global information and early warning system on food and agriculture

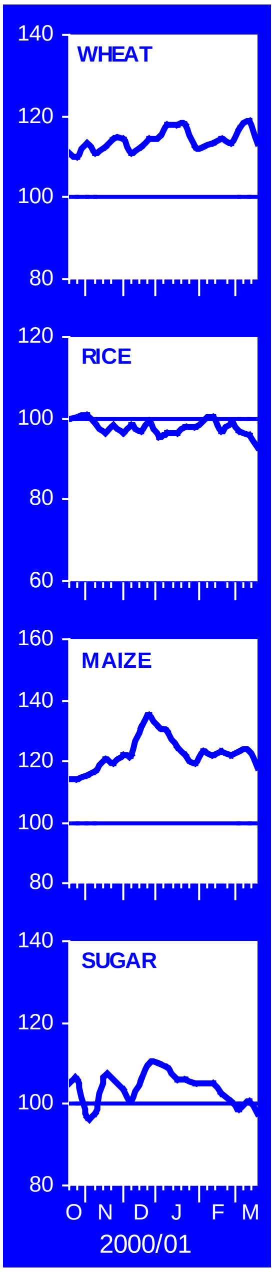
food outlook

No. 2

Rome, April 2001

highlights

EXPORT PRICES
(July 2000=100)



The first forecast for world cereal output in 2001 is 1 889 million tonnes, almost 2 percent above 2000. Output of wheat is forecast at 585 million tonnes, unchanged from last year's crop, while that of coarse grains is seen to rise by almost 4 percent to 905 million tonnes. Production of rice (milled basis) is tentatively forecast to remain unchanged at 399 million tonnes.

At the forecast level, cereal output in 2001 would be insufficient to meet global utilization in the 2001/02 season, leading to a further reduction in world cereal stocks. In the current 2000/01 season, world cereal reserves are forecast to fall by 48 million tonnes, or 4 percent, to 645 million tonnes.

Food emergencies of varying intensity persist for over 60 million people worldwide as a result of natural and man-made disasters.

Global cereal utilization in 2000/01 is forecast to rise marginally to 1 907 million tonnes. The volume of cereals used for food consumption is currently forecast to rise by 1.1 percent, to 971 million tonnes, primarily among the developing countries in Asia and the CIS. Global feed usage of cereals is now forecast at 686 million tonnes in 2000/01 slightly up from 682 million tonnes in the previous year.

World cereal trade in 2000/01 (July/June) is now forecast at 233 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes down since the last report and 2 million tonnes below the previous season's record level. The decrease compared to the 1999/2000 season is attributed to smaller imports of wheat, which are forecast to fall to 107 million tonnes from 109 million tonnes in 1999/2000.

International cereal prices remain generally depressed, largely as a result of ample exportable supplies and slack demand. Wheat prices were stable in recent weeks and remain above last year's level, mainly because of stronger demand for high quality milling wheat. International maize prices remain below the previous season's already low level. In the rice market, the arrival of new crop supplies in some major exporting countries, and continued dull import demand, caused prices to decline further overall since December 2000.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

BASIC FACTS OF THE WORLD CEREAL SITUATION

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01 forecast	Change 2000/01 over 1999/2000
WORLD PRODUCTION 1/	(. . . million tonnes . . .)					(percentage)
Wheat	588	613	598	591	585	-1.1
Coarse grains	920	905	912	887	870	-1.8
Rice, milled	383	387	390	408	399	-2.3
(paddy)	(572)	(579)	(584)	(611)	(596)	-2.5
All cereals (incl. milled rice)	**1 891**	**1 906**	**1 901**	**1 887**	**1 854**	**-1.7**
Developing countries	1 025	1 005	1 040	1 038	998	-3.9
Developed countries	866	900	860	848	856	1.0
WORLD IMPORTS 2/						
Wheat	103	102	99	109	107	-2.0
Coarse grains	91	89	93	104	104	0.0
Rice (milled)	19	28	25	22	22	-0.7
All cereals	**212**	**219**	**216**	**235**	**233**	**-1.0**
Developing countries	150	160	158	170	167	-1.9
Developed countries	62	59	58	65	66	1.3
FOOD AID IN CEREALS 3/	**5.6**	**6.2**	**11.0**	**10.2**	**10.0**	**-2.2**
WORLD UTILIZATION						
Wheat	575	592	591	597	601	0.7
Coarse grains	889	891	891	898	898	-0.1
Rice (milled)	378	381	390	405	408	0.6
All cereals	**1 843**	**1 864**	**1 872**	**1 901**	**1 907**	**0.3**
Developing countries	1 101	1 108	1 130	1 154	1 155	0.1
Developed countries	742	756	742	747	752	0.6
Per Caput Food Use	(. . . kg/year . . .)					
Developing countries	168	167	168	169	169	-0.2
Developed countries	130	130	130	130	131	1.0
WORLD STOCKS 4/	(. . . million tonnes . . .)					
Wheat	232	255	260	257	243	-5.4
Coarse grains	252	267	284	275	249	-9.5
Rice (milled)	152	152	156	161	153	-5.1
All cereals	**635**	**675**	**700**	**693**	**645**	**-7.0**
Developing countries	513	506	525	529	487	-7.9
Developed countries	122	168	175	165	158	-4.0
EXPORT PRICES 5/	(. . . US$/tonne . . .)					
Rice (Thai, 100%, 2nd grade) 1/	352	316	315	253	207	-18.2
Wheat (U.S. No.2 Hard Winter)	181	142	120	112	127 6/	14.4 7/
Maize (U.S. No.2 Yellow)	135	112	95	91	87 6/	-4.2 7/
OCEAN FREIGHT RATES 5/						
From U.S. Gulf to Egypt	12.8	11.7	9.3	13.7	15.0 6/	16.1 7/
LOW-INCOME FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRIES 8/	(. . . million tonnes . . .)					
Roots & tubers production 1/	377	368	387	393	401	2.0
Cereal production (milled rice) 1/	790	771	800	806	763	-5.3
Per caput production (kg.) 9/	224	215	220	218	204	-6.4
Cereal imports 2/	67.4	76.7	69.3	70.6	68.3	-3.3
of which: Food aid	4.5	5.3	7.9	6.8	7.5	10.6
Proportion of cereal import covered by food aid	(. . . percentage . . .)					
	6.7	6.9	11.4	9.6	11.0	

Source: FAO **Note**: Totals and percentages computed from unrounded data.

