice index in the 2008 marketing season so far (January-November) is estimated to be up by almost 90 percent compared to the previous year.

5&6 In view of the fact that the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) are most vulnerable to changes in their own production and therefore supplies, the FAO's **fifth indicator** measures the variation in production of the LIFDCs. The **sixth indicator** shows the annual production change in the LIFDCs excluding China (Mainland) and India, the two largest producers in the group.

4 The **fourth indicator** shows the aggregate cereal production variation from one year to the next at the global level.

7 The **seventh indicator** demonstrates cereal price developments in world markets based on changes observed in selected local price indices.

# Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries food situation overview<sup>1</sup>

## 2008 aggregate cereal production of LIFDCs recovers after last year's decline

FAO's latest forecast of 2008 cereal production for the 82 LIFDCs as a group points to an increase of 2 percent from 2007. Excluding the largest producers China and India, which normally account for one-third of the aggregate output, production of the rest of the LIFDCs increases by 3.3 percent, which is a positive development after a decline in production last year. However, the situation varies greatly among subregions with significant increases in production at aggregate level expected for the LIFDC groups in Africa, Europe and Central America but a decline for the Asian LIFDC group.

In the LIFDCs in Western Africa, the 2008 cereal crop is estimated 14 percent higher than in the previous year reflecting favourable weather during the growing season and production support measures. In Nigeria, representing over half of the production in the subregion, the output increased by 8 percent supported by the Government's large fertilizer procurement programme to ensure availability for the agricultural season. In the nine countries of the Sahel subregion, cereal production increased by about one-third, notably in Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso, where governments also launched various agricultural production support programmes this year. In North Africa, the 2008 cereal production

increased in Egypt, the largest producer of the subregion, following a significant increase in plantings of wheat and rice. In Morocco, the cereal output more than doubled from the 2007 drought-reduced level but remained 20 percent below the average. In Eastern Africa, cereal production is forecast slightly above the good level of last year. In Ethiopia, despite earlier concerns about the late start of the rainy season, the latest forecast puts the cereal output slightly below the 2007 record crop. At the subregional level, this decline is compensated by an increase of 20 percent in cereal production in Sudan, in particular of the irrigated wheat crop that rose by 53 percent. By contrast,

production remained at reduced levels in Kenya and Somalia due to erratic precipitation and high cost of agricultural inputs. In Southern Africa, the aggregate output of the LIFDCs fell by 6 percent from last year's good level mainly on account of a one-third reduction in Zimbabwe, affected by dry weather and severe shortage of agricultural inputs.

In Asia, the outcome of this year's cereal production is mixed. In LIFDCs in Far East Asia, a good output was obtained in almost all countries, with the exception of the Democratic Republic of Korea where despite favourable weather production declined by 8 percent from last year's poor level due to critical shortages of fertilizer and fuel. In the largest producers China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines moderate increases in output from the good levels of last year resulted in record crops. Reflecting substantial government support with agricultural inputs, cereal production increased in Bangladesh and in Sri Lanka.

**Table 4. Cereal production<sup>1</sup> of LIFDCs (million tonnes)**

	2006	2007	2008	Change: 2008 over 2007 (%)
<b>Africa (44 countries)</b>	<b>127.0</b>	<b>116.6</b>	<b>126.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>
North Africa	30.1	22.5	26.5	17.7
Eastern Africa	32.5	31.6	32.2	1.8
Southern Africa	12.0	12.3	11.5	-6.2
Western Africa	49.4	46.9	53.4	13.7
Central Africa	3.0	3.2	3.3	1.5
<b>Asia (25 countries)</b>	<b>748.7</b>	<b>789.2</b>	<b>793.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
CIS in Asia	13.2	13.6	13.0	-4.9
Far East	721.0	760.4	771.1	1.4
- China (Mainland)	385.6	400.3	409.0	2.2
- India	195.2	212.7	212.3	-0.2
Near East	14.4	15.2	9.3	-38.4
<b>Central America (3 countries)</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Oceania (6 countries)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Europe (4 countries)</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>Total (82 countries)</b>	<b>887.2</b>	<b>916.6</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Low-Income Food-Deficit (LIFDC) group of countries includes food deficit countries with per caput annual income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 675 in 2005), which is in accordance with the guidelines and criteria agreed to by the CFA should be given priority in the allocation of food aid.

<sup>1</sup> Includes rice in milled terms.  
Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

In the Near East, cereal production was sharply reduced by drought in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Afghanistan, where outputs declined by 53, 40 and 35 percent respectively. Similarly, in the LIFDCs in CIS Asia, dry weather reduced crops in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In Central America and the Caribbean, good cereal outputs were obtained in Honduras and Nicaragua but production declined slightly in Haiti. In LIFDCs in Europe, bumper crops were obtained, notably in Moldova and Belarus.

### Cereal import requirements remain high but import costs likely to decline due to lower international prices

With almost all subregions now into the new marketing year, the aggregate cereal import requirement of the LIFDCs

as a group in marketing year 2008/09 or 2009 is estimated at 85.4 million tonnes, some 3 percent above the previous year's level despite an improved cereal production in 2008. This reflects a forecast increase of over 4 million tonnes in Near East countries, where production was devastated by drought this year. Similarly, cereal imports are expected to be higher in Southern Africa, notably in Zimbabwe where import requirements are estimated 75 percent higher than last year. These increases more than offset reductions in import requirements in LIFDCs of Far East Asia, mainly Bangladesh, China, India and Indonesia, as well as in Europe, where bumper cereal harvests were gathered in 2008. In North Africa, imports from Morocco will remain high as production recovered only partially this year. However, following the sharp decline in international

prices in the second half of 2008, the aggregate cereal import bill of the LIFDCs is forecast to decrease in 2009, after having increased by 35 percent in 2008 to a record 34 million US dollars.

**Table 5. Cereal import position of LIFDCs (thousand tonnes)**

	2006/07 or 2007	2007/08 or 2008				2008/09 or 2009	
		Requirements <sup>1</sup>		Import position <sup>2</sup>		Requirements <sup>1</sup>	
		Actual Imports	Total Imports	of which food aid	Total Imports	of which food aid pledges	Total Imports
<b>Africa</b> (44 countries)	<b>36 958</b>	<b>39 385</b>	<b>2 803</b>	<b>34 893</b>	<b>2 532</b>	<b>40 066</b>	<b>2 527</b>
North Africa	15 768	18 501	0	18 501	0	18 361	0
Eastern Africa	5 488	5 524	1 760	4 920	1 628	4 996	1 430
Southern Africa	2 868	3 188	482	3 188	482	3 868	563
Western Africa	11 174	10 544	463	7 562	333	11 063	449
Central Africa	1 661	1 628	98	722	89	1 778	85
<b>Asia</b> (25 countries)	<b>41 485</b>	<b>39 896</b>	<b>1 362</b>	<b>37 926</b>	<b>1 320</b>	<b>42 176</b>	<b>2 642</b>
CIS in Asia	3 617	3 758	35	3 758	35	4 143	44
Far East	27 805	25 037	1 108	24 713	1 105	22 668	1 804
Near East	10 063	11 101	219	9 456	180	15 365	794
<b>Central America</b> (3 countries)	<b>1 698</b>	<b>1 668</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1 668</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1 665</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Oceania</b> (6 countries)	<b>422</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Europe</b> (4 countries)	<b>1 509</b>	<b>1 561</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 561</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 050</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b> (82 countries)	<b>82 073</b>	<b>82 947</b>	<b>4 311</b>	<b>76 257</b>	<b>3 998</b>	<b>85 372</b>	<b>5 360</b>

<sup>1</sup> The import requirement is the difference between utilization (food, feed, other uses, exports plus closing stocks) and domestic availability (production plus opening stocks).

<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on information available as of late November 2008.

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

# Policy measures taken by governments to reduce the impact of soaring prices

Faced with soaring international food and fuel prices since late 2006, countries around the world have adopted a series of policy measures to mitigate the impact of high prices on food consumption and increase food production. The summary matrix below shows the type of policy responses taken by 101 governments from mid-2007 to mid-December 2008. Within the range of interventions the most popular measures appear to be the reduction or suspension of import tariffs and taxes, and support to domestic production with agricultural inputs and credit, that were adopted by 68 and 63 countries respectively. However, most of measures to support agricultural production have been adopted in an emergency context and are short-term. Food assistance and other kinds of social safety nets were introduced

or reinforced in 39 countries, while untargeted interventions such as price controls and price subsidies were taken in 25 countries.

A large number of countries have adopted more than one policy measure to respond to higher food prices, but the magnitude and coverage of the interventions, relative to the particular socio-economic contexts, differ greatly from one country to another. The impact of the measures on prices and food consumption varied accordingly. In general, policy interventions introduced to mitigate the impact of high food prices have reverted the economic liberalization of past decades, as governments have intervened heavily in food markets, introducing or increasing subsidies, while also putting a renewed focus on food self-sufficiency as a means to achieve food security.

## Policy measures related to export restrictions are being relaxed

On fears of dwindling domestic supplies and rising prices, large exporter countries such as **India, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Egypt, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Russia** and **Ukraine** selectively banned cereal exports or imposed quotas and increased export taxes as well as minimum export prices. These measures prompted further price increases and volatility in international markets. By early December 2008, over one year later than the introduction of policy responses, virtually the only measures that have started to be reversed are export restrictions. For example, in July 2008, **Vietnam** removed the ban on rice exports that had been imposed earlier in the year and **Pakistan**, removed the minimum export price for Basmati rice in early October. **India**, that banned exports of non-basmati rice at the beginning of 2008, allowed firstly limited exports to some neighbouring countries and, by mid-October, shipment of a premium variety only if the free-on-board prices were at least USD 1 200 per tonne. The Government of India had also banned maize exports earlier this year but the ban was lifted in October amid falling domestic prices. In **China**, export taxes for

wheat and wheat flour have been lowered from 20 to 3 percent and from 25 to 8 percent respectively since the beginning of December, and a 5 percent export tax on maize and soybeans and a 10 percent tax on maize flour and starch have been cancelled. Export taxes for rice were fixed at 3 percent from the previous 5 percent. Similarly, in the second half of 2008, when forecasts of good cereal harvests became firm, **Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, cancelled bans or relaxed export restrictions on wheat that were imposed after the escalation of international wheat prices from mid-2007. In early December, **Argentina**, export taxes on wheat and maize were further reduced by 5 percent to 23 and 20 percent respectively and will be reduced further if production exceeds a certain volume.

Few other policy measures that have been reversed include the removal of market price intervention on food grains and other food products in **China** that since 1 December 2008 will be determined by the markets. In **Ecuador**, the subsidy to wheat flour has started to progressively being removed.

