



G20 MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE MEETING

Session 1: Building a resilient and sustainable food systems and agriculture

Speech

By

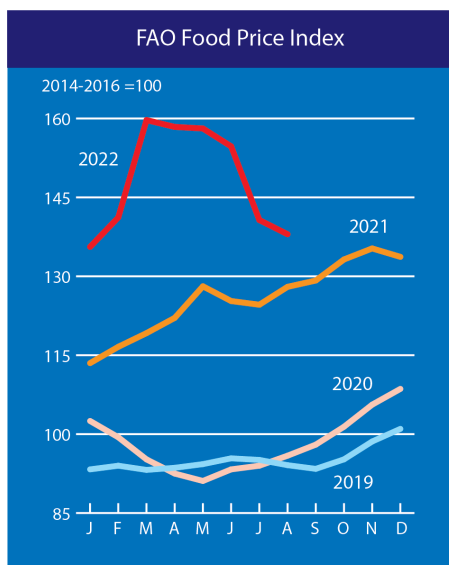
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Excellences,

1. It is my pleasure to join you today.
2. Last year, our dialogue focused on the need to increase the resilience of global agrifood systems in the aftermath of the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
3. This year, global agrifood systems were faced with another tremendous challenge – the **outbreak of the war in Ukraine** and many extreme weather disasters occurred globally.
4. The Russian Federation and Ukraine are **both major players in global agricultural markets**, and the war has had multiple implications for agricultural trade, food prices, and livelihoods.
5. The **Black Sea Grain Initiative** is an important step forward, its steady implementation is sending a positive signal to global food markets, but still it needs to be complemented to improve the food access of most vulnerable countries.

Global Food Security Outlook - Access



Source: FAO

Global Food Access

- In August, FAO Food Price Index declined for the fifth consecutive month, but remained 10 points (7.9%) above its value a year ago.
- Despite recent declines, world food prices remain high, with implications for global food security and nutrition.
- Furthermore, local food prices for consumers and inflation keep soaring, seriously affecting access.

- In **August**, the **FAO Food Price Index** decreased for its 5th consecutive month, but it still remained nearly **8% above its value last year**.
- Indeed, consumer **food prices and inflation are soaring**, with devastating implications for global food security and nutrition.

Global Food Security Outlook - Availability

Markets at a glance

	FROM PREVIOUS FORECASTS	FROM PREVIOUS SEASON
WHEAT	▲	▬
MAIZE	▼	▼
RICE	▼	▼
SOYBEANS	▲	▲

Source: AMIS

Wheat markets eased, driven by improved production prospects and the partial opening of ports in Ukraine, but 2022 production forecast slightly below 2021 levels.

Maize production forecast for 2022 reduced, due to lower EU/US harvest prospects, with lower stocks forecast for 2023.

Rice stocks remained abundant, helping to keep prices in check, but production forecast was revised downward in a number of countries.

Soybeans' global stocks-to-use ratio below the five-year average level, but with favorable crop production prospects.

Fertilizer markets remain particularly volatile, potentially affecting next season's plantings and fertilizer application rates.

- While we witnessed improvements in the forecasts for **wheat and soybean markets**, the outlook is less positive for **maize and rice**, and **fertilizer** markets remain supply-constrained and volatile.
- Food prices** are very high for consumers, and **input prices** are very high for farmers.
- Much needs to be done to ensure that all people can afford **safe and nutritious food** in sufficient quantities to meet their dietary needs and preferences and have a healthy life.

Stepping-up the Resilience of Agrifood Systems

Long term

- Improve early warning and early action systems
- Increase productivity sustainably
- Accelerate trade
- Find innovative solutions to tackle inorganic fertilizer supply constraints

Medium term

- Increase science and innovation and identify alternatives
- Invest in infrastructure to reduce inequalities
- Reduce food loss and waste

Short term

- Implement the Food Import Financing Facility
- Accelerate exports from Ukraine and Russian Federation, in line with the Black Sea Grain Initiative
- Increase fertilizer availability and use efficiency

11. We must **increase the resilience of global agrifood systems**.

12. For that, in the **long-term**, we need to:

- Improve **early warning and early action systems**
- **Increase productivity sustainably**
- **Accelerate trade**; and
- Find **innovative solutions** to tackle **inorganic fertilizer supply constraints**.

13. In the **medium-term**, it is paramount to:

- **Increase innovation** and identify alternatives;
- **Invest in infrastructure** to reduce inequalities;
- **Reduce food loss and waste**.

14. And finally, in the **immediate or short-term**, we need to:
- Improve food access and for that FAO proposed the **Food Import Financing Facility**, - which I am happy the **IMF** has now taken over and it is calling it the **food shock window** within the IMF emergency lending instruments;
 - **Accelerate exports from Ukraine and the Russian Federation**, as per the Black Sea Grain Initiative; and
 - **Increase fertilizer availability** through the **comfort letters issues by US**, and the new **guidelines issued by the European Commission**;
 - Finally, we need to increase the use **efficiency of our fertilizer** through **soil nutrition maps**.
 - We need to avoid that a **food access crises** also becomes a **food availability crises**.

Excellences,

15. Conflicts, slowdowns and downturns because of **COVID-19**, and the **climate crisis** are the major drivers of our crises today and tomorrow.
16. The human, social and economic costs of conflict are always immense, and **peace** is a precondition for the resilience of national and international agrifood systems.
17. It is important that all nations join in the dividends of **peace and stability**, so that we all commit to peace.
18. Without peace we will not achieve **Zero Hunger** and the **Sustainable Development Goals**.
19. I commend the **Indonesian Presidency** for the extraordinary effort made in keeping our dialogue open and bringing us together today, despite the forces that tend to pull us apart.
20. At **FAO**, we are fully committed to a **world free of hunger**, through the transformation of agrifood systems to be MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, to achieve Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment and a Better Life for all, leaving no one behind.
21. I thank you.