1/ Data refer to the calendar year of the first year shown. **2/** July/June except for rice for which the data refer to the calendar year of the second year shown. **3/** July/June shipments. **4/** Stock data are based on aggregate of national carryover levels at the end of national crop years. **5/** July/June. **6/** Average of quotations for July 2000-March 2001. **7/** Change from corresponding period of previous year for which figures are not shown. **8/** Food deficit countries with per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. US$ 1 460 in 1998), which in accordance with the guidelines and criteria agreed to by the CFA should be given priority in the allocations of food aid. **9/** Including milled rice.

Cereals

Contents

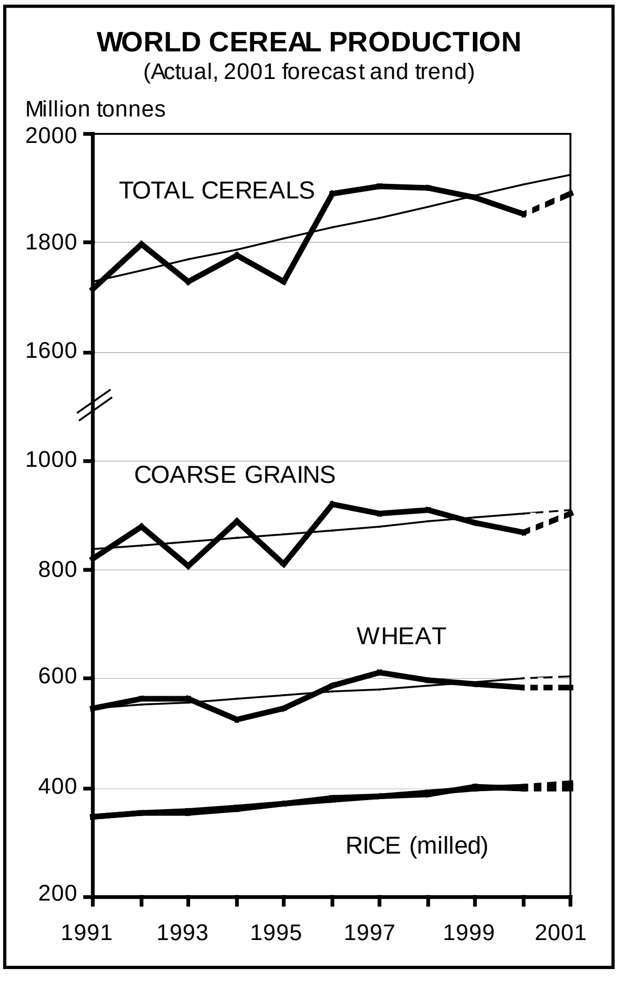
Table: Basic Facts of the World Cereal Situation 2
Cereals
- Supply/Demand Roundup 3
Box: Food Emergencies 5
- Current Production and Crop Prospects 6
- Trade 12
- Utilization 15
- Carryover Stocks 17
- Export Prices 18
- Ocean Freight Rates 19
Fertilizers 20
Statistical Appendix 22-33

Supply/Demand Roundup

Early prospects point to an increase of almost 2 percent in global cereal production in 2001 from the previous year's below average output. Based on the condition of crops in the ground and planting intentions for those still to be sown, and assuming normal weather for the remainder of the 2001 cropping seasons, world cereal output this year is forecast at 1 889 million tonnes (including rice in milled equivalent), 35 million tonnes up from 2000 and close to the average of the past five years. However, as growth in cereal usage is anticipated to continue in the coming 2001/02 season, output at this level would be insufficient to meet global utilization for the second year in succession, leading to a further reduction in world cereal stocks. Against this background, the possibility of higher prices could not be ruled out, especially during the second half of the 2001/02 season.

World wheat **production** in 2001 is forecast at 585 million tonnes, which would be virtually unchanged from last year's below average crop, and still below the long-term trend. Output of wheat in Europe is expected to increase on the strength of larger crops in the central, eastern and CIS countries. In particular, output in the Balkans and Ukraine is expected to recover somewhat after severe drought last year. However, there are concerns that continuing dry conditions in some parts of the Balkans could begin to weigh on this year's improved prospects. Output in Africa is also expected to increase a little this year from last year's reduced crop, reflecting improved rainfall so far this season among the major producers in North Africa. In the southern hemisphere where the major wheat crops will only be sown later this year, wheat output is expected to increase slightly in South America if the forecast strong recovery in Brazil's production materializes. Early indications point to a significantly larger wheat crop also in Australia. However, offsetting these expected increases, a sharp drop in output is forecast for Asia. In China, policy measures have resulted in a further reduction in wheat area and, thus, no increase in output is likely from last year's drought-reduced crop, while in India and Pakistan, dry conditions are hindering the development of the winter wheat crop and lower outputs are forecast.

At this early stage, global coarse grains output in 2001 is forecast at 905 million tonnes, 4 percent up from 2000, and above the average of the past five years. Larger coarse grains crops are expected in Asia, mostly in China, and in several of the central, eastern and CIS countries in Europe where drought affected crops in the previous year. Output will be up also in South America, where a bumper crop is about to be harvested in Brazil. By contrast, output is set to decline in Africa, reflecting poor prospects this year in southern Africa, where the harvest is due to start from April. Production in Oceania is also forecast to decline due to a drop in Australia's summer crop production. Elsewhere, in North and Central America, coarse grain outputs are expected to remain close to the previous year's level.



However, since the major coarse grains crops in the northern hemisphere are yet to be planted, this early forecast is very tentative.

