



GIEWS Updates

VOLUME 2005

The **GIEWS Updates** are issued by FAO's **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** from mid-2004. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels.

Date	Title	Page
14-Jan-2005	Food Supply and Food Security Situation in Countries Affected by the Asia Tsunami	2
21-Jan-2005	Food Supply and Food Security Situation in Countries Affected by the Asia Tsunami	7
05-Feb-2005	Seasonal Floods Cause Concern in Central Mozambique	14
15-Feb-2005	Heavy rains in Parts of Venezuela and Colombia	15
18-Feb-2005	Food Supply and Food Security Situation in Countries Affected by the Asia Tsunami	16
21-Feb-2005	Flooding in Central Bolivia affects food and cash crop production	22
28-Apr-2005	Ethiopia: Upcoming Flash Appeal Based on a Worsening Situation	25
29-Apr-2005	Southeast Asia: Drought and Onset of the 2005 Rainy Season	26
06-May-2005	Increasingly Serious Food Security Situation in Parts of the Sahel	37
12-May-2005	Southeast Asia: Drought and Onset of the 2005 Rainy Season	38
25-Jul-2005	Tropical Storms, Typhoons and Monsoon Floods in Asia	39
05-Aug-2005	Endogenous and Regional Factors Underlying Niger's Food Crisis	41
22-Nov-2005	Burundi: widespread food insecurity anticipated shortly	43
07-Dec-2005	Southern Africa update	47

14 January 2005

FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE ASIA TSUNAMI

Overview

The earthquake and tsunamis of 26 December 2004 in 12 countries of the Indian Ocean have reportedly killed over 150 000 people, made an estimated five million persons homeless, resulted in massive displacement of population and caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The worst-hit sector is fisheries, especially in Sri Lanka, but severe localized crop losses have also been reported, particularly in the Maldives and parts of Indonesia. At the national level, while all countries were affected, smaller countries such as Sri Lanka and the Maldives are likely to suffer relatively heavier economic consequences from the tsunami disaster.

Even in cases in which national economic impacts are limited, local communities will experience severe food security impacts in the short and long-term because parents and relatives have been lost, livelihood assets have been destroyed, and previous sources of income no longer exist. At the farm level, losses of rice stocks are also likely to be important.

It is estimated that 2 million people in different countries in the disaster region are in need of emergency food assistance, mostly in Indonesia, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar and Somalia. WFP plans to distribute 169 000 tonnes of food aid to the most needy population over a period of six months. For the same period, FAO has appealed for US\$26.5 million to finance emergency rehabilitation projects to assist farmers and fisher folk hit by the tsunami. Another US\$2.1 million have been appealed for projects in partnership with UNDP and UNEP.

Rice is the main staple in all countries of the region. In Indonesia and Sri-Lanka, the 2005 main season paddy crop, for harvest from March, had been planted before the tsunami arrived. In southern Thailand, harvest of the main paddy crop was underway. In southern India, the secondary Rabi paddy crop was on the ground. A detailed evaluation of crop and livestock losses in coastal areas affected by floods is not yet available. However, preliminary assessments indicate that crop damage has been localized and that its impact on national food productions and supplies is likely to be limited. The extent of infrastructure collapse in the agricultural sector, as well as the land and forest degradation, due to erosion and silting up of fields, needs careful assessment.

In spite of local crop losses, overall food availability in the affected region appears adequate to cover the immediate food assistance needs. Among the countries most severely affected by the wave surges, Thailand and India are consistently large exporters of rice. Myanmar has also an exportable surplus in 2005. Indonesia, while a food importer, gathered a bumper paddy crop in 2004 and carries adequate levels of stocks. Sri-Lanka had a relatively large rice deficit last year, and the Maldives are a net importer, but their relief food needs could be covered by supplies in neighbouring countries. Since relatively large rice supplies are available in the region, it is recommended that local purchases be made whenever possible in order to meet food aid requirements in the different affected countries, so as to avoid domestic food markets disturbances. Given the damage to infrastructure, in particular roads, and the lack of suitable transportation means, access to the affected population is difficult.

The situation in the worst affected countries is summarized below.

Indonesia

The provinces most affected by the tsunami, Aceh and Northern Sumatra in Sumatra Island, are **among the most vulnerable areas in the country**, with one-third of the population living below the poverty line. As a result of high population density and land scarcity in these areas, many farm families cultivate very small plots and engage in diverse farm and non-farm activities. According to latest

information more than 113 000 people are reported dead. Fifty per cent of the population in Aceh province has reportedly been seriously affected. In the province of North Sumatra, the tsunami has affected two districts: Tapanuli Tengah and the island of Nias. Many farmers have lost much of their tools, equipments and livestock, including draft animals. Fields have been levelled and water reservoirs destroyed, along with irrigation and drainage facilities. It is estimated that 1 million persons are in immediate need of emergency food assistance.

The 2005 main season paddy and maize crops, to be harvested from March, were already on the ground when the tsunami hit Sumatra. The island of Sumatra is the second in Indonesia in terms of rice production, but the two worst affected provinces together (all districts) account for only some 10 percent of the aggregate national output in a normal year (Table 1). Preliminary assessments indicate that some 40 000 hectares of irrigated lands, mostly rice, have been devastated by the floods. The crop damage will have a serious impact on food security for the affected populations, although it is not expected to affect overall prospects for the 2005 main paddy harvest.

Table 1: Major Foodcrops Area and Production in Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces, 2003

	Paddy		Maize		Soybean		Peanut		Cassava	
	Area ('000 ha)	Prod ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)
Aceh	367.6	1547.5	25.2	67.4	14.5	18.7	14.2	16.9	16.9	6.1
North Sumatra	825.2	3403.1	210.8	687.4	9.9	10.5	23.0	25.1	25.1	33.5
Total Indonesia	11488.0	52137.6	3358.5	10886.4	526.8	671.6	683.5	785.5	785.5	1244.5

The aggregate 2004 paddy output (main and secondary seasons) was officially estimated at 54 million tonnes, some 3 percent above the good harvest of 2003. Indonesia has been a large rice importer in recent years. Following last year's bumper crop, the Government banned imports of rice in 2004. Stocks in the country are sufficient to cover the immediate food needs of the population affected by wave surges.

Fishing is an important economic activity for Sumatra Island, accounting for about one-third of the national fish catches. Losses to fishery infrastructure are estimated at about 70 percent of the small-scale fishing fleet in the Aceh province, with a negative economic impact at national and local levels.

Sri Lanka

Over 30 000 people are reported dead, 750 000 displaced, and at least 200 000 homeless as a result of the tsunami. It is estimated that some 750 000 of the most vulnerable population are in need of international food aid assistance.

The hardest-hit eastern and southern coastal districts are among the large paddy growing areas in the country, accounting for one-third of the production of the main Maha cropping season (Table 2). Planting of the 2005 Maha paddy crop had been completed when the tsunami arrived. However, preliminary assessments indicate that waves penetrated only 0.5 km on average resulting in little agricultural damage. Preliminary official estimates indicate that only 2 175 hectares of paddy and 1 708 hectares of other crops have been lost. At overall level, persistent heavy rains and floods from mid-December in eastern parts have adversely affected the emerging paddy crop, particularly in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. Prospects for the harvest, scheduled to start in March, have deteriorated in these areas.

Table 2: Paddy Production in the Worst Affected Districts in Sri Lanka, 2003

	Area Harvested ('000 ha)			Production ('000 tonnes)		
	Maha Season	Yala Season	Total	Maha Season	Yala Season	Total
Galle	15.6	10.6	26.2	41.9	21.6	63.5
Matara	14.0	13.4	27.4	38.9	29.8	68.7
Hambantota	16.3	18.5	34.7	65.0	60.6	125.6
Ampara	56.7	51.8	108.5	229.0	222.1	451.1
Batticaloa	44.3	18.8	63.2	101.0	55.2	156.2
Trincomalee	25.1	12.8	37.9	81.0	49.7	130.7
Mullativu	9.6	1.7	11.4	27.0	6.1	33.1
Killinochchi	8.9	3.2	12.1	26.0	9.4	35.4
Jaffna	6.5	0.0	6.5	20.0	0.0	20.0
SRI LANKA TOTAL	559.6	351.9	911.4	1896.8	1176.6	3073.4

The 2004 paddy production was sharply reduced by dry weather. Based on the findings of FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions the aggregate output (Maha and Yala seasons) was estimated close to 2.5 million tones, 20 percent below the level of the previous year. Total cereal import requirements in marketing year 2004/05 were forecast at 1.42 million tonnes, including food aid for drought-affected population. The country's already tight food supply situation could worsen further in 2005/06 should the Maha crop be reduced. Weather conditions in the coming month will be crucial for the final outcome of the harvest.

In coastal areas, fishery is the major economic activity, providing direct employment to about 250 000 people. In recent years the fishery industry has emerged as a dynamic export-oriented sector, generating substantial foreign exchange earnings. Preliminary estimates indicate that 66 percent of the fishing fleet and industrial infrastructure in coastal regions have been destroyed by the wave surges, which will have adverse economic effects both at local and national levels.

Thailand

Most of the country's 400 km western coastline, including numerous islands in the Andaman Sea has been devastated by the tsunami. Some 5 300 people are reported dead and thousands more have been affected. In the worst-struck south-eastern provinces of Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun damage to tourism and fishing infrastructure is extensive. The country has not made any formal request for international food assistance.

In the Southern region, including the affected provinces, harvesting of the 2004 main season paddy crop was underway when the tsunami hit coastal areas. The whole Southern region (14 provinces) accounts for only 4 percent of the country's annual paddy crop. A preliminary assessment indicates no major damage to agriculture, with only 800 hectares of land affected by floods.

Thailand is the world's largest rice exporter. Following a succession of bumper harvests, coupled with high international prices, exports in 2004 are preliminary estimated at a record level of 9.9 million tonnes. Fortunately, port activities both in Bangkok and Ko Si Chang do not appear to have been affected by the tidal wave. With the harvest of the 2005 main rice crop just about to be completed, current rice availabilities are, in principle, ample and sufficient to cover the immediate food needs in the affected areas of both Thailand and neighbouring countries.

In the fishery sector, 490 fishing villages with an estimated population of 100 000 to 120 000 have suffered serious losses of boats and fishing materials. Some 4 500 boats fishing boats, were either damaged or totally wrecked. Preliminary estimates indicate that damages on fisheries alone would amount to US\$16.6 million. Aquaculture is also important sector in the west coast of Thailand,

especially in the creeks and delta mouths. The damage to aquaculture floating cages was estimated at about US\$ 32.7 million, with a total of 15,802 cages being damaged.

India

Over 10 000 people are confirmed dead, with about 6 000 missing in the worst hit south-eastern coastal states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar. The state of Kerala, in the south west, was also seriously affected. Fishing communities are likely to have borne the brunt of the damage and losses of livelihood. International food assistance has not been requested by the Government.

Paddy is a major crop in the two most affected southern states, which together account for some 14 percent of the national aggregate production of rice. When the tsunami struck coastal areas, the 2005 secondary Rabi season crop, due for harvesting from April, was on the ground. Localized crop losses are reported in the worst affected areas with no impact at national level, but a detailed assessment is not yet available.

India is an important exporter of wheat and rice. Production of paddy in 2004 declined slightly from the good level of the previous year. As a result of this, as well as tight carry-over stocks, exports in 2005 are expected to decrease to some 2 million tonnes. However, at this level, rice surplus is more than sufficient to cover the food aid needs in the country's worst-affected areas.

The fishery and aquaculture sectors in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar have suffered major damages. Many fishing villages in these areas have lost human life, fishing boats, hatchery facilities, shelters and other belongings. In Andhra Pradesh alone, normally producing some 25-30 percent of India total seafood exports, 2 000 fishing boats were estimated lost; some 300 000 fishers were rendered jobless; and some 400 fish tanks were damaged.

Maldives

High waves and floods inundated all the islands. Large areas of the capital Male, where about one-third of the population lives, were left under water. Over 80 people have been reported dead, many others missing, 21 600 people are displaced and 12 000 homeless. Overall, more than one third of Maldives' 199 inhabited islands are completely or severely destroyed. The shallowness of the water limited the tsunami's destructive power, but flooding was extensive. International emergency food aid has been targeted for 50 000 most vulnerable affected people. The dispersion of population over 200 islands scattered over 900 km makes complex the provision of relief assistance.

The tsunami resulted in severe damage to housing and infrastructure in the tourism and fishing sectors. Tourism is the largest industry of the country, accounting for some 30 percent of GDP, over 60 percent of the foreign exchange receipts and about 90 percent of government tax revenues. Fishing is the second leading sector in the economy. Hundreds of boats, jetties, and harbors have been destroyed or damaged and total economic losses in the sector are preliminary estimated at US \$ 47.6. Agriculture, constrained by the limited availability of arable land and shortages of domestic labour, plays a minor role in the overall economy but it is an income generation activity for rural households and contributed to their food security. Losses to agriculture are severe, with an estimated 50 percent of the agricultural field plots completely destroyed due to saline water intrusion and floods. Perennial trees such as coconuts, breadfruits and mango have been uprooted. Banana trees have been also severely damaged by saline water. The country's cereal consumption requirements, averaging some 40 000 tonnes per year, are normally covered by commercial imports.

Myanmar

It is estimated that 53 people have died and some 200 villages in the southern coast have suffered from the impact of the tsunami. The worst affected areas are the Laputta Township in the Ayeyawaddy Division, inhabited by poor subsistence farmers and fishing families. International food aid has been targeted for some 30 000 worst affected population. The country exports limited quantities of rice and the available surplus in 2005 should be sufficient to cover the immediate food aid needs of the affected populations. Local purchases are, therefore, recommended.

Seychelles

Coastal areas on Mahe and Praslin Islands and to a lesser extent on La Digue and Cerf Islands suffered severe flooding and considerable damage to housing and infrastructure, such as bridges and roads, as well as the fishing port, jetties, hotels, and public utilities. The cost of the damages has been preliminary estimated at US \$ 30 million by the National Disaster Committee in the Seychelles. The Government has appealed for international assistance in the amount of US\$ 8.9 million for the next 6 months for rehabilitation of the most serious damage and to restore livelihoods in the main islands of Seychelles. The small fishing sector has been the worst-hit. A great number of fishing vessels were damaged or lost. The two fish processing plants and cold storage facilities located in the Fishing Port in Victoria were also affected. While the contribution of the fishery sector is small and has been declining in past years, it remains one of the traditional activities in Seychelles providing an important source of incomes for rural households. The services sector, including tourism, dominates the economy and has accounted for just fewer than 70 percent of GDP in recent years. Most of the country's food needs are met through commercial imports.

Bangladesh/ Malaysia

Bangladesh and Malaysia, among others, were also hit by the disaster but the damage, mainly in the fishery sector, was limited relative to that in the worst affected areas. These countries gathered good 2004 paddy harvests but are traditional net importers of rice. While Malaysia covers all its cereal import needs on commercial basis, Bangladesh is a least developed country and receives food aid on a regular basis.

Somalia

It is the African country worst-hit by the tsunami, with damage concentrated along the north east coast, on the tip of the Horn of Africa. Up to 300 Somalis are reported to have died, with thousands more homeless and many fishermen still unaccounted for. About 30 000 people have been displaced. The residual tsunami effect destroyed 1180 homes, smashed 2 400 boats and rendered freshwater wells and reservoirs unusable. It is estimated that 54 000 people are in need of relief assistance. Poor communication infrastructure in the country hampers distribution operations.

