

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT ON GRAINS  
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IN THE NEWS:

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30/11/09 – Bloomberg.com

LOCUST-HIT ARGENTINA RACES TO SAVE CROPS

Wheat farmers in Argentina are racing to spray fields and avert what may be the biggest plague of locusts in 30 years from attacking their harvest.

“We’re already running behind on fumigation in some areas, so it’s crucial to fumigate next week to save crops,” Pablo Cornago, a manager at the Argentine Agrarian Federation, said in a Nov. 26 phone interview from 9 de Julio, Buenos Aires.

Locust damage may cause wheat prices in Argentina to rise, said Ricardo Baccarin, president of Buenos Aires grains brokerage Panagricola Safici. Grain supplies are already tight after a two-year drought led the country’s wheat farmers to plant the lowest area on record, and demand from Brazil is rising after rains damaged that nation’s harvest, he said.

“Markets will react to the locust issue if the situation gets worse and locusts start attacking crops,” Baccarin, 54, said in a Nov. 26 telephone interview. Local prices have already gained about \$5 a ton over the past week, compared with a 3.3 percent decline for the benchmark wheat contract in Chicago.

Wheat for March delivery rose 1.5 percent to \$5.785 a bushel in electronic trading on the Chicago Board of Trade at 10:47 a.m. Paris time, earlier rising as much as 2.1 percent.

The world's fourth-largest wheat exporter in 2008, Argentina will drop to 10th in 2010, when most shipments from the current harvest will be made, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington. The Buenos Aires Cereals Exchange estimated on Nov. 26 that, because of the reduction in planted area and dry weather at sowing time, output will fall to 7.5 million metric tons in the crop year that ends next June, from 8.4 million the previous season and 16.4 million in 2007-2008.

#### Dry Weather

The crop-devouring variety of locust, known by local farmers as "tucuras," have thrived in the dry weather of the past two years, according to Pablo Urdapilleta, 58, the Agricultural Ministry's director for agricultural production.

Fungus and parasites that kill developing insects have been absent because of the lack of humidity, Urdapilleta, who is heading the federal administration's locust control program, said in a Nov. 25 telephone interview from Buenos Aires.

Agriculture Minister Julian Dominguez, 46, said on Nov. 24 two air force planes would help fumigate fields in southern Buenos Aires province. The previous week, the government promised to send 15 million pesos (\$3.95 million) to municipal governments to help destroy the insects.

Diego Raimundi, an agronomist at the Buenos Aires-based Regional Agricultural Experimentation Consortium, said the federal aid falls far short of the 50 million pesos farmers need to eliminate the bugs.

#### Aerial Fumigation

About 2.1 million hectares (5.2 million acres), including wheat, corn and cattle grazing lands, are threatened by the plague, Raimundi, 29, said in a Nov. 24 phone interview from Coronel Pringles, a town in Buenos Aires province.

The Argentina Rural Society, one of the country's biggest farm groups, said in an e-mail statement that 2.56 million hectares are at risk. The Buenos Aires-based group said aerial fumigation costs about 23 pesos per hectare, meaning 58 million pesos is needed to treat the area under threat.

Buenos Aires province accounts for more than half of the 2.8 million hectares planted to wheat in Argentina this season. The southeastern part of the province alone has 1.03 million hectares sown with the grain, according to the cereals exchange.

#### Lack of Funds

Last season, locusts damaged about 320,000 hectares of farmland in the province. A shortage of funds to fumigate at the time led to the current increase in the locust population, said Cornago, 48, of the Buenos Aires-based Agrarian Federation.

Plagues of tucura were a serious problem for farmers until the late 1970s, said the Agriculture Ministry's Urdapilleta. An increase in rain and humidity curbed them from the 1980s until the onset of dry weather in 2007.

"Because of this, young farmers don't know how to control it," Urdapilleta said.

Each female locust lays about 100 eggs during the winter and if the season is rainy only about 40 reach adulthood, Urdapilleta said. In dry seasons, about 90 to 95 become adults, he said.

There are about 200 varieties of tucuras in Argentina, with about 40 present in Buenos Aires province, Raimundi said. Four of the 40 cause damage to crops, he said.

#### Markets Last Week

The average yield spread on Argentine dollar bonds over Treasuries fell nine basis points, or 0.09 percentage point, last week to 7.01 percentage points, according to JPMorgan. The peso fell 0.18 percent to 3.8077 per U.S. dollar from 3.8010 on Nov. 20. The Merval stock index fell 1.9 percent to 2188.58.

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#### 26/11/09– International Grains Council GRAIN MARKET REPORT SUMMARY

Grain export prices generally firmed in November, but individual market movements were far from uniform. US wheat prices initially climbed steeply, largely because of technical and speculative futures trading, especially in Chicago, while increases in maize (corn) and soyabeans were tempered by harvest pressure. In the Black Sea region, higher prices reflected a gradual tightening of export availabilities. Asian rice export prices showed the biggest increases. The fluctuating value of the US dollar had a considerable influence on day-to-day grain trading although, overall, the rate of decline in the currency was less marked than in the previous two months. Wheat price gains ranged between \$10 and \$30 over the month as a whole, although in the US export values at one stage had climbed by as much as \$40 as the result of substantial non-commercial activity, notwithstanding the bearish underlying fundamentals. In Australia, prices were lifted by a combination of extreme November heat, which reduced yields in the south-east of the country, and rains disrupting harvesting, first in Western Australia and more recently in south-eastern states.

US maize prices recorded modest gains, with bouts of speculative buying and a cut in the official crop estimate partly balanced by seasonal pressure as the harvest finally neared completion, as well as continued slow export demand. Similar seasonal factors affected US soyabeans, although values moved strongly higher in the second half of the month, boosted by a weaker dollar and better than expected domestic and export demand. Asian rice export prices firmed considerably in the past month, especially in Vietnam, where broken rice values advanced by as much as one-fifth, mainly in response to substantial tenders by the Philippines.

Full summary of report is available at: <http://www.igc.org.uk/en/publications/grainmarketreport.aspx>

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#### 25/11/09 - Press Trust of India HOUSE PANEL FOR BAN ON FUTURES TRADING IN RICE, SUGAR, PULSES (INDIA)

A Parliamentary panel has suggested that futures trading should be banned in case of wheat, rice, sugar and some pulses till the country becomes self sufficient in these food items. The Estimates Committee asked the government to bring a new legislation to control the retail prices of essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils, sugar, milk and vegetables. The prices of these items are “very high” putting the common man in severe hardship. “The Committee recommends that futures trading in wheat, rice, tur dal, urad dal and sugar should be banned till the country achieves self-sufficiency in the production of these items on a continuous basis”.

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#### 20/11/09 – World-Grain.com CORN GENOME SEQUENCE TO BE RELEASED

The National Corn Growers Association announced on Nov. 19 that results of the Maize Genome Sequencing Project will appear in the Nov. 20 journal Science.

"This is a milestone for all of our nation's corn farmers that will open the door for higher yields, improved grain quality traits for livestock and industry needs and, it is probably one of the greatest accomplishments since Gregor Mendel's work 150 years ago," said Larry Hasheider, NCGA Research and Business Development chair and a corn farmer from Okawville, Illinois, U.S. "By being able to go into the corn genome sequence and unlock the genetic potentials, corn will continue to be the leading feed grain for the world."

The association said the data would expedite breeding programs and increase knowledge of corn's important agronomic traits. The corn genome can help scientists improve water and nitrogen use efficiencies, help plants cope with disease, pests and adverse weather and allow breeders to develop innovative products for specific end users, NCGA said. These traits will also allow corn to become an even more sustainable crop, the association said.

Washington University's Genome Center sequenced the genome. The center also conducted sequencing for the Human Genome Project. The overall effort involved more than 150 U.S. scientists with those at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona U.S., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, New York, U.S. and Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, U.S. playing key roles, the association said.

The group sequenced a variety of corn known as B73, which Iowa State developed decades ago. It is known for its high yields and has been used extensively in both commercial corn breeding and in research laboratories, NCGA said.

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19/11/09 – World-Grain.com  
CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO RESUME IMPORTED WHEAT SALES FROM NOVEMBER 25

The China National Grain and Oils Information Center, a state-supported think-tank, announced on its website that the government will sell imported wheat from reserves via auction, which is likely to push down forward wheat contract prices.

The auction is to start from November 25 and will be held every Wednesday afternoon.

At present wheat prices are going upward, as flour mills mainly grinding imported wheat as raw materials have also begun to purchase domestic high-quality wheat. This means the government's move may have significant impact on domestic wheat market, especially high-quality wheat prices.

China's wheat prices had stayed stable since it halted selling imported wheat from reserves at the beginning of this year. However, as the government raised the minimum purchase prices of wheat for next year as well as benchmark-auctioned prices of domestic wheat reserves, prices started to pick up recently.

Now spot prices of high-quality wheat in producing areas are steady at 2,120 to 2,200 yuan/tonne. By November 17, prices of soft red winter wheat imported from the US had reached 2,444 yuan/tonne.

The resumption of selling imported wheat is expected to curb the excessive rise of high-quality wheat prices and should also work in favor of the regulation of staple agricultural commodities prices.

China's strong wheat futures have been correcting recently. Since the government started to implement its minimum purchase policy for wheat in 2006, domestic wheat futures and the spot markets have gradually been steadied.

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18/11/09 – The Guardian  
BLACK SEA WHEAT EXPORTS HAMPERED BY BUG DAMAGE

This year's wheat crop in Black Sea producers is showing a higher amount of bug damage, making it harder for exports from the region to meet the requirements of major buyers like Egypt, inspection group SGS said.

With European and North American wheat comfortably meeting bug damage stipulations, the issue could curb Russian and Ukrainian shipments as leading importers apply stricter limits, an SGS executive told Reuters late on Tuesday.

Bug damage is one of the key quality criteria used by wheat buyers to ensure grain meets local milling standards.

The world's leading wheat importer, Egypt, has notably cut the limit it applies to a maximum of 1 percent, from 2 percent, since last year as part of ongoing shake-up of its tender terms.

"This year we see it will be very hard .... to find correct (Black Sea) wheat for destination markets like Egypt and also Jordan," said Johny Boerjan, Vice President Global Technical Governance at SGS Agricultural Services, part of the SGS group.

"We see Egypt buying nowadays from France," he said on the sidelines of the Global Grain 2009 conference. "Last year everything came from the Black Sea."

Russian wheat dominated exports to Egypt last season, claiming some 4 million out of 5 million tonnes imported by Egyptian state buyer GASC in the year to June 30.

However, Egyptian purchases of this origin have slowed sharply since May in the light of a dispute over the quality of Russian grain imported by a local trading company.

Egypt has continued to buy some Russian wheat in the early part of the 2009/10 season but its stricter bug damage policy has pushed up the price of Russian wheat meeting this condition.

Much of the wheat Egypt buys goes into its subsidised bread programme, which allows millions to survive on low salaries.

On the basis of crop samples taken by SGS during the harvest season, average bug damage in this year's Russian wheat crop was estimated at 2.6 percent while in Ukraine it was 4.6 percent.

"There are regions (in Ukraine) that are okay but I've seen regions with 80 percent bug damage," Boerjan said.

Bugs damage the milling quality of wheat by destroying the gluten content, the absence of which stops bread from rising correctly during baking, he said.

The significant level of bug damage in Black Sea countries was linked both to climatic conditions and a lack of appropriate pesticide use, he added.

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17/11/09 – World-Grain.com

#### RUSSIA PLANNING LARGE-SCALE GRAIN EXPORTS TO JAPAN

Russia is planning large-scale grain exports to Japan as the development of routes for grain exports to Asia has become a key challenge for the country, according to Russian sources familiar with the matter.

Japanese trading companies such as Sojitz Corp. and Itochu Corp. are negotiating with Russian firms to construct a grain shipment facility with an annual capacity of 1 million tons or more at a port in the Russian Far East, they said.

The companies are also considering a Japan-Russia joint venture to develop farms in Siberia and transport wheat and other farm products via railway to a Far East port for exports to Japan and other destinations, the sources said.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hosted the World Grain Forum in St. Petersburg in June and emphasized the development of routes for grain exports to Asia as a key challenge for Russia.

Russia became a grain exporter in 2001 after a sharp decline in grain production following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Its grain exports have increased steadily since then, exceeding 20 million tons in 2008. Russian Grain Association President Arkady Zlochevsky said Russia plans to boost annual grain exports to 50 million tons by 2020, expanding sales channels to cover the whole of Asia.

But the Russian Far East region does not currently have a grain shipment facility, while shipments from a facility in the Black Sea area have increased up to its capacity as it handles nearly 90 percent of Russia's total grain exports.

Medvedev instructed his government in October to develop grain shipment facilities in the Far East among other regions, the sources said.

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17/11/09 – Ino.com

#### ARGENTINA POLICIES STUNT TRADE AT GRAIN EXCHANGES

Government intervention in agricultural markets has caused corn and wheat trade at the local grain exchanges to plunge and is depriving the sector of the reference prices needed to make planting and investment decision, according to a report from local think tank Fundacion Mediterranea.

Traders are frequently unable to close deals for the two grains due to repeated closure of corn and wheat exports and government price accords with millers and exporters, according to Fundacion Mediterranea.

During the first 10 months of the year, wheat was traded on just 64 of the 207 days the Rosario Grain Exchange was open. Corn was traded on just 108 of those days. Similar results were posted during the same period in 2008, when a series of farm strikes over four months shut down the exchanges, in addition to sporadic export closures.

In 2007, before the government began to intervene heavily in corn and wheat markets, the grains were traded on almost every day the exchange was open.

Government policies are the main reason for the market distortions, said Rosario Grain Exchange chief analyst Rogelio Ponton.

"When there's no market, there's no prices. When there's no prices, no one knows how much things are worth. When no one knows what things are worth, no one knows if it makes sense to buy or sell, to grow or not or invest," Fundacion Mediterranea said.

In September, the government announced it had reached a deal with grain exporters and millers to open up wheat and corn shipments while guaranteeing domestic supply.

As part of the deal, exporters agreed to pay farmers a theoretical Free-Alongside-Ship, or FAS, price determined by the government. That theoretical FAS price is the Free-On-Board price minus export taxes and transport costs.

The government agreed to grant export permits for 2009-2010 corn and wheat in exchange for a commitment from exporters to ensure 6.5 million metric tons of wheat and eight million tons of corn for domestic supply. Exporters will sell back supplies if the government finds the crops have been oversold.

Despite the agreement, farmers have yet to see those higher prices.

The intervention in the markets has stifled the normal competition between exporters and local millers which worked to set prices at the exchanges and is causing farmers to receive less for their grains, according to the study. The constant specter of government intervention leads buyers to deduct a risk premium from the purchase price they're willing to pay.

The uncertainty has led farmers to shift away from corn and wheat and increase planting of soybeans. The government hasn't moved to close soybean exports, as there is virtually no domestic demand for the oilseed.

Wheat planting this season fell by almost 40% on the year and marks the lowest amount planted with the grain since records have been kept. Corn area is expected to fall by at least 24% this season compared to a year earlier, while soybean area is expected to jump 7% and set a new record.

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16/11/09 – FarmLandGrab.org  
KOREA SEEKS CHEAP LAND OVERSEAS TO GROW FOOD

Local provincial governments are working hard to develop farmland in other countries because it's more cost-effective than relying on imports.

Land overseas in the Maritime Province of Russia in East Siberia, Cambodia and the Philippines is large and cheap, officials explain.

The latest land deal announced last Monday involves state funding starting next year for Korean companies to buy massive tracts of land in South America.

The government said it is considering investing 29.9 billion won (\$25.8 million) in Paraguay and Uruguay.

In previous agro-deals involving land for agricultural development, primarily in Southeast Asia, the land has been rented.

The South Gyeongsang Government Office is promoting development of overseas farm fields under a plan to secure food reserves for the future and protect farmers in Korea against the price surge of imported agricultural products.

An 11-member team from the office visited the Maritime Province of Russia for four days to survey land for possible acquisition.

“It will be reasonable to build farmland for South Gyeongsang in the Maritime Province since there is unused land there and the local farmers lack farming skills, resources and a labor force,” said Jeong Jaemin, 46, head of the Agricultural Support Division at the office, who led the survey squad. “There are 250 hectares [617 acres] of land that is capable of farming but only 50 hectares is being cultivated. The government of the Maritime Province said it wants to develop better seeds by adopting advanced farming techniques.”

During the visit, the team signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maritime Province government in agricultural exchanges and cooperation.

Jeong said South Gyeongsang is planning to raise beans and corn by expanding the size of farmland to an additional 50 hectares next year and 3,000 hectares by the end of 2011. He also said South Gyeongsang is considering hiring Koryoin people, or ethnic Korean migrants living in the Maritime Province, to work on the land.

Meanwhile Gyeonggi is planning to cultivate 16,000 hectares of farmland in Sulawesi, southeastern Indonesia, for four years if a deal with the Sulawesi government goes through next year.

The province expects that the 16,000 hectares of land will produce 320,000 tons of corn annually.

In addition, South Jeolla has rented about 94,000 hectares in Mindoro in the Philippines to produce corn. The province established a corporation called Jeonnam Feedstock Ltd. in January this year to manage corn production.

The province is also considering advancing into Sulawesi.

At least one deal is being handled privately rather than through government.

Sixteen livestock farmers in South Chungcheong invested 100 million won each and purchased 474 hectares of land in Kampot, Cambodia, in February this year.

They bought the land for around 200 won per 3.3 square meters (35.5 square feet). The farmers said they are going to reclaim hilly land early next year and produce 3,000 tons of corn for the Korean market.

Farmers said it's nearly 20 percent cheaper to grow corn in Cambodia than to buy on the international market.

In another deal, the North Gyeongsang provincial government signed a memorandum of understanding for exchanges in agriculture affairs with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry in Mongolia in July and has since then opened an agricultural development assisting center in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia.

The center supports Gaeunpam, an agricultural corporation based in Cheongdo County, North Gyeongsang, aimed at developing 20,000 hectares of farmland for Korean farmers to use in the Bulgan province of Mongolia for the next 40 years.

"A number of Korean farmers are seeking new opportunities overseas to take advantage of large and cheap lands since they think it is difficult to raise their profits in Korea due to lack of farmlands and fierce competition," said Lee Ha-yun, an official at North Gyeongsang government office.

However, not everyone is happy with Korea's land purchases overseas.

The Manila Bulletin reported in August that a Filipino lawmaker and farmer, Rafael Mariano, had called for a probe into a deal between the local governments of Mindoro provinces with Jeonnam Feedstock Ltd., a deal the lawmaker says represents a "new wave of global grabbing" and is "a threat to land rights of farmers and indigenous peoples."

Similarly, the chairman of a senate committee in the Philippines on labor issues, Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, has referred to richer nations buying up land in poorer nations for their own food security as "agri-colonialism," according to the Philippines' Daily Tribune in July.

"Instead of helping develop these lands for our own farmers' benefit, is the government now in essence selling these prime, productive properties to foreigners?" Estrada was quoted as saying.

A land lease in Madagascar involving Daewoo Logistics was called off early this year by the country's self-proclaimed president, Andry Rajoelina, following the ousting of Marc Ravalomanana.

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15/11/09 – World-Grain.com

INDIA IN FIRST WHEAT IMPORT DEALS SINCE '07

India has struck deals to import wheat for the first time in two years as local prices rose up to 30 per cent above import costs in the south on concerns that the winter crop may fail to meet expectations. While India's

surprise entry into the global wheat market amounted to a tiny 10,000 tons, traders said more deals could quickly follow and one trade official said the world's second-biggest producer could buy 1 million tons by March if the government changes shipping rules that block bulk imports. The deals could support benchmark Chicago Board of Trade prices that have risen 6.5 per cent this week on large inflow of smart money into the commodity markets. But prices are down about 13 per cent in the year-to-date, weighed down by a global surplus that may boost US stocks to a decade high.

'Our company has sold some wheat in containers to India,' said a Singapore-based trader. 'I have done some deals today.' Deals for some 10,000 tons of mainly Australian prime wheat in containers were concluded at between \$270 and \$300 a ton, including cost and freight, for shipment in January, traders said. Current rules only allow imports in small containers, not the larger bulk carriers that account for most seaborne trade. Two other traders in Singapore and India confirmed the deals. Local wheat was quoted around \$329 to \$350 in southern India after the government, which fixes the price of wheat it buys from farmers, a week ago raised the price by 3 per cent this year. While smaller than the 18 per cent in each of the previous years, it is in contrast to falling global rates.

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13/11/09 – AllAfrica.com

#### EAST AFRICA: FOOD SECURITY IN REGION 'WITHIN REACH'

East Africa will face both crop gains and losses as a result of climate change, but food security is an achievable goal if new farming technologies are embraced, says a study.

The research, published in *Agricultural Systems* this month (3 November), predicts that yields of staples like maize and beans will double in the region's highland areas as a result of rising temperatures, as warmer climates make crops mature faster.

But the reverse is likely to occur in both drier and more humid areas, with crop harvests decreasing significantly in these places. Four areas projected to have "statistically significant" yield reductions of 20 per cent or more by 2050 are coastal Kenya, northeast and northwest Tanzania and central Uganda.

Only by adapting its agricultural systems will the region be able to absorb the impacts of climate change, says Carlos Seré, director-general of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya.

"Despite an expected three-fold increase in food demand by 2050, East Africa can still deliver food security for all through a smart approach that carefully matches policies and technologies to the needs and opportunities of particular farming areas," he says.

In the worst-affected areas, the researchers recommend farmers keep more livestock (see Livestock may do better than crops, African farmers told), switch to more drought-hardy crops such as sorghum, or abandon crop cultivation altogether. New sources of income might include carbon sequestration, they say.

In areas where the effects of climate change are likely to be less severe and crop losses more moderate, the authors call for the adoption of new technologies and agricultural techniques - such as water harvesting - that will enable farmers to continue growing crops.

"These technologies are available at national research institutions across the region and are fairly inexpensive," said Philip Thornton, ILRI researcher and study co-author.

Mobile phones and the Internet - both growing in popularity in East Africa - could be used to keep farmers informed of new research and technologies, says Thornton.

He calls for more research in the field of livestock parasites and diseases, an area that he regards as critical yet largely neglected by scientists. He predicts that climate change will alter the behaviour of animal diseases, threatening the livelihood of the many smallholder farmers populating the region.

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12/11/09 – World-Grain.com

#### ETHANOL BYPRODUCT MAY BECOME FOOD

Center Ethanol Co is making food out of distillers dried grain (DDG), product that remains after corn is used to make ethanol; human consumption of ethanol byproduct remains novelty, but some researchers say it could gain wider exposure, as it is relatively nutritious and cheap and tastes good enough to substitute for flour in some products; Agriculture Dept reports DDG exports reached 4.5 million tons in 2008; about 25% of ethanol producers' revenue comes from sale of DDG, depending on price of ethanol (M)

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12/11/09 – Agrimoney.com

#### EU GRAIN SOWINGS TO FALL BY 1M HECTARES

Farming's sagging fortunes will prompt a cut in Europe's cereals plantings for a second successive year, driven by a drop in barley sowings, Strategie Grains has said.

European Union farmers will plant 56.97m hectares of cereals for harvesting in 2010, down 1.07m hectares year on year.

Barley plantings will slide by 830,000 hectares to less than 13.1m hectares, with farmers also putting an extra 300,000 hectares of land into set aside.

The forecasts tally with comments from other observers, including the US Department of Agriculture, that European grain sowings were likely to fall.

However, the influential Paris-based analysis group is among the first to put figures to its thinking.

Barley's poor prospects

The Paris-based group said its plantings estimate reflected the "reduction in gross margins at farms across the EU".

Barley, whose prices have fallen sufficient to trigger intervention buying in countries including France, Germany and the UK, "is the victim of a much tighter squeeze on margins than soft wheat".

Indeed, barley prices looked likely to continue to struggle under an 8.3m-tonne oversupply.

"Unless there are rapid, large-scale offers to intervention, barley prices will remain depressed by the sheer scale of the surplus and the non-competitiveness of EU barley on the world market," Strategie Grains said.

The group was speaking ahead of official data showing farmers had offered more than 850,000 tonnes of the grain.

However, its report saw soft wheat plantings edging 260,000 hectares higher to 22.86m hectares.

Oilseeds sowings would also rise, by 560,000 hectares to 11.8m hectares, led by a jump in plantings of rapeseed, of which Europe harvested a record crop this year.

Export hopes

Strategie Grains also cut its estimate for Europe's maize harvest this year by 730,000 tonnes, to reflect weaker-than-expected harvests in France, Hungary and Romania.

Production would now come in at 56.21m tonnes, down 10% on 2008 output.

And it raised its hopes for wheat exports by 900,000 tonnes, citing the increased competitiveness of EU shipments following the strong rally in US prices over the last two months.

Nonetheless, at 17.1m tonnes, Strategie Grains' wheat export forecast remains below that of some other observers, including the USDA which earlier this week set a 19m-tonne figure.

\* Late on Thursday, official data showed European Union farmers had tendered 852,981 tonnes of barley and 95,834 tonnes of wheat for intervention buying.

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NEW REPORT:

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November 2009 – FAO  
CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SITUATION, NO.4 NOVEMBER 2009

FAO's latest forecast confirms a good 2009 world cereal production, slightly below last year's record level, which coupled with large carryover stocks from the previous season have resulted in ample market supplies.

In the group of 77 Low-Income Food-Deficit countries the 2009 aggregate cereal production is forecast marginally below last year's record level. A sharp reduction in India's rice crop is anticipated but generally good crops are estimated elsewhere.

Full report: <http://www.fao.org/giews/english/cpfs/index.htm>

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05/11/09 – International Food Policy Research Institute  
MILLIONS FED: PROVEN SUCCESSES IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Humanity has made enormous progress in the past 50 years toward eliminating hunger and malnutrition. Some five billion people--more than 80 percent of the world's population--have enough food to live healthy, productive lives. Agricultural development has contributed significantly to these gains, while also fostering economic growth and poverty reduction in some of the world's poorest countries.

This book examines how policies, programs, and investments in pro-poor agricultural development have helped to substantially reduce hunger across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The 20 success stories presented here provide both lessons and inspiration for continued efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition among the one billion people still facing this scourge.

Full Text: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/millions-fed>

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WEB RESOURCE:

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November 2009 US Wheat Associates  
USW LAUNCHES WEBSITE REDESIGN

The U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) on Nov. 11 unveiled a newly redesigned website, which the organization said provides a wider variety of business information in a more accessible format to site visitors.

The revised site features new content, such as a Speaking for Producers section that provides information about producers featured in the current USW market development campaign. The site also has an enhanced Buyer's Guide designed to streamline valuable information importers need regarding all six classes of U.S. wheat, USW said.

"USW customers have told us they want closer ties with U.S. producers," Steve Mercer, USW Communications Director said. "We recognize the importance of making personal connections throughout the supply chain, and have been mindful of that as we constructed the new site, which is funded in part by and speaks for producers."

The new design supports and continues to build on the USW international focus linking U.S. wheat and wheat products to their producers. USW said the new site continues to offer a robust supply of information about the U.S. and global wheat market. This includes weekly U.S. wheat export basis and free on board (FOB) prices with an interactive charting feature, commercial export sales of U.S. wheat, a Supply and Demand presentation, Crop Quality reports, Harvest reports, and daily futures prices for U.S. wheat classes, corn, and soybeans, USW said.

Finally, an Influencing Trade Policy section covers issues such as competitiveness, food aid, biotechnology and U.S.-Cuba trade issues. Visitors can access USW policy position statements and information on bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and track USW work on the GSM export credit programs, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, the elimination of export state trading enterprises and other issues.

<http://www.uswheat.org/uswPublic2009.nsf/index?OpenPage>

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WORLD FOOD SITUATION PORTAL:

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/>

Portail sur la situation alimentaire mondiale:

[http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/fr/?no\\_cache=1](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/fr/?no_cache=1)

Portal sobre la situación alimentaria mundial:

[http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/es/?no\\_cache=1](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/es/?no_cache=1)

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To request previous issues of the MNR:

[http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/15/53/highlight\\_55.html](http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/15/53/highlight_55.html)

Vous pouvez trouver les numéros précédents du MNR à la page suivante:

[http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/fr/15/53/highlight\\_55.html](http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/fr/15/53/highlight_55.html)

Se pueden encontrar los números anteriores del MNR a la página siguiente:

[http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/es/15/53/highlight\\_55.html](http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/es/15/53/highlight_55.html)

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If you prefer not to receive the MNR, please reply to this message by typing "remove" on the subject line.

Si vous ne souhaitez pas recevoir le MNR, il vous suffira de répondre à ce message, en inscrivant « annuler » dans la case prévue à cet effet.

En el caso de que no se desee recibir el MNR, respóndase a este mensaje escribiendo la palabra "remove" en el renglón correspondiente al asunto.