In the southern hemisphere and around the equatorial belt, harvesting of the 2001 season paddy crop is well advanced. In the northern hemisphere, where most of the world's rice crop is grown, planting of the main 2001 rainfed paddy crop will not begin until April-June, when the critical southwest monsoon firmly establishes itself. Assuming normal growing conditions and based on planting intentions in the major rice producing countries, the 2001 rice output is tentatively forecast at 597 million tonnes, similar to last year's output, but 14 million tonnes below the 1999 record level. The contraction in output since 1999 reflects low rice prices in the past season and limited prospects for a recovery, as well as government policies that prompted a cut in rice cultivation in some countries.

The forecast for world **trade** in cereals in 2000/01 (July/June) has been lowered since the last report in February, by 3 million tonnes, to 233 million tonnes mostly because of a lower estimate for imports by China. This would be 2 million tonnes below the previous season's record level. Imports of wheat and wheat flour (in grain equivalent) in 2000/01, are now put at 107 million tonnes, 1 million tonnes below the February forecast and 2 million tonnes below the previous season's level. Likewise, the latest forecast for coarse grains trade has also been lowered by 1 million tonnes since the last report, and now stands at 104 million tonnes, similar to the record volume of 1999/2000. A downward adjustment also to the global rice trade forecast now puts imports of rice in calendar year 2001 at just over 22 million tonnes, 900 000 tonnes down from February but still similar to the previous year's level.

Following a 2 percent increase in 1999/2000, growth in world cereal **utilization** is expected to be marginal in 2000/01. Total utilization for the current season is forecast at 1 907 million tonnes, just 0.3 percent up from the previous year, but nevertheless still above the average of the preceding three years. The volume of cereals used for food consumption is currently forecast to rise by 1.1 percent, to 971 million tonnes, primarily among the developing countries in Asia and the CIS. On a per caput basis, however, the average food consumption of cereals would remain unchanged at both the world level and for the developing countries as a group. In spite of the concerns about the contamination of animal feed with BSE infected meat and bone meal and, more recently, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), global feed usage is not likely to be significantly affected in the short-run from these animal diseases. Global feed usage of cereals is forecast at 686 million tonnes in 2000/01, slightly up from 682 million tonnes in the previous year.

The latest forecast of global cereal **stocks** by the close of the current seasons ending in 2001 has been raised by 5 million tonnes to 645 million tonnes, but this remains at 48 million tonnes below their opening level. World wheat stocks are forecast to fall by 14 million tonnes to 243 million tonnes, while those of coarse grains are seen down by 26 million tonnes to 249 million tonnes. Global rice stocks are expected to fall by over 8 million tonnes to 153 million tonnes. However, despite the sharp drop in the level of world cereal stocks expected this season, exportable supplies have continued to exceed import demand, leading to persistent downward pressure on prices.

World Cereal Production, Supplies, Trade and Stocks

	1998/99	1999/2000 estimate	2000/01 forecast
	(. . . . . . million tonnes . . . . . .)		
Production 1/	**1 901**	**1 887**	**1 854**
Wheat	598	591	585
Coarse grains	912	887	870
Rice (milled)	390	408	399
Supply 2/	**2 575**	**2 587**	**2 548**
Utilization	**1 872**	**1 901**	**1 907**
Trade 3/	**216**	**235**	**233**
Ending Stocks 4/	**700**	**693**	**645**

Source: FAO

1/ Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown. Rice in milled equivalent.
2/ Production plus opening stocks.
3/ July/June basis for wheat and coarse grains and calendar year (second year shown) for rice.
4/ May not equal the difference between supply and utilization due to differences in individual country marketing years.

In international cereal markets, only wheat **prices** remain above last year's level, and mainly because of stronger demand for high quality milling wheat. US hard wheat export prices have been stable in recent months at about US$134 per tonne, which is about US$20 per tonne above the price in the corresponding period last year. Export prices for US soft wheat have declined since January, and in March, the price was just US$5 per tonne above the reduced price a year earlier. International maize prices remain below the previous season's already low level. By March, US maize export prices averaged US$92 per tonne, a further US$3 per tonne drop since January, and US$3 per tonne below the price a year earlier, despite a likely increase in US export sales. The continued downward pressure is mostly due to large sales from China and the prospects of an exportable surplus in Brazil where a record crop is about to be harvested. With the arrival of new rice crops onto the market in some major exporting countries, and continued weak

Food Shortages and Emergencies Persist for some 60 Million People[1/]

Food shortages and emergencies caused by natural and man-made disasters continue to affect many countries in all regions of the world.

In **eastern Africa**, some 18 million people still rely on food assistance, following the severe drought last year, coupled with conflicts in parts. Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Eritrea account for about 16 million or 89 percent of the total. In Kenya, the severe drought last year seriously undermined the food security of nearly 4.4 million people. In Eritrea, more than 1.8 million people displaced by the war with Ethiopia and drought need food assistance. The outlook for the 2001 agricultural season, starting in the next few weeks, is bleak as farmers have not returned to their farms so far and large tracts of land are still inaccessible due to landmines. In Sudan, serious food shortages have emerged in western and southern parts due to drought. The long-running civil war is aggravating the situation by impeding rural households from cultivation. In Ethiopia, some 6.5 million people affected by successive droughts and the war with neighbouring Eritrea depend on food assistance. In **southern Africa**, cereal production in 2001 is forecast to fall sharply, mainly due to a prolonged mid-season dry spell and excessive rains that adversely affected food crops in most countries. Latest FAO forecast for the maize crop, which accounts for 75 percent of cereal production in southern Africa, points to a decrease of 27 percent compared to last year. In parts of Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe some 900 000 people have been seriously affected by severe floods. Damage to infrastructure and housing, displacement of people, as well as crop losses are reported. In Angola, the food supply situation remains serious for over 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), with the number constantly increasing. In **central Africa**, the food supply situation remains precarious for the internally displaced people (IDPs) whose numbers continue to rise. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a serious humanitarian situation continues unabated, with the number of IDPs estimated at over 2 million and increasing. However, humanitarian assistance continues to be hampered by insecurity. In Burundi, food difficulties persist for the IDPs currently estimated at around 324 000. The recent escalation of conflict around the capital city, Bujumbura, has added to the number of the displaced. In Rwanda, despite significant increases in food production last season, food assistance is still needed for 267 000 drought-affected people in south eastern provinces. In **western Africa**, the food supply situation in parts of the Sahel has tightened, following reduced harvests, notably in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, and food distributions to the affected populations are underway. Sierra Leone and Liberia remain heavily dependent on international food assistance, while Guinea is faced with rebel attacks in border areas which are affecting agricultural activities and have caused new population displacements.

In **Asia**, severe winter weather earlier this year has exacerbated an already difficult food supply situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia, where large numbers of livestock, which provide an important source of livelihood and income for a large section of the population, have died. Food assistance is urgently required in parts. Elsewhere, successive drought in parts of north west India and Pakistan has resulted in reduced harvests and exposed large numbers of people to food shortages. Vulnerable groups in Cambodia and Lao PDR still require food assistance following last year's devastating monsoon floods. In the drought affected low-income food deficit countries of the CIS in Asia, particularly Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan, but also in Azerbaijan - some 4 million people continue to require international donor assistance to survive. In addition, further assistance with inputs is necessary if food production this year is to recover. Vulnerable populations in Karakalpakstan in northern Uzbekistan also need relief following critical shortages of irrigation water in 2000.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, nearly one and a half million people continue to receive food assistance, mainly due to weather-induced crop losses. Recovery from Hurricane “Mitch” which hit Central America in 1998 has been slow in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador and a dry spell in the 2000 rainy season caused below-average yields. In El Salvador, moreover, several earthquakes in January and February caused serious damage to infrastructure and this will affect food production in 2001. In Haiti, food assistance continues to be needed due to chronic economic problems.

In **Europe**, food assistance continues to be necessary for about 1 million persons in the Balkans, notably in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but also for the conflict affected populations in the Russian Federation.

1/ This updates information published in the November 2000 issue of Foodcrops and Shortages. Countries facing exceptional food emergencies are underlined.

import demand, international rice prices declined further overall since December 2000. The FAO Export Price Index for Rice (1982-84 = 100) fell to 92 points in March, down from 94 points in December.

Current Production and Crop Prospects

Position by Region

- **Asia**

Far East: Harvesting of the 2001 **wheat** crop will begin from April and overall production is likely to be reduced by drought in a number of countries. In China, winter snow in January/February improved soil moisture levels and favoured the winter wheat crop in the main producing areas. The 2001 winter wheat production is now forecast at 92.5 million tonnes, over 1 million tonnes higher than the earlier forecast. Total winter and spring wheat production this year is currently forecast at 100.5 million tonnes, some 500 000 tonnes below last year. The wheat crop in India, to be harvested in the next few weeks, is expected to be considerably down, by some 5 to 7 million tonnes, on last year's record crop of 75.5 million tonnes. Extensive drought in Pakistan will also result in a significantly lower wheat crop of around 17.5 million tonnes compared to the record 21 million tonnes produced in 2000.

A significant recovery in **maize** production is expected in China this year, following last year's severely drought-reduced crop. Current information indicates that production will be around 120 million tonnes, up some 15 million tonnes on 2000. The increase is largely attributed to a 6 percent increase in area planted to maize this year. The area under the crop, however, is still lower than in 1999. In India, the bulk of **coarse grains** are produced during the monsoon season from June/July to November. Although there are minor crops still being harvested, the current estimate of 2000 production is 31.5 million tonnes, some 3 percent above the previous year. Maize production in the Philippines will be around 4.1 million tonnes compared to 4.5 million tonnes last year. The decline is partly attributed to a wetter dry season than normal which led many producers to shift from maize to rice.

In China (Mainland), the world largest **rice** producer, early expectations for the 2001 rice season point to a drop of about 2 million tonnes over last year’s 190 million tonnes. The anticipated reduction mainly reflects lower plantings in the Yangtze basin and Southern China of the early rice crop, which is not subject to minimum protective price since 2000. In Thailand, planting of the 2001 main rice crop will begin in May/June. Current forecasts put area and production in 2001 at 10 million hectares and 24 million tonnes respectively, basically unchanged from the past season. In Viet Nam, planting of the 10th month rice crop, the first crop of the 2001 season, will begin in May with the arrival of the monsoon rains. Domestic prices have continued to fall and the Government has announced it would purchase 1 million tonnes of paddy by April to sustain the market. In the Philippines, the 2001 main rice crop will begin in July. FAO’s current forecast for the 2001 rice season puts production at a record 12.6 million tonnes, up from the 12.5 million tonnes achieved last year. In India, the 2001 season is scheduled to start in May with the planting of the main Kharif crop. The country’s production this season is forecast to recover by about 3 million tonnes from the previous year’s depressed level of 130 million tonnes, based on the assumption of a return to normal weather conditions. Japan recently launched a new policy package aimed at curbing rice surpluses, in particular, by raising the land diversion programme for rice by 100 000 hectares to over 1 million hectares. This measure, combined with a fall in yields to average levels, might reduce production by about almost 1 million tonnes, to 10.9 million tonnes.

In Indonesia, harvesting of the 2001 main rice crop has started in Java, and will soon begin in Sumatra and other islands. Based on an anticipated drop in area and yields, the 2001 overall output official estimate has been revised downward by 1.9 million tonnes to 50.1 million tonnes from the last report and 1.1 million tonnes below the level achieved in the previous season. The drop should mainly reflect a contraction in the area as domestic price prospects remain poor, notwithstanding an increase in minimum producer prices. Harvesting of the main Maha crop is underway in Sri Lanka. Good weather conditions and adequate north-east monsoon precipitation have been beneficial to the planting and maturation of the crop so far. Planting of the Yala crop, which accounts for one-third of total output, is expected to begin in April. The country’s rice production in 2001 is forecast at 2.8 million tonnes, unchanged from last season.

Near East: Prospects for the winter crops in Afghanistan are unfavourable due to ongoing fighting in northern provinces which account for some 40 percent of the country's irrigated cereal and about 53 percent of its rainfed area. Also in Iraq, the outlook for the winter crops remains uncertain due to below-average rainfall and shortages of essential inputs. In Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan, despite late start of rains, prospects for the 2001 crop to be harvested in April/May have somewhat improved with good rains received as the season progressed. Similarly, in Turkey, recent favourable rains have improved prospects for the wheat crop, to be harvested from June, after warm and dry weather earlier in the year. Prospects for recovery in this year's wheat crop in the Islamic Republic of Iran, still remain uncertain, following two successive years of serious drought in 1999 and 2000 that saw production fall significantly. Production in Bangladesh is forecast at 2 million tonnes this year, up from last year's 1.84 million tonnes.

CIS in Asia: In the eight CIS countries in Asia, the overall outlook for the 2001 cereal harvests will largely be influenced by prospects in Kazakhstan, the major producer, where the bulk of cereals are not sown until

World Cereal Production – Forecast for 2001

	Wheat		Coarse grains		Rice (paddy)		Total	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	(. . . . million tonnes . . . .)							
Asia	251.9	242.3	193.0	211.5	543.2		988.1	
Africa	14.2	15.9	78.7	76.3	17.2		110.1	
Central America	3.4	3.2	28.7	28.2	2.4		34.4	
South America	20.3	20.9	62.0	67.0	20.7		103.1	
North America	87.3	86.9	299.2	301.6	8.7		395.2	
Europe	186.4	192.0	198.1	210.9	3.1		387.7	
Oceania	21.4	23.6	10.7	9.6	1.1		33.2	
WORLD	**585.0**	**584.8**	**870.4**	**905.1**	**596.4 (399)1/**	**596.7 (399)1/**	**2 051.8 (1 854)2/**	**2 086.6 (1 889)2/**
Developing countries	270.2	262.3	346.8	371.1	571.1	571.1	1 188.1	1 204.5
Developed countries	314.8	322.5	523.5	534.0	25.3	25.6	863.6	882.2

Source: FAO
1/ Milled rice. 2/ Including milled rice.

May. The early outlook for winter cereals is mixed. Following the drought-reduced crops of 2000, seed shortages have limited the areas that could be sown with winter wheat in several countries, notably Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan. The area sown to winter cereals increased further in Azerbaijan, but winter precipitation in the Caucasus region has been below normal and inadequate to replenish moisture reserves for sustained plant growth and irrigation water supplies. Good precipitation is needed in April-May and beyond, just to secure normal spring crop areas and yields, let alone compensate for reduced winter wheat areas. Elsewhere, in the Asian CIS countries, heavy snowfall this winter has helped to replenish moisture supplies. In Uzbekistan, latest reports indicate that the area sown to winter cereals has increased somewhat. In Turkmenistan, also, the area sown increased further and the production target has been raised beyond last year's record output of 1.8 million tonnes. Current preliminary forecasts point to an aggregate cereal harvest of about 22 million tonnes, roughly 1 million tonnes more than in 2000, in response to expected growth in output in Turkmenistan, a recovery in Uzbekistan, and a stable output of about 12 million tonnes in Kazakhstan. Most of the increase would be in wheat production but rice production could recover in Uzbekistan. Cereal production in Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan could remain below average for the second year in succession.

- **Africa**

Northern Africa: Harvest prospects are generally favourable for the 2001 **wheat** crops in the subregion, to be harvested from May. A strong recovery in output after last year's drought-reduced crop is anticipated, provided normal weather prevails in the coming months. In Algeria, despite delayed plantings in several areas because of insufficient precipitation at the beginning of the growing season, rainfall in January and February over growing areas has been abundant and widespread. However, more timely rains in the next two months will be crucial for a recovery in production. In Morocco, rainfall has been generally abundant this year in most growing areas, with the exception of the Sahelian and pre-Sahelian zones of the country. Crops are reported to be in good condition and water reservoirs are being replenished. The area sown to wheat and other cereals is reported to be close to the five-year average and production is expected to be more than double last year's poor result. In Tunisia, significant rains continue to benefit crop development in the northern region, the main producing area of the country, and a good harvest is in prospect. However, conditions have been less favourable in the center and the south, where crops have been adversely affected by a prolonged dry spell. In Egypt, where the wheat crop is largely irrigated, growing conditions are satisfactory. Good rainfall in February also improved conditions for cultivation of more land for wheat and barley in Lower Egypt. Aggregate output of **coarse grains** in 2001 in the subregion is also expected to recover from last year's severely drought-affected harvest.

Preparations have started for the planting of the 2001 irrigated **rice** crop in Egypt. Preliminary forecasts point to a contraction in the area, mainly in light of the low prices, which may encourage a shift towards other crops. To better manage irrigation water, the Government currently imposes a ceiling on the area planted to rice and promotes planting of high yielding and short period maturity varieties, which are expected to make up a large portion of the 2001 rice crop.

Western Africa: Prospects for off-season or recession crops are less favourable than last year in Mauritania and Senegal due to the lower water level reached in the Senegal river following poorer 2000 rains. A series of joint FAO/CILSS Crop Assessment Missions in the nine CILSS member countries of the Sahel estimated the aggregate 2000 **cereal** production at 9.5 million tonnes, which is about 15 percent below the record production of 1999. Below-average harvests have been gathered in Burkina Faso and Chad, while production was close to average in Mali, Mauritania and Niger, and above average in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Senegal. A record crop was harvested in The Gambia.

In the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, the rainy season has just started in the south, allowing land preparation and planting of the first **maize** crop. Cereal harvests in 2000 were generally good but in Guinea and Sierra Leone, fighting in border areas affected agricultural and marketing activities and caused new population displacements. Relief programmes have also been hampered by insecurity.

Preparations for the 2001 **rice** season are underway, but information on planting intentions and output expectations is still lacking. Civil conflicts are expected to continue to affect rice production activities in some countries. In Cote d'Ivoire, the 2001 rice season is scheduled to start with the arrival of the rains usually in March-April. In Sierra Leone, planting of the 2001 season is expected to begin in May, but it is feared that the resurgence of civil unrest will negatively affect rice output. An FAO crop and food supply assessment mission to Liberia in December estimated the 2000 paddy production at 144 000 tonnes, compared to a pre-war (1988) output of 259 000 tonnes.

Central Africa: Good harvests have been gathered in Central African Republic and Cameroon. In the Republic of Congo, the security situation has improved following a peace agreement, but food production has not yet recovered and food assistance is being provided to refugees and internally displaced persons. The food situation remains critical in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to persistent civil war. The number of internally displaced people is currently estimated at 2 million.

Eastern Africa: Harvesting of the 2001 **wheat** crop has started in the Sudan. Following favourable weather conditions and increased plantings, this year's production is forecast to increase on last year's level. Planting of the 2001 wheat crop in Kenya and Ethiopia is scheduled in the next two months. The subregion's 2000 aggregate wheat output is estimated at 1.9 million tonnes, 13 percent above the previous year's production but 3 percent below average. In Ethiopia, the wheat crop harvested late in 2000 was a bumper 1.4 million tonnes. In Kenya, output remained around the poor level of the previous year, as a result of drought.

Harvesting of the 2000/2001 secondary **coarse grains** season is completed except in Ethiopia, where the "belg" crops are scheduled to be harvested from June. Improved rains in some areas from last October to February helped growing crops throughout the subregion. FAO's latest estimates put the subregion's aggregate 2000/2001 coarse grain output at about 18 million tonnes, a slight recovery from the previous year's reduced crop but about 8 percent below the average of the past five years. In Ethiopia, aggregate coarse grains output is estimated to have increased by 20 percent from the reduced crop of the previous year, and at 7.5 million tonnes is well above average. A bumper main "meher" crop was gathered following abundant rains and increased planting. The secondary "belg" crop is expected to be normal following adequate rains in the second half of February and first half of March. In Tanzania, the output of the recently harvested 2000/2001 secondary coarse grain season recovered after several reduced harvests in succession, despite some localized crop losses due to erratic rains. However, the main season output was reduced by dry weather and the aggregate 2000 coarse grains output is estimated at 3.1 million tonnes, well below the previous year's level and about 11 percent below average. Prospects for the 2001 main maize crop season in the uni-modal rainfall areas have improved with favourable rainfall forecast. In the Sudan, the 2000 main coarse grains crop rose by 6 percent from the reduced level in 1999 but, at 3.1 million tonnes, is 20 percent below average. In Kenya, the aggregate 2000/2001 main maize crop is provisionally estimated at 1.7 million tonnes, 24 and 27 percent below the previous year and the average respectively. This reflects a prolonged severe drought, which has adversely affected the main season coarse grains crop. In Eritrea, the 2000 coarse grains output, estimated at 63 000 tonnes is nearly 70 percent below average due to war-displacement of farmers and drought. In Somalia, a satisfactory secondary "deyr" season was preceded by a favourable main "gu" harvest. Latest estimates put the aggregate coarse grains output at 320 000 tonnes, 32 percent above the previous year and 23 percent above average. In Uganda, provisional estimates indicate a coarse grains output of about 1.5 million tonnes, some 7 percent and 13 percent below 1999 and the average respectively. In Burundi, coarse grain production of the 2001 first season increased substantially from last year, while in Rwanda it remained at the good level of the previous year's same season.

Southern Africa: The subregion's aggregate production of **wheat** in 2000 is estimated at 2.5 million tonnes, some 14 percent above the previous year's level and the average. Production recovered in South Africa, where latest estimates were revised upwards to 2.1 million tonnes. By contrast, in Zimbabwe, the output declined by one-quarter from the good harvest of the previous year. This reflects a reduction in plantings following the programme of resettlement of commercial farms, which produce all of the country's wheat crop. In Zambia, the output remained at the previous year's good level of 90 000 tonnes.

Prospects for the 2001 **coarse grains**, to be harvested from mid-April, are poor. Production of maize, accounting for over 90 percent of the total coarse grains output, is preliminary forecast by FAO at 13.5 million tonnes. This is 27 percent, or 5 million tonnes, below the good harvest of 2000 and well below the average of the five past years. The decrease in output reflects a decline in the area planted and lower yields due to a mid-season dry spell in southern parts, followed by excessive rains and floods. In South Africa, the largest producer of the subregion, the maize output is forecast at 7.2 million tonnes, one-third below the level of 2000. The area planted is estimated 17 percent lower and yields in the main growing areas were affected by a severe dry spell during January and early February. In Zimbabwe, plantings were reduced by one-quarter, due to the on-going resettlement of commercial farms and shortages of fuel. Yields were adversely affected by dry weather in southern and western parts and by heavy rains and floods in northern areas. Maize production is forecast at 1.2 million tonnes, a decrease of 41 percent from last year's good level. In Malawi, excessive rains in February and March, which resulted in widespread floods, negatively affected yields of the developing maize crop. The output is forecast to decline 14 percent from last year's bumper crop to 2.1 million tonnes, which is still above average. In Zambia, heavy rains in late February, and earlier dry weather in southern parts, reduced yields of maize. Production is expected to decline 8 percent from last year good harvest. In Mozambique, heavy rains in central parts resulted in serious crop losses, while dry weather negatively affected crops in southern provinces. Overall, however, the general abundant rains of the season benefited coarse grains in the main growing areas. The maize output is anticipated to be around last year's level. In Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, developing coarse grains were adversely affected by severe dry weather in January and the outputs are anticipated to decline slightly or to remain at the reduced levels of last year. In Namibia, prolonged dry weather also affected coarse grain production. The maize output is forecast to decline over one-third from the above average level of 2000. In Madagascar, dry weather in the southern maize growing areas in January negatively affected yields.

In Madagascar, good precipitation during the second half of January benefited the 2001 **rice** crop in general. However, more rains are needed in the northern areas where rainfalls have been erratic. Harvesting is anticipated to start in April and the overall rice prospects remain favourable. In Mozambique, torrential rains in January and late February have resulted in floods and caused damage to crops in the central provinces, while in the south, a lack of the precipitation during the crop maturation period is expected to reduce yield. However, the impact on rice crops should be limited unless the weather problems persist. Preliminary forecasts for the paddy crop indicate an almost full recovery of production, after the sharp contraction incurred last season.

- **Central America and the Caribbean**

Previous favorable prospects for Mexico's irrigated autumn/winter **wheat** crops are now somewhat uncertain as a result of the lack of sufficient rains in year 2001. Rains at the end of year 2000 over the north-west states of Sonora, Baja California and Sinaloa partially replenished water reservoirs, which was expected to ensure an adequate provision of water during February and March. However, the area cultivated has been revised downwards and is now estimated to be 7 percent lower than last year, and therefore the forecast for production now stands at slightly lower than 3.3 million tonnes.

Land is being prepared for the 2001 first season **coarse grain** crops in most Central American countries, which in the last months have seen a general recovery in white maize prices. In El Salvador, recent earthquakes have raised concern about the availability of inputs for the forthcoming first season coarse grain crops, and the government is distributing seeds and fertilizer packages to the affected farmers to prevent a drop in planted area. In Cuba, abundant rains at the end of last year marked the end of what has been described as the worst drought of the decade. The rains receded in February and March of this year, and the drier weather is helping to keep the April harvest of the second season crop on schedule. In the Dominican Republic, planting of first season coarse grain crops has started under normal weather conditions, while third season crops, currently in reproductive state, are developing normally. In Costa Rica, the harvest of maize (mostly white) is completed and, as in previous years, production will not be sufficient to satisfy domestic demand. In Mexico, sorghum production is expected to increase, reflecting the strong demand from the livestock sector, although dry conditions are not favoring Tamaulipas' non-irrigated crop.

A bumper 2001 **paddy** crop is expected in the Dominican Republic, were harvest is due to start in May. In Cuba, output is provisionally forecast to decrease slightly from the previous year.

- **South America**

Land preparation has started for the autumn planting of **wheat** crops in Argentina. Latest information on planting intentions for 2001 points to a slight increase in area, in anticipation of some recovery of world wheat prices during the year.

Harvesting of **coarse grains** has started on schedule in Brazil and Argentina. Moderate rains throughout the summer helped the development of the crop and harvest prospects are favorable. Output in Argentina is forecast to fall slightly, mostly due to reduced plantings. However, in Brazil, a record output is now forecast for 2001. According to Brazil's National Food Supply Agency (CONAB), domestic demand this year will be met completely with domestic production for the first time since the early 1980s. In Peru, rains have kept water reservoirs at adequate levels all over the country. Harvest of white maize has started and will continue until August with a forecasted 10 percent decrease in output due to a fall in area planted. Yellow maize is harvested all year round, with peaks in June/July and February/March. In 2000, yellow maize production increased by 15 percent, and a similar increase is forecast for this year due to an expansion in the area planted. Torrential rains and floods were reported in parts of Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, with localized damage to coarse grain and paddy crops.

Harvesting of the 2001 **paddy** crops has started in some parts of the region. Low paddy prices have led to a reduction in the area for this year's harvest in some of the major producing countries. In Brazil, production in 2001 is forecast to decrease by 5.5 percent to 10.8 million tonnes. In Argentina, following a 9 percent drop in area production is now forecast to fall to 640 000 tonnes, from some 900 000 tonnes in 2000. Plantings also fell in Uruguay, where output is forecast down at about 900 000 tonnes compared to over 1 million tonnes in 2000. In Peru, abundant rains have improved prospects after earlier dry conditions, and the 2001 rain-fed paddy crops are provisionally estimated to produce some 1.9 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's crop.

- **North America**

Wheat output in the United States could decline further in 2001. Winter wheat plantings fell to their lowest level since 1971 and harsh weather in some areas in late 2000 delayed crop emergence while a reduction in the spring wheat area is also in prospect. Latest official estimates put the winter wheat areas at 16.7 million hectares, some 800 000 hectares or 5 percent less than in the previous year. Early indications for spring wheat plantings in the USDA Prospective Planting Report point to a 1.2 percent reduction in area to about 7.7 million hectares. A sharp decline in durum plantings is expected to more than offset a marginal increase in the area sown to other spring wheat. Based on the estimate of the winter wheat area and the spring wheat planting intentions, and assuming normal weather conditions prevail for the rest of the season, FAO currently forecasts the aggregate 2001 wheat output in the United States at about 60 million tonnes, slightly down from the previous year's below-average crop. In Canada, the bulk of the 2001 wheat crop is due to be sown from May to June. The area planted is expected to expand marginally from the previous year and overall output of wheat is tentatively forecast at almost 27 million tonnes, compared to 26.8 million tonnes in 2000.

In the United States, some early **coarse grains** crops are already in the ground in southern parts, but the bulk of the maize planting in the Corn Belt states takes place from late April. Early indications in the USDA Prospective Planting Report point to 4 percent reduction in maize plantings but a 2 percent increase for sorghum. In Canada, the bulk of the coarse grains crops will be sown in May-June. Latest indications point to a likely increase in the area and production of the major coarse grains.

Planting of the 2001 **rice** crop in the United States is expected to start in March/April. Output is forecast to reach 8.9 million tonnes, 200 000 tonnes more than last year. This forecast is based on expectations of a 4.2 percent expansion in area but a return to normal yields from the exceptionally high levels achieved last year. Paddy producers have benefited since 1999 from high government support that has boosted their incomes, notwithstanding low international prices. As a result, rice remains an attractive crop.

- **Europe**

In the EC, latest indications continue point to an overall reduction in **cereal** area for the 2001 harvest, largely reflecting a significant contraction in the winter sown soft **wheat** area. The main reductions in the soft wheat area are reported in France and the United Kingdom. In Italy, while the soft wheat area is expected to fall sharply, the area dedicated to the more important durum wheat is forecast to remain relatively unchanged from the previous year. In Spain, although final data is not yet available, the wheat area is tentatively estimated to be down by about 5 percent from the previous year due to heavy rains during the main planting period. Also in Portugal, heavy rains have caused a significant drop in the wheat area. Assuming normal weather conditions prevail for the remainder of the season, aggregate wheat output in the EC in 2001 is tentatively forecast at 101 million tonnes, down by about 4 percent from the bumper crop in 2000 but still above the average of the past five years. For **coarse grains**, much will depend on the outcome of spring/summer planting, which is only just starting. Early indications suggest that the area dedicated to the main feed grains such as barley and maize may expand in anticipation of increased demand from the feed industry following the ban on the use of meat and bone meal. However, assuming a return to normal yields after last year's bumper levels, the EC's overall output of coarse grains in 2001 is tentatively forecast at about 107 million tonnes, 2 percent down from 2000. In the EC, preparations of the 2001 **rice** crop are underway but planting intentions are uncertain.

Elsewhere in Europe, prospects for the winter cereal crops remain unfavourable throughout the Balkan countries where soil moisture deficit continues to be the main concern. Romania, Bulgaria and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain the countries most affected with their cumulative rainfalls for the December-February period reported to be, respectively, 60 percent, 50 percent and 20 percent below normal. The dry conditions have been exacerbated by generally warmer than normal temperatures. Further north, rainfall has been more frequent and regular in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. Although snowcover has been limited in many areas mild temperatures have meant little risk of frost kill among the winter grains

In Bulgaria, the winter wheat area is officially estimated at some 1.2 million hectares, up about 12 percent from 2000. The barley area is also estimated up at about 250 000 hectares. However, there is considerable uncertainty over the likely effect of continuing dry conditions on crop yields this year. If rainfall returns to normal levels for the remainder of the season, cereal output could recover somewhat from last year's below-average level. In the Czech Republic, the 2001 cereal area is forecast to remain similar to the previous year's level at about 1.6 million hectares, of which wheat accounts for about 900 000 hectares. Based on conditions so far, an average output is expected.

In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the outlook for the 2001 cereal harvests is clouded by the effects of the prolonged drought last year. Financial constraints on farm are also likely to limit the use of inputs and undermine yields. Output could recover somewhat from last year's poor 5.4 million tonnes but could remain below average. The outlook for the 2001 winter grain harvest is uncertain. Reports indicate that the area sown to wheat may have recovered to about normal levels, but much of the planting was late due to dry conditions in October/November and the availability of inputs, notably fertilizer, remains problematic.

In Hungary, the winter cereal area has increased and moisture conditions have improved over the past few weeks. The wheat crop is expected to recover significantly and could exceed 4 million tonnes after reduced outputs in the past two years. In Poland, conditions have also remained satisfactory over the past few weeks. The winter grain area is tentatively estimated to be about average. If normal conditions prevail for the remainder of the season, output of wheat and coarse grains will likely recover significantly from last year's reduced level. In Romania, the outlook for the 2001 cereal crops is unfavourable in view of continuing drought that has afflicted the country for over a year. Although the area sown to winter cereals is estimated to be similar to that of the previous year, yield prospects are poor and unlikely to improve unless significant precipitation arrives soon. If the drought continues, spring grain planting is also likely to be severely affected. In the Slovak Republic, prospects for the winter grain crops are satisfactory and output is expected to recover after last year's reduced crop.

In the Baltic countries, (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) the 2001 aggregate cereal output could be somewhat higher than last year's 4 million tonnes reflecting generally favourable winter weather conditions.

In the CIS countries west of the Ural Mountains (Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine), FAO's early forecast points to an increase in the 2001 cereal production, reflecting good growing conditions and soil moisture reserves to date in the major producing areas (mainly in the Russian Federation and Ukraine) and an expected increase in the aggregate cereal area. The aggregate area sown to winter crops has increased by over 1 million hectares and the bulk of crops are reported to be in good to satisfactory condition.

At this early stage, the outlook is for aggregate 2001 cereal output to increase by 10 million tonnes to some 209 million tonnes, provided growing conditions remain normal until the completion of the harvests. Aggregate wheat production could increase by 8 million tonnes to 58 million tonnes, while coarse grains output is tentatively forecast to rise more modestly (by 2 million tonnes) to 50.6 million tonnes. Output of paddy is forecast to remain stable at 0.7 million tonnes.

In Belarus, the 2001 cereal harvest could increase somewhat beyond the 4.4 million tonnes harvested in 2000 despite persistent economic problems. In Moldova also, some recovery from the 2000 drought reduced level of 2 million tonnes is likely, given better weather. In the Russian Federation, the area sown to winter crops increased by 600 000 tonnes to 14.7 million hectares. Over 90 percent of the crop is in good to satisfactory condition, and heavy snowfall this winter has provided good soil moisture reserves in most areas except limited parts of the North Caucasus and adjoining areas. Good demand for cereals coupled with adequate moisture supplies are expected to lead to an increase in the area of spring cereals. Given normal conditions until the harvest, the 2001 wheat output could increase to 40 million tonnes (1999: 38 million tonnes) mostly in response to increased plantings. Similarly, some increase in the area sown to barley could result in an aggregate coarse grains output of 13 million tonnes, somewhat higher than last year's good harvest. Output of paddy is forecast to remain stable at 0.6 million tonnes. FAO's production estimates for the Russian Federation are about 10 percent higher than the official estimates, in view of systematic underestimation.

In contrast to the past two year's, the early outlook for cereal crops in the Ukraine is favourable. The area sown to winter crops has increased, for cereals by at least 0.8 million hectares - and this estimate could be higher when data on the area sown by the private sector is incorporated - to 8.4 million hectares. The bulk of the winter cereal crop remains in good to satisfactory condition. Soil moisture reserves have been replenished in all areas except the south where they are nevertheless 70-80 percent of normal. The availability of inputs is better than last year. In addition, spring plantings are expected to increase. Demand for contractