

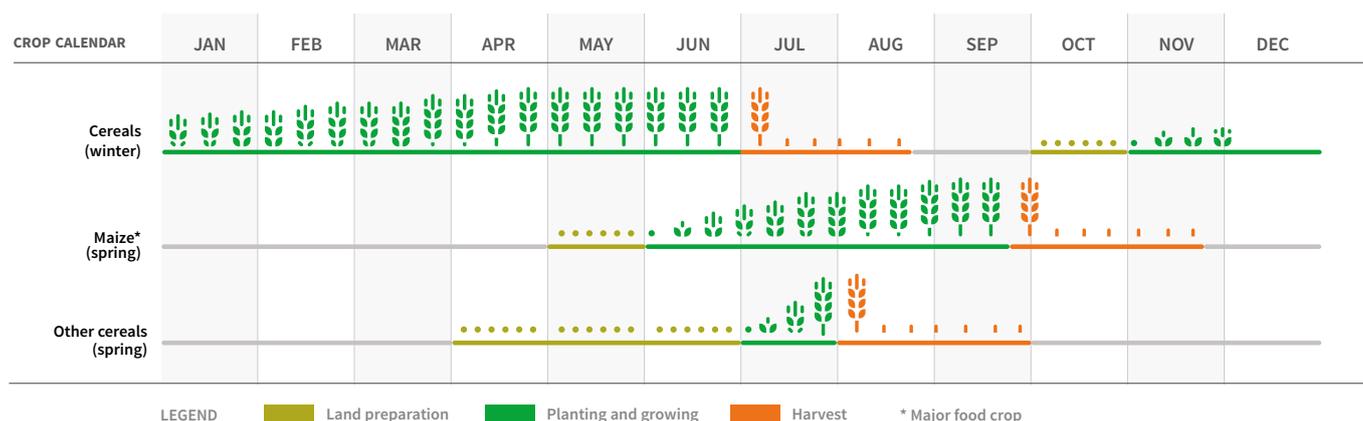


Introduction

In order to understand the impact of the war on the commercial agricultural sector in Ukraine, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is undertaking a series of monitoring surveys, targeting commercial grain producers across the country. The first survey was conducted from 23 March to 14 April 2022, a time when commercial farmers were planting wheat crops for the upcoming summer season. The full set of results can be found on the [FAO Data in Emergencies Hub](#). Further rounds of the survey are scheduled to coincide with different stages of the agricultural calendar. The next round is scheduled for early June when planting has concluded. This will be followed by a third round at harvest time in July/August, and a fourth round at the time of planting in October.

Methodology

A total of 103 commercial farms were randomly selected from 103 raions (one per raion), and interviewed for the survey. Ukraine has 126 raions in total. All raions in Crimea, and some raions in the south and east of the country, were not covered. The farms varied in size from a minimum of 20 hectares (ha) to a maximum of 2 000 ha. Eight percent of surveyed farms were managed by women. The farms employed between two and eight employees, and 38 percent of the farms had female employees.



Findings

Thirty-seven percent of respondents indicated that restrictions, in line with the extent and distribution of military activities, were the most frequently mentioned input supply difficulty, followed by labour availability (25 percent) and transportation (25 percent). The significant increase (40–45 percent on average) in the price of fuel, cereals and fertilizers has affected the entire country, and these increases are expected to persist beyond the spring sowing season. Respondents in 93 of the surveyed raions reported concerns about the increase in fuel prices over the coming period, while respondents in 81 of the raions indicated worries about the increase in fertilizer prices. Seventy-seven percent of surveyed farmers reported

that the financial infrastructure is largely operational in unoccupied territory, but 43 percent of farms are pessimistic about borrowing prospects. When asked to consider the highest priority need in commercial crop production, 48 percent of farmers indicated cash. The high need for cash is due to the reduction of credit offered by banks combined with worries about repayment of loans due to increased risks of production and marketing. The liquidity crisis will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the area planted and future productivity, which will be further exacerbated by fuel and fertilizer shortages (fuel is the second highest priority for support as indicated by 32 percent of respondents, followed by fertilizer).

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