	Consumer oriented						Producer oriented		Trade oriented			
	Tax	Social			Market			Production support	Market management	Import	Export	
	Taxes (direct & indirect)	Food assistance	Food subsidies	Safety net & other	Price controls	Release stocks	Food procurement & other	Producer credit & other	Minimum producer prices & other	Import tariffs & other	Quantitative export controls	Export price control & tax measures
<b>Asia</b>												
Afghanistan										✓		
Armenia							✓					
Azerbaijan	✓						✓			✓		
Bangladesh		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cambodia		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
China					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
India									✓	✓	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓		
Iran (Islamic Republic of)										✓	✓	
Iraq		✓		✓			✓					
Jordan	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	
Kazakhstan							✓	✓			✓	
Lebanon			✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	
Malaysia					✓	✓	✓					
Mongolia			✓				✓			✓		
Myanmar							✓				✓	
Nepal							✓				✓	
Pakistan		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Philippines		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Republic of Korea		✓			✓		✓			✓		
Saudi Arabia		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		
Sri Lanka					✓						✓	
Syrian Arab Republic				✓			✓	✓			✓	
Tajikistan							✓					
Thailand						✓		✓		✓		
Turkey										✓		
Viet Nam							✓				✓	✓
Yemen		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Africa</b>												
Algeria			✓				✓*	✓		✓		
Angola							✓					
Benin					✓		✓			✓		
Burkina Faso	✓	✓					✓			✓		
Cameroon							✓			✓	✓	
Cape Verde		✓			✓					✓		
Central African Republic							✓					

	Consumer oriented							Producer oriented		Trade oriented		
	Tax	Social			Market			Production support	Market management	Import	Export	
	Taxes (direct & indirect)	Food assistance	Food subsidies	Safety net & other	Price controls	Release stocks	Food procurement & other	Producer credit & other	Minimum producer prices & other	Import tariffs & other	Quantitative export controls	Export price control & tax measures
Congo	✓											
Cote d'Ivoire	✓				✓					✓		
Democratic Republic of the Congo										✓		
Djibouti	✓				✓			✓				
Egypt		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Eritrea			✓									
Ethiopia	✓		✓								✓	
Gambia	✓									✓		
Ghana								✓		✓		
Guinea										✓	✓	
Kenya	✓				✓			✓		✓	✓	
Liberia		✓						✓		✓		
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Madagascar		✓	✓					✓		✓		
Malawi								✓	✓		✓	
Mauritania							✓	✓		✓		
Morocco		✓	✓							✓		
Mozambique										✓		
Namibia	✓											
Niger							✓	✓		✓		
Nigeria		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rwanda					✓		✓			✓		
Senegal	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Seychelles								✓				
Sierra Leone										✓		
South Africa		✓										
Sudan	✓				✓							
Togo					✓							
Tunisia								✓	✓			
Uganda	✓											
United Republic of Tanzania	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	
Zambia			✓					✓	✓		✓	
Zimbabwe		✓								✓		
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Latin America and Carribean</b>												
Antigua and Barbuda								✓				
Argentina								✓			✓	
Bahamas		✓								✓		
Barbados								✓		✓		
Bolivia	✓		✓							✓	✓	
Brazil	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chile								✓				
Colombia			✓			✓		✓				

	Consumer oriented							Producer oriented		Trade oriented		
	Tax	Social			Market			Production support	Market management	Import	Export	
	Taxes (direct & indirect)	Food assistance	Food subsidies	Safety net & other	Price controls	Release stocks	Food procurement & other	Producer credit & other	Minimum producer prices & other	Import tariffs & other	Quantitative export controls	Export price control & tax measures
Dominican Republic		✓	✓				✓	✓				
Ecuador			✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
Guyana	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Haiti			✓					✓				
Jamaica								✓				
Paraguay								✓				
Peru		✓						✓		✓		
Saint Lucia					✓							
Suriname	✓	✓						✓				
Trinidad and Tobago							✓	✓		✓		
Uruguay					✓							
Belize			✓		✓			✓		✓		
Costa Rica		✓			✓			✓	✓			
El Salvador	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓		
Guatemala								✓		✓		
Honduras				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mexico		✓			✓			✓		✓		
Nicaragua			✓					✓		✓		
Panama	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>North America, Europe and Oceania</b>												
Belarus												✓
Moldova, Republic of	✓									✓		
Republic of Serbia										✓	✓	
Russian Federation	✓				✓				✓		✓	✓
Ukraine							✓				✓	
Solomon Islands								✓				
EU										✓		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

# Regional reviews

## Africa

### North Africa

#### Cereal production recovered in 2008 but remained below average in Morocco

Harvesting of the 2008 summer coarse grain and paddy crops is nearly complete while planting of the 2009 winter wheat and coarse grains is underway throughout the subregion. Adequate rainfall has been favourable for planting, except in Tunisia where precipitation has not been sufficient so far, and conditions still remain too dry in most producing areas for widespread sowing. Soil moisture reserves were already seriously depleted in Tunisia after drought in the past season.

The subregion's 2008 wheat crop is estimated at 15.7 million tonnes, 17 percent up from the previous year's drought-reduced level. In **Egypt**, the largest producer of the subregion, 2008 wheat output is about 9 percent up from previous year's average crop. The subregion's 2008 aggregate production of coarse grains (winter and spring) is preliminarily estimated 5 percent higher than last year at about 11.5 million tonnes. This reflects a recovery in the winter barley output estimated at 3.16 million tonnes, 7.8 percent above the drought-affected crop of 2007 as well as a 4 percent increase in spring maize production (mostly in Egypt) from last year's average level.

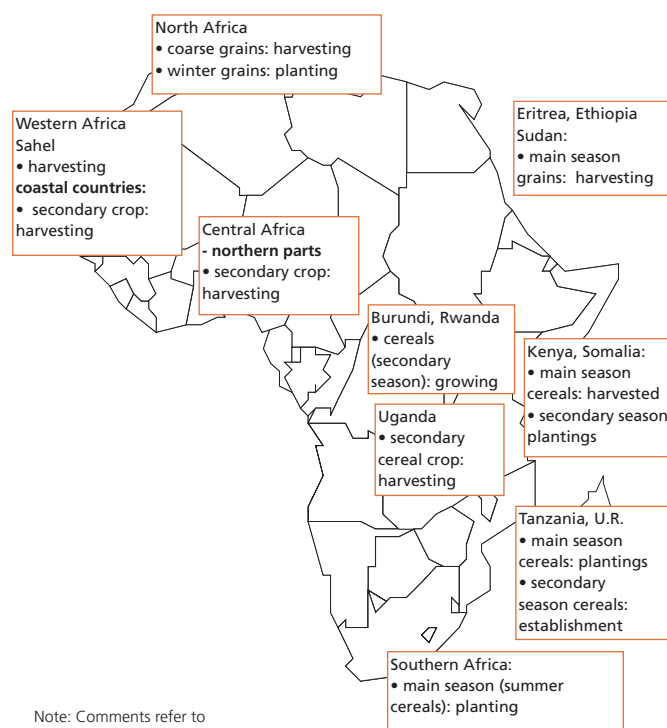
The increase in cereal production combined with a significant decline in international commodity prices has been favourable in helping to reduce inflation slightly and improve somewhat access to food. In **Egypt**, the most affected country, where the year-on-year rate of inflation in urban areas reached 23.6 percent in August 2008 (up from 6.9 percent in December 2007), a downward movement was observed in September when it dropped to 21.5 percent. Inflation is driven mainly by price changes in the food sector where the year-on-year rate of inflation dropped from 30.9 percent in August 2008 to 25.4 in September.

### Western Africa

#### Bumper 2008 cereal crops being harvested

In **western Africa**, the 2008 cereal harvest is complete in the Sahel while in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, harvest of the second season cereal crops is in progress.

Joint CILSS/FewsNet Crop Assessment Missions to the nine Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) have recently been completed. The Missions reviewed the evolution of the 2008 cropping season and preliminary cereal production estimates prepared by the national agricultural statistics services. This year,



the exercise was extended to five coastal countries - Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria. FAO participated in some of these missions. According to preliminary findings, a good 2008 aggregate cereal output is anticipated, as a result of regular and well distributed rains throughout the raining season as well as various productivity enhancing safety net programme provided by governments.

In the Sahel, the 2008 aggregate cereal production in the nine countries is provisionally estimated at about 17.6 millions tonnes, mostly millet and sorghum, which is about 30 percent above last year's output that was affected by floods and drought, and some 28 percent above the average for the last five years. At national level, above-average harvests are forecast in all Sahelian countries.

Harvest prospects are also good in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea. In **Nigeria**, the largest producing country, an above-average harvest is expected (see box). The aggregate 2008 cereal production (main and second season) is officially forecast nearly 8 percent higher than in 2007 at about 30 million tonnes including about 4 million tonnes of rice. The good outcome is due to several factors including, exceptionally favourable weather conditions this year, increased government subsidies to farmers to expand use of high quality seeds and fertilizer, and strong demand for cereals by the agro-industrial and the poultry sectors. Other areas in the subregion also experienced favourable agro-climatic conditions and production is expected to be above-average in most countries including **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea** and **Liberia**.



## Nigeria crop and food supply mission summary

A joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet/SIMA-Niger Crop and Market Assessment Mission visited northern Nigeria from 17 - 30 October to examine the 2008 food crop production, assess the country's food supply situation and analyze the food security implications in the neighbouring Sahelian countries. This joint Mission was a follow-up to the earlier one that visited the country in February/March 2008 and was aimed at assessing developments in the food supply situation since then. The following is a summary of the main findings of the report:

### Background

In addition to agro-physical factors and meteorological conditions, agricultural production in Nigeria is strongly influenced by a series of other factors, including intervention measures by the Federal and State Governments either in the form of subsidies on basic inputs or import restrictions, and demand for cereals by the poultry and breweries sectors, which in recent years has underpinned coarse grain output growth and price trends.

### Agricultural production

During 2008 agricultural season, weather conditions were overall favourable for crop development. Though planting started late in the far northern states bordering Niger and Chad due to erratic rains at the beginning of the season, and pockets of dry spells affected early plantings between May and June in several states, notably in the North east, North West and Middle, precipitation improved significantly from July onwards and remained regular and well distributed through October. Moreover, the impact of pests and diseases on crop yields was not significant this year.

Productivity of cereal crops is generally low in Nigeria due to inadequate supply of fertilizers and improved seeds, as well as the poor timeliness of supply and distribution of agricultural inputs. In an effort to cushion the impact of high food prices on consumers, production was supported this year by increased efforts by both the Federal and some State Governments to make fertilizer available to farmers at subsidized rates.

Moreover, information received from Ministry officials, grains and feed traders and other stakeholders indicates that the poultry industry, which was hard hit by Avian Influenza in 2006, has recovered significantly (up to 70 percent recovery according to the Poultry Association of Nigeria). This consequently led to corresponding increase in demand for maize used for production of poultry feeds, which contributed to a large extent to the dramatic rise in prices of grains up to September 2008.

As a result of these positive developments, a good harvest of cereals is expected this year. Based on data from government sources, the aggregate 2008 cereal production (main and second season) is officially forecast nearly 8 percent higher than in 2007 at about 30 million tonnes, including about 4 million tonnes of

rice. Output of cassava, another main food staple in the country, is estimated at a good level of 45.7 million tonnes.

### Prices

Cereal prices started declining in September, reflecting the arrival of new harvests on the markets. Millet and maize experienced the most important price decline as harvesting of these commodities was nearly complete. In Dawanau International Grains Market in Kano, the biggest in the country, millet and maize prices in late October were about 33 percent lower compared to their level one month earlier. At the time of the assessment sorghum supply was still low and its price has dropped only slightly because harvesting of that commodity had just started.

However, latest data show that subsequently, the arrival of ample supplies in markets has pushed prices down steeply in November. As a result of these developments, the year-on-year rate of inflation in the food sector which jumped from 1.10 percent in July 2007 to 20.90 percent in July 2008, declined to 17.10 in September. Also adding downward pressure to prices is the fact that demand is slack for maize and sorghum from processing companies, poultry feed companies and breweries. Compared to the October to December period last year when supplies were short and a rush of demand sent prices upward, this year's ample supply situation has increased the confidence of the sector that prices will likely remain relatively lower, and could fall further so purchases can be put off.

In an effort to stabilize prices, the Government of Nigeria has decided to buy about 500 000 tonnes of cereal and cassava flour this year in the framework of the Government Guaranteed Minimum Prices Program.

Monthly average cereal prices in Dawanau

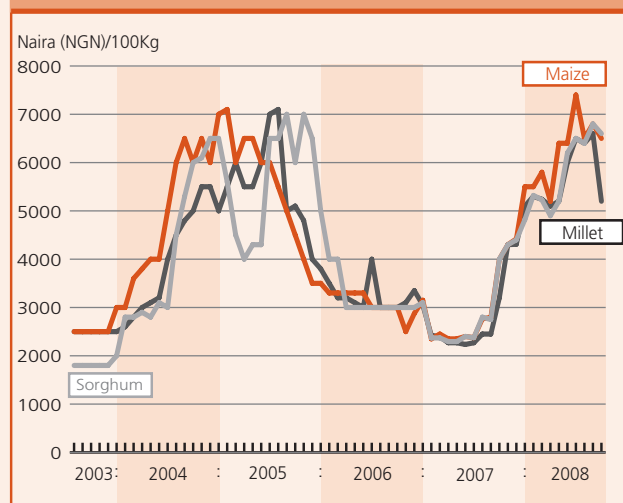


Figure 4. 2008 - Cereal production by commodity

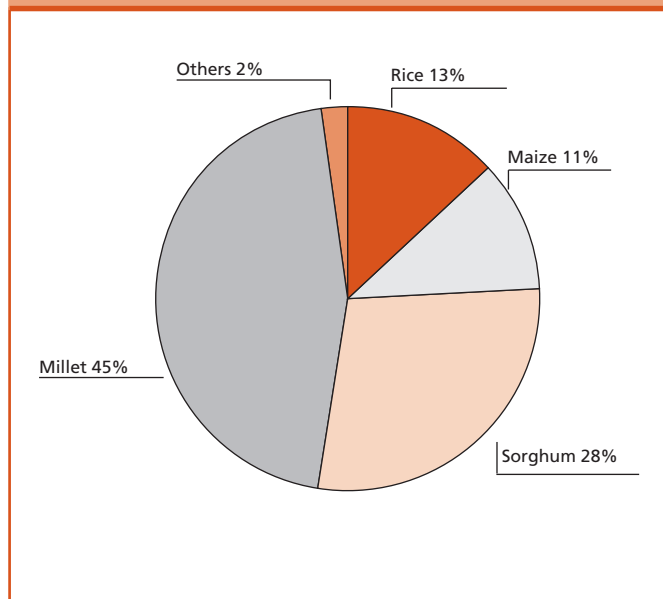
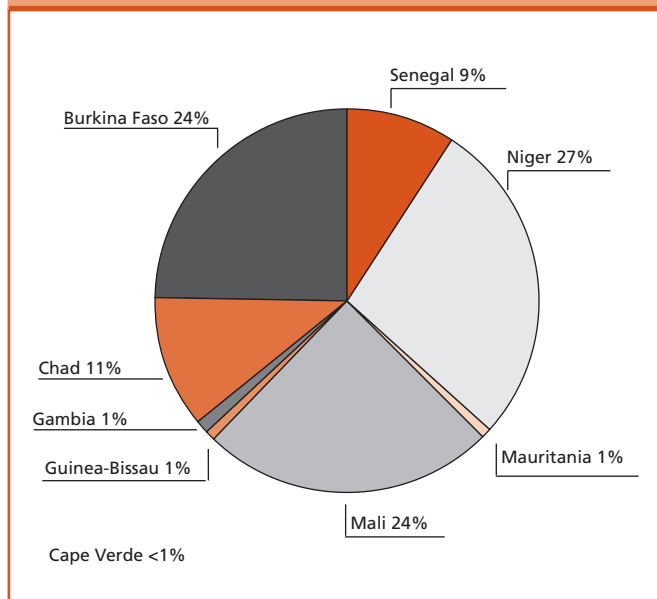


Figure 5. 2008 - Cereal production by country



Coarse grains prices started declining from September, reflecting the arrival of new harvests on the markets. For example, after peaking in June/July/August, maize prices dropped by 42 percent in September in Malanville in northern Benin, while millet price declined by nearly 11 percent in Maradi (Niger). However, prices remain in general above their last year's levels.

In view of this year's good output, regional trade is expected to follow the normal market pattern, which in the eastern part of the subregion allows traders to move grains from northern Benin to Niger and from central and northern Nigeria to Niger and southern Nigeria, reflecting supply/demand positions in each zone. However, market performance will depend on the potential impact of current government interventions on market behaviour across the subregion. The Government of Niger was reported to have started buying cowpea from farmers at relatively high prices which may disrupt the market and affect regional trade flow. Similarly, the National Food Reserve Agency of Nigeria has decided to buy about 500 000 tonnes of cereal and cassava flour this year in the framework of the Government Guaranteed Minimum Prices Program.

While governments should be encouraged to replenish their food reserve in order to increase intervention capacity in case of food crisis, the timing, the size and the purchasing prices of the operation should be carefully determined in order to avoid any negative impact on markets. Market and price conditions in concerned countries need to be closely monitored in order to adjust accordingly as soon as it is necessary.

## Central Africa

### Favourable outlook for 2008 cereal crops

In **Cameroon** and the **Central African Republic**, harvesting of the second 2008 maize crop (planted from August-September) is about to start in the south and overall prospects are favourable reflecting adequate rains throughout the cropping season. In the north, characterized by only one rainy season, harvesting of millet and sorghum is underway and output is forecast to be above average. Larger domestic crops in 2008 are expected to ease the impact of high international commodity prices. In the **Central African Republic**, however, agricultural recovery continues to be hampered by persistent civil unrest and inadequate availability of agricultural inputs, notably in northern parts where nearly 300 000 people have reportedly been uprooted from their homes over the past two years. Continuing insecurity in both Chad and the Darfur region of Sudan threaten to further destabilize the situation in northern parts of the country.

## Eastern Africa

### Overall good prospects for 2008 cereal crops but production reduced in Somalia

Harvesting of the 2008 main season cereal crops is well in advance in northern parts of the subregion while it has been completed in southern parts. The October-December "short-rains" season is off to an excellent start and began to provide relief for many local areas in Somalia, western Kenya and southern Ethiopia that have suffered from repeated failed seasons. However, the rains have also caused flash-flood problems in the Mandera region in north-eastern Kenya and the lower Juba and Shebelle river basins.

Further excessive rains during the first dekad of November caused localized flooding in Kenya's Western Province, particularly in the Budalangi District displacing thousands of people and destroying homes and farms.

In **Eritrea**, harvesting of the 2008 main season ("Kremti") crops is underway. Although below average rains in June and July had delayed the start of the season in the traditional and in the mechanized sectors of Gash Barka, Debub and Maekel regions, about-normal rains in August had a positive impact on the vegetative growth of crops. However, satellite imagery indicates a vegetation index lower than average in several parts, reflecting below-average rains during the first months of the year. Notwithstanding significant increases in the last few years, domestic cereal production is inadequate to cover the requirements and large quantities of cereals have to be imported. In **Ethiopia**, prospects for the 2008 main season "meher" crops have improved following a delayed start. The secondary "belg" season harvest, normally carried out from June, was a failure due to poor rainfall. This was particularly so in the lowlands of Oromiya, Somali and SNNP regions. Although this crop accounts for only a small portion of the total national cereal production, in Amhara and Tigray regions, where output is severely reduced, large numbers of people depend on this crop for about half of their annual food consumption. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission is visiting the

country in December to assess the main season production and estimate food assistance requirements in 2009. In **Kenya**, the October–December "short-rains" season is off to a good start providing relief for many areas in western Kenya. The maize output from the short-rains season averages at about 360 000 tonnes. Harvesting of the 2008 long-rains season maize is almost over in most parts of the country and the outturn is expected to be lower than the previous year due to erratic rainfall, reduced area, rising fuel and agricultural inputs prices and high labour costs. In addition, in January, most farmers were displaced following the civil unrest and those not affected were able to cultivate only a portion of their farm due to the increased cost of agricultural inputs. The Ministry of Agriculture has estimated the long-rains maize production this year at 2.25 million tonnes, 11 percent lower than in 2007/08 season. In **Somalia**, the 2008/09 secondary "deyr" cropping season has started favourably. The deyr rains began in many parts of the country during late September and early October, demonstrating a timely onset to the short rainy season. Pasture, and water availability has improved and cereal crop establishment and development are reported to be good in main producing areas of the south. The main "gu" season cereal crop, harvested last summer, has largely failed as a result of a late start and poor performance of the rains in most parts of the country. According to the Somalia Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), the 2008 gu cereal

**Table 6.** Africa cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
<b>Africa</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>109.5</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>150.4</b>	<b>140.9</b>	<b>156.4</b>
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>34.6</b>
Egypt	8.3	7.4	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.2	6.8	6.9	7.4	23.0	22.2	23.6
Morocco	6.3	1.6	3.7	2.9	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.2	2.5	5.2
<b>Western Africa</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>57.3</b>
Nigeria	0.1	0.0	0.1	24.8	23.9	26.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	28.9	27.8	30.0
<b>Central Africa</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>32.9</b>
Ethiopia	2.5	2.8	2.8	10.8	11.3	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.3	14.0	13.5
Sudan	0.7	0.6	0.9	5.9	4.7	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	5.3	6.3
<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>28.2</b>
Madagascar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	3.5	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.4
South Africa	2.1	1.9	2.1	7.3	7.8	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.4	9.7	15.1
Zimbabwe	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.3	0.9

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

production, estimated at 85 000 tonnes, is about 42 percent below the post-war (1995-2007) average and follows two below-average seasons (gu 2007 and deyr 2007/08). In **Sudan**, prospects for the 2008 food crops are favourable in major producing areas owing to improved rainfall. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) has completed field work in Southern Sudan and preliminary findings indicate that the 2008 output is well above the previous year's. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, planting of the 2008/09 short "vuli" season crops in the bi-modal rainfall northern areas is complete despite poor precipitation in parts. The 2008 maize

crop is preliminarily forecast slightly up from last year's good level and about 18 percent above the average of the previous five years. In **Uganda**, prospects for the current second season food crops have improved with recent rains. However, excessive rains and floods have damaged crops and prevented harvesting in eastern Uganda. Harvesting of the 2008 main season crops is almost complete and an average crop is forecast. By contrast, severely reduced outputs, for the second consecutive year, are expected in the poor Karamoja region where many farmers have not planted their crops due to delayed and erratic March-September rains.

### Crop and food situation in Southern Sudan

A recent FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Southern Sudan found that generally favourable rains in 2008, especially in main crop producing areas, together with few significant dry spells and no widespread flooding, resulted in increased crop production in most areas. Both area under cultivation and crop yields have increased. The net result suggests that the estimated harvested area in 2008 is much higher than in 2007, partly due to the increased farming activities of returnees in the last few years that began cultivating their abandoned farms or opened up new areas. Despite the good crop, however, any estimated surplus, mainly in the green belt areas of Central and Western Equatoria, will in reality remain a theoretical construct as the current road infrastructure and marketing network preclude meaningful movement of grains from the myriad of small hand-cultivated, household farms in surplus areas in the south to most of the deficit areas located mainly in the north.

Livestock in most parts of Southern Sudan are generally in good condition. This is reflected in the currently higher and stable livestock prices. The terms of trade, however, has deteriorated in the last several months due to the exorbitant rise in the prices of food commodities.

Despite improvements in the well-being of households in Southern Sudan, there are many obstacles that must be overcome to ensure the economic growth and development necessary for sustainable, long-term improvement in health, nutrition and food security. A major obstacle to progress repeatedly recounted to the Mission by all concerned remains the state of the transportation infrastructure. This poses a major

problem for the movement of both people and commodities throughout the south, particularly during the rainy season. It also serves as a disincentive to produce surplus crops, as farmers find it expensive and very difficult to transport surpluses to markets. Thus, farmers in fertile areas often do not produce to capacity, even when there are food shortages in surrounding states. Rehabilitating existing infrastructure and building new, especially feeder roads, would not only open up markets (improving livelihoods and food security), but would improve access to health care, which could have a dramatic impact on reducing morbidity and malnutrition rates. Another phenomenon noted by the Mission is the growing tendency among the youth to leave their rural homesteads and settle in the towns leaving older members of the family to take care of the farming activities thus creating labour shortages at critical periods of cultivation.

The Mission noted pre-positioning of significant amounts of cereals, mainly sorghum and maize, by the Government at strategic locations in different parts of Southern Sudan, possibly for subsidized sale or distribution. Despite a determined effort, the Mission was unable to obtain hard data and information on either the total amount of cereals involved or the size of the target population. This makes it difficult to analyse the possible impact of the plan on the evolution of food prices or on the food security situation of vulnerable people. Further probing of this issue is necessary, especially in the context of any planned humanitarian interventions. The Mission report is being finalized.

Figure 6. Estimated rainfall pattern in Zambezia province, Mozambique

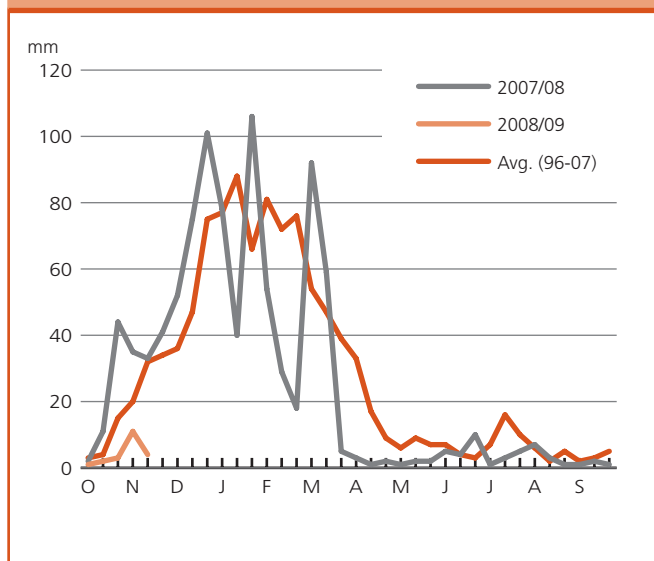
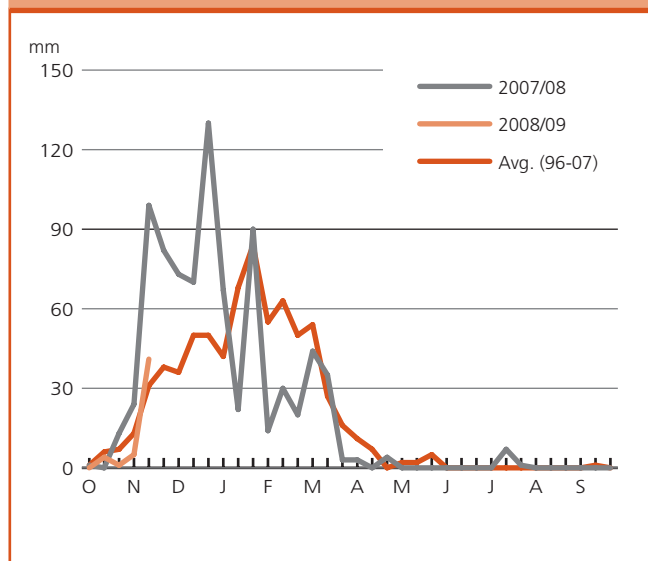


Figure 7. Estimated rainfall pattern in Mashonaland Central province, Zimbabwe



## Southern Africa

### Delayed start of the 2008/09 cereal season in most countries in the subregion

Planting rains were received only in the second dekad of November through much of the subregion thus delaying the start of the 2008/09 agricultural season, except in northern

Mozambique and parts of Zimbabwe where no effective rain at all had been recorded by end-November (see Figure 6). The regional meteorological outlook for the 2008/09 main agricultural season is mixed across the region. According to the Climatic forecasts by the 12<sup>th</sup> Southern Africa Regional Climatic Outlook Forum, parts of the region, including most of Mozambique and Zambia, will have enhanced chances of receiving normal to above normal rainfall during the entire season, while other areas like southern Madagascar, most parts of Namibia, southern Lesotho have high chances of receiving normal to below normal rainfall during these periods.

Through various agricultural support programmes, the Governments of Angola, Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia distributed agricultural inputs to beneficiaries. In general, these distributions were started early enough to facilitate timely planting by farmers. Farmers in Zimbabwe, by contrast, continue to face severe shortages of and/or unaffordable prices for most agricultural inputs (e.g. fertilizers, seed, agricultural chemicals and tillage power). For example, estimated maize seed availability by October was sufficient to meet less than a quarter of the national requirements in the country.

While it is still too early to estimate the subregion's planted area this year, in South Africa, a farmer's planting intentions survey indicates that the maize area could decrease by about 8.5 percent to some 2.6 million hectares, discouraged by current declining trend of the SAFEX and international prices.

Table 7. 2008/09 import requirements and current import position for Southern Africa, (excluding South Africa and Mauritius) and comparison with import cover in 2007/08 \*

	2008/09 import requirements	2008/09 import requirements covered** by late November 2008	2007/08 import requirements covered** by late November 2007
	(000 tonnes)	(000 tonnes) (%)	(%)
<b>Cereals</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 326</b>	<b>1 637</b>	<b>38</b>
Commercial	3 764	1 380	37
Food aid	562	257	46
<b>Maize</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 873</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>49</b>
Commercial	1 562	849	54
Food aid	310	80	26

Source: FAO/GIEWS estimation.

\* Available import data varies from April to late November 2008.

\*\* Contracted and/or received.

Note: Marketing year mostly April/March. Totals computed from unrounded data.

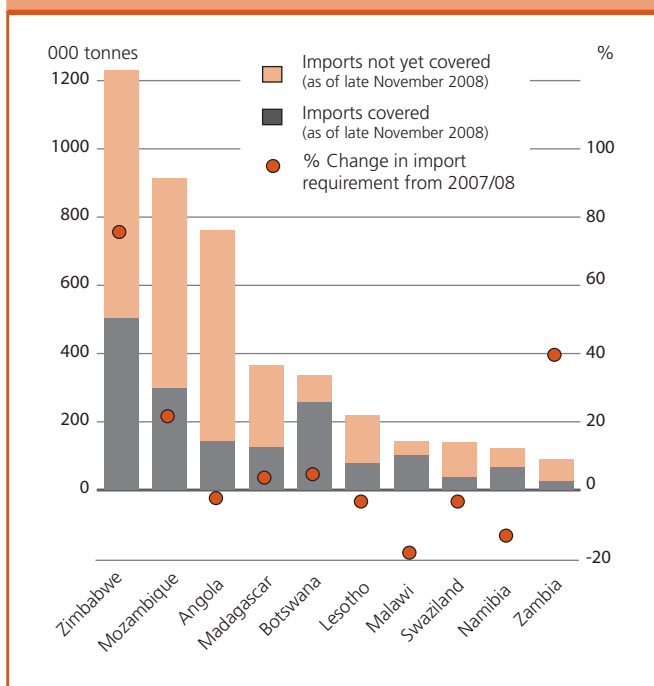
### Cereal import pace slower than last year's

The path of cereal imports this year into the deficit countries of the subregion has been relatively slow, possibly due to the generally

higher import prices this year compared to last, particularly for wheat and rice. Available figures by late November 2008, which is about two-thirds into the marketing year, show that only 38 percent of import requirements of all cereals (as opposed some 47 percent the year before) have been received and/or contracted/pledged since the beginning of the marketing year in April 2008 (see Table 7). Large quantities of cereals are yet to be imported/contracted in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and other countries (see Figure 8). Given that the lean period is starting in January 2009 additional imports would have to be arranged urgently in order to avoid food shortages and further price hikes in local markets.

With a sizeable exportable surplus of white maize in **South Africa**, forecast at around 2.4 million tonnes for the 2008/09 marketing year, and more or less self-sufficiency expected in **Malawi** and **Zambia**, the overall, maize supply situation in Southern Africa is satisfactory. The subregion's aggregate maize import requirements (commercial and food aid for both white and yellow) of 1.9 million tonnes. Hence local and regional purchases of food aid, direct or through triangular arrangements are highly recommended.

**Figure 8. Southern Africa - Cereal import requirements for 2008/09, the percentage change from 2007/08 and current import position**



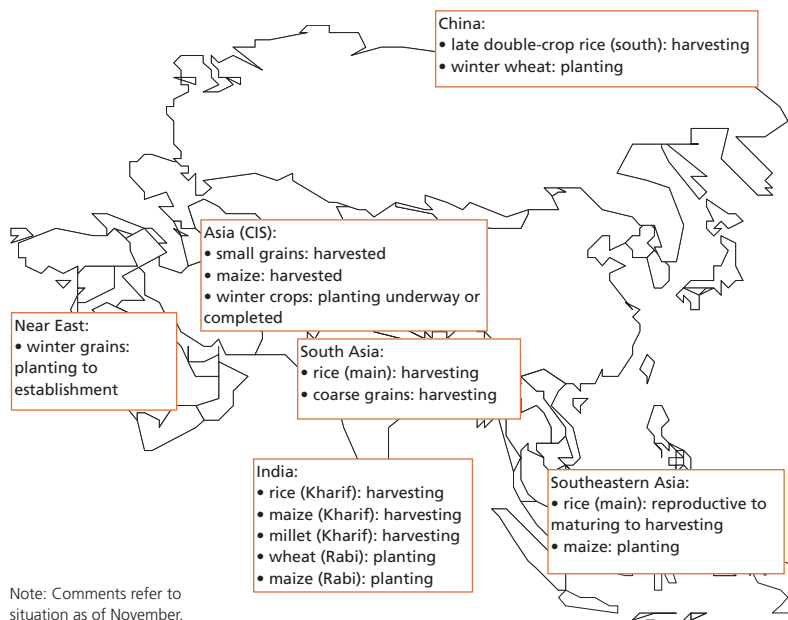
## Asia

### Far East

#### Record 2008 cereal harvest in several countries

Harvesting of the main rice and coarse crops is complete or drawing to a close. Based on latest information, the 2008 aggregate cereal output of the subregion is forecast at 1 063 million tonnes, a new record, 1.5 percent up from the previous year's crop. Most of the growth is on account of a forecast strong increase in paddy production to an all-time high of 607 million tonnes (406 million tonnes in milled terms).

Record cereal outputs are estimated for 2008 in **Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam**. In **China (Mainland)**, harvesting of the late rice and coarse grains is complete. The country has recorded the fifth consecutive increase in cereal production reflecting continued government policies to support agriculture and favourable weather. The 2008 aggregate cereal output (including rice in milled terms) is forecast at 409 million tonnes, some 9 million tonnes above the record in the previous year.



China is expected to be a net cereal exporter in 2008/09 (an estimated 4.5 million tonnes could be exported). The 2008 aggregate cereal output in **India** is forecast at 261 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the previous year's high. The 2008 paddy production may reach 147 million tonnes, close to last year's good harvest, while the 2008 wheat crop is estimated at 78

million tonnes, some 2.2 million tonnes above the previous year's record. However, several countries in the subregion are expected to have a smaller production in 2008, especially in **Iran** due to adverse weather, and in **the Democratic Republic of Korea** due to input shortages and economic constraints.

### The outlook for the 2009 winter wheat crop is favourable in the major producing countries

Planting of the 2009 winter wheat crops is underway or complete in the major wheat producing countries of the subregion under favourable conditions and a large area is reported in response to continuing relatively high prices and government support policies. In **India**, the government increased the minimum support price for wheat and a larger wheat area is expected. However, as of the late November, the area sown was still less than at the corresponding time last year due to delayed sowing in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Bihar as a result of excessive soil moisture. Similar to India, prospects for the wheat crop in **Pakistan** are favourable at this stage, reflecting an increase in the government procurement price. Planting of the 2008/09 winter wheat crop in **China** is complete and the area planted is estimated to be about the same as the large area last year. Ample moisture is reported in the major wheat growing regions and the condition of crops is satisfactory.

As of late November, in Southeast Asia the northeast monsoon was well entrenched and seasonal showers favoured winter-grown rice and maize in the Philippines.

### Overall food availability adequate, but national and subnational food difficulties persist in several countries

Despite the 2008 good cereal harvest in the subregion, national or localized food supply difficulties remain in several countries. **The Democratic People's Republic of Korea** continues to suffer chronic food insecurity and remains reliant on external food assistance to meet the needs of its people. The FAO and WFP recently conducted the first Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) since 2004. The Mission forecast that domestic production for the 2008/09 marketing year at some 3.3 million tonnes (including rice in milled terms and potatoes in cereal equivalent), similar to the poor output in the previous year. The total cereal import requirement in 2008/09 is estimated at about 1.8 million tonnes. Based on these findings, and assuming commercial imports are maintained similar to last year's good level, the country faces a cereal deficit of 836 000 tonnes. In **Myanmar**, the 2008 Monsoon season rice production in the areas affected by cyclone Nargis has been significantly reduced. Based on the recent FAO/WFP CFSAM, the average paddy production is estimated to have declined by 32 percent in seven affected townships in Ayeyarwaddy Division and by 35 percent in three affected townships in Yangon Division. Agricultural assistance for the coming summer season and next Monsoon season is required to help small farmers recover their production and livelihood. Furthermore, food assistance to the worst affected families will continue to be needed. In **Sri Lanka**, the country's food

**Table 8.** Asia cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
<b>Asia</b>	<b>270.8</b>	<b>286.0</b>	<b>276.6</b>	<b>253.5</b>	<b>266.8</b>	<b>261.5</b>	<b>581.1</b>	<b>598.9</b>	<b>612.0</b>	<b>1 105.3</b>	<b>1 151.7</b>	<b>1 150.1</b>
<b>Far East</b>	<b>198.5</b>	<b>212.5</b>	<b>215.9</b>	<b>226.0</b>	<b>240.5</b>	<b>239.9</b>	<b>576.2</b>	<b>593.9</b>	<b>607.3</b>	<b>1 000.8</b>	<b>1 046.9</b>	<b>1 063.1</b>
Bangladesh	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	41.0	43.4	45.0	42.3	44.6	46.4
China	104.5	109.9	112.5	156.7	163.1	167.1	183.3	187.4	190.6	444.4	460.4	470.3
India	69.4	75.8	78.0	32.5	40.5	36.3	140.0	144.6	147.0	241.9	260.9	261.3
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.6	12.4	12.0	54.5	57.2	60.3	66.1	69.6	72.3
Pakistan	21.3	23.3	21.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	8.2	8.3	9.8	33.3	35.3	35.3
Thailand	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	3.9	4.2	29.6	32.1	32.5	33.7	36.0	36.7
Viet Nam	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	35.8	36.0	38.6	39.7	39.6	42.3
<b>Near East</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>56.8</b>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14.5	15.0	9.5	4.7	5.1	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.6	21.8	22.9	15.1
Turkey	20.0	17.2	17.8	13.9	11.4	10.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	34.6	29.2	29.3
<b>CIS in Asia</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>30.1</b>
Kazakhstan	13.7	16.5	14.0	2.5	3.3	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	16.5	20.1	17.0

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

security situation continues to be affected by the resurgence of civil conflict. Localized food insecurity will continue in the Far Western and Mid-Western regions of **Nepal**, due to the floods in the summer, which displaced some 180 000 people. Recent floods in **the Philippines** resulted in a number of deaths and some 50 000 people were made homeless. An extensive damage to property and infrastructure has been reported.

## Near East

### Drought devastated 2008 cereal crops

In several countries of the **Near East**, poor and irregular rains affected the 2008 cereal production. In **Iraq**, generally unfavourable weather for most of the growing season led to drastically reduced 2008 winter grain production. The aggregate output of wheat and barley is estimated at 1.9 million tonnes, some 40 percent lower than the average level in 2007 and the smallest crop in recent history. Thus, imports of wheat in the year ending in June 2009, are anticipated to increase to about 3.8 million tonnes, against 3.6 million tonnes estimated for the previous year. In the **Syrian Arab Republic**, poor and irregular rains during the 2007/08 growing season have threatened the food security of farmers and herders in the affected areas and seriously jeopardized their livelihoods and nutritional status. The total wheat production in 2008 was estimated at 2.0 million tonnes, half the poor crop harvested last year and below average for the third consecutive year. As a result of inadequate pastures herders sold their animals for 60-70 percent below the normal prices and in many areas they even exhausted their herds. In response, an Emergency Operation was jointly approved by FAO and WFP in November 2008 for food assistance to 40 000 households (200 000 people), worth USD 5.2 million for a period of six months (15 November 2008 to 15 May 2009).

In **Afghanistan**, the 2008 cereal production was sharply reduced because of unfavourable weather, falling to just 3.7 million tonnes, one-third down from 2007 and well below the average of the past 5 years. As a result, the cereal import requirement in 2008/09 is estimated at 2.3 million tonnes, more than double the previous year's level. The commercial import capacity is estimated at 1.5 million tonnes, leaving 0.7 million tonnes to be mobilized with assistance. Earlier this year the Government and the United Nations appealed to the world community to donate USD 400 million to cover the wheat import

and food aid needs as well as to prepare for the winter cropping season. According to WFP, 30 - 35 percent of the requested food aid resources had been received as of early November 2008 and WFP believes that using the donations received thus far, it can meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations until February 2009. However, further donor commitments are needed now to ensure that distributions can continue after February 2009, when the hunger season begins.

Looking ahead to the next season, FEWSNet conducted an assessment of winter wheat planting in late October and early November, and reported that normal levels of planting were expected in all provinces this year with the exception of Bamyan and Wardak, where irrigation water reserves are limited and farmers would plant the area that could be supported accordingly. However, high prices of improved seeds and chemical fertilizer could limit farmers' access to these inputs, in turn limiting the size of any potential recovery in output in 2009. After a milder than normal start to the rain and snow season, by November temperatures had dropped below-average, beneficial for the accumulation of snow pack, which is critical for irrigation later in the season.

## Asian CIS

### Outcome of 2008 cereal crop season mixed

A bitterly cold winter, below-normal precipitation and shortages of irrigation water have adversely affected crop yields in southern parts of central Asia. The 2008 harvests were well below average in **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan** and **Turkmenistan**. In the case of **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan**, this is the second poor harvest in succession. In **Kazakhstan** the 2008 cereal harvest is provisionally forecast at 17 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes less than last year's near record but still above average. Although Kazakhstan reopened its wheat exports as of 1 September, which was beneficial for neighbouring drought-affected countries needing to mobilize their wheat import needs, purchasing power, rather than supply of grains, is the limiting factor in the food security situation in this region. **Uzbekistan** was also affected by the drought but to a lesser extent. The harvest is officially reported to be over 6 million tonnes, about average but less than last year. By contrast growing conditions in the Caucasus have been satisfactory this year and **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** have good harvests for the second year in succession.



## Latin America and the Caribbean

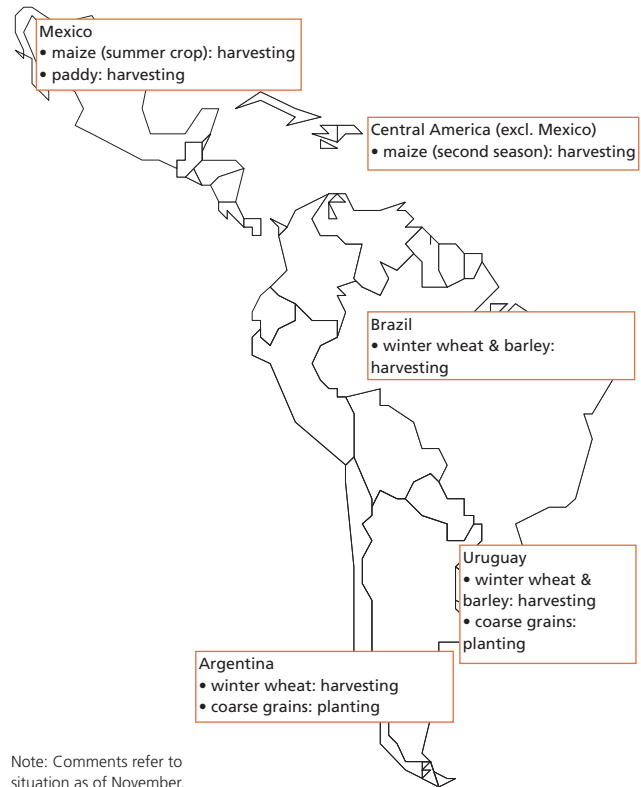
### Central America and the Caribbean Second consecutive bumper coarse grains crop in Mexico

The 2008 aggregate cereal output of the subregion (including rice in milled terms) is forecast by FAO at 41.3 million tonnes, about 600 000 tonnes more than the previous year's record level and some 4 million tonnes above the average of the last five years.

In **Mexico**, harvesting of the 2008 main rain-fed summer coarse grain crops, accounting for some 75 percent of the annual production, is underway and seasonal production is expected to reach 23 million tonnes, slightly above the record level obtained the year before. This result is a consequence of widespread use of better seed varieties and higher sowing density that improved average yields. In addition, the country has received normal to above-normal monsoon rains that maintained favourable soil moisture levels across the main producing areas and boosted yields well above average. Planting of the mostly irrigated 2009 winter wheat crop is underway in north-western states and above normal temperatures are favouring germination rates of early-planted varieties.

In **Costa Rica, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama**, harvesting of the 2008 second season maize and bean crop is about to start. Since the end of October, heavy and constant rainfall has caused flooding and mudslides in several locations across the subregion, affecting more than 500 000 people (65 percent of them in Honduras), with tens of thousands of families evacuated from their homes, loss of about 80 human lives and severe damage to housing and transport infrastructure. In many areas of the Atlantic coast, precipitations surpassed the high levels generated by devastating Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Important staple foods such as maize, beans and paddy are among the most affected crops, but damage is also reported for important cash crops such as bananas, sugar cane, papayas, pumpkins and sesame. In many cases, households' food reserves have been washed away and lost. Floods also affected the livestock sector, with deaths of animals and losses of pasture land. Food and non-food emergency assistance is being provided by the international community.

In the Caribbean, **Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Cuba** are still recovering from an intense second-half of the hurricane season that caused severe damage to urban and rural infrastructures and losses of human lives. At the beginning of November, powerful Hurricane Paloma hit Cayman Islands and central-eastern provinces of Camaguey and Las Tunas in Cuba. Several food and cash crops (from cereals and beans to vegetables, sugar cane and bananas) have been extensively damaged, with disruptive consequences on local livelihoods and food supply.



### South America

In South America, harvesting of the 2008 winter wheat and barley crops has just started in key growing areas of **Argentina** and **Uruguay**, while it is already well underway in central and southern states of **Brazil** and in eastern **Paraguay**. The aggregate output of wheat in the subregion is forecast at 20.3 million tonnes, about 2.3 million tonnes below the average of the last five years. The decrease is largely a result of a decline in plantings in Argentina, reflecting a prolonged drought that affected several departments in the country from May to late September. Additionally, in Argentina use of fertilizers was reduced because of their high cost, and some crops were negatively affected by frosts. By contrast, in Brazil, good weather conditions in the main producing states of Parana and Rio Grande do Sul and a widespread increase in planted area in response to high international prices have been positive for production prospects, and output is expected to reach 5.8 million tonnes, the largest wheat crop output since 2004. If favourable weather conditions persist during harvesting, record wheat crops are also expected in **Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay**, reflecting a substantial increase in area planted. Regarding barley, the subregion's aggregate production is tentatively estimated at record 2.7 million tonnes.

Planting of the important 2009 summer maize crop is underway in southern countries of the subregion and will be concluded by the end of the year. In Argentina, planting operations have been delayed by inadequate soil moisture and official planting intentions point to an area of about 2.7 million

hectares, some 15 percent less than last year. This reduction is the consequence of higher costs of production compared with the previous season (especially the increase in costs of transport) and relative to other crops such as soybean and sunflower. In addition, uncertainty about prices in 2009 due to potential export restrictions for maize may also have induced

farmers to plant alternative crops such as sorghum with lower domestic demand than maize. A reduction in planted area is tentatively forecast also in the other countries of the subregion as a consequence of the volatility of world financial markets that has reduced farmers' access to credit lines and prospects of declining international prices.

**Table 9.** Latin America and Caribbean cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>107.7</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>135.1</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>156.2</b>	<b>179.1</b>	<b>185.3</b>
<b>Central America &amp; Caribbean</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>41.3</b>
Mexico	3.2	3.4	3.8	28.3	30.6	30.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	31.9	34.3	34.7
<b>South America</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>118.2</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>144.0</b>
Argentina	14.5	16.3	11.0	18.3	26.6	26.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	34.1	44.0	38.3
Brazil	2.5	4.1	5.8	45.0	53.9	61.3	11.7	11.3	12.1	59.2	69.3	79.2
Colombia	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.1	4.2	4.6

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

## North America, Europe and Oceania

### North America

#### Winter wheat area down in the United States

In the **United States**, winter wheat planting for the **2009** harvest was complete by the end of November and crop development was reported to be normal in most areas. Regarding crop condition, late November ratings were well above the previous year's, with 66 percent of the crop rated good to excellent compared to 44 percent a year ago. 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 about 3 to 4 percent down from the previous year.

The latest official estimate of the United States **2008** wheat crop remains unchanged at 68 million tonnes. The maize harvest has been completed in the past few weeks with no significant change to the outlook, and the total coarse grains output in 2008 is estimated at some 324 million tonnes, 8 percent down from last year's record level.

In **Canada**, the bulk of the wheat is spring planted and the **2009** crop will not be sown until March-April next year. However, as in other major wheat producers around the globe, early indications point to a likely reduction in area. Latest information regarding the **2008** cereal harvest mostly confirms earlier expectations: output of wheat rose sharply to 27.3 million tonnes, 36 percent up from last year's crop. In contrast, with more land given over to wheat, production of coarse grains (mainly barley, maize and oats) has declined, with latest official estimates putting their aggregate output at 26.1 million tonnes, about 7 percent down from last year.

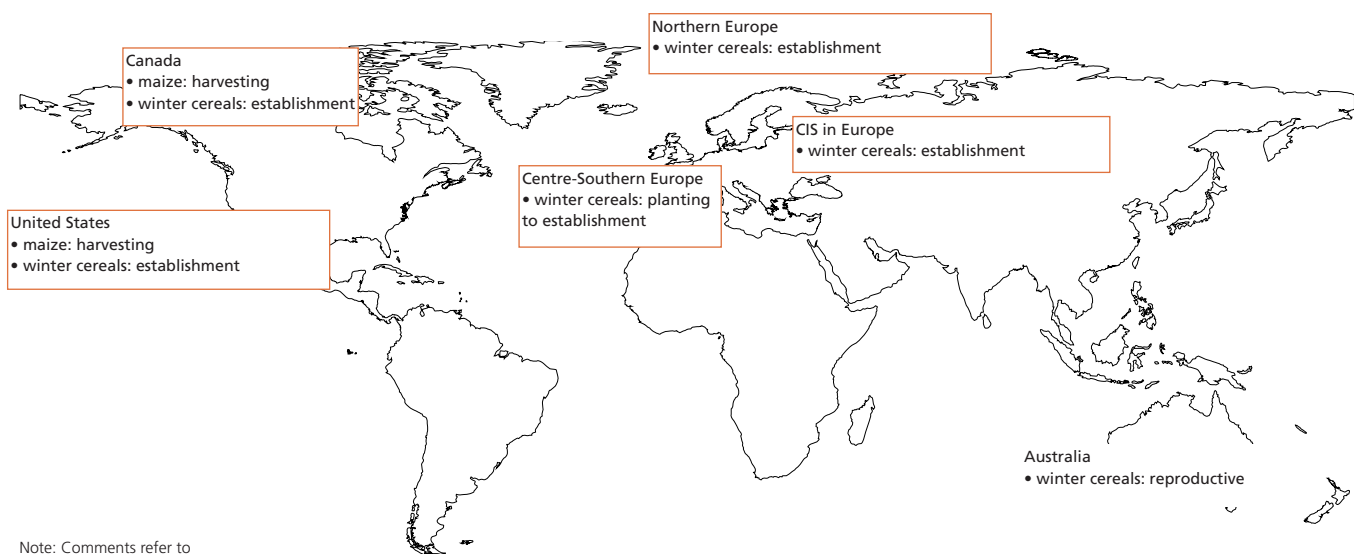
### Europe

#### Winter grain plantings decrease in the region

With the bulk of the winter grain crops now sown, the aggregate wheat area for the **2009** harvest in the **EU** is tentatively forecast to be slightly down from last year's relatively high level. Given a less attractive outlook for producer returns than at this time last year, some of the less productive land brought back into production last year when compulsory set-aside was removed, will likely be set-aside again this year on a voluntary basis. On top of this, persistent heavy rains have hampered winter grain planting in parts of France and the United Kingdom while, by contrast, dry conditions in several eastern countries, including Romania and Bulgaria, have been unfavourable for planting operations and crop emergence in those parts.

The **EU's** aggregate cereal output in **2008** is now estimated at 312.9 million tonnes, slightly up from the forecast in September and 20 percent up from 2007. Output of wheat rose almost 25 percent to 149.6 million tonnes, while that of coarse grains is up about 17 percent at 160.8 million tonnes.

In the **European CIS** subregion, autumn conditions are reported to have been generally favourable for the winter grain planting campaign. However, as in other parts, the prospect of lower producer prices, combined with higher costs of production at planting time are reported to have discouraged or impeded farmers from cultivating as large an area as in the previous year. Although, no firm estimates are available yet, it is likely that the winter grain area (mostly wheat) for the **2009** harvest is down in both the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the largest producing countries in the group. The aggregate **2008** cereal harvest in the subregion is estimated at 160.1 million tonnes, 38 percent up from the reduced crop in 2007.



Note: Comments refer to situation as of November.

## Oceania

The prospects for the 2008 winter cereal crops in **Australia** have deteriorated further over the past two months, reflecting a lack of spring rainfall in particular across Victoria, South Australia and southern New South Wales. Nevertheless, the prospects for the coming harvest remain much better than last year when the country suffered widespread drought. The latest official forecasts in early November put wheat output in 2008 at just about 20 million tonnes. This would still represent an increase by 52 percent from last year.

Regarding the summer grain crop for harvest in 2009, the total area planted to grain sorghum (the major crop) is reported to be down by about 4 percent compared to the previous year as less fallow land was available for summer cropping in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales as a result of the increased area currently sown to winter crops. Assuming a return to average yields from the records achieved in the 2007/08 season, grain sorghum production in 2008-09 is forecast to decline to slightly less than 2 million tonnes.

**Table 10.** North America, Europe and Oceania cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
<b>North America</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>303.7</b>	<b>379.5</b>	<b>350.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>387.1</b>	<b>464.8</b>	<b>454.8</b>
Canada	25.3	20.1	27.3	23.3	28.0	26.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.6	48.0	53.4
United States	49.3	56.2	68.0	280.4	351.5	324.2	8.8	9.0	9.2	338.5	416.7	401.4
<b>Europe</b>	<b>192.0</b>	<b>189.4</b>	<b>244.1</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>197.2</b>	<b>244.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>405.4</b>	<b>390.1</b>	<b>491.6</b>
EU <sup>1</sup>	117.8	120.2	149.6	127.1	137.6	160.8	2.6	2.8	2.6	247.5	260.5	312.9
Romania <sup>2</sup>	5.5	0.0	0.0	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8	0.0	0.0
Serbia	1.9	1.5	2.1	6.9	4.4	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	5.9	9.1
<b>CIS in Europe</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>115.6</b>	<b>160.1</b>
Russian Federation	45.1	49.4	61.5	31.2	30.4	37.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	76.9	80.5	99.9
Ukraine	13.8	13.7	25.0	20.1	13.8	24.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	34.0	27.6	49.3
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>32.3</b>
Australia	10.8	13.1	19.9	7.5	8.8	11.4	1.0	0.2	0.0	19.4	22.0	31.4

<sup>1</sup> EU-25 in 2006; EU-27 in 2007 and 2008.

<sup>2</sup> In 2007 and 2008 included in EU-27.

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

# Statistical appendix

Table. A1 - Global cereal supply and demand indicators .....	38
Table. A2 - World cereal stocks.....	39
Table. A3 - Selected international prices of wheat and coarse grains.....	40
Table. A4 - Estimated cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries 2007/08 or 2008 .....	41
Table. A5 - Estimated cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries 2008/09 .....	43

**Table A1.** Global cereal supply and demand indicators

	Average					
	2001/02 -					
	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	(..... percentage .....					
<b>1. Ratio of world stocks to utilization</b>						
Wheat	31.4	28.8	28.9	25.4	23.2	28.8
Coarse grains	18.2	19.2	18.3	15.2	15.5	16.2
Rice	27.6	23.8	24.6	24.0	24.7	26.3
Total cereals	24.2	23.0	22.8	20.0	19.6	22.0
<b>2. Ratio of major grain exporters' supplies to normal market requirements</b>						
	123	137	133	115	119	124
<b>3. Ratio of major exporters' stocks to their total disappearance</b>						
Wheat	20.3	21.8	22.2	14.9	11.3	16.6
Coarse grains	15.3	18.7	17.9	12.6	12.9	11.5
Rice	17.3	13.5	16.0	15.4	17.1	18.7
Total cereals	17.6	18.0	18.7	14.3	13.8	15.6
	Annual trend		Change from previous year			
	1998-2007	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	(..... percentage .....					
<b>4. Changes in world cereal production</b>						
	1.3	9.4	-1.1	-2.1	5.9	5.4
<b>5. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs</b>						
	1.3	3.6	5.0	3.0	3.3	2.0
<b>6. Changes in cereal production in LIFDCs less China and India</b>						
	2.7	0.6	6.3	3.7	-0.9	3.3
	Average		Change from previous year			
	2001/02 -	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09*
	2005/06	(..... percentage .....				
<b>7. Selected cereal price indices:</b>						
Wheat (July/June)	116.3	-1.0	5.2	25.4	87.3	-8.6
Maize (July/June)	103.7	-15.2	6.4	44.6	33.3	36.2
Rice (Jan./Dec.)	87.7	24.9	5.4	8.9	17.0	89.9

**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 July/June 1997/98-1999/00 = 100; For **maize**, the U.S. maize No. 2 Yellow (delivered U.S. Gulf ports) with base July/June, 1997/98-1999/00 = 100; For **rice**, the FAO Rice Price Index, 1998-2000=100, is based on 16 rice export quotations. Rice index refers to the first year shown.

\* For **wheat** and **coarse grains**, July/November, for **rice** January/November.

**Table A2. World cereal stocks<sup>1</sup> (million tonnes)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 estimate	2009 forecast
<b>TOTAL CEREALS</b>	<b>418.1</b>	<b>470.5</b>	<b>470.7</b>	<b>424.3</b>	<b>430.7</b>	<b>474.3</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>162.7</b>	<b>178.9</b>	<b>179.7</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>150.2</b>	<b>182.9</b>
held by:						
- main exporters <sup>2</sup>	38.6	55.1	56.2	36.6	27.7	42.7
- others	165.3	123.7	123.4	120.4	122.5	140.2
<b>Coarse grains</b>	<b>150.0</b>	<b>191.8</b>	<b>185.9</b>	<b>162.5</b>	<b>171.0</b>	<b>175.2</b>
held by:						
- main exporters <sup>2</sup>	48.5	92.7	90.7	62.3	73.7	64.8
- others	107.6	99.0	95.2	100.2	97.3	110.4
<b>Rice (milled basis)</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>109.6</b>	<b>116.2</b>
held by:						
- main exporters <sup>2</sup>	22.5	19.3	23.4	23.1	26.0	29.2
- others	97.3	80.6	81.7	81.6	83.6	87.0
<b>Developed countries</b>	<b>123.3</b>	<b>188.7</b>	<b>190.1</b>	<b>134.1</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>146.2</b>
Australia	8.8	10.0	13.6	6.3	5.7	4.6
Canada	10.3	14.5	16.2	10.5	9.0	10.1
European Union <sup>3</sup>	21.5	47.6	45.1	32.7	31.2	42.0
Hungary <sup>4</sup>	0.8	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.9
Poland <sup>4</sup>	2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Romania <sup>5</sup>	1.2	5.0	5.6	3.8	-	-
Russian Federation	7.3	9.1	9.3	7.0	6.5	13.7
South Africa	3.5	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.7	3.3
Ukraine	2.8	4.2	4.8	4.2	3.8	8.2
United States	44.4	74.7	71.7	49.9	54.3	49.1
<b>Developing countries</b>	<b>294.8</b>	<b>281.9</b>	<b>280.6</b>	<b>290.1</b>	<b>304.2</b>	<b>328.1</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>253.8</b>	<b>237.3</b>	<b>237.7</b>	<b>242.9</b>	<b>263.1</b>	<b>283.3</b>
China	163.3	152.8	149.0	152.8	168.6	187.3
India	32.9	26.7	25.8	28.5	35.9	38.9
Indonesia	6.0	5.7	5.1	5.8	6.7	7.1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.6
Korea, Republic of	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9
Pakistan	2.2	2.1	3.2	2.5	2.9	3.1
Philippines	1.9	2.3	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.5
Syrian Arab Republic	4.2	4.5	4.6	3.3	2.5	2.1
Turkey	7.2	6.5	5.6	6.2	4.7	2.8
<b>Africa</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>25.1</b>
Algeria	2.6	3.6	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.2
Egypt	2.7	3.1	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.7
Ethiopia	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.2	2.0	1.7
Morocco	3.0	4.9	2.7	4.2	2.4	2.1
Nigeria	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.1	0.9	1.1
Tunisia	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.2
<b>Central America</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Mexico	3.9	4.6	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1
<b>South America</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Argentina	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.6	2.9	3.3
Brazil	6.0	6.6	4.5	3.6	1.7	6.1

<sup>1</sup> Stock 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Up to 2004 15 member countries, from 2005 to 2007 25 member countries, from 2008 27 member countries.

<sup>4</sup> From 2005 included in the EU.

<sup>5</sup> From 2008 included in the EU.

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

**Table A3.** Selected international prices of wheat and coarse grains (USD/tonne)

Period	Wheat			Maize		Sorghum
	US No.2 Hard Red Winter Ord. Prot. <sup>1</sup>	US Soft Red Winter No.2 <sup>2</sup>	Argentina Trigo Pan <sup>3</sup>	US No.2 Yellow <sup>2</sup>	Argentina <sup>3</sup>	US No.2 Yellow <sup>2</sup>
<b>Annual (July/June)</b>						
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
<b>Monthly</b>						
2007 – December	381	345	310	178	171	192
2008 – January	381	343	330	206	199	225
2008 – February	449	403	365	220	206	222
2008 – March	481	397	395	234	216	233
2008 – April	382	301	-	247	224	243
2008 – May	349	258	-	242	207	240
2008 – June	358	249	363	281	258	268
2008 – July	341	245	329	267	252	232
2008 – August	343	253	307	232	217	209
2008 – September	308	222	280	229	203	208
2008 – October	252	183	235	181	169	158
2008 – November	247	182	189	166	156	146
2008 – December (two weeks avg.)	227	166	168	143	140	-

<sup>1</sup> Delivered United States f.o.b Gulf.

<sup>2</sup> Delivered United States Gulf.

<sup>3</sup> Up River f.o.b.

Sources: International Grain Council and USDA.



**Table A4a.** Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries<sup>1</sup>, 2007/08 or 2008 estimates (thousand tonnes)

	Marketing year	2006/07 or 2007 Actual imports			Total import requirements (excl. re-exports)	2007/08 or 2008 Import position <sup>2</sup>		
		Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid		Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
<b>AFRICA</b>		<b>34 653.2</b>	<b>2 304.8</b>	<b>36 958.0</b>	<b>39 384.6</b>	<b>34 892.7</b>	<b>2 532.1</b>	<b>32 360.6</b>
<b>North Africa</b>		<b>15 743.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>15 768.0</b>	<b>18 501.0</b>	<b>18 501.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>18 501.0</b>
Egypt	July/June	11 895.5	24.5	11 920.0	11 930.0	11 930.0	0.0	11 930.0
Morocco	July/June	3 848.0	0.0	3 848.0	6 571.0	6 571.0	0.0	6 571.0
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>4 119.8</b>	<b>1 368.0</b>	<b>5 487.8</b>	<b>5 524.0</b>	<b>4 920.0</b>	<b>1 628.4</b>	<b>3 291.6</b>
Burundi	Jan./Dec.	76.4	50.9	127.3	139.0	12.6	12.6	0.0
Comoros	Jan./Dec.	56.2	0.0	56.2	42.0	29.1	0.0	29.1
Djibouti	Jan./Dec.	69.1	7.4	76.5	75.0	51.5	9.3	42.2
Eritrea	Jan./Dec.	198.7	2.3	201.0	311.0	11.8	5.9	5.9
Ethiopia	Jan./Dec.	27.2	504.5	531.7	898.0	871.5	732.9	138.6
Kenya	Oct./Sept.	1 101.0	180.4	1 281.4	1 196.0	1 196.0	200.0	996.0
Rwanda	Jan./Dec.	176.0	16.0	192.0	138.0	80.6	18.8	61.8
Somalia	Aug./July	331.2	128.8	460.0	490.0	490.0	97.7	392.3
Sudan	Nov./Oct.	1 247.0	354.5	1 601.5	1 453.0	1 453.0	426.8	1 026.2
Uganda	Jan./Dec.	133.7	82.7	216.4	207.0	148.9	80.1	68.8
United Rep. of Tanzania	June/May	703.3	40.5	743.8	575.0	575.0	44.3	530.7
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>2 503.2</b>	<b>364.3</b>	<b>2 867.5</b>	<b>3 187.7</b>	<b>3 187.7</b>	<b>481.8</b>	<b>2 705.9</b>
Angola	April/March	649.2	20.7	669.9	774.4	774.4	5.8	768.6
Lesotho	April/March	181.3	10.1	191.4	226.1	226.1	24.2	201.9
Madagascar	April/March	227.4	34.3	261.7	349.5	349.5	60.3	289.2
Malawi	April/March	161.4	63.0	224.4	174.8	174.8	56.8	118.0
Mozambique	April/March	779.0	104.0	883.0	750.9	750.9	62.1	688.8
Swaziland	May/April	122.1	5.9	128.0	145.3	145.3	17.2	128.1
Zambia	May/April	55.8	28.1	83.9	64.9	64.9	4.4	60.5
Zimbabwe	April/March	327.0	98.2	425.2	701.8	701.8	251.0	450.8
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>10 735.9</b>	<b>437.6</b>	<b>11 173.5</b>	<b>10 544.3</b>	<b>7 562.3</b>	<b>332.5</b>	<b>7 229.8</b>
<b>Coastal Countries</b>		<b>8 412.7</b>	<b>135.1</b>	<b>8 547.8</b>	<b>7 736.9</b>	<b>4 754.9</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>4 656.9</b>
Benin	Jan./Dec.	102.5	0.3	102.8	75.0	73.0	3.0	70.0
Côte d'Ivoire	Jan./Dec.	1 137.2	17.4	1 154.6	1 155.0	866.4	11.5	854.9
Ghana	Jan./Dec.	832.3	35.0	867.3	875.0	333.5	12.5	321.0
Guinea	Jan./Dec.	483.1	14.8	497.9	474.9	326.0	18.0	308.0
Liberia	Jan./Dec.	204.6	38.1	242.7	245.0	124.0	37.1	86.9
Nigeria	Jan./Dec.	5 435.0	0.0	5 435.0	4 680.0	2 797.3	0.0	2 797.3
Sierra Leone	Jan./Dec.	135.3	28.8	164.1	139.0	150.9	12.1	138.8
Togo	Jan./Dec.	82.7	0.7	83.4	93.0	83.8	3.8	80.0
<b>Sahelian Countries</b>		<b>2 323.2</b>	<b>302.5</b>	<b>2 625.7</b>	<b>2 807.4</b>	<b>2 807.4</b>	<b>234.5</b>	<b>2 572.9</b>
Burkina faso	Nov./Oct.	248.4	25.9	274.3	303.5	303.5	21.3	282.2
Cape Verde	Nov./Oct.	65.1	8.7	73.8	79.3	79.3	10.8	68.5
Chad	Nov./Oct.	65.5	72.9	138.4	124.7	124.7	71.7	53.0
Gambia	Nov./Oct.	92.8	9.6	102.4	103.8	103.8	2.8	101.0
Guinea-Bissau	Nov./Oct.	95.4	8.4	103.8	106.7	106.7	7.3	99.4
Mali	Nov./Oct.	326.8	46.6	373.4	223.9	223.9	8.0	215.9
Mauritania	Nov./Oct.	318.4	33.7	352.1	420.3	420.3	53.7	366.6
Niger	Nov./Oct.	204.1	83.1	287.2	378.6	378.6	43.4	335.2
Senegal	Nov./Oct.	906.7	13.6	920.3	1 066.6	1 066.6	15.5	1 051.1
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>1 550.8</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>1 661.2</b>	<b>1 627.6</b>	<b>721.7</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>632.3</b>
Cameroon	Jan./Dec.	614.6	1.6	616.2	545.0	354.3	8.1	346.2
Cent.Afr.Rep.	Jan./Dec.	38.2	22.9	61.1	52.6	27.3	14.6	12.7
Congo	Jan./Dec.	309.9	7.1	317.0	317.0	66.1	2.5	63.6
Dem.Rep.of the Congo	Jan./Dec.	549.7	77.3	627.0	675.0	256.8	63.2	193.6
Equatorial Guinea	Jan./Dec.	23.7	0.0	23.7	24.0	10.9	0.0	10.9
Sao Tome and Principe	Jan./Dec.	14.7	1.5	16.2	14.0	6.3	1.0	5.3

**Table A4b.** Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries<sup>1</sup>, 2007/08 or 2008 estimates (thousand tonnes)

	Marketing year	2006/07 or 2007 Actual imports			Total import requirements (excl. re-exports)	2007/08 or 2008 Import position <sup>2</sup>		
		Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid		Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
<b>ASIA</b>		<b>39 759.9</b>	<b>1 724.8</b>	<b>41 484.7</b>	<b>39 896.2</b>	<b>37 926.3</b>	<b>1 319.6</b>	<b>36 606.7</b>
<b>CIS in Asia</b>		<b>3 166.0</b>	<b>451.0</b>	<b>3 617.0</b>	<b>3 758.0</b>	<b>3 758.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>3 723.0</b>
Armenia	July/June	315.0	86.0	401.0	383.0	383.0	5.0	378.0
Azerbaijan	July/June	1 264.0	119.0	1 383.0	1 350.0	1 350.0	3.0	1 347.0
Georgia	July/June	890.0	95.0	985.0	826.0	826.0	8.0	818.0
Kyrgyzstan	July/June	263.0	58.0	321.0	330.0	330.0	0.0	330.0
Tajikistan	July/June	278.0	93.0	371.0	459.0	459.0	19.0	440.0
Turkmenistan	July/June	4.0	0.0	4.0	272.0	272.0	0.0	272.0
Uzbekistan	July/June	152.0	0.0	152.0	138.0	138.0	0.0	138.0
<b>Far East</b>		<b>26 732.6</b>	<b>1 071.9</b>	<b>27 804.5</b>	<b>25 037.0</b>	<b>24 712.8</b>	<b>1 104.6</b>	<b>23 608.2</b>
Bangladesh	July/June	2 301.5	172.4	2 473.9	3 330.9	3 330.9	345.7	2 985.2
Bhutan	July/June	71.6	0.4	72.0	71.0	71.0	0.0	71.0
Cambodia	Jan./Dec.	30.0	10.0	40.0	40.2	6.4	6.4	0.0
China (Mainland)	July/June	2 366.0	0.0	2 366.0	1 810.0	1 810.0	0.0	1 810.0
D.P.R. of Korea	Nov./Oct.	41.2	568.6	609.8	1 391.7	1 391.7	621.7	770.0
India	April/March	6 730.0	35.3	6 765.3	2 100.0	2 100.0	21.6	2 078.4
Indonesia	April/March	8 159.9	32.9	8 192.8	7 745.0	7 745.0	16.0	7 729.0
Lao, P.D.R.	Jan./Dec.	11.2	17.8	29.0	28.3	7.3	7.3	0.0
Mongolia	Oct./Sept.	223.7	42.6	266.3	295.8	295.8	5.0	290.8
Nepal	July/June	212.4	7.6	220.0	190.0	190.0	16.2	173.8
Pakistan	May/April	97.7	65.9	163.6	1 721.6	1 721.6	2.1	1 719.5
Philippines	July/June	5 244.8	83.0	5 327.8	5 033.4	5 033.4	16.9	5 016.5
Sri Lanka	Jan./Dec.	1 182.6	35.4	1 218.0	1 218.1	948.7	45.7	903.0
Timor-Leste	July/June	60.0	0.0	60.0	61.0	61.0	0.0	61.0
<b>Near East</b>		<b>9 861.3</b>	<b>201.9</b>	<b>10 063.2</b>	<b>11 101.2</b>	<b>9 455.5</b>	<b>180.0</b>	<b>9 275.5</b>
Afghanistan	July/June	690.8	151.7	842.5	1 007.7	1 007.7	151.5	856.2
Iraq	July/June	3 822.5	7.7	3 830.2	4 632.0	4 632.0	9.0	4 623.0
Syrian Arab Republic	July/June	2 471.7	8.3	2 480.0	2 571.5	2 571.5	8.2	2 563.3
Yemen	Jan./Dec.	2 876.3	34.2	2 910.5	2 890.0	1 244.3	11.3	1 233.0
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA</b>		<b>1 542.9</b>	<b>155.5</b>	<b>1 698.4</b>	<b>1 667.9</b>	<b>1 667.9</b>	<b>145.9</b>	<b>1 522.0</b>
Haiti	July/June	425.1	95.5	520.6	591.8	591.8	76.4	515.4
Honduras	July/June	671.7	33.1	704.8	680.8	680.8	25.6	655.2
Nicaragua	July/June	446.1	26.9	473.0	395.3	395.3	43.9	351.4
<b>OCEANIA</b>		<b>422.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>422.2</b>	<b>437.7</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>209.4</b>
Kiribati	Jan./Dec.	8.7	0.0	8.7	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Papua New Guinea	Jan./Dec.	364.5	0.0	364.5	380.0	209.4	0.0	209.4
Solomon Islands	Jan./Dec.	29.5	0.0	29.5	29.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tonga	Jan./Dec.	6.4	0.0	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tuvalu	Jan./Dec.	1.1	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vanuatu	Jan./Dec.	12.0	0.0	12.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>EUROPE</b>		<b>1 472.2</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>1 509.2</b>	<b>1 560.6</b>	<b>1 560.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1 560.6</b>
Albania	July/June	480.0	0.0	480.0	480.0	480.0	0.0	480.0
Belarus	July/June	576.0	0.0	576.0	361.0	361.0	0.0	361.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	July/June	395.2	0.0	395.2	383.6	383.6	0.0	383.6
Republic of Moldova	July/June	21.0	37.0	58.0	336.0	336.0	0.0	336.0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>77 850.4</b>	<b>4 222.1</b>	<b>82 072.5</b>	<b>82 947.0</b>	<b>76 256.9</b>	<b>3 997.6</b>	<b>72 259.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 1 675 in 2005).<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on information available as of late November 2008.

**Table A5. Cereal Import Requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit countries<sup>1</sup>, 2008/09 estimates (thousand tonnes)**

	Marketing year	2007/08 Actual imports			Total import requirements (excl. re-exports) <sup>1</sup>	2008/09 Import position <sup>2</sup>		
		Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid		Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
<b>AFRICA</b>		<b>26 725.0</b>	<b>1 485.1</b>	<b>28 210.1</b>	<b>28 673.3</b>	<b>8 748.0</b>	<b>593.8</b>	<b>8 154.2</b>
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>18 501.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>18 501.0</b>	<b>18 361.0</b>	<b>6 721.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6 721.9</b>
Egypt	July/June	11 930.0	0.0	11 930.0	12 240.0	5 399.3	0.0	5 399.3
Morocco	July/June	6 571.0	0.0	6 571.0	6 121.0	1 322.6	0.0	1 322.6
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>2 945.2</b>	<b>768.8</b>	<b>3 714.0</b>	<b>3 790.0</b>	<b>681.4</b>	<b>301.9</b>	<b>379.5</b>
Kenya	Oct./Sept.	996.0	200.0	1 196.0	1 415.0	160.8	35.7	125.1
Somalia	Aug./July	392.3	97.7	490.0	557.0	195.4	179.2	16.2
Sudan	Nov./Oct.	1 026.2	426.8	1 453.0	1 381.0	77.4	77.4	0.0
United Rep. of	June/May	530.7	44.3	575.0	437.0	247.8	9.6	238.2
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>2 705.9</b>	<b>481.8</b>	<b>3 187.7</b>	<b>3 868.0</b>	<b>1 309.8</b>	<b>257.0</b>	<b>1 052.8</b>
Angola	April/March	768.6	5.8	774.4	762.0	143.1	0.0	143.1
Lesotho	April/March	201.9	24.2	226.1	220.0	77.4	0.1	77.3
Madagascar	April/March	289.2	60.3	349.5	365.0	125.1	5.3	119.8
Malawi	April/March	118.0	56.8	174.8	143.0	101.4	31.0	70.4
Mozambique	April/March	688.8	62.1	750.9	913.0	298.3	41.2	257.1
Swaziland	May/April	128.1	17.2	145.3	142.0	38.2	0.5	37.7
Zambia	May/April	60.5	4.4	64.9	91.0	23.8	8.1	15.7
Zimbabwe	April/March	450.8	251.0	701.8	1 232.0	502.5	170.8	331.7
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>2 572.9</b>	<b>234.5</b>	<b>2 807.4</b>	<b>2 654.3</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Sahelian Countries</b>		<b>2 572.9</b>	<b>234.5</b>	<b>2 807.4</b>	<b>2 654.3</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Burkina faso	Nov./Oct.	282.2	21.3	303.5	288.0	4.8	4.8	0.0
Cape Verde	Nov./Oct.	68.5	10.8	79.3	72.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chad	Nov./Oct.	53.0	71.7	124.7	118.0	12.6	12.6	0.0
Gambia	Nov./Oct.	101.0	2.8	103.8	109.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
Guinea-Bissau	Nov./Oct.	99.4	7.3	106.7	95.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Mali	Nov./Oct.	215.9	8.0	223.9	266.8	0.6	0.6	0.0
Mauritania	Nov./Oct.	366.6	53.7	420.3	367.0	7.3	7.3	0.0
Niger	Nov./Oct.	335.2	43.4	378.6	310.0	4.6	4.6	0.0
Senegal	Nov./Oct.	1 051.1	15.5	1 066.6	1 028.0	4.2	4.2	0.0
<b>ASIA</b>		<b>34 470.7</b>	<b>1 248.9</b>	<b>35 719.6</b>	<b>37 868.6</b>	<b>10 918.9</b>	<b>776.1</b>	<b>10 142.8</b>
<b>CIS in Asia</b>		<b>3 723.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>3 758.0</b>	<b>4 143.0</b>	<b>791.8</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>765.0</b>
Armenia	July/June	378.0	5.0	383.0	355.0	115.2	1.6	113.6
Azerbaijan	July/June	1 347.0	3.0	1 350.0	1 156.0	463.2	0.8	462.4
Georgia	July/June	818.0	8.0	826.0	886.0	96.2	5.2	91.0
Kyrgyz Republic	July/June	330.0	0.0	330.0	316.0	6.6	0.0	6.6
Tajikistan	July/June	440.0	19.0	459.0	560.0	49.0	19.2	29.8
Turkmenistan	July/June	272.0	0.0	272.0	610.0	3.1	0.0	3.1
Uzbekistan	July/June	138.0	0.0	138.0	260.0	58.5	0.0	58.5
<b>Far East</b>		<b>22 705.2</b>	<b>1 045.2</b>	<b>23 750.4</b>	<b>21 430.6</b>	<b>11 942.4</b>	<b>538.4</b>	<b>6 067.0</b>
Bangladesh	July/June	2 985.2	345.7	3 330.9	2 694.2	1 039.8	72.9	966.9
Bhutan	July/June	71.0	0.0	71.0	71.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
China (Mainland)	July/June	1 810.0	0.0	1 810.0	1 367.0	205.3	0.0	205.3
D.P.R. of Korea	Nov./Oct.	770.0	621.7	1 391.7	1 786.0	450.0	450.0	0.0
India	April/March	2 078.4	21.6	2 100.0	600.0	5 399.3	6.7	55.6
Indonesia	April/March	7 729.0	16.0	7 745.0	6 541.4	1 979.9	0.0	1 979.9
Mongolia	Oct./Sept.	290.8	5.0	295.8	274.0	17.5	0.0	17.5
Nepal	July/June	173.8	16.2	190.0	240.0	31.6	6.6	25.0
Pakistan	May/April	1 719.5	2.1	1 721.6	2 771.0	1 958.7	0.0	1 958.7
Philippines	July/June	5 016.5	16.9	5 033.4	5 026.0	860.3	2.2	858.1
Timor-Leste	July/June	61.0	0.0	61.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Near East</b>		<b>8 042.5</b>	<b>168.7</b>	<b>8 211.2</b>	<b>12 295.0</b>	<b>3 521.7</b>	<b>210.9</b>	<b>3 310.8</b>
Afghanistan	July/June	856.2	151.5	1 007.7	2 340.0	221.5	179.0	42.5
Iraq	July/June	4 623.0	9.0	4 632.0	5 040.0	1 661.2	14.7	1 646.5
Syrian Arab Republic	July/June	2 563.3	8.2	2 571.5	4 915.0	1 639.0	17.2	1 621.8
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA</b>		<b>1 522.0</b>	<b>145.9</b>	<b>1 667.9</b>	<b>1 665.0</b>	<b>182.7</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>95.1</b>
Haiti	July/June	515.4	76.4	591.8	625.0	134.8	75.6	59.2
Honduras	July/June	655.2	25.6	680.8	645.0	33.6	6.5	27.1
Nicaragua	July/June	351.4	43.9	395.3	395.0	14.3	5.5	8.8
<b>EUROPE</b>		<b>1 560.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1 560.6</b>	<b>1 050.0</b>	<b>119.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>119.7</b>
Albania	July/June	480.0	0.0	480.0	440.0	32.0	0.0	32.0
Belarus	July/June	361.0	0.0	361.0	150.0	62.2	0.0	62.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	July/June	383.6	0.0	383.6	410.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Republic of Moldova	July/June	336.0	0.0	336.0	50.0	25.5	0.0	25.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>64 278.3</b>	<b>2 879.9</b>	<b>67 158.2</b>	<b>69 256.9</b>	<b>19 969.3</b>	<b>1 457.5</b>	<b>18 511.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 1 675 in 2005).<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on information available as of late November 2008.

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