GIEWS Country Brief
Republic of Moldova

Reference Date: 24-July-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOTT
- Below-average production prospects for 2020 wheat crops
- Total cereal exports in 2020/21 marketing year forecast below-average volume
- Food inflation slightly higher in June 2020 compared to previous year

Below-average production prospects for 2020 wheat crops

Harvesting of the 2020 wheat crop started in early July and it is expected to be completed by late August. Scarce rains in the season, particularly in April 2020, resulted in below-average crop conditions in southern areas, as shown by satellite data from June, just before the beginning of the harvest (see NDVI Anomaly image). The southern regions produce, on average, about 25 percent of the total annual wheat output. As a result, the 2020 wheat output is expected at about 800 000 tonnes, 30 percent below the average level.

Harvesting of the 2020 maize crops, planted in May, will begin in October. According to satellite-based imagery, crop conditions were favourable in June in the northern main maize producing areas. Given that plantings are estimated at an above-average level, the 2020 output is preliminarily forecast at about 2 million tonnes, nearly 20 percent above the five-year average.

Total cereal exports in 2020/21 marketing year forecast below-average volume

Total cereal exports in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at about 600 000 tonnes, 40 percent below the average volume on account of reduced wheat exports, expected to not exceed 100 000 tonnes, due to the unfavourable production prospects for the 2020 crops. Maize exports are forecast at 450 000 tonnes, well above average on account of the large domestic supplies from the 2019 record high output and the expectation of an above-average production in 2020.

Food inflation slightly higher in June 2020 compared to previous year

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that the general annual inflation was 4.3 percent in June 2020, about the same rate of 12 months before. Food inflation was estimated at 8.5 percent, slightly above the 7.3 percent of a year before.
Prices of fruit increased by almost 40 percent between June 2019 and June 2020, mainly due to higher import costs. Prices of eggs also increased sharply, while prices of bread, meat and vegetable oil remained stable or increased only moderately.

**Republic of Moldova**

### Cereal Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1,689</td>
<td>2,130</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>-30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,068</td>
<td>3,465</td>
<td>3,089</td>
<td>-12.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

### Cereals Exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average 2015/16-2019/20</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21 forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
GIEWS Country Brief
Republic of Moldova

Reference Date: 15-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Favourable crop conditions across country
- Cereal output estimated at record high level in 2019
- Above-average cereal exports forecast in 2019/20 marketing year
- Food inflation higher in February 2020 compared to previous year

Favourable crop conditions across country
Planted of the 2020 winter cereals, to be harvested in July and August, finalized in October 2019. Slightly below-average precipitation amounts, between November 2019 and January 2020, were reported to have negatively affected part of the wheat crops. However, abundant rains in February and March benefitted crop conditions across the country, as shown by the positive Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly. Planting of the 2020 spring grains, to be harvested from August, started in April under generally favourable weather conditions.

Cereal output estimated at record high level in 2019
Harvesting of 2019 cereal crops, mainly maize and wheat, finalized in October 2019 and the aggregate output is estimated at 3.5 million tonnes, 20 percent above the five-year average and an all-time high. Maize output is officially estimated at a record high level of 2.1 million tonnes, on account of large plantings and favourable weather conditions which boosted yields. Wheat output is set at about 1.2 million tonnes, just above the five-year average.

Above-average cereal exports forecast in 2019/20 marketing year
Total cereal exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at about 1 million tonnes, slightly above the average level. Maize exports are forecast at 450 000 tonnes, well above the average volumes on account of good domestic supplies from the 2019 record output. Exports of wheat are forecast at a near-average level of 500 000 tonnes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Calendar * (*major foodcrop)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republic of Moldova</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereal Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data. Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.
Food inflation higher in February 2020 compared to previous year

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that the general annual inflation was 6.4 percent in February 2020, about 4 percentage points higher than the rate reached 12 months before.

Food inflation was estimated at 11 percent, well above the 3.5 percent of the same month in 2019. Prices of fruits increased by over 50 percent between February 2019 and February 2020, mainly due to increased import costs. Prices of eggs increased by over 20 percent, while prices of bread were almost stable.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government declared the State of Emergency and imposed quarantine measures starting from 17 March until 15 May 2020 throughout the country. The Government also took measures aimed at mitigating the negative economic consequences caused by the COVID-19 outbreak on citizens and entrepreneurship. The measures include the establishment of a MDL 50 million (USD 2.7 million) national subsidy fund for agriculture to support farmers.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Total cereal production in 2019 is forecast close to the five-year average

Harvesting of the 2019 winter cereals, mainly wheat, started in July and is expected to finalize by mid-August. By the end of July, wheat crops had been collected from 95 percent of the area planted. In most croplands, precipitation has been adequate since November 2018, except for scarce rainfall in March and the last dekad of June 2019. Heavy rains and hail occurred in some areas of northern districts of Balti, Edinet and Soroca in late May and early June, with only some localized damage to crops. The total 2019 wheat output is forecast at well-above average of 1.3 million tonnes.

Planting of the 2019 maize crop took place in May and crops are expected to be harvested in October and November. As of late July, cumulative rain amounts were near average across most croplands and, according to satellite-based imagery, conditions of crops were overall favourable. The official early forecast of the 2019 maize output is set at above-average of 1.7 million tonnes, mainly reflecting an increase in area planted, officially estimated at 492 000 hectares.

The aggregate 2019 cereal output is forecast at 3.2 million tonnes, 8 percent above the five-year average.

Above-average cereal exports forecast in 2019/20

Total cereal exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 1.1 million tonnes, 22 percent above the average level, mainly due to high shipments of maize and wheat. Maize exports are forecast at 450 000 tonnes, well above the average volumes on account of good domestic supplies from the 2018 record output. Exports of wheat are forecast at 600 000 tonnes, about 10 percent above the average, due to the expectation of a bumper output in 2019.
Food inflation higher in June 2019 compared to previous year

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that the general annual inflation was 4.4 percent in June 2019, the highest rate since March 2018.

Inflation for the food sub-component was 7.3 percent, well above the 5.1 percent of the same month in 2018. Prices of vegetables increased particularly between June 2018 and June 2019 (28 percent), while prices of bread and fruits rose by 1.4 and 3.5 percent, respectively.

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Total cereal output in 2018 estimated above five-year average

Harvesting of the majority of the cereal crops finalized by the end of September, while harvesting of maize should be completed by mid-November. Although frosts and insufficient snow cover (necessary to protect winter crops from the cold weather) at the beginning of the year raised concerns over 2018 cereals output, recent estimates point at a total production of about 3 million tonnes, which is 9 percent above the five-year average and slightly below the previous year’s bumper level.

Wheat production in 2018 is set at a near average 1.2 million tonnes, while maize output is estimated at 1.7 million tonnes, 15 percent above the five-year average due to a gradual increase in planted areas and better yields.

Planting of winter cereals (mainly wheat), to be harvested in July/August 2019, just finalized under favourable weather conditions.

Cereal exports in 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) expected to remain well above average

Following an above-average domestic cereal production, total exports of cereals are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June), well above the five-year average and close to the previous year’s high level. Wheat and maize exports are expected to remain nearly unchanged year-on-year, at the well above-average levels of 640 000 tonnes and 450 000 tonnes, respectively.

Food inflation lower in September 2018 compared to previous year

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that the general annual inflation was 2.4 percent in September 2018, the lowest rate since December 2016.
Inflation for the food sub-component was 5.3 percent, well below the 9.4 percent of the same month in 2017. Prices of fruits slightly decreased between September 2017 and September 2018, while prices of bread and vegetables increased by 20 percent, on average.

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**Republic of Moldova**

**Cereals Exports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>000 tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average 2012/14, 2017/18</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19 forecast</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Republic of Moldova

Reference Date: 07-February-2018

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Planted area with 2018 winter cereals forecast close to average
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at record level
- Cereal exports in 2017/18 (July/June) anticipated to increase
- Prices of wheat flour stable over last three months

**Planted area with 2018 winter cereals forecast close to average**
Planting of winter cereals (mainly wheat), to be harvested in July/August 2018, was complete by November 2017. Total area planted is forecast at about 420 000 hectares, similar to the last five-year average. Warm weather conditions during the November-December 2017 period were favourable for survival of germinating crops, while frosts in January 2018 raised some concerns over crop conditions, as snow coverage is insufficient to protect crops from the cold weather. However, it is too early in the season to evaluate the possible damage on crops.

**Cereal production in 2017 estimated at record level**
Total cereal production in 2017 is officially estimated at 3.3 million tonnes, with an 11 percent increase over the high level of 2016. The increase is due to a 30 percent above-average maize production, estimated at a record level of 1.8 million tonnes, following favourable weather conditions during the whole growing season which boosted yields.

Wheat output is set at 1.2 million tonnes in 2017, close to high the level of the previous year and well above the average.

**Cereal exports in 2017/18 (July/June) anticipated to increase**
Following above-average domestic cereal production in 2017, exports are expected to increase to 665 000 tonnes in the 2017/18 (July/June) marketing year. The projected increase is mainly due to larger shipments of maize, which are forecast at 300 000 tonnes, about 20 percent above the 2016/17 level. Wheat exports are expected at 350 000 tonnes, unchanged from the previous year’s level.

**Prices of wheat and wheat flour remained stable**

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Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Report

**Notes:**
- Data is preliminary and subject to revision.
- Data may be preliminary and subject to revision.
- Data may be preliminary and subject to revision.
stable over last three months

Prices for wheat and wheat flour were generally stable since October 2017 as increased milling and fuel costs offset the downward pressure due to the 2017 bumper harvest. By contrast, prices of potatoes, another important staple food, increased by 15 percent from the start of the harvest in September 2017 and, in January 2018, they were more than 20 percent higher than a year before, following a 10 percent decline in domestic production.

In December 2017, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that the annual inflation rate (last 12 months) was 7.3 percent, which is much higher than the 2.4 percent reported in December 2016. An average 40 percent price increase was registered for the prices of fresh vegetables and a 20 percent increase for the prices of fruits.

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GIEWS Country Brief
Republic of Moldova

Reference Date: 07-February-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Planted area with 2018 winter cereals forecast close to average
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at record level
- Cereal exports in 2017/18 (July/June) anticipated to increase
- Prices of wheat flour stable over last three months

Planted area with 2018 winter cereals forecast close to average
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Cereal production in 2017 estimated at record level
Total cereal production in 2017 is officially estimated at 3.3 million tonnes, with an 11 percent increase over the high level of 2016. The increase is due to a 30 percent above-average maize production, estimated at a record level of 1.8 million tonnes, following favourable weather conditions during the whole growing season which boosted yields.

Wheat output is set at 1.2 million tonnes in 2017, close to high the level of the previous year and well above the average.

Cereal exports in 2017/18 (July/June) anticipated to increase
Following above-average domestic cereal production in 2017, exports are expected to increase to 665 000 tonnes in the 2017/18 (July/June) marketing year. The projected increase is mainly due to larger shipments of maize, which are forecast at 300 000 tonnes, about 20 percent above the 2016/17 level. Wheat exports are expected at 350 000 tonnes, unchanged from the previous year’s level.

Republic of Moldova
Crop calendar (**major foodcrop)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2012-2016 average</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017 forecast</th>
<th>change 2017/2016 percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1 269</td>
<td>1 392</td>
<td>1 762</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>1 293</td>
<td>1 284</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2 464</td>
<td>2 971</td>
<td>3 283</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal balance sheets
Prices of wheat and wheat flour remained stable over last three months

Prices for wheat and wheat flour were generally stable since October 2017 as increased milling and fuel costs offset the downward pressure due to the 2017 bumper harvest. By contrast, prices of potatoes, another important staple food, increased by 15 percent from the start of the harvest in September 2017 and, in January 2018, they were more than 20 percent higher than a year before, following a 10 percent decline in domestic production.

In December 2017, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that the annual inflation rate (last 12 months) was 7.3 percent, which is much higher than the 2.4 percent reported in December 2016. An average 40 percent price increase was registered for the prices of fresh vegetables and a 20 percent increase for the prices of fruits.

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Cereal production forecast to decline in 2017
Planting of the winter cereals for harvest from July 2017 finished by the beginning of November 2016. Weather conditions during the winter were generally fair for growth and development of the crops. In most of the country, winter crops were at the tillering stage, though the three-leaf stage was reported in some areas at the end of March. The level of accumulated precipitations was adequate for planting of the spring crops, which started in the beginning of April.

FAO’s early forecast of 2017 cereal crops (including an average production of spring crops), stands at 2.4 million tonnes, 14 percent below the bumper crop of the previous year. Most of the decline comes from wheat, output of which is expected at 982 000 tonnes in 2017, assuming the return to average yields after the record highs of last year.

Cereal exports in 2017/18 (July/June) anticipated to decline
Following a projected decline in domestic cereal production in 2017, exports are expected to decrease to 565 000 tonnes in the 2017/18 (July/June) marketing year. The decrease comes mainly from lower shipments of wheat, which are forecast at 300 000 tonnes, 14 percent below the 2016/17 level.

Prices of potatoes and other vegetables increased in April
Despite a bumper 2016 wheat output, prices for wheat and wheat flour were generally stable in the last six months. The increasing production and transportation costs underpinned wheat flour prices. By contrast, prices of potatoes, an important staple food, have increased by 20 percent in April.
The National Bureau of Statistics reported that, in the month of April 2017, the annual inflation rate (last 12 months, from May 2016 until April 2017) was 6.6 percent. An average 20 percent price increase was registered for fresh vegetables, with peaks of +80 percent for cabbages and +30 percent for onions.
Cereal production forecast to decline in 2017

Planting of the winter cereals for harvest from July 2017 finished by the beginning of November 2016. Weather conditions during the winter were generally fair for growth and development of crops. In most of the country, winter crops were at the tillering stage, though the three-leaf stage was reported in some areas at the end of March. The level of accumulated precipitations was adequate for planting of the spring crops, which started in the beginning of April.

FAO’s early forecast of 2017 cereal crops (including an average production of spring crops) stands at 2.4 million tonnes, 14 percent below the bumper crop of the previous year. Most of the decline comes from wheat, output of which is expected at 962,000 tonnes in 2017, assuming the return to average yields after the record highs of last year.

Cereal exports in 2017/18 (July/June) anticipated to decline

Following a projected decline in domestic cereal production in 2017, exports are expected to decrease to 565,000 tonnes in the 2017/18 (July/June) marketing year. The decrease comes mainly from lower shipments of wheat, which are forecast at 300,000 tonnes, 14 percent below the 2016/17 level.

Prices of wheat and wheat flour remained stable over past six months

Despite a bumper 2016 wheat output, prices for wheat and wheat flour were generally stable in the last six months. The increasing milling production costs underpinned wheat flour prices.

Prices of potatoes, another staple food, declined by 2 percent in March and were around 40 percent lower than their year-earlier values, when a drastic decline in 2015 production brought prices to all-time highs.
Cereal production forecast to recover in 2016 after sharp drought-induced decline in 2015

FAO’s latest estimates of 2016 cereal production stand at 2.8 million tonnes, almost a 30 percent increase from the drought-reduced level of the previous year. Most of the increase comes from wheat, output of which is estimated to rebound to 1.2 million tonnes in 2016.

Planting of the 2016 winter cereals finished by the beginning of November under satisfactory weather conditions. The winter crops have benefited from the above-average precipitations before entering the dormant phase. Despite the current poor snow cover, the conditions of winter crops remain satisfactory as the soil temperature at the tillering node depth remains well above the killing level (-15 degrees).

Cereal exports in 2016/17 (July/June) anticipated to increase

Following a 30 percent increase in total cereal production this year, exports are expected to increase to 615 000 tonnes in the 2016/17 (July/June) marketing year. The shipments of maize are expected to rise by 50 percent to 250 000 tonnes, while total wheat exports are forecast unchanged at 350 000 tonnes.

Prices of wheat and wheat flour decreased in November 2016

Due to a rebound in wheat production this year, prices for wheat declined by 6 percent in November. Prices of wheat flour decreased slightly, but were 20 percent above their levels in November 2015 following increasing flour production costs.

Prices of potatoes grew by 2 percent in November, following a smaller-than-expected harvest in 2016. However, at this level, prices were 40 percent lower than their year-earlier values, when a drastic decline in production in 2015 brought prices to all-time highs.
Cereal production forecast to recover in 2016 after sharp drought-induced decline in 2015

Winter cereal plantings for harvest in 2016 started late last autumn due to unfavourable dry conditions but farmers continued sowing into November and the area planted is reported to have increased by 8 percent to 350 000 hectares. It is reported that crops overwintered well despite cold conditions. FAO’s early forecast for 2016 cereal production stands at 2.5 million tonnes, 14 percent up from the previous year, assuming that yields return to average after the drought-reduced levels in the previous year.

Latest estimates put the 2015 cereal production at 2.2 million tonnes, 24 percent below the previous year’s level and below the average of the past five years due to a drought during the summer. Most of the decrease is on the account of reduced maize production, which fell by 31 percent to 1.1 million tonnes, while wheat production fell 16 percent to 920 000 tonnes.

Wheat imports in 2015/16 (July/June) anticipated to increase

As a result of the smaller cereal output of 2015, in particular wheat, total cereal imports are expected to rise to 75 000 tonnes in 2015/16, an increase of 25 percent compared to the previous year’s below-average level. In addition, following the decrease in cereal output, total exports are forecast to fall by almost 25 percent to 240 000 tonnes.

Prices of wheat flour and potatoes increased in early 2016

Due to a shortfall in wheat production last year, prices for wheat increased by more than 40 percent since the beginning of 2016 and were around 25 percent above their values in March 2015.

Prices of potatoes, production of which fell by 41 percent in 2015, decreased slightly from the previous month but remained 50 percent above their year-earlier levels.
Cereal production in 2015 expected to be near last year’s bumper output

The 2015 winter crops (mainly wheat and barley), which are expected to be harvested from July, are currently growing under favourable weather conditions. Planting of spring crops (mainly maize) is ongoing. On average, winter and spring crops account for about 40 and 50 percent, respectively, of the total cereal production. The total area planted to cereals this year is anticipated to increase from the high level of the previous year as a result of the Government’s continuous support to agriculture production. FAO preliminarily forecasts the 2015 maize and wheat outputs at 1.4 and 1.15 million tonnes, respectively, above last year’s bumper harvests and well above the previous five-year average.

Wheat imports in 2014/15 (July/June) anticipated to decrease further

As a result of the good cereal output of last year, in particular wheat, total cereal imports are expected to decline to 60 000 tonnes in 2014/15, a decrease of 7 percent compared to last year’s below-average level. Wheat imports are projected to fall by 10 percent, to 45 000 tonnes, compared to last year’s low level.

Prices of wheat flour and potatoes increased in April

Prices of wheat increased by 7 percent from the previous month and were higher than a year earlier. Prices of potatoes, another key food staple in the country, increased markedly from the previous month but remained one-third below their year earlier levels.
**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Cereal production in 2014 is expected to be close to last year’s bumper level
- Wheat imports in 2013/14 (July/June) decreased significantly
- Prices of cereal products remained generally stable in July, while those of potatoes declined but were still at high levels

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**The 2014 cereal production expected to be near last year’s bumper output**

Harvesting of winter crops (mainly wheat and barley) is currently underway, while that of spring crops (mainly maize) commenced in August and will continue until mid-November. On average, winter and spring crops account for about 40 and 50 percent, respectively, of the total cereal production. The total area planted to cereal this year is officially estimated to have decreased from the high level of the previous year. FAO preliminarily forecasts the 2014 maize and wheat outputs at 1.4 and 1.1 million tonnes, respectively, slightly below last year’s bumper harvests but well above the previous five-year average.

**Wheat imports in 2013/14 (July/June) decreased significantly**

As a result of the good cereal output last year, in particular wheat, total cereal imports declined to an estimated 72 000 tonnes in 2013/14, a decrease of 22 percent compared to last year’s below-average level. Wheat imports are estimated to have decreased by almost 30 percent, to 52 000 tonnes, compared to last year’s low level.

**Prices of cereal products were stable in July, while those of potatoes decreased but still remained at high levels**

Prices of wheat and wheat flour remained generally unchanged in the past months and close to their year-earlier levels, mainly reflecting adequate supplies from the 2014 winter harvest. Prices of potatoes, another key food staple in the country, continued the downward trend of the previous months in July, with new supplies from the ongoing harvest entering the markets. However, potato prices remained at considerably higher levels compared to the same period last year.
GIEWS Country Brief
Republic of Moldova

Reference Date: 10-April-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Early forecast of winter crops for cereal production in 2014 is largely favourable
- Cereal production in 2013 recovered after drought induced reduction in 2012
- Although wheat flour prices increased slightly, the worst impact of the drought is on rural farmers

Early forecast of winter crops for cereal production in 2014 is largely favourable
Plating of winter crops has been completed in November last year. Winter crops account on average for about 40 percent of the total cereal production. By official information the planting area under cereals is around 390 000 hectares, including 300 000 hectares of wheat (25 000 hectares less than last year), 80 000 hectares of barley (8 000 hectares more than in 2013 and 31 000 hectares rape (compared to 25 000 hectares last year). Reports indicate that about 90 percent of the crops are in good and fair condition. Wheat production is expected at 1 million tonnes, some 10 percent below last year.

Cereal production in 2013 recovered from drought stricken levels in 2012
In 2013, the cereal harvest of the Republic of Moldova reached about 3 million tonnes, a recovery from the previous year’s reduced output due to very poor weather conditions in particular hot temperature and drought in the summer when around 90 percent of the country’s farmland had been declared affected by drought.

Wheat imports in 2013/14 (July/June) to remain stable
As a result of a recovery in cereal production, in particular wheat, last year, import requirements are expected to remain stable at 90 000 tonnes. Carryover stocks are recovering following their depletion in 2012 owing to a production deficit.

Although wheat flour prices increased slightly, the worst impact of the drought is on rural farmers
In spite of the sharply reduced 2012 cereal production, retail prices of wheat flour increased moderately on a yearly basis mainly due to state price regulation and interventions. The worst impact of the drought is on rural farmers, in particular fodder availability and animal conditions, mainly in central and southern areas. Since around 90 percent of the livestock is owned by small farmers, it is one of the key components of rural households’ food security, providing nutrition and cash income. The negative impact of fodder shortages was somehow offset by Government measures to rural farmers including the provision of agricultural inputs - such as seeds and fertilizers - to the affected vulnerable population. The country has also received assistance from the international community to support its agricultural rehabilitation efforts.
Republic of Moldova
Selected retail food prices in Chisinau

Moldovan Leu per Kg

- Wheat
- Wheat (flour)

Source: ACIA
GIEWS Country Brief
Republic of Moldova

Reference Date: 25-February-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Early forecast of winter crops for cereal production in 2013 are largely favourable
- Cereal production in 2012 sharply reduced by drought
- Wheat imports in 2012/13 (July/June) to increase significantly
- Although wheat flour prices increased slightly, the worst impact of the drought is on rural farmers

Early forecast of winter crops for cereal production in 2013 are largely favourable
Plating of winter crops has been completed in November last year. Winter crops account on average for about 40 percent of the total cereal production. The planting area under cereals, mainly wheat, has increased by 10 percent compared to last year. By official information it is around 400 000 hectares, including 325 000 hectares of wheat, 50 000 hectares of barley and 25 000 hectares rape. The remote system shows that sufficient soil moisture and vegetation level are largely favourable for winter crops at this stage.

Cereal production in 2012 sharply reduced by drought
The total cereal production in 2012 has sharply decreased due to very poor weather conditions in particular hot temperature and drought in summer. By official information, around 90 percent of the country’s farmland has been declared affected by drought. The drought has exacerbated problems associated with the deterioration of irrigation infrastructure. As a result, in 2012 average yields of main agricultural crops have been recorded significantly down their five-year average level. It is estimated that the wheat 2012 output is around 480 000 tonnes, a decline of 40 percent from the previous year’s good level. The 2012 maize output is estimated down by around 30 percent from last year’s level due to both low yields and significant crop losses. The aggregate cereal production is put at some 1.7 million tonnes or 31 percent down on the bumper harvest of 2011.

Wheat imports in 2012/13 (July/June) to increase significantly
As a result of significant declines in cereal production, in particular wheat last year, import requirements are expected to increase significantly or by almost six times. It is expected that imports of wheat will reach 55 0000 tonnes or 84 percent of the total cereal imports. Adequate carryover wheat stocks from last year’s good harvest and high level of imports are likely to make up for most of the production deficit. The country has been exporting maize in recent years but official statements indicate a suspension of exports in marketing year 2012/13 (July/June).

Although wheat flour prices increased slightly, the worst impact of the drought is on rural farmers
In spite of the sharply reduced 2012 cereal production, retail prices of wheat flour increased moderately on yearly basis mainly due to state price regulation and interventions. The worst impact of the drought is on
rural farmers, in particular fodder availability and animal conditions, mainly in central and southern areas. Since around 90 percent of the livestock is owned by small farmers, it is one of the key components of rural households’ food security, providing nutrition and cash income. The negative impact of fodder shortages was somehow offset by Government measures to rural farmers including the provision of agricultural inputs - such as seeds and fertilizers - to the affected vulnerable population. The country has also received assistance from the international community to support its agricultural rehabilitation efforts.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- The 2012 wheat and maize production sharply reduced by drought and above normal temperatures
- Shortage of fodder adversely affecting livestock and livelihoods of small farmers
- Government has requested international assistance to support its rehabilitation efforts

The 2012 wheat and maize production sharply reduced by drought and above normal temperatures
Harvesting of the 2012 winter cereal crops, mainly wheat but also barley and rye, is completed. Winter crops account on average for about 40 percent of the total cereal production. The cropping season was negatively affected by below average rains and abnormal high temperatures from June in most growing areas of the country. Preliminary estimates indicate a 2012 wheat output of some 530 000 tonnes, a decline of 36 percent from the previous year's good level.

Drought conditions and excessive heat during spring and summer also affected spring cereal crops, mainly maize at the critical pollination stage. Recent FAO’s field assessments anticipate sharply reduced maize yields and significant crop losses, which may reach 80 to 95 percent in some parts. Good precipitation was received in the first dekade of August, but it is likely to have arrived too late to improve the crop situation. Weather forecast point to overall dry and hot conditions in the remaining of the month. The 2012 maize crop, to be harvested from September, is tentatively forecast at 850 000 tonnes, some 42 percent down on the bumper harvest of 2011

Other important spring crops, mainly sunflower and sugar beet, were also hit by the adverse weather and significant lower yields than last year’s are forecast. Overall, 90 percent of the country’s farmland has been declared affected by drought by the State Hydro meteorological Service. The drought has exacerbated problems associated with the deterioration of irrigation infrastructure.

Wheat imports in 2012/13 (July/June) to increase only moderately
In spite of the significant decline in cereal production expected this year, import requirements are not expected to increase significantly. Adequate carry-over wheat stocks from last year’s good harvest and high level of imports are likely to make up for most of the production deficit. The country has been exporting maize in recent years but official statements indicate a suspension of exports in marketing year 2012/13 (July/June).

Shortage of fodder affecting livestock and livelihoods of small farmers
The worst impact of the drought is on fodder availability and animal conditions, in particular in central and southern areas. Maize is mainly used for animal feed by the industry and by small farmers. Livestock is a key component of rural households' food security, providing nutrition and cash income. It is estimated that more than 90 percent of the livestock is
owned and managed in small numbers. Shortages of fodder will affect, therefore, the livelihoods of rural families with a potential reduction of up to 45 percent in the number of animals.

The decrease on production of sunflower and sugar beet, important cash crops, will also have a negative economic impact.

**Government to provide agricultural inputs assistance**

The Government is planning to assist the affected vulnerable population with agricultural inputs - such as seeds and fertilizers - for the forthcoming winter cropping season, as well as fodder to avoid distress animal sales. The Republic of Moldova is a low-income food deficit country and has requested assistance from the international community to support its agricultural rehabilitation efforts.
Crop prospects for 2011 are favourable

Growing conditions for cereal crops are overall satisfactory so far following adequate precipitation since the beginning of the cropping season last autumn. The area planted to winter crops decreased by 6 percent compared with the same season of 2009. However, the bulk of the cereals are sown in the spring. The increases in spring plantings are estimated to have compensated the lower winter area planted. In particular, the area planted to the main maize crop is expected to have increased by 5-7 percent. As a result of good weather conditions and higher total plantings, the aggregate cereal production (winter and spring seasons) is forecast at some 2.5 million tonnes, slightly above last year’s production and 15 percent higher than the five-year average.

Imports of cereals continues to decline in marketing year 2010/11 (July/June)

The country needs to import cereals, mainly wheat due to the poor quality of local production. The share of wheat import has been declining during last three marketing years 2008/09-2010/11(July/June) to about 3 percent of total domestic needs and 11 percent of food needs. In early 2011, the Government had concerns about the acceleration of wheat exports and introduced an export wheat ban to prevent increases in bread prices. This ban was lifted at the beginning of May 2011 on account of the good prospects for this year’s cereal harvest.

Food prices of staple products are increasing

Inflation has accelerated since July 2010, reaching 6.5 percent for the period of April 2010-April 2011 due to increasing food prices, including oil (41.7 percent), dairy (27.9 percent), sugar (10 percent), vegetables (9 percent) and bread (11 percent). The acceleration of the food inflation mainly reflects higher international prices in the agricultural commodity markets as well as higher fuel prices. In January-March 2011 wholesale prices of crop products rose by an average of 31.3 percent compared with the same period last year, including considerable increases in grain prices: wheat price (excluding seed variety) - by almost 68 percent, maize (except seed variety) - by 43 percent. The increased wholesale prices of agricultural commodities in the country put a pressure on retail prices. The government is taking measures to stabilize wheat flour and bread prices by releasing strategic food reserves. It has also made amendments to the regulations of food wheat distribution from state reserves for re-allocation of grain among bread factories.
Republic of Moldova
Selected retail food prices in Chisinau

Moldovan Leu per kg

- Maize
- Potatoes
- Wheat (flour)

Source: AGLA