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The earthquake and tsunamis of 26 December 2004 in 12 countries of the Indian Ocean have reportedly killed over 150 000 people, made an estimated five million persons homeless, resulted in massive displacement of population and caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The worst-hit sector is fisheries, especially in Sri Lanka, but severe localized crop and livestock losses have also been reported, particularly in Indonesia and Maldives. At the national level, while all countries were affected, smaller countries such as Sri Lanka and the Maldives are likely to suffer relatively heavier economic consequences from the tsunami disaster.

Even in cases in which national economic impacts are limited, local communities will experience severe food security impacts in the short and long-term because parents and relatives have been lost, livelihood assets have been destroyed, and previous sources of income no longer exist. At the farm level, losses of rice stocks are also likely to be important.

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The provinces most affected by the tsunami, Aceh and North Sumatra in Sumatra Island, are **among the most vulnerable areas in the country**, with one-third of the population living below the poverty line. As a result of high population density and land scarcity in these areas, many farm families cultivate very small plots and engage in diverse farm and non-farm activities. According to latest

information more than 113 000 people are reported dead. Fifty per cent of the population in Aceh province has reportedly been seriously affected. In the province of North Sumatra, the tsunami has affected two districts: Nias and Tapanuli Tengah. Many farmers have lost much of their tools, equipments and livestock, including draft animals. Fields have been levelled and water reservoirs destroyed, along with irrigation and drainage facilities. It is estimated that 1 million persons are in immediate need of emergency food assistance.

In Aceh province, agriculture is important for the economy, accounting for 32.2 % of regional GDP and employing 47.6% of the labor force in 2003. In agriculture, food crop production was the predominant activity with minor contributions from horticulture, plantations and animal husbandry.

The 2005 main season paddy and maize crops, to be harvested from March, were already on the ground when the tsunami hit Sumatra. The island of Sumatra is the second in Indonesia in terms of rice production, but the two worst affected provinces together (all districts) account for only some 10 percent of the aggregate national output in a normal year (Table 1). Earthquake and tsunami damages were mainly concentrated in western and north-eastern coastal areas. It was reported that agricultural areas have been seriously affected up to 2 kilometers from the coastline in the west coast, while about 1 kilometer badly affected in the eastern coast. Preliminary assessments indicate that some 50 000 hectares of irrigated lands have been devastated by the floods. The immediate crop losses are estimated at 80 000 tonnes of unhushed rice and 160 000 tonnes of other crops. Besides the immediate losses in crop production, sand and mud deposits on the agricultural land plus erosion, salinization, and irrigation scheme damage, may result in some permanent loss in agricultural land (some 5 000 to 7 500 hectares) and future crop losses. The crop damage will have a serious impact on food security for the affected populations, although it is not expected to affect overall prospects for the 2005 main paddy harvest.

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The aggregate 2004 paddy output (main and secondary seasons) was officially estimated at 54 million tonnes, some 3 percent above the good harvest of 2003. Indonesia has been a large rice importer in recent years. Following last year's bumper crop, the Government banned imports of rice in 2004. Stocks in the country are sufficient to cover the immediate food needs of the population affected by wave surges.

Livestock has been a growing sector in Aceh province. The preliminary estimate indicates that 23 300 large ruminants, 21 000 small ruminants, and about 2.5 million poultry birds were lost due to Tsunami.

Fisheries sector is an important economic activity for Sumatra Island, accounting for about one-third of the national fish catches. The sector provides employment to over 100 000 people in the disaster affected areas of Aceh Province and Northern Sumatra. Some 15-20% of the fishers in the 18 worst affected kabupatens have been killed. It is estimated that the output of Aceh's fishing industry will fall 60% this year. The losses of fishing equipment and gear, and the destruction and damage to fishery infrastructure and facilities, including fish ports and fishponds will have a long term negative impact to national and local economy.

Sri Lanka

Over 30 000 people are reported dead, 750 000 displaced, and at least 200 000 homeless as a result of the tsunami. The worst affected districts are Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Batticaloa,

Tricomalee, Mullativu, Kuchaveli, and Jaffna It is estimated that some 750 000 of the most vulnerable population are in need of international food aid assistance.

The hardest-hit eastern and southern coastal districts are among the large paddy growing areas in the country, accounting for one-third of the production of the main Maha cropping season (Table 2). Planting of the 2005 Maha paddy crop had been completed when the tsunami arrived. However, preliminary assessments indicate that waves penetrated only 0.5 km on average resulting in little agricultural damage. Preliminary official estimates indicate that **2 600 hectares of paddy, 2150 hectares of other crops, and 150 hectares of fruit have been lost**. At overall level, persistent heavy rains and floods from mid-December in eastern parts have adversely affected the emerging paddy crop, particularly in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. Prospects for the harvest, scheduled to start in March, have deteriorated in these areas.

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Thailand

Most of the country's 400 km western coastline, including numerous islands in the Andaman Sea has been devastated by the tsunami. Some 5 300 people are reported dead and thousands more have been affected. In the worst-struck south-eastern provinces of Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun damage to tourism and fishing infrastructure is extensive. The country has not made any formal request for international food assistance.

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especially in the creeks and delta mouths. The damage to aquaculture floating cages was estimated at about US\$ 32.7 million, with a total of 15,802 cages being damaged.

India

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Maldives

High waves and floods inundated all the islands. Large areas of the capital Male, where about one-third of the population lives, were left under water. Over 80 people have been reported dead, many others missing, 21 600 people are displaced and 12 000 homeless. Overall, more than one third of Maldives' 199 inhabited islands are completely or severely destroyed. The shallowness of the water limited the tsunami's destructive power, but flooding was extensive. International emergency food aid has been targeted for 50 000 most vulnerable affected people. The dispersion of population over 200 islands scattered over 900 km makes complex the provision of relief assistance.

The tsunami resulted in severe damage to housing and infrastructure in the tourism and fishing sectors. Tourism is the largest industry of the country, accounting for some 30 percent of GDP, over 60 percent of the foreign exchange receipts and about 90 percent of government tax revenues. Fishing is the second leading sector in the economy. Hundreds of boats, jetties, and harbors have been destroyed or damaged and total economic losses in the sector are preliminary estimated at US \$ 47.6. Agriculture, constrained by the limited availability of arable land and shortages of domestic labour, plays a minor role in the overall economy but it is an income generation activity for rural households and contributed to their food security. Losses to agriculture are severe, with an estimated 50 percent of the agricultural field plots completely destroyed due to saline water intrusion and floods. Perennial trees such as coconuts, breadfruits and mango have been uprooted. Banana trees have been also severely damaged by saline water. The country's cereal consumption requirements, averaging some 40 000 tonnes per year, are normally covered by commercial imports.

Myanmar

It is estimated that 53 people have died and some 200 villages in the southern coast have suffered from the impact of the tsunami. The worst affected areas are the Laputta Township in the Ayeyawaddy Division, inhabited by poor subsistence farmers and fishing families. International food aid has been targeted for some 30 000 worst affected population. The country exports limited quantities of rice and the available surplus in 2005 should be sufficient to cover the immediate food aid needs of the affected populations. Local purchases are, therefore, recommended.

Seychelles

Coastal areas on Mahe and Praslin Islands and to a lesser extent on La Digue and Cerf Islands suffered severe flooding and considerable damage to housing and infrastructure, such as bridges and roads, as well as the fishing port, jetties, hotels, and public utilities. The cost of the damages has been preliminary estimated at US \$ 30 million by the National Disaster Committee in the Seychelles. The Government has appealed for international assistance in the amount of US\$ 8.9 million for the next 6 months for rehabilitation of the most serious damage and to restore livelihoods in the main islands of Seychelles. The small fishing sector has been the worst-hit. A great number of fishing vessels were damaged or lost. The two fish processing plants and cold storage facilities located in the Fishing Port in Victoria were also affected. While the contribution of the fishery sector is small and has been declining in past years, it remains one of the traditional activities in Seychelles providing an important source of incomes for rural households. The services sector, including tourism, dominates the economy and has accounted for just fewer than 70 percent of GDP in recent years. Most of the country's food needs are met through commercial imports.

Bangladesh/ Malaysia

Bangladesh and Malaysia, among others, were also hit by the disaster but the damage, mainly in the fishery sector, was limited relative to that in the worst affected areas. These countries gathered good 2004 paddy harvests but are traditional net importers of rice. While Malaysia covers all its cereal import needs on commercial basis, Bangladesh is a least developed country and receives food aid on a regular basis.

Somalia

It is the African country worst-hit by the tsunami, with damage concentrated along the north east coast, on the tip of the Horn of Africa. Up to 300 Somalis are reported to have died, with thousands more homeless and many fishermen still unaccounted for. About 30 000 people have been displaced. The residual tsunami effect destroyed 1180 homes, smashed 2 400 boats and rendered freshwater wells and reservoirs unusable. It is estimated that 54 000 people are in need of relief assistance. Poor communication infrastructure in the country hampers distribution operations.

Summary Table: Impact on Agriculture and Food Security

	Fishery and Aquaculture	Tourism	Agriculture and Livestock	Rice Trade Position in 2000-03	Food Availability in 2005	Food Mobility
Indonesia	Important for Sumatra Island; 70% of the small scale fishing fleet in Aceh destroyed		Crops on 50 000 ha devastated; 44 000 large and small ruminants and 2.5 million poultry birds lost	Net rice importer	Bumper paddy crop in 2004 and adequate stock	Floods and civil strife in Aceh
Sri Lanka	Important in coastal area; 80% fishing fleet and infrastructure in coastal area destroyed	Important	2 600 ha of paddy, 2150 ha of other crops, and 150 ha of fruit have been lost	Net rice importer	Drought in 2004 and big grain deficit in 2005	Floods and civil strife in north and east regions
Maldives	Important and seriously damaged	Very important (30% of GDP)	Not important in national economy. However, loss of agriculture in some islands is severe	Net rice importer	Reduced purchasing power	Serious problem as the population is dispersed over 200 islands and scattered over 900 kms

India	Very important and seriously damaged	Not important	Localized crop losses (12 000 ha) with little impact at national level	Large rice and wheat exporter	Continues to export	
Thailand	Important and damage is extensive	Very important	Not important and small damage to current crop (800 ha)	Largest rice exporter	Continues to export	
Myanmar	Poor fishing families affected		Poorest subsistence farmers affected	Small rice exporter	Small surplus available	
Somalia	Smashed 2 400 boats and damaged freshwater wells and reservoirs		Salt pans are flooded and pastures destroyed	Net grain importer	Continues to import	Security in the affected areas remains a concern
Seychelles	Fishery sector is small, but has been the worst-hit	Important in the economy, but small impact	Not important	Net grain importer	Continues to import	Poor communication infrastructure

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch**Seasonal Floods Cause Concern in Central Mozambique****5 February 2005**

Various reports indicated that Zambezi and Pungue rivers caused flooding due to heavy rains locally and in neighboring Zambia affecting 7 districts in central Mozambique -Caia, Marromeu, Dondo and Mhamatanda in Sofala province, Mopeia and Chinde in Zambezia, and Mutarara in Tete. The Zambezi Regional Water Board (ARA- Zambeze) issued a maximum alert on 1 February due to the rising water levels potentially affecting some 18 000 people in the flood plains (Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Management, INGC). However, by 5th February, according to the Government Communiqué, the water levels were dropping in most regions except in Marromeu. Damage to main staple food crops such as maize and sorghum planted in November-December 2004 and cash crop sugar cane is unknown at this stage. More rain is expected and situation requires close monitoring.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch**Heavy rains in Parts of Venezuela and Colombia****15 February 2005**

During the second week of February, torrential precipitations have hit several departments of Venezuela and Colombia, causing river overflows and mudslides with damage to housing and infrastructure. A total of about 45 000 people are reported to be homeless in both countries.

In Venezuela, the government has declared a state of emergency in seven coastal states of Falcón, Yaracuy, Carabobo Aragua, Vargas, Miranda and Capital Federal, but heavy rains have also affected the southern states of Mérida, Táchira and Zulia on the border with Colombia. An evaluation of the crop damage is not yet available, but losses are expected to food and cash crops, such as vegetables, that are typically cultivated by small farmers in the affected areas, with negative consequences on food security for the local population. However, damages to major staple food crops such as maize, sorghum and rice are likely to be limited since the main growing states of Guarico, Portuguesa and Cojedes were marginally affected by the recent excessive rains. In addition, harvesting of the main summer crop, accounting for about 80 per cent of annual production, was already completed by the end of 2004.

In Colombia, the unusual heavy rains have hit northeast and central departments of Norte de Santander, Santander and Tolima. The national meteorological service (IDEAM) has forecast continuous precipitation in the coming days, affecting also country's western departments. Damage to the 2004/05 second season cereal crops, whose harvest was underway, are unknown at this stage. However, it is likely that previous official forecast of record aggregate maize, sorghum and paddy production for 2004, due to the expansion of the area planted, may be revised downwards.

FAO GIEWS Global Watch

FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE ASIA TSUNAMI**REVISED AS OF 18 FEBRUARY 2005****Overview**

The earthquake and tsunamis of 26 December 2004 in 12 countries of the Indian Ocean have reportedly killed over 285 000 people (buried or missing), made an estimated five million persons homeless, resulted in massive displacement of population and caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The worst affected countries in Asia include Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, and Thailand. Myanmar, Malaysia and Bangladesh also affected, but with a relatively limited damages. Based on preliminary damage and loss assessments, overall losses are estimated at USD 4.45 billion in Indonesia, USD 1 billion in Sri Lanka, USD 359-500 million in Maldives, and USD 1.5 billion in India. While all countries were affected, smaller countries such as Sri Lanka and the Maldives are likely to feel a relatively heavier economic burden over the long-term from the disaster.

The majority of the people affected by the earthquake and the tsunami had agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods or were employed in associated enterprises. Fisheries were hit the worst, but localized crop and livestock also suffered losses. Initial assessments on the impact of tsunami on crop and fishery sectors in the worst affected areas have been completed by FAO rapid missions. In fisheries sector, the damages have been assessed as USD 25 million in Maldives; about 65-70 percent of the small scale fishing fleet and associated gear was destroyed, and some 50 percent of fishers died in Aceh Province of Indonesia; some 66 percent of the fishing fleet and industrial infrastructure in coastal regions have been destroyed and 10 out of 12 main fishery harbors devastated in Sri Lanka; and some 5400 fishing boats were damaged in Thailand. In agriculture, the preliminary assessments indicate that about 40,000 ha of irrigated lands have been devastated in Indonesia; a total of 5 500 ha (2 600 paddy, 2 150 other food crops, 150 fruit) have been damaged in Sri Lanka; some 1 300 ha of land were inundated by sea water, of which 900 ha were damaged in Thailand. About 30 percent of the field plots have been completely destroyed in the Maldives.

It is estimated that 2 million people in different countries in the disaster region are in need of emergency food assistance, mostly in Indonesia, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, and Myanmar. WFP plans to distribute 169 000 tonnes of food aid to the neediest population over a period of six months. Over 21 000 tonnes of food have been distributed to 1.345 million beneficiaries since the advent of the disaster. FAO has appealed for USD 26.5 million to finance emergency rehabilitation projects to assist farmers and fisherfolk hit by the tsunami and another USD 2.1 million for projects in partnership with UNDP and UNEP. The total funding available to FAO for recovery and reconstruction in agriculture and fisheries sectors may reach USD 67 million.

Even in cases in which national food supply and food security impacts are limited, local communities will experience severe food security impacts in the short and long-term because parents and relatives have been lost, livelihood assets have been destroyed, and previous sources of income no longer exist. At the farm level, losses of rice stocks are also likely to be important. Salt water may prevent farmers from cropping for one or more seasons or force them adopt more salt tolerant crops and varieties with low productivity. It will require huge investments for a long time to restore destroyed or damaged storage, processing, irrigation flood control and coastal protection infrastructure in rural community.

In spite of local crop losses, overall food availability in the affected region appears adequate to cover the

immediate food assistance needs. Among the countries most severely affected by the wave surges, Thailand and India are consistently large exporters of rice. Myanmar has also an exportable surplus in 2005. Indonesia, while a food importer, gathered a bumper paddy crop in 2004 and carries adequate levels of stocks. Sri-Lanka had a relatively large rice deficit last year, and the Maldives are a net importer, but their relief food needs could be covered by supplies in neighbouring countries. Since relatively large rice supplies are available in the region, it is recommended that local purchases be made whenever possible in order to meet food aid requirements in the different affected countries, so as to avoid domestic food markets disturbances. Given the damage to infrastructure, in particular roads and ports, the lack of suitable transportation means, and civil strife, access to the affected population is difficult.

The situation in the worst affected countries is summarized below.

Indonesia

The western island of Sumatra, the closest inhabited area to the epicenter of the earthquake, was devastated by tsunami. The estimated death toll in Indonesia from the tsunami rose to over 230 000 (including people listed as missing). More than 70 percent of the inhabitants of some coastal villages are reported to have died. The most affected areas are located in Aceh province and two districts in North Sumatra. They are among the most vulnerable areas in the country, with one-third of the population living below the poverty line.

The fisheries sector is an important economic activity for Sumatra Island, accounting for about one-third of the national fish catches. The sector provides employment to over 100 000 people in the disaster affected areas of Aceh Province and Northern Sumatra. Some 65-70 percent of the small scale fishing fleet and associated gear was destroyed. Some 15-20% of the fishers in the 18 worst affected kabupatens have been killed. The output of Aceh's fishing industry is estimated to fall by 60 percent in 2005. The losses of fishing equipment and gear, and the destruction and damage to fishery infrastructure and facilities, including fish ports and fishponds, will have a long term negative impact to national and local economy.

Livestock has been a growing sector in Aceh province. The preliminary estimate indicates that 23 300 large ruminants, 21 000 small ruminants, and about 2.5 million poultry birds were lost.

In Aceh province, agriculture is important for the economy, accounting for 32.2 % of regional GDP and employing 47.6% of the labor force (2003 figures). Food crop production was the predominant activity with minor contributions from horticulture, plantations and animal husbandry. The island of Sumatra is the second in Indonesia in terms of rice production, but the two worst affected provinces together (all districts) account for only some 10 percent of the aggregate national output in a normal year (Table 1).

Table 1: Major Foodcrops Area and Production in Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces, 2003

	Paddy		Maize		Soybean		Peanut		Cassava	
	Area ('000 ha)	Prod ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)	Area ('000 ha)	Prod. ('000 tonnes)
Aceh	367.6	1547.5	25.2	67.4	14.5	18.7	14.2	16.9	16.9	6.1
North Sumatra	825.2	3403.1	210.8	687.4	9.9	10.5	23.0	25.1	25.1	33.5
Total Indonesia	11488.0	52137.6	3358.5	10886.4	526.8	671.6	683.5	785.5	785.5	1244.5

The 2005 main season paddy and maize crops, to be harvested from March, were already on the ground when

the tsunami hit Sumatra. It was reported that agricultural areas up to 2 kilometers from the coastline in the west coast have been seriously affected. On the east coast, areas about 1 kilometer inland were badly affected. FAO assessments indicate that some 40 000 hectares of irrigated lands have been devastated by the floods, with 30 981 hectares of rice production damaged. The immediate crop losses are estimated at 80 000 tonnes of unhusked rice and 160 000 tonnes of other crops. Besides the immediate losses in crop production, sand and mud deposits on the agricultural land plus erosion, high soil salinity, and irrigation scheme damage, will result in some permanent loss in agricultural land (some 5 000 to 7 500 hectares) and future crop losses.

In addition to the tsunami damage, flash floods in the last decade of January have reportedly destroyed over 21,793 hectares of rice fields and 3,686 hectares of maize crops in Lampung. The flood waters also damaged 16 678 hectares of rice fields in the neighboring province of South Sumatra. The crop damage will have a serious impact on food security for the affected populations, although it is not expected to affect overall prospects for the 2005 main paddy harvest.

Nationwide, the overall food supply situation in Indonesia is satisfactory. The aggregate 2004 paddy output (main and secondary seasons) was officially estimated at 54 million tonnes, some 3 percent above the good harvest of 2003, due to excellent growing conditions and government support to domestic producer price. Indonesia has been a large rice importer in recent years. However, following last year's bumper crop, the Government banned rice imports in 2004; this ban has been extended until June 2005.

WFP has provided some 8 200 tonnes of food aid since the advent of the disaster. The government of Indonesia declared on 4 February that the first phase of the emergency relief operation in Aceh province has ended and that recovery and reconstruction in tsunami-affected areas will begin. There are now 250 international organizations operating in Aceh province. FAO continues to take the lead in the coordination of relief and recovery in agriculture and fisheries. A procurement plan for agricultural inputs, including rice and vegetable seed, fertilizers, hand tools, hand tractors and threshers has been completed.

Sri Lanka

Over 30 000 people are reported dead, some 450 000 persons are internally displaced and 91 749 houses were destroyed as a result of the tsunami. The worst affected districts are Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Batticaloa, Tricomalee, Mullativu, Kuchaveli, and Jaffna.

Fishery in coastal areas is the major economic activity, providing direct employment to about 250 000 people. In recent years the fishing industry has emerged as a dynamic export-oriented sector, generating substantial foreign exchange earnings. It is estimated that 66 percent of the fishing fleet and industrial infrastructure in coastal regions have been destroyed and 10 out of 12 main fishery harbours have been devastated, causing adverse economic effects both at local and national levels.

Livestock sector suffered relatively modest losses, but cattle population may be reduced by a shift to meat as a substitute for protein from fishery products.

The hardest-hit eastern and southern coastal districts are among the large paddy growing areas in the country, accounting for one-third of the production of the main Maha cropping season (Table 2). Planting of the 2005 Maha paddy crop had been completed when the tsunami arrived. Waves penetrated only 0.5 km on average, impacting only downstream parts of the main agricultural areas. But in some areas such as the Galle district, salt water moved over three kilometers inland and caused the deaths of a large number of mango- and jackfruit trees. About 5 938 hectares crops is estimated damaged completely and an additional 5 000 hectares of

agricultural land ready for cultivation have been infected by salt water.

Table 2: Paddy Production in the Worst Affected Districts in Sri Lanka, 2003

	Area Harvested ('000 ha)			Production ('000 tonnes)		
	Maha Season	Yala Season	Total	Maha Season	Yala Season	Total
Galle	15.6	10.6	26.2	41.9	21.6	63.5
Matara	14.0	13.4	27.4	38.9	29.8	68.7
Hambantota	16.3	18.5	34.7	65.0	60.6	125.6
Ampara	56.7	51.8	108.5	229.0	222.1	451.1
Batticaloa	44.3	18.8	63.2	101.0	55.2	156.2
Trincomalee	25.1	12.8	37.9	81.0	49.7	130.7
Mullativu	9.6	1.7	11.4	27.0	6.1	33.1
Killinochchi	8.9	3.2	12.1	26.0	9.4	35.4
Jaffna	6.5	0.0	6.5	20.0	0.0	20.0
SRI LANKA TOTAL	559.6	351.9	911.4	1896.8	1176.6	3073.4

The 2004 paddy production was sharply reduced by dry weather. Based on the findings of 2004 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions the aggregate output (Maha and Yala seasons) was estimated close to 2.5 million tones, 20 percent below the level of the previous year. Total cereal import requirements in marketing year 2004/05 were forecast at 1.42 million tonnes, including food aid for drought-affected population.

The main crop currently in the ground is the main Maha paddy, which is planted from October to December for harvest from March onwards. Maha planting coincides with the arrival of northeast monsoon, the country's main rainy season. Overall rainfall and growing conditions are favorable during 2004/05 Maha season in the country. However, the 2004/05 paddy production in the districts of Puttalam and Anuradhapura, worst affected by droughts in last Maha and Yaha seasons, is estimated to be much below five-year average (15% to 20% below), reflecting the smaller area planted due to water shortage during the planting season. The three bad consecutive seasons may cause severe food insecurity in these areas.

WFP has provided some 11 675 tonnes of food to tsunami victims since the advent of the disaster. Funding for FAO projects totaling 16.7 million has been approved to support the rehabilitation of Sri Lanka's fishing industry.

Thailand

Most of the country's 400 km western coastline, including numerous islands in the Andaman Sea has been severely affected by the tsunami. Some 5 300 people are reported dead and thousands more have been affected. In the worst-struck south-eastern provinces of Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun damage to tourism and fishing infrastructure is extensive.

In the fishery sector, some 3 000 fisheries households were affected and some 5400 fishing boats were either damaged or totally wrecked, with 75 percent being small-scale fishing boats. Damage to aquaculture floating cages is estimated at USD 32.7 million, with a total of about 1.1 million square meters (or 41 439 cages) for marine fish culture, some 30 hectares of shrimp farms and 79 hectares of shellfish being damaged.

In the Southern region, including the affected provinces, harvesting of the 2004 main season paddy crop was underway when the tsunami hit coastal areas. The whole Southern region (14 provinces) accounts for only 4 percent of the country's annual paddy crop. There are no major damages to crops. Some 1 300 hectares of land became covered by sea water, of which 900 hectares were damaged.

Thailand is the world's largest rice exporter. Following a succession of bumper harvests, coupled with high international prices, exports in 2004 are preliminary estimated at a record level of some 10 million tonnes. With the harvest of the 2005 main rice crop just about to be completed, current rice availabilities are, in principle, ample and sufficient to cover the immediate food needs in the affected areas.

India

Tsunami of 26 December 2004 caused over 10 700 people dead and thousands more missing and affected some 2.731 million people. The states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in India's south-east coast and the Andaman and Nicobar islands were the worst affected areas. At least 140 000 people, mostly from fishing families, are in relief centres by the government.

Fishing communities have borne the brunt of the damage and losses of livelihood. The fishery and aquaculture sectors in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar have suffered major damages. Many fishing villages in these areas have lost human life, fishing boats, hatchery facilities, shelters and other belongings. In Andhra Pradesh alone, normally producing some 25-30 percent of India total seafood exports, 2 000 fishing boats were estimated lost; some 300 000 fishers were rendered jobless; and some 400 fish tanks were damaged.

Paddy is a major crop in the two most affected southern states, which together account for some 14 percent of the national aggregate production of rice. When the tsunami struck coastal areas, the 2005 secondary Rabi season crop, due for harvesting from April, was on the ground. Over 134 000 hectares of paddy crop farm land in Tamil Nadu (most in Nagapattinam district) were severely affected. Large areas of arable land were washed by salt water.

India is an important exporter of wheat and rice. Production of paddy in 2004 declined slightly from the good level of the previous year. As a result of this, as well as tight carry-over stocks, exports in 2005 are expected to decrease to some 2 million tonnes. However, at this level, rice surplus is more than sufficient to cover the food aid needs in the country's worst-affected areas.

The Government of India, in association with the States/Union Territories, mounted massive relief and rescue operations. The first phase of relief and rescue operations is over and the GoI is now preparing a comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery programme under the coordinating authority of the Planning Commission. The Government did not appeal for external assistance for the emergency relief phase, but has requested the UN System, the World Bank and ADB to provide support and mobilize resources for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

Maldives

High wave and floods caused by Tsunami of 26 December 2004 inundated all the islands and affected the entire population. Some 100 000 people, one-third of the population has been severely affected. Over 80 people were killed and 20 remain missing. Some 12 000 persons (5% of the population) have been displaced from their

islands and another 8 500 people are temporarily relocated to other places on their own islands.

The tsunami resulted in severe damage to housing and infrastructure in the tourism and fishing sectors. Tourism is the largest industry of the country, accounting for some 30 percent of GDP, over 60 percent of the foreign exchange receipts and about 90 percent of government tax revenues. The fishery is the second leading sector in the economy and about 20 percent of the total population is dependent on fisheries as the major income earning activity. Hundreds of boats, jetties, and harbors have been destroyed or damaged. Total damages to the fisheries sector have been assessed as USD 25 million while the cost of rehabilitation has been assessed as USD 15.3 million.

Agriculture, constrained by the limited availability of arable land and shortages of domestic labour, plays a minor role in the overall economy but it is an income generation activity for rural households and contributed to their food security. Losses to agriculture are severe, with an estimated 30 percent of the field plots have been completely destroyed. 50 percent of the field plots have been destroyed due to saline water flood, causing loss of perennial plants and crop failure. Perennial trees such as coconuts, breadfruits, mango etc. have been uprooted and/or are suffering from salt toxicity.

WFP has provided some 40 tonnes of food aid since the advent of the disaster. FAO submitted an appeal for USD 2 million to the UN Flash Appeal for emergency provision of seeds, tools and other agricultural inputs and rehabilitation of the fisheries and agricultural sectors.

Myanmar

Some 200 villages in the southern coast and relying on fishery have been hard hit by the tsunami. It is estimated that more than 60 people have died and over 3 200 people from 638 households displaced. The worst affected areas are the Laputta Township in the Ayeyawaddy Division, inhabited by poor subsistence farmers and fishing families. Direct financial damage estimated at USD 180 000-250 000. International food aid has been targeted for some 30 000 worst affected population. The damage to the country's rice crop by the Indian Ocean tsunami is very limited. WFP has provided some 78 tonnes of food since the advent of the disaster.

The country exports limited quantities of rice and the available surplus in 2005 should be sufficient to cover the immediate food aid needs of the affected populations. Local purchases are, therefore, recommended.

Seychelles

Coastal areas on Mahe and Praslin Islands and to a lesser extent on La Digue and Cerf Islands suffered severe flooding and considerable damage to housing and infrastructure, such as bridges and roads, as well as the fishing port, jetties, hotels, and public utilities. The cost of the damages has been preliminary estimated at US \$ 30 million by the National Disaster Committee in the Seychelles. The Government has appealed for international assistance in the amount of US\$ 8.9 million for the next 6 months for rehabilitation of the most serious damage and to restore livelihoods in the main islands of Seychelles. The small fishing sector has been the worst-hit and damages to the entire fisheries sector are estimated at USD 6 million. A great number of fishing vessels were damaged or lost. The two fish processing plants and cold storage facilities located in the Fishing Port in Victoria were also affected. While the contribution of the fishery sector is small and has been declining in past years, it remains one of the traditional activities in Seychelles providing an important source of incomes for rural households. The services sector, including tourism, dominates the economy and has accounted for just fewer than 70 percent of GDP in recent years. Most of the country's food needs are met

through commercial imports in the past year.

Bangladesh/ Malaysia

Bangladesh and Malaysia, among others, were also hit by the disaster but the damage, mainly in the fishery sector, was limited relative to that in the worst affected areas. These countries gathered good 2004 paddy harvests but are traditional net importers of rice. While Malaysia covers all its cereal import needs on commercial basis, Bangladesh is a least developed country and receives food aid on a regular basis.

Somalia

It is the African country worst-hit by the tsunami, with damage concentrated along the north east coast, on the tip of the Horn of Africa. Up to 300 Somalis are reported to have died, with thousands more homeless and many fishermen still unaccounted for. About 30 000 people have been displaced and some 54 000 people are in need of urgent assistance. The residual tsunami effect destroyed 1180 homes, smashed 2 400 boats and rendered freshwater wells and reservoirs unusable. Poor communication infrastructure in the country hampers distribution operations.

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	Fishery and Aquaculture	Tourism	Agriculture and Livestock	Rice Trade Position in 2000-03	Food Availability in 2005	Food Mobility
Indonesia	Important for Sumatra Island; 70% of the small scale fishing fleet in Aceh destroyed		Important. 40 000 ha of irrigated lands devastated; 44 000 large and small ruminants and 2.5 million poultry birds lost	Net rice importer	Bumper paddy crop in 2004 and adequate stock	Civil strife in Aceh
Sri Lanka	Important in coastal area; 66% fishing fleet and infrastructure in coastal area destroyed	Important	Important. 2 600 ha of paddy, 2 150 ha of other crops, and 150 ha of fruit have been lost	Net rice importer	Drought in 2004 and big grain deficit in 2005	Floods and civil strife in north and east regions
Maldives	Important and seriously damaged (damages est. at US \$25 million)	Very important (30% of GDP)	Not important in national economy. However, loss of agriculture in some islands is severe (30% of the field plots completely destroyed)	Net cereal importer	Reduced income and purchasing power	Serious problem as the population is dispersed over 200 islands and scattered over 900 sq. kms
India	Very important and seriously damaged	Not important	Localized crop losses (12 000 ha) with little impact at national level	Large rice and wheat exporter	Continues to export	
Thailand	Important	Very	Not important	Largest	Continues to	

	fisheries households were affected. Damage est. at USD 16.6 million	important	900 ha of land damaged	rice exporter	export	
Myanmar	Poor fishing families in some 200 villages affected (144 small vessels damaged)		Poorest subsistence farmers affected	Small rice exporter	Small surplus available	
Somalia	Smashed 2 400 boats and damaged freshwater wells and reservoirs		Salt pans are flooded and pastures destroyed	Net grain importer	Continues to import	Security in the affected areas remains a concern
Seychelles	The major source of foreign exchange; damage est. at USD 6 million	Important and small impact	Not important, but 8% of the agricultural sector has been put out the production	Net grain importer	Continues to import	Poor communication infrastructure

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch**FLOODING IN CENTRAL BOLIVIA AFFECTS FOOD AND CASH CROP PRODUCTION****21 February 2005**

Heavy rains have caused the Rio Grande river in the North of Santa Cruz department to overflow, affecting several communities in the lowland provinces of Santistevan and Warnes. If precipitations continue a state of emergency may be declared in the next few days. The department of Santa Cruz is the main producing area of Bolivia, accounting for about 50 per cent of cereals and 95 per cent of industrial crops (soybean, sugar cane and sunflower). At flooding time, crops planted in November/December were at flowering stage, their harvest being expected in April. Although an evaluation by local authorities is still ongoing, unofficial sources estimate losses at about 40 000 hectares, with damage to food crops, such as rice and maize, and to cash crops, including soybean, sunflower and sugar cane. The affected area represents about 5 per cent of plantings at departmental level. If the assessment is confirmed, these floods will have a negative impact on the food security of local populations and on oilseed export earnings.

Ethiopia: Upcoming Flash Appeal Based on a Worsening Situation**28 April 2005**

Despite a generally favorable Meher season in 2004, the Humanitarian situation in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia has been worsening, raising concern among the Government, UN Agencies and the humanitarian Community. This is due to a combination of factors: (i) the abnormal pattern of Belg rains and its impact on many smallholders, (ii) delayed implementation of the Productive Safety Nets Program aimed at chronically food insecure population groups, and (iii) partial and late response by donors to appeals for food and non-food assistance. As of mid-April, only 60% of the estimated food needs of acutely vulnerable people were covered or pledged. In agriculture just over 20% of estimated needs were secured (11% for seeds), while 30% were met for livestock.

According to FAO/Ethiopia, the outcome of the Belg season remains uncertain. Early rains in December and January, particularly in Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Ethiopia were favorable for land preparation, planting of Belg crops, water resources and the regeneration of pastures. February, however, was predominantly dry, affecting crops planted in December and January especially in some low lands. Water and pasture availability also suffered in some areas. March rains were generally good over most of the country, but this temporary improvement was followed by dry spells (late March/April) which lasted two to four weeks. The general uptrend in rainfall observed as of mid-April actually resulted in flooding in some of the eastern areas. The final outcome of the Belg depends heavily on timely rainfall over the next four weeks.

Although some areas in Afar and Somali regions reportedly received sporadic rainfall, pasture and water resources have not yet recovered.

A Joint Government/UN Agencies/humanitarian partners Flash Appeal to the donor community has been scheduled for May 4, 2005.

Southeast Asia: Drought and Onset of the 2005 Rainy Season

29 April 2005 Update

Since the beginning of the year, irregular and very low rainfall conditions have affected large parts of Southeast Asia, including the Mekong basin region of Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos. In Thailand, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, 9.2 million people have directly suffered from drought conditions. Large dams are only at 40 percent capacity or below, with four reservoirs in the northeast at critically low levels. Rice, coffee, sugar, and other crops were also stressed in China, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. Abundant rainfall will be needed this Summer to recharge the region's depleted reservoirs and produce a normal wet-season harvest in 2005. There has been recent relief from rain in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand, although the latest seasonal forecast by IRI (International Research Institute for Climate Prediction) so far indicates a slightly-enhanced likelihood of below-normal precipitation in central Thailand during the May-July 2005 season.

In recent years, water levels of the Mekong River in China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam have been on a steady decline. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has been preparing a number of measures to assist the countries immediately as well as over the mid- and long-terms.

Situation by country

Cambodia

Cambodia had its worst drought in recent years, affecting 14 out of 24 provinces and municipalities. Rice production fell in all provinces and half a million people are reportedly facing food shortages. The worst affected being poorer farmers in Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Takeo and Kompong Speu who own small farms far from streams. Female-headed households and people with HIV/AIDS are also especially vulnerable. There is already some reliance on coping strategies associated with severe crises – men moving to towns to find work, increased borrowing, selling off farmland and livestock, taking children out of school, and eating less. WFP is planning to distribute rice in several provinces, and Oxfam is investigating the need for longer- term programming to strengthen livelihood systems.

Viet Nam

Severe drought in the central and southern provinces may induce food shortages in several provinces. One - tenth of the winter-spring rice crop may be lost. The Ministry of Agriculture in Hanoi confirmed that in the central highlands' five provinces, 162 500 hectares of cultivated land, mostly coffee, were affected. 1.3 million people have faced shortages and higher prices for clean water since December. Nationwide, the drought is already estimated to have cost over US\$60 million. The Government has introduced a raft of measures to combat the effects of drought.

Thailand

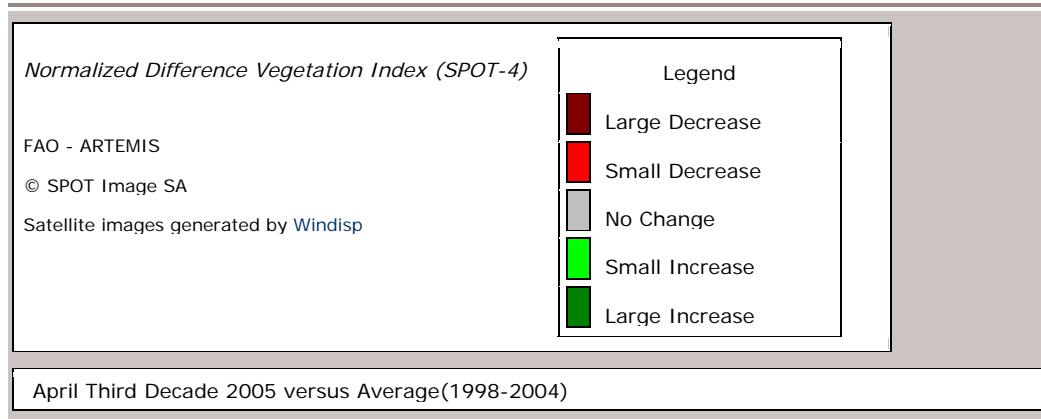
Drought has struck 63 of Thailand's 76 provinces. Dams have dried up, and the shortage of fresh water in four of the major rivers has allowed seawater to contaminate irrigation systems. The Government estimates that one in seven people (9 million) are already affected, mostly farmers of rice, sugar cane and maize. Fruit crops (pineapple, durian and rambutan) are forecast to fall by 10%, as remaining water stocks are being conserved for human consumption. At least 809,000 hectares of farmland are ruined, a loss of 7.4 billion baht (193.2 million dollars), according to Ministry of Interior figures. Thai authorities will reportedly be asking neighbouring countries, especially Laos and Myanmar, to divert water from the Mekong River.

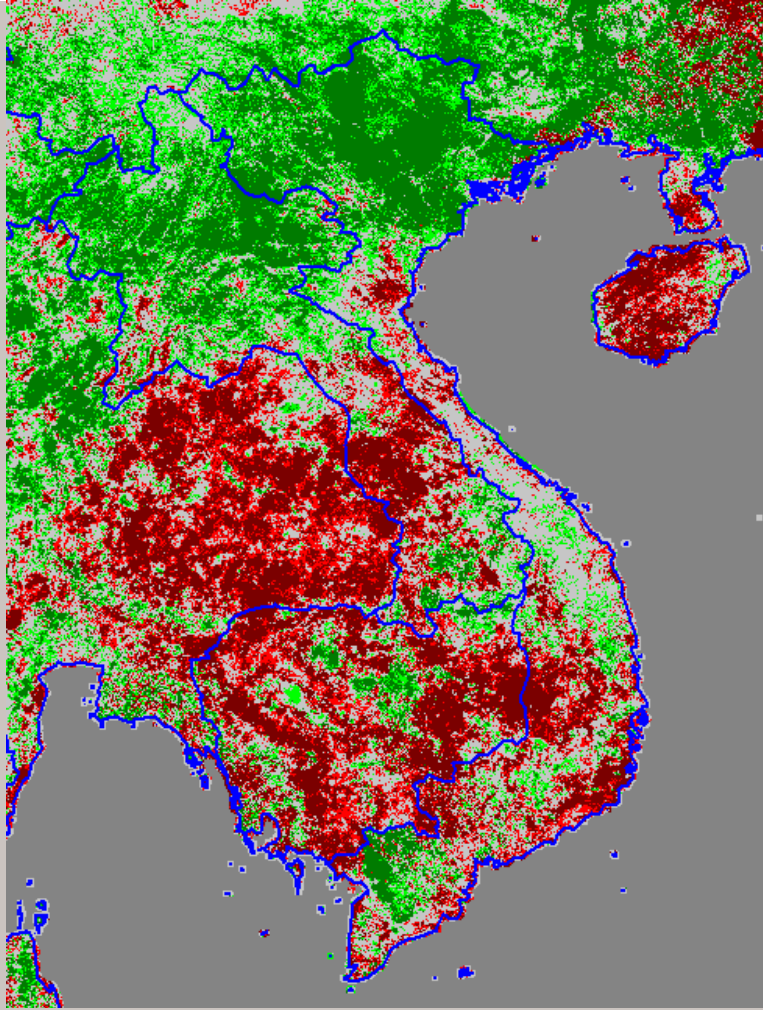
Laos

Laos, where most farming involves subsistence agriculture, is experiencing a drought more severe than last year due to low rainfall and declining water levels in the Mekong River. According to the Government, the 2004 wet-season rice crop was larger than last year's, but a sharp reduction in the dry season crop (about 25 percent of annual production) was to be expected due to reduced planted area and low water levels.

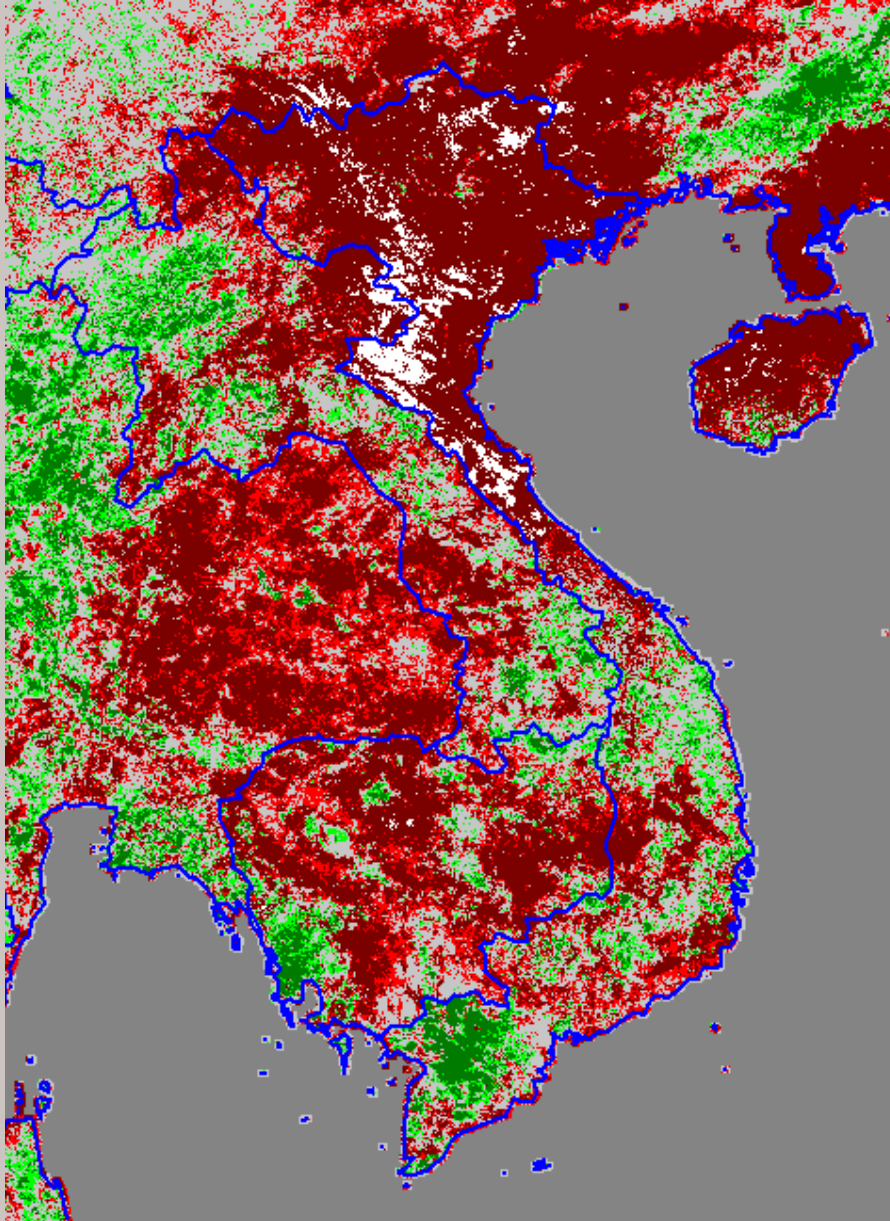
Myanmar

According to a senior official, Myanmar has not been affected by the Southeast Asia drought. Reports suggest that agricultural production has been normal throughout. While the monsoon ended earlier than usual last year, affecting some late-planted paddy, it brought heavy rainfall and filled irrigation reservoirs. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology reported normal rainfall during the last year's monsoon, except in Rakhine, Kachin and Kayah states where it had been above average. Although there was no rain at Meiktila and Nyaung Oo in Mandalay Division and at Hinthada and Patheingyi in Ayeyar-waddy Division until last month, other areas had received normal or above average precipitation.

Satellite images - Southeast Asia

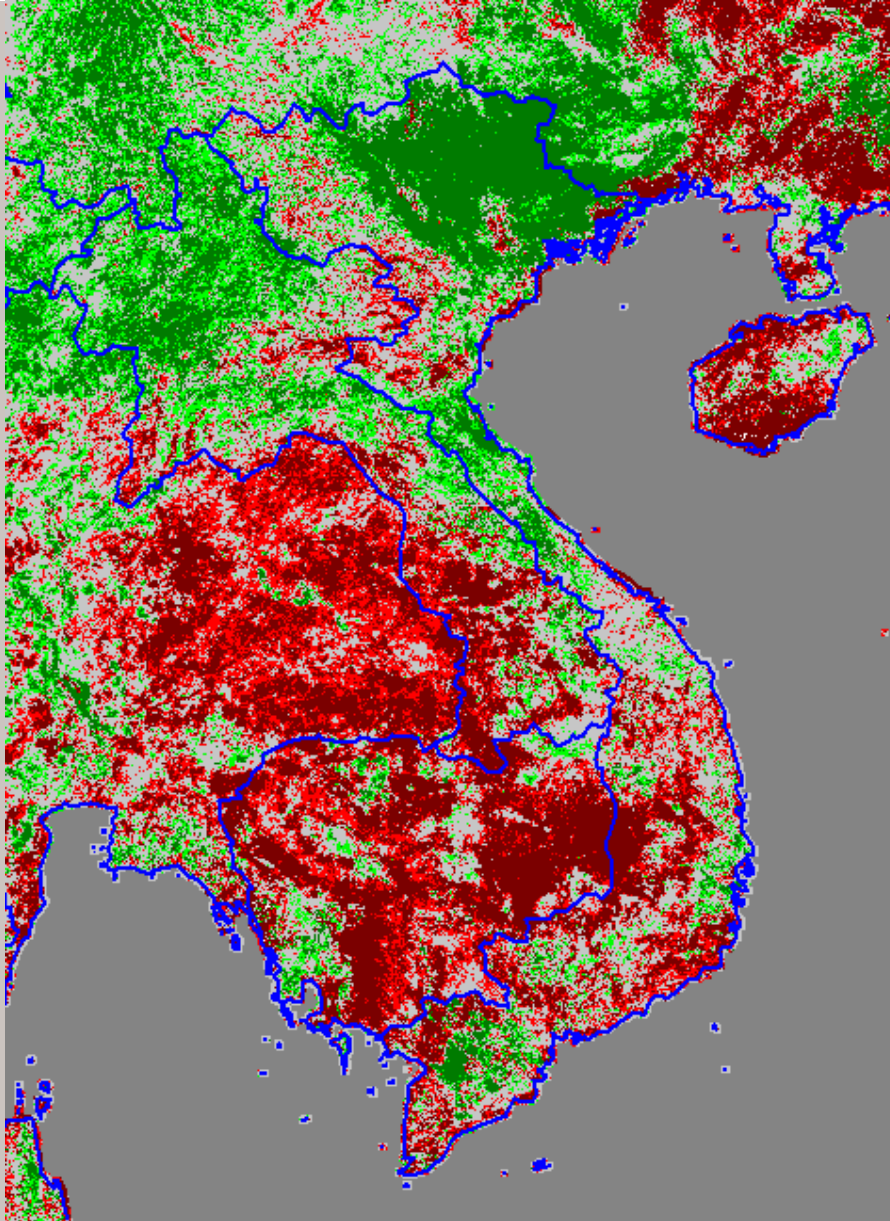


April Second Decade 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)



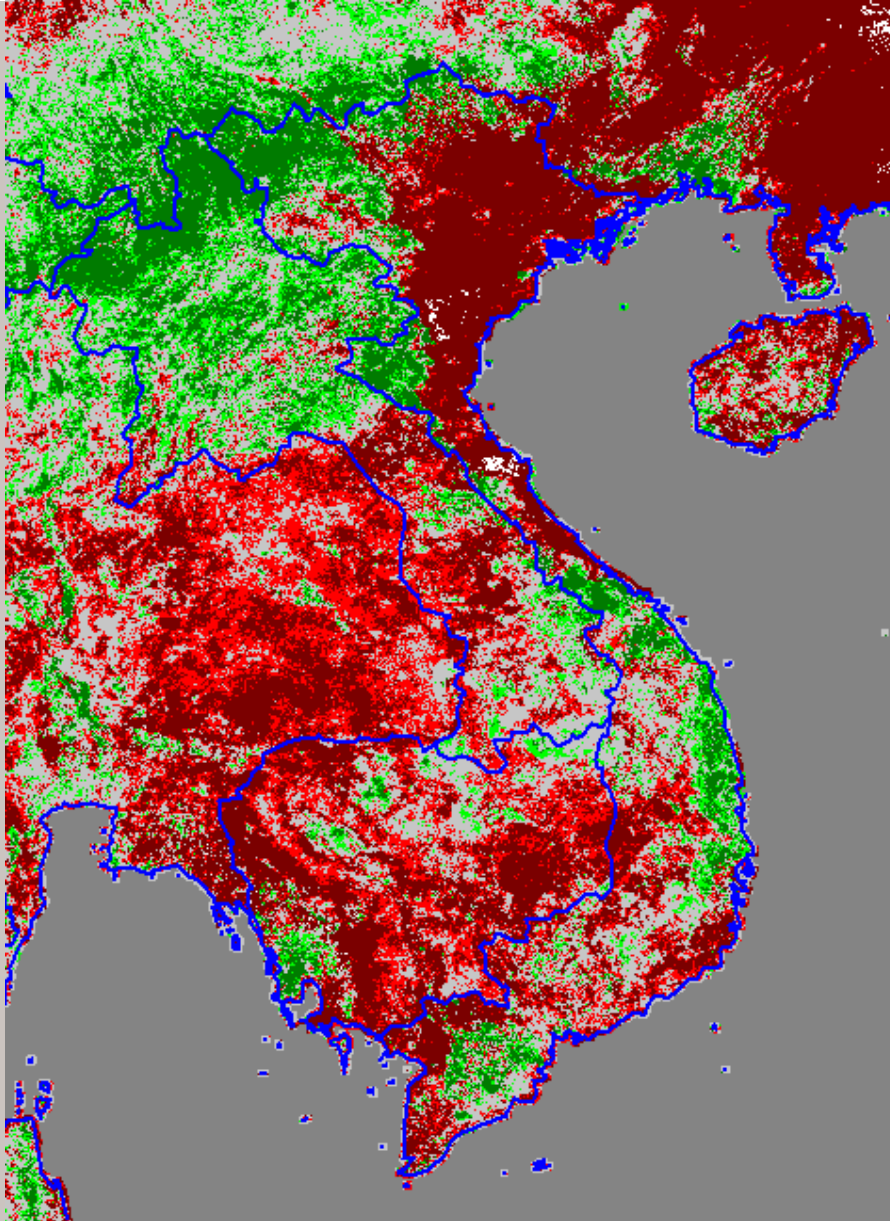
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April 1st Decade 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)



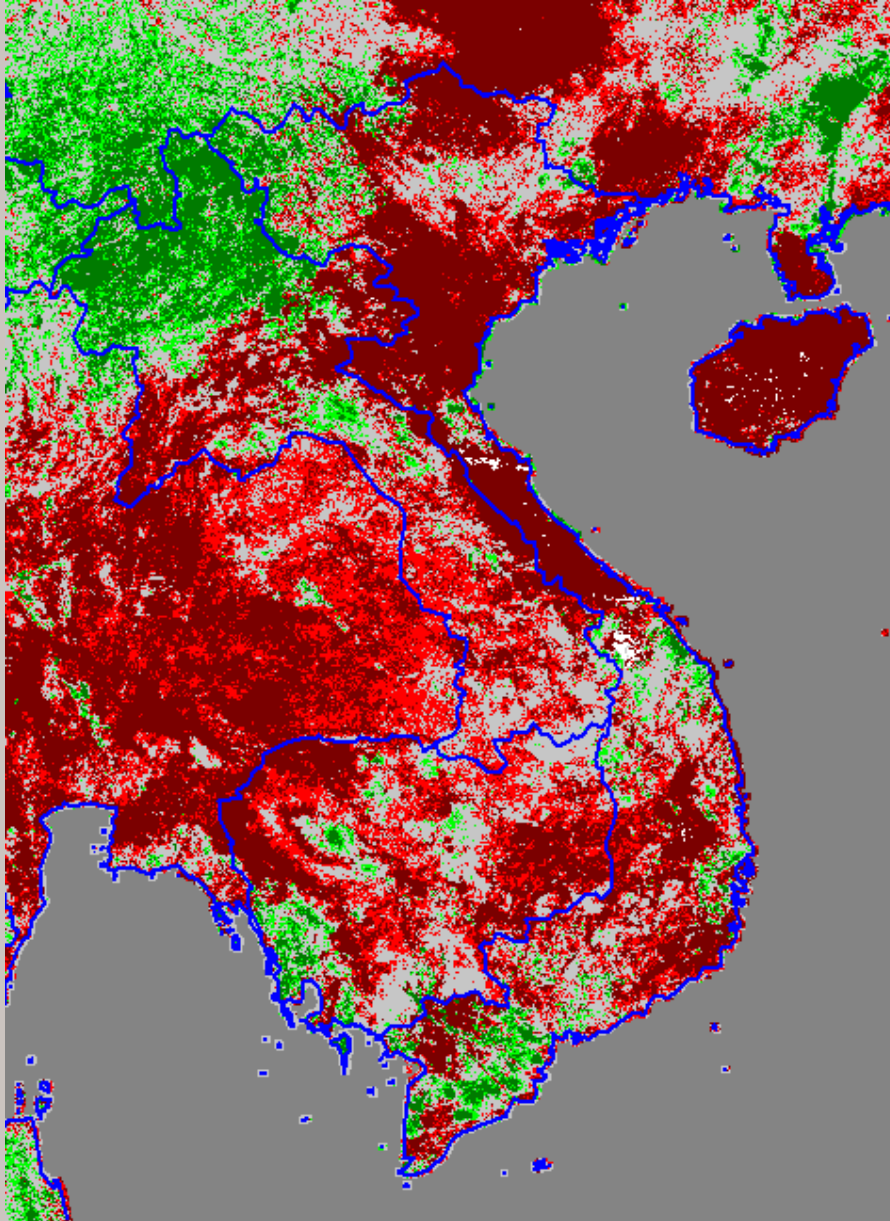
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March Third Decade 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)



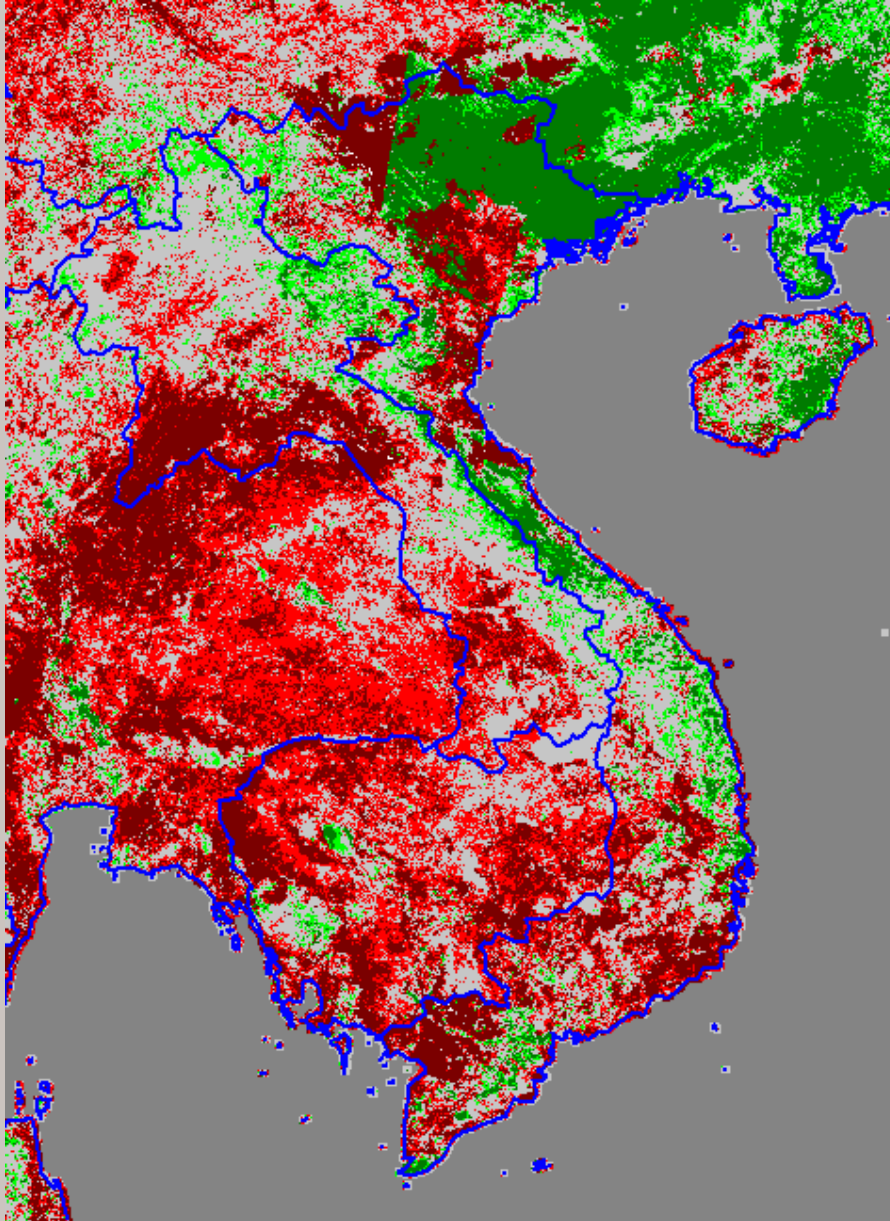
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March Second Decade 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)



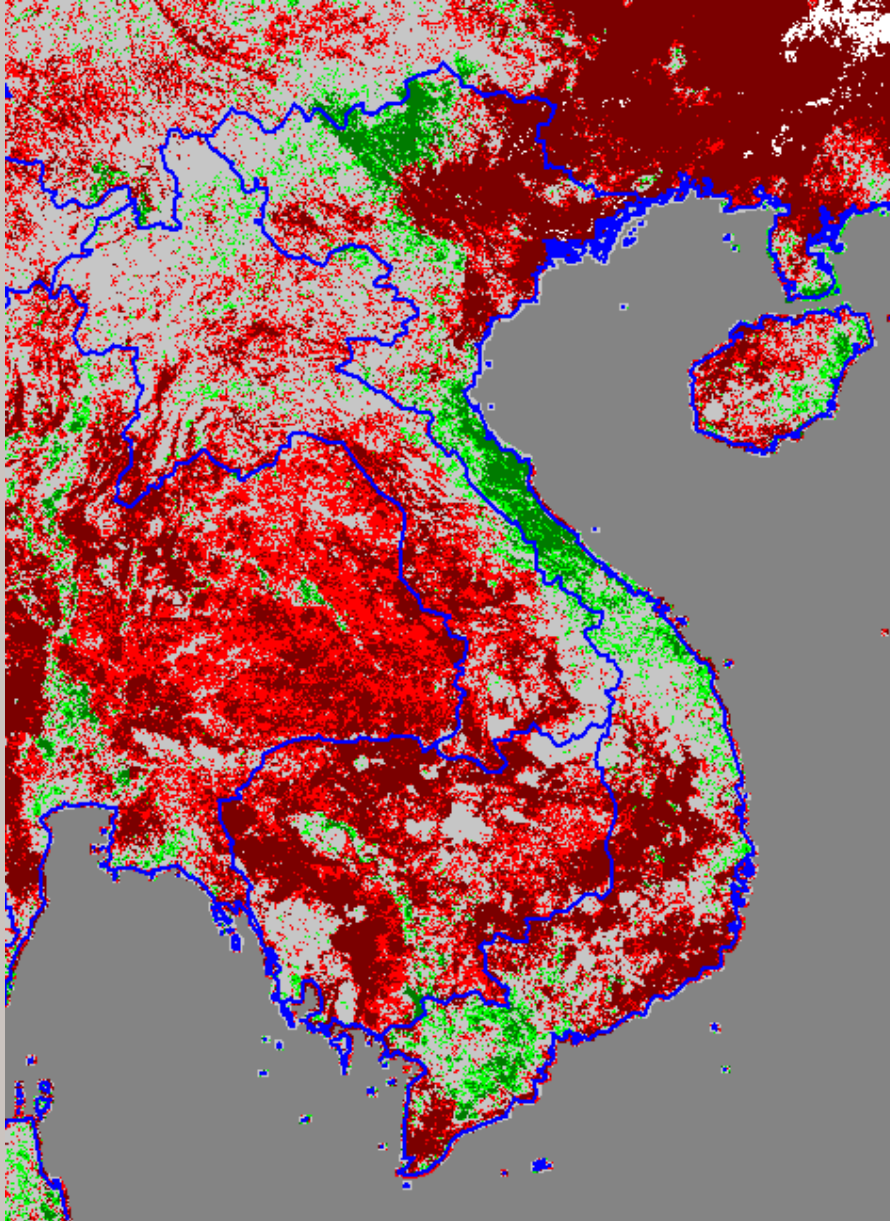
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March First Decade 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)



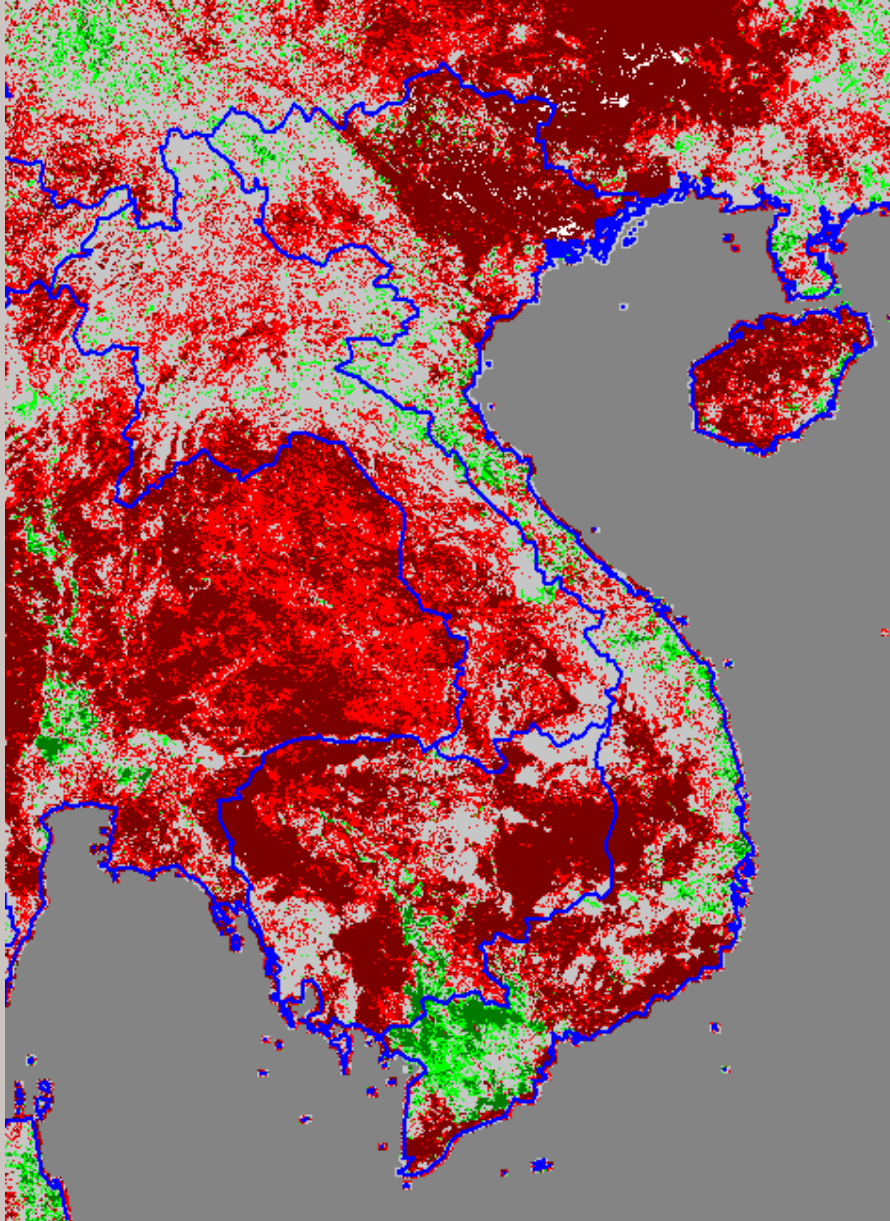
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February 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)

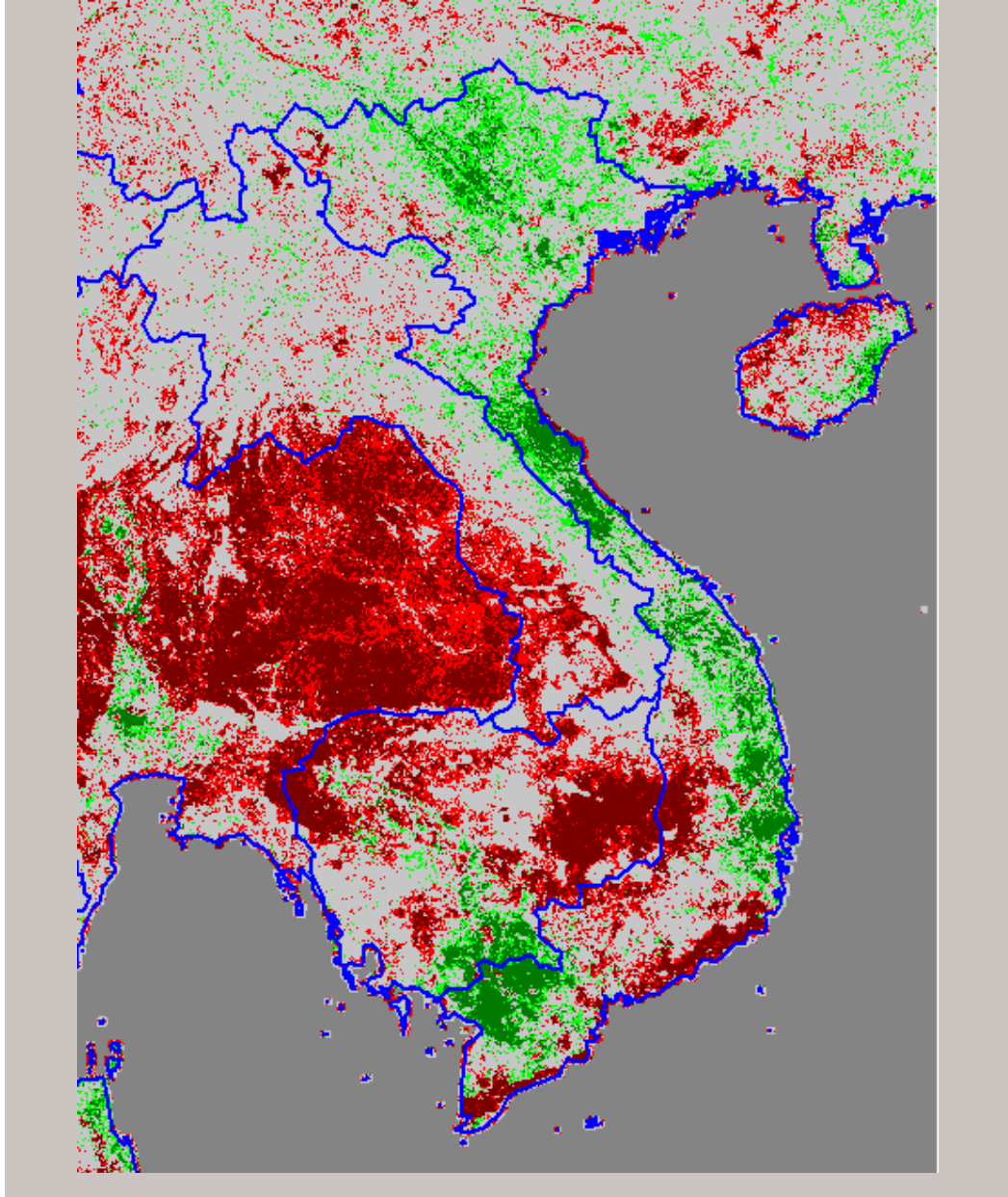


[back to top](#) ▲

January 2005 versus Average(1998-2004)



December 2004 versus Average(1998-2004)



Increasingly Serious Food Security Situation in Parts of the Sahel

6 May 2005

In spite of steps taken by the region's governments, the food situation has been worsening in regions of the Sahel affected in 2004 by drought and desert locusts. In Burkina-Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, millet prices continue to climb, while livestock prices have been falling. This reduces access to main food staples by vulnerable households, notably pastoral and agro-pastoral groups, which were hit especially hard by last year's combination of drought and desert locusts.

In **Niger**, where the 2004 cereal production was 12 percent lower than previous year's, some 2.5 million people in 2 988 villages are officially estimated to be at risk of food shortage. The Government has been selling cereals at subsidised prices in affected communities, but the impact of the operation on the overall food situation is very limited. In early April, Médecins Sans Frontières warned that severe child malnutrition was increasing rapidly in the Maradi and Tahoua districts, with rising admissions at supplementary feeding Centres. UNICEF appealed for funds to feed some 750 000 children suffering from hunger, including 150 000 showing signs of severe malnutrition. WFP has also launched an appeal but food aid pledges are reportedly still short of requirements. Additional food aid pledges and deliveries are urgently needed in view of the upcoming lean season. Many farming families will also need seeds and other inputs for the next growing season due to start in late May/June.

With scarce pasture and water, livestock condition is reported to be deteriorating in spite of increased movement of livestock herds, which led to confrontations in a number of locales. Further action is needed for adapted transhumance corridors, animal health programmes, and the provision of inexpensive fodder.

The same upward trend in cereal prices combined with falling livestock prices have been affecting farmers and pastoralists in **Burkina-Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania** and **Senegal**, especially in the northern parts. A nutritional survey carried out by *Accion Contra el Hambre* in parts of Mali's Kidal region showed that among children under five years, nearly one-third was suffering from global malnutrition. Emergency measures taken by Governments include cereal distribution in affected communities in Burkina-Faso and subsidized sales of 15 000 tonnes of animal feed in Mali. In Chad, as recommended by the Comité Directeur du Comité d'Action pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et la Gestion des Crises (CASAGC), the National Early Warning System, subsidized sales of cereals are expected to begin in May. In Mauritania, where widespread and increasing malnutrition is reported, WFP's Food For Work program has started in Brakna, Gorgol, Assaba and Hodh El Gharbi departments, while the cereal banks component of the emergency program is to begin. A European Union-funded food distribution, to be implemented by the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA), is also expected to start soon.

In spite of this, additional measures are urgently needed, mainly in the livestock sector: subsidised animal feed, safe passage areas for livestock, animal health programs. The urgent supply of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds, will also enable affected farmers to plant food crops with the onset of the May rains.

Southeast Asia: Drought and Onset of the 2005 Rainy Season**12 May 2005 Update**

After violent rain and hailstorms in parts of **Thailand**, highly beneficial showers throughout northern and eastern provinces eased prolonged dryness and increased moisture supplies for rice transplanting. Dry weather prevailed throughout most of the southern half of Thailand, where moisture conditions continued to be favorable for vegetative corn. In **Cambodia**, the Government's chief meteorologist has pronounced the official --and early-- beginning of this year's wet season. In **Vietnam**, after what is considered the worst drought in 30 years, rainfall has started sporadically. Drier-than-normal weather continued in the northern and central islands of the Philippines, stressing moisture supplies for wet- season rice transplanting but providing favorable harvest conditions for dry-season rice. Monsoon showers were concentrated in Mindanao and are slowly progressing northward in the **Philippines**. In **Indonesia**, unseasonably heavy showers throughout Java slowed main-season rice harvesting. More seasonable showers in Sumatra and Malaysia maintained moisture supplies for oil palm.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

25 July 2005

Tropical Storms, Typhoons and Monsoon Floods in Asia

Since the start of this year's summer monsoon season in June, a combination of typhoons, tropical storms, and heavy rains has seriously affected a number of countries in Asia including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, and DPR Korea. Hundreds of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands had to be evacuated. Very high economic losses and serious food shortages have been reported in the affected areas. As monsoon rains are due to continue in the next couple of months, the situation could worsen considerably.

In **India**, severe floods in the last two weeks have devastated the northeastern Indian state of Assam, killing at least 15 people along the major Brahmaputra river system. Nine districts have been hit by floods, the worst hit being Dhemaji, where at least 400 villages have been submerged.

The western state of Gujarat and central Madhya Pradesh were reportedly hit by heavy monsoon flooding in early July, killing more than 130 people. Waters have since ebbed there, but nonetheless, based on the official report, floods in Gujarat have affected more than 2 million people, destroyed thousands of homes, and left 500 000 people homeless. A little later, the heavy rains hit Madhya Pradesh, badly affecting some 1760 villages with 40 fully submerged. Grain stocks have been reportedly washed away or rotted and crop seeds also lost in many families. A number of paddy fields and banana plantations were submerged and horticultural and agricultural activities affected.

In neighbouring **Bangladesh**, at least 15 people have been killed by drowning or snake bites and nearly a million people have been stranded by a new wave of heavy floods over the past week. The Teesta, Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers, which flow from India, have been overflowing, forcing many people to live on river islands. Official reports (July 21) indicate that at least 10 000 people have been displaced and some 2 000 homes destroyed.

In **Pakistan**, the snowmelt, combined with the annual monsoon rains, has caused heavy flooding of the northern Kabul and Swat rivers, tributaries of the Indus River and led to emergency situations in parts of North West Frontier Province, Punjab province, and Sindh province during the last several weeks. Floods have affected more than 460 000 people and killed over 30 persons. Some 950 000 hectares of crop land have also been reportedly damaged. Based on meteorologists in Islamabad, this year's flooding has been worse than usual due to above average summer temperatures across northern Pakistan and Afghanistan in the past four weeks, which have led to the largest snowmelt in the last 100 years.

In **China**, Typhoon Haitang last week has forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people in Fujian and Zhejiang, the two major rice producing provinces. In Fujian, the severe flooding caused by torrential rains has affected more than 2 million people, displaced 863 000 people, and injured 21. The government report indicates that direct economic losses have reached 2633 million yuan (or 320 million US dollars). In the southern coastal province of Zhejiang, more than 6 million people have been reportedly affected and 558 000 people displaced. The direct economic losses are estimated at 5460 million yuan (664 million US dollars). The losses are expected to continue to increase as the rains continue in the region. Before entering the Mainland, Typhoon Haitang swept **Taiwan**, killing at least 10 people and causing agricultural damage assessed at T\$1.3 billion (or 41 million US dollars).

Floods have always been the major natural disaster in China, but this year has been reportedly more devastating than usual. Up to the middle of July, floods in China have reportedly affected 90 million people, killed more than 764 people, and destroyed more than 700 000 houses. Some seven million hectares of crops have been destroyed. Direct economic losses have been estimated at 5.79 billion US dollars. The worst hit regions are in the country's major rice producing provinces, including Fujian, Hunan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Anhui, Sichuan, Hunan, and Heilongjiang.

In **DPR Korea**, floods in the second dekad of July in the South Pyongnan Province killed at least 88 people and destroyed about 1 080 houses. Food crops have been seriously damaged in the affected area.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

August 2005

Endogenous and Regional Factors Underlying Niger's Food Crisis

Recent discussions on the roots of the food crisis in Niger have rightly highlighted the combination of poor rainfall and desert locust invasion which struck the country in 2004. Yet, the kind of severe food crisis we are witnessing today does not occur suddenly, but rather from an accumulation of events that gradually erode the capacity of poor households to deal with shocks. FAO and other institutions have emphasized on a number of occasions that the loss of cereal production caused by desert locusts and poor rainfall in 2004 was relatively modest in Niger. Broadly speaking, the impact on pastureland was actually greater than on cultivated areas. Following crop assessments undertaken in the Sahel region in October 2004¹, cereal production, compared to the previous year's good levels, was estimated to have decreased by 66 percent in Cape-Verde, 44 percent in Mauritania, 35 percent in Chad and 27 percent in Senegal. In spite of severe localised damage, decreases compared to the five-year average were relatively limited in Burkina Faso, Niger (11 percent) and Mali, the major cereal producing countries in the region.

So why did localised crop failure turn into such a crisis in Niger? This note aims to highlight some important but commonly overlooked factors which contributed to or triggered Niger's food crisis.

Root causes: widespread poverty and very high malnutrition rates

The classic underlying factors that contribute to severe food insecurity are all present in Niger, and at higher levels than in other countries of the region. Sixty-three percent of the population are poor², including 34 percent categorized as "extremely poor". Rural areas, with 85 percent of the population, make up most of total poverty³. These figures are based on household consumption surveys conducted in 1990 and 1993, and the situation has further deteriorated since that time, Niger by 2003 ranking 174th of 175 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index. Nutritional status, especially for children, has been worsening throughout, notably in rural areas. Food insecurity has been sustained by the volatility of food production, low farm productivity, limited assets, lack of alternative employment opportunities, high transaction costs in product and factor markets, scant access to poor health and sanitation services.

The 2004-2005 rise in food cost, combined with livestock mortality and very low prices have eroded the weak purchasing power among pastoral and agro-pastoral groups⁴. And yet, the combined scourges of desert locusts and poor rains do not, by themselves, fully account for the current crisis. Regional factors also played a major role.

Reduced food availability and high prices at the regional level

Niger is a food deficit country which, even in a normal year, imports significant amount of cereals to offset national production shortfalls. In return, Nigerien farmers export mostly livestock, cowpeas, onions, and groundnuts. The country's trade regime is considered one of the most open in the region⁵, so commercial imports make up the bulk of requirements. Niger imports maize and other local cereals from coastal countries enjoying greater rainfall, including Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, and Côte d'Ivoire. There are also smaller trade flows with Sahel neighbours Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad.

2004 cereal production fell in several coastal countries. Parts of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana were affected, but the largest shortfall was in Cameroon. As a result, grain prices rose, and several countries imposed food export restrictions. In the end, however, the chief factor was structural change in Nigeria's agricultural and trade policies.

Nigeria's trade policy and its impact on Niger

Officially, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire are Niger's major trading partners in the region. Nigeria is the main export destination, while Côte d'Ivoire has been Niger's principal source of imports⁶. However, informal cross-border trade between Niger and Nigeria, notably in cattle and agricultural products in the southern direction, and in fuel, fertilizer, and consumer goods in the northern one, is believed to amount to 40-50 percent of formal trade⁷.

Nigeria's cereal imports have been rising in recent years, due to high urban population growth, changing consumption patterns, and weak incentives to domestic production. The Government recently embarked on a series of measures to improve agricultural production, subsidize fertilizer use, and remove tariffs on imported agro-chemicals. Key sub-sectors have been rehabilitated or expanded, including rice and cassava, and tighter controls imposed on illegal food imports. The Government is further planning to ban rice imports by 2006, and to impose the use of cassava and wheat composite flour for bread making. To stem the re-export into Nigeria of unwanted goods, federal authorities have also repeatedly closed borders with several neighbouring countries,

including Niger and Benin. These measures have fostered a rapid growth in the domestic poultry sector and an expansion of milling capacity. Following a 2004 ban on imports of pasta, the domestic pasta and biscuit sector also surged. Maize prices, however, rose sharply, driven by increased feed use in the poultry sector and the ban on imports. In general, food prices rose as a result of higher oil prices, reduced rice imports, and the tightening of controls against informal cross-border trade. "The spiralling cost of food stuff" has been extensively covered by the media. For example, *Vanguard* reported in mid-May that "prices of food staples such as gari (a common cassava-based foodstuff), beans, rice and maize had gone up by between 60 and 100 percent in the previous few weeks". The *Daily Champion* reported on 20 July that "such staple food items as rice, gari, beans, bread, tomatoes, among others, have all had their prices virtually doubled in the last four months. A measure of gari, which sold at N130 in a few months ago now sells for between N230 and N270, just as a bag of rice, which sold at a little over three thousand naira, now sells for six thousand naira and above". The Newspaper pointed out that "no time in the last decade did food items cost this much". Data from the Federal Office of Statistics confirm these claims: the July monthly bulletin reports that the Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 16.8 percent in the last year, due to hikes in the prices of staple foods. To mitigate the impact of high food prices on consumers, the Government has reportedly released grain from its strategic reserves.

Aside from domestic price effects, Nigeria's agricultural and trade policies have had a significant impact on public and private finances in neighbouring countries. They resulted in substantial losses of customs revenue, including in Niger. Interviews with a sample of businessmen in Benin also confirmed that the Nigerian trade measures were a major factor in the 2004 drop in Benin's GDP. Considering the historic and deep economic and social links between Niger and Nigeria, the income and price effects on the smaller partner had to be considerable.

In conclusion, a combination of structural (increasing poverty) and short-term factors (depressed incomes, sharp rises in food prices) triggered Niger's severe food crisis. The short-term factors owed less to the relatively small reduction in national cereal production than to powerful regional forces, in particular major commercial policy changes in Nigeria, which influenced supply and demand conditions well beyond its own borders. This was amplified by lower-than-normal food supplies in other coastal countries which usually export cereals to Niger. To the obvious question "why was this not understood, especially a few months into the hungry season?" one must respond that while there's a widely shared and basic understanding of the importance of regional issues, food security monitoring and assessment activities unfortunately retain a national and narrow perspective. A substantial increase in resources, institutional links and information flows will be required to change this situation.

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1. FAO/CILSS pre-harvest assessments, FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessments.
 2. Niger PRSP, 2002.
 3. 86 percent.
 4. According to FEWS-Net, the terms of trade goats/millet have declined by nearly 50 percent between January and June 2005.
 5. Niger's trade restrictiveness, measured on a scale of one to ten by the IMF, rated at 2.
 6. In 2003 Côte d'Ivoire was the source of about 14 percent of Niger's import while nearly 29 percent of the country exports went to Nigeria.
 7. Economist Intelligence Unit.



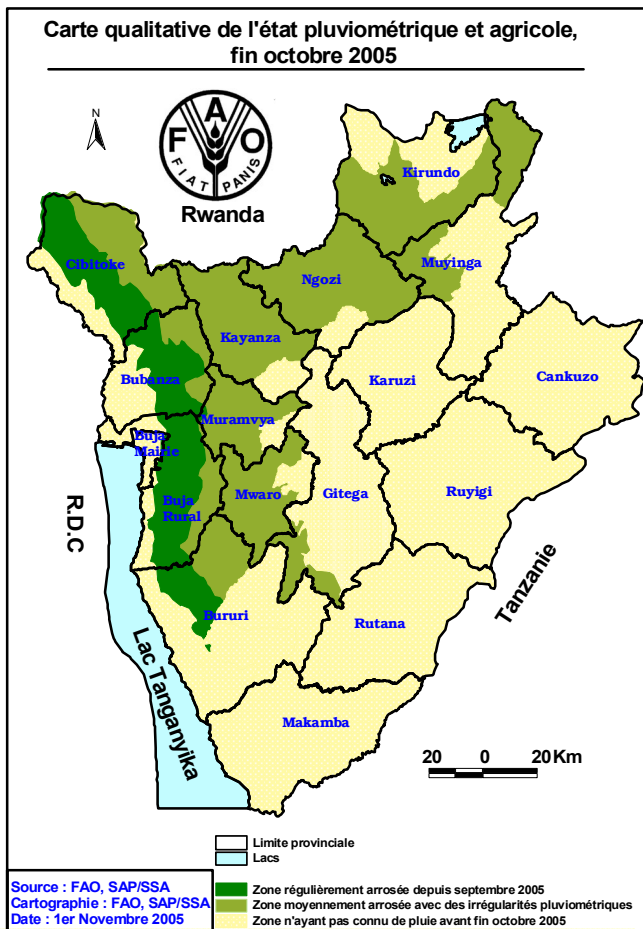
Système d'Alerte Précoce

Surveillance de la Sécurité

Alimentaire au Burundi (SAP-SSA)

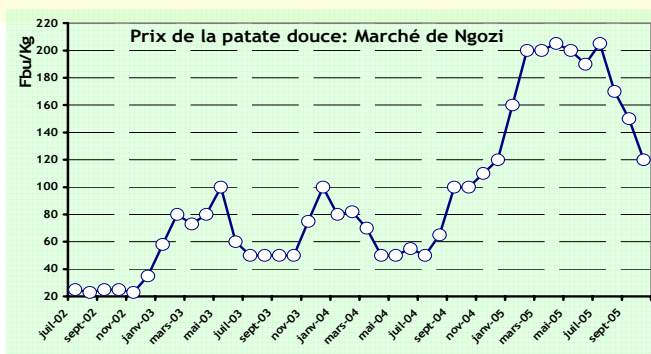
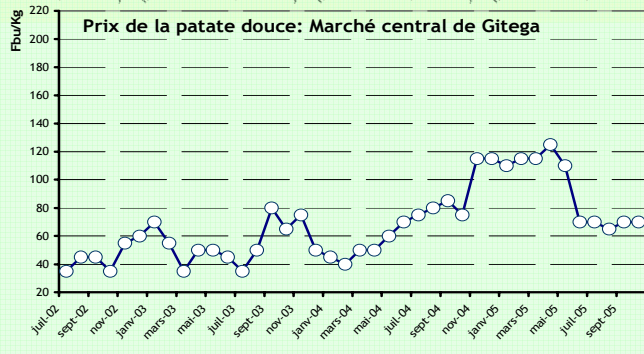
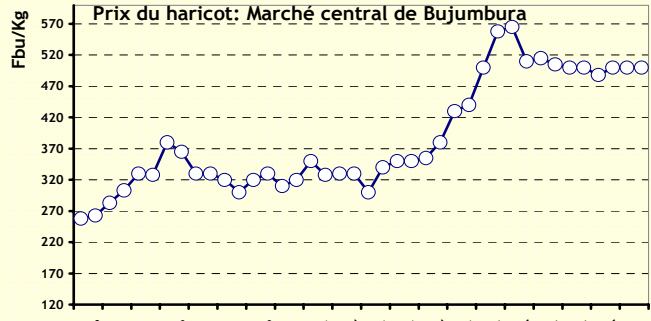
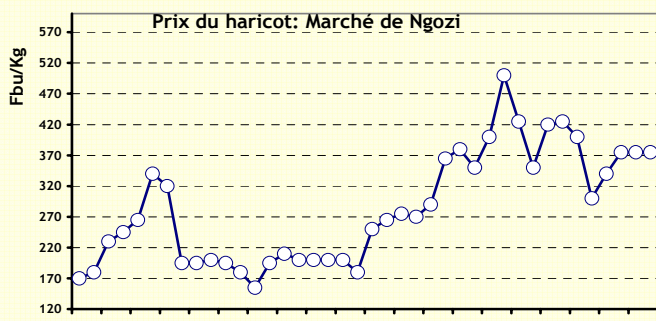
Bulletin n°40/Octobre 2005

Publication : Novembre 2005



- Une importante crise alimentaire est prévisible dès décembre 2005 et la Coordination des Opérations d'Urgence de la FAO (FAO-CAU) a estimé que 100.000 ménages vulnérables s'ajouteront aux 300.000 initialement prévus pour l'assistance agricole pour la saison 2006. Le PAM a revu ses estimations à 140.000 nouveaux bénéficiaires d'assistance en vivres jusqu'en février 2006, ...
- Les cultures de la saison 2005C présagent des récoltes satisfaisantes dans les régions de haute altitude, tandis qu'en basse et moyenne altitudes, le prolongement de la saison sèche hypothèque cette saison, spécialement pour les cultures les plus sensibles, ...
- Le retard enregistré dans la mise en place de la saison 2006A ne permettra pas d'obtenir des récoltes avant février 2006, ce qui prolongera davantage la période de soudure en cours depuis août 2005, ...
- Au cours du mois d'octobre 2005, le PAM a distribué 4.977 tonnes de vivres à 445.166 bénéficiaires des différents programmes exécutés sur terrain. Environ 112 tonnes de semences de qualité de riz et intrants d'accompagnement ont été distribués par la FAO-CAU aux groupements d'agriculteurs pendant que les victimes du VIH/SIDA et autres vulnérables des zones urbaines et périurbaines ont bénéficié de 6.000 canetons,...
- Un début d'augmentation des admissions a été observé dans les services nutritionnels supplémentaires (SNS), ...

📖 A lire dans le bulletin...



Ce bulletin mensuel a pour but de prévenir des crises alimentaires graves et de relater l'évolution de la sécurité alimentaire sur le territoire national. Il émane d'une collaboration entre la FAO, l'OCHA, le PAM, l'UNICEF, le MINAGRI et les ONG opérationnelles sur terrain, avec l'appui de l'USAID/OFDA.



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Crise alimentaire aiguë dès décembre 2005

Une crise alimentaire est prévisible dès le mois de décembre 2005. Cette situation résulte d'une prolongation de la période de soudure qui prend normalement fin en décembre avec les récoltes de la saison A. Or, le retard des pluies, qui a repoussé d'environ deux mois la mise en place de la saison 2006A, ne permettrait l'apparition des premières récoltes qu'en février 2006.

Cette crise survient alors que les mécanismes de survie traditionnels des ménages sont au plus bas, épuisés par plus de 10 ans de guerre et par trois années successives de pénurie alimentaire récurrente. Une situation semblable à celle de la fin 2004 et de début 2005 risque de voir le jour. Des ménages furent contraints d'avoir recours à des mécanismes de détresse pour faire face au déficit alimentaire. Il s'agissait notamment de la vente des tôles et tuiles des maisons, des propriétés foncières, la prostitution, la consommation d'herbes sauvages et l'exil. Cette situation pourrait se reproduire, d'autant plus que (i) le manioc, aliment de soudure par excellence, est largement décimé par la mosaïque sévère ; (ii) la faible production de café de la campagne 2004/2005 (avec une perte estimée à 78% par rapport à la campagne précédente) n'a rapporté que trop peu d'argent pour encaisser le choc de la crise ; (iii) le coût des produits vivriers est beaucoup plus élevé cette année que les années précédentes. Seront plus affectées les provinces où une grande prévalence de la mosaïque sévère du manioc coïncide avec une densité de population élevée (Ngozi et Kayanza), celles où le retard des pluies est marqué (voir carte en première page) et celles où le flux des rapatriés est important (provinces de l'Est et du Sud du pays).

Cette situation nécessite un appui humanitaire spécial pour permettre aux plus vulnérables de survivre sans plonger dans un degré de vulnérabilité encore plus profond. La FAO-CAU estime que près de 100.000 ménages auront besoin d'une assistance en intrants agricoles pour la mise en place de la saison 2006B (en février 2005), en plus des 300.000 initialement prévus. De son côté, le PAM estime qu'en plus des 1,2 millions des bénéficiaires initialement prévus pour recevoir l'assistance alimentaire entre novembre 2005 et février 2006, 140.000 nouveaux bénéficiaires auront besoin d'une aide alimentaire d'urgence de 10.000 tonnes pour la même période. Malheureusement, le PAM prévoit en même temps une rupture de pipeline

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de l'ordre de 20.000 tonnes de vivres dès décembre 2005 et jusqu'en mars 2006. Cette situation obligera le PAM à réduire de nouveau les rations et à supprimer certains types d'assistance. Ceci risque de contribuer à détériorer davantage la situation alimentaire dans le pays.

1. Sécurité et mouvements des populations

Une amélioration sécuritaire a été enregistrée dans la province de Bubanza au cours du mois d'octobre 2005, malgré la présence des groupes armés, encore signalés dans les communes de Musigati et Rugazi, frontalières avec la Kibira. Cette province avait été secouée par de nombreuses attaques armées durant les quatre derniers mois. Des indices de présence des groupes armés ont également été relevés dans les communes Murwi, Buganda et Bukinyanya dans la province de Cibitoke.

Au contraire, la situation sécuritaire est restée préoccupante à Kayanza, dans les communes Matongo, Kabarore et Muruta, où des perturbations sécuritaires ont été relevées à plusieurs reprises. Bujumbura Rural n'a pas été épargnée et des sources administratives signalent une moyenne journalière de cinq personnes assassinées par des groupes armés, avec une acuité plus marquée dans les communes de Muhuta, Mutambu et Kabezi. Des cas de vol et de pillage ont été signalés dans presque toutes les provinces, principalement dans les provinces à forte précarité sécuritaire.

Les données fournies par le HCR indiquent que 10.942 Burundais ont été rapatriés en octobre, totalisant 60.847 rapatriés (59.445 facilités et 1.402 spontanés) depuis le début de l'année. Le HCR nourrit des inquiétudes sur la réduction de sa capacité de réponse, alors qu'une volonté de retour a été manifestée par les réfugiés burundais en Tanzanie depuis juillet 2005.

2. Situation pluviométrique

Hormis la Crête Congo Nil arrosée depuis septembre, certaines zones de moyenne altitude adjacentes et le Nord du pays moyennement arrosés, le reste du pays est confronté à une situation pluviométrique inquiétante (voir carte en première page) à la fin du mois d'octobre. La saison sèche persiste dans les régions basses (Imbo, Moso et Buragane particulièrement) jusqu'à la fin du mois d'octobre. La moyenne altitude du Centre, du Sud et de l'Est du pays connaissait le sort proche de celui de la basse altitude. Ce manque de pluie s'est notamment manifesté par l'assèchement des cultures des marais et par une diminution drastique des pâturages.

3. Situation agricole

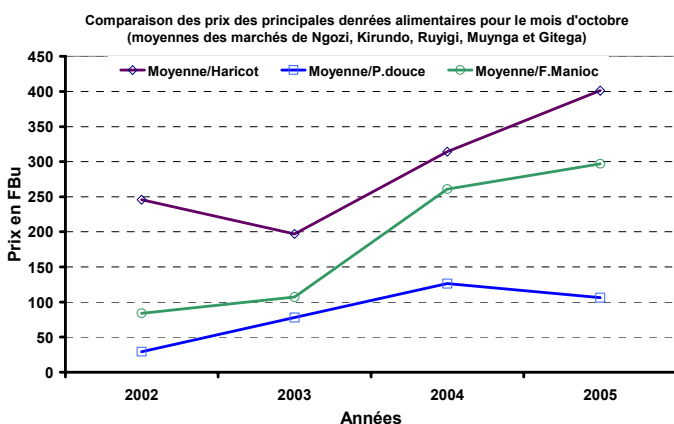
Les cultures de marais de la saison 2005C des zones à déficit pluviométrique connaîtront une chute importante des rendements suite au stress hydrique. Les cultures les plus sensibles, comme le haricot et la pomme de terre, ont été les plus affectées par ce déficit hydrique, spécialement dans les régions naturelles du Moso, de Buragane, du Buyogoma, du Bututsi et de l'Imbo. La culture de maïs aura connu une incidence très élevée à l'attaque de la maladie des bandes suite au stress physiologique causé par le déficit hydrique.

Dans ces mêmes zones, la mise en place de la saison A (qui représente en moyenne 35% de la production vivrière annuelle) normalement effectuée à la mi-septembre, connaît cette année un retard de deux mois. Ce retard a augmenté les risques de consommation du peu de semences conservées par les ménages et des semences issues de l'aide humanitaire. Une tendance à la baisse des emblavures a été relevée au niveau des ménages contactés. D'autre part, ce retard se répercutera sur la durée de la période de soudure, en cours depuis août.

En revanche, dans les zones ayant bénéficié des pluies depuis septembre (depuis fin août sur la crête), les cultures de la saison 2005C laissent présager de récoltes satisfaisantes. En octobre, les récoltes précoces de haricot, pomme de terre et patate douce étaient déjà réalisées aux mêmes endroits. Les cultures des collines, y compris celles de la saison 2006A, présentent un bon aspect végétatif. Les cultures de maïs et de haricot issues des premiers semis de cette saison étaient aux stades de 6 à 8 feuilles (au stade de sarclage) sur la crête à la fin du mois d'octobre.

4. Disponibilité alimentaire

L'alimentation des ménages repères en octobre



reposait globalement sur la consommation de la

patate douce issue des récoltes précoces de la saison 2005C. Cette denrée était généralement consommée en accompagnement avec des feuilles de haricot et/ou de manioc pour certains, alors qu'elle était complétée par des achats pour d'autres. Pendant que le recours au marché pour se nourrir augmente, les prix des denrées alimentaires se maintiennent à des prix très élevés (sauf la patate douce dont les cours se sont infléchis suite aux récoltes de la saison C).

Ces aliments sont inaccessibles aux paysans, possédant généralement de très faibles revenus, issus essentiellement de la vente de main d'œuvre, de produits vivriers (banane généralement), de produits d'élevage ou d'une hypothèque. Ce mécanisme a été adopté au mois d'octobre notamment par 16, 30, 35, 40 et 58% des ménages repères des provinces Cibitoke, Muramvya, Bururi, Karuzi et Rutana respectivement.

Le nombre de ménages repères aux sources alimentaires incertaines a presque doublé de septembre à octobre à Muramvya et Cibitoke et a connu une augmentation de 50% à Karuzi. Des disettes sont donc à craindre au cours des mois à venir au niveau des zones les plus affectées.

Les ménages les plus fragiles en cette saison se comptent parmi ceux qui n'ont pas eu accès aux marais et les rapatriés.

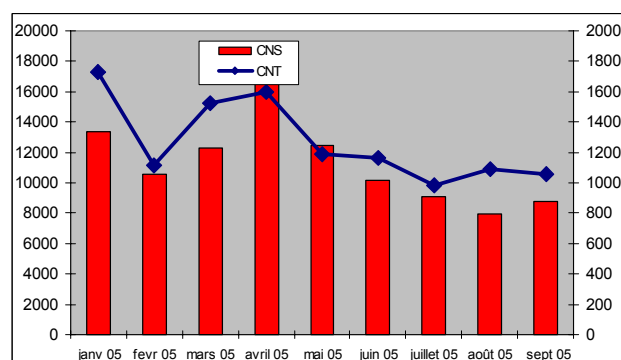
5. Situation nutritionnelle

D'après les données de l'UNICEF, un début d'augmentation des nouvelles admissions dans les services nutritionnels supplémentaires (SNS) a été observé à la fin du mois de septembre 2005 par rapport au mois d'août 2005. En effet, le total des admissions est passé de 7 913 en août 2005 à 8 567 en septembre 2005. La situation reste encore stable dans les services nutritionnels thérapeutiques où le nombre de nouvelles admissions est passé de 1093 en août 2005 à 1061 en septembre 2005.

Admissions dans les services nutritionnels

L'augmentation des admissions, aussi bien dans les SNS que les SNT, est remarquée dans les provinces de Buja rural, Karuzi et Kayanza.

Une des causes de la diminution des admissions remarquée dans certaines provinces (Ex : Muyinga,



Kirundo) serait l'augmentation des abandons suite au début de la saison culturale.

6. Réponse aux urgences

Au cours du mois d'octobre 2005, le PAM a distribué 4.977 tonnes de vivres à 445.166 bénéficiaires des différents programmes exécutés sur terrain. Les distributions destinées à protéger les semences distribuées notamment par la FAO-CAU ont absorbé 85% des distributions de septembre et octobre 2005, soient 7.267 tonnes pour 220.390 bénéficiaires. Au cours du même mois d'octobre, la FAO-CAU a distribué 112 tonnes de semences de qualité de riz et les intrants d'accompagnement (fertilisants et produits phytosanitaires) aux

associations/et groupements de riziculteurs composées essentiellement de ménages vulnérables encadrés par les différentes Directions Provinciales de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage (DPAE) ou les ONG partenaires réparties dans toutes les provinces. Cette assistance de la FAO-CAU conduira à la production de 5.600 tonnes de riz paddy. Au cours du même mois, 6.000 canetons ont été distribués aux vulnérables (personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA et leurs familles, Batwas, etc.) ciblés dans les quartiers périphériques de la capitale et des chefs-lieux des provinces de Gitega et Ngozi à raison d'un noyau de trois canetons (deux femelles et un mâle) par ménage. A partir de cette première distribution, une chaîne de solidarité (métayage) sera initiée et touchera beaucoup d'autres ménages de la même catégorie dans les mois à venir.

Coup de projecteur : La Coordination des Opérations d'Urgence de la FAO utilise le riz pour appuyer dans la lutte contre la pauvreté des plus vulnérables.

La densité de population croissante dans les provinces de Ngozi, Gitega et Kayanza conduit à l'exiguïté de la superficie des terres cultivables sur collines. De plus, depuis l'an 2000, les périodes prolongées de sécheresse récurrentes perturbent les saisons culturales dans les provinces du Nord et de l'Est du pays et diminuent fortement la production agricole sur colline. Les ménages vulnérables, dont la superficie cultivable sur colline est très limitée (0,5 ha au maximum), se tournent vers les marais pour essayer de compléter leur production agricole. En outre, la plupart des cultures vivrières connues au Burundi (haricot, maïs, pomme de terre, etc.) ne supportent pas les inondations régulièrement observées dans ces mêmes marais, pendant la saison pluvieuse. Comme le riz tolère les fluctuations de la nappe phréatique et les inondations, il est souvent installé pendant les saisons pluvieuses (saisons A et B), en rotation avec les cultures de maïs et de haricot de la saison C.

Malheureusement, les nombreuses associations de riziculteurs ont été déstructurées par le conflit armé et par le manque de moyens des institutions nationales qui les encadraient avant la crise. Ainsi, pour la relance de la riziculture, la FAO/CAU a initié, à partir de septembre 2001, un programme de production de semences de qualité. Ce programme est axé sur l'appui des institutions nationales de recherche (ISABU, FACAGRO et Université de Ngozi) pour la production de semences élites et le soutien aux associations de producteurs de semences, pour la production de semences commerciales. Ce programme a permis de maintenir en diffusion les variétés de riz améliorées. Trois variétés sont en diffusion pour la riziculture irriguée de basse altitude, tandis que 13 variétés sont diffusées dans les marais de moyenne altitude. Partant d'une superficie emblavée de 200 ha en 2001, l'assistance de la FAO/CAU atteint 2.260 ha de riziculture en 2005.

Pour la saison 2006A, la FAO/CAU vient de distribuer **112 tonnes de semences de qualité de riz (couvrant une superficie d'environ 1.860 ha)** aux associations/groupements de riziculteurs composés essentiellement de ménages vulnérables (rapatriés, déplacés, veufs/veuves, malades du VIH/SIDA, jeunes retournés, etc.). Ces derniers sont encadrés soit par les Directions Provinciales de l'agriculture et de l'Elevage (DPAE), soit par les ONG partenaires. Les bénéficiaires des semences sont également dotés d'engrais minéraux et de pesticides indispensables pour la production de semences de qualité. En tenant compte d'un rendement moyen de 3 tonnes par hectare en milieu rural, l'assistance de la FAO/CAU conduira à la production d'environ 5.500 tonnes de riz paddy en fin de saison dont une partie servira encore de semences. Le riz constitue une source de nourriture mais aussi de revenu pour les ménages ruraux : l'association « Twirwaneko » de Kinama, bénéficiaire des semences de riz de la FAO/CAU, a réussi à acheter deux porcins et à épargner 70.000 Fbu après la vente du surplus de la récolte en 2002.

Avec le retour massif des rapatriés, le besoin en semence de riz sera de plus en plus grand d'autant plus que de nouveaux programmes de réhabilitation des marais sont en cours.

Les informations contenues dans ce bulletin ne reflètent pas nécessairement les vues de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture. Les appellations employées dans ce bulletin et la présentation des données qui y figurent n'impliquent de la part de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture aucune prise de position quant au statut juridique du pays ou de ses autorités, ni quant au tracé de ses frontières ou limites.

Merci pour vos réactions, commentaires et critiques pour les prochaines publications

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch**7 December 2005****Southern Africa update**

In **southern Africa**, late seasonal rains have disrupted sowing of the main season crops in most countries. Food insecurity in the region is of serious concern as the lean period has commenced and is affecting nearly 12 million people who are in need of emergency food assistance in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. Food shortages are generally reflected in rising staple food prices, especially in Zimbabwe and Malawi. Of the total maize import requirement of 2.7 million tonnes for the subregion, excluding South Africa, for the current marketing year, so far an estimated 1.6 million tonnes have been received (1.1 million tonnes as commercial imports and 515 000 tonnes as food aid). In Zimbabwe, farm inputs are in short supply and very expensive. Access to food in many areas is severely hampered by scarcity of grain on markets, transport problems and fuel shortages. For the same reasons, agricultural prospects for 2006 are unfavourable, regardless of rainfall conditions. In Malawi, fertilizer distribution is reportedly underway under the Government's subsidy programme. Significant amounts of food aid have been pledged (around 200 000 tonnes), but the bulk of it is yet to arrive in the country. On a brighter note, due to a bumper maize harvest in South Africa, there is an exportable surplus of this staple grain estimated at a record level of 4.66 million tonnes. The World Food Programme will be appealing for an additional US\$ 211 million dollars (equivalent to 446 000 tonnes of food) under its regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for 2005/07, to bring the total to US\$ 622 million.

This report is prepared by the **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** of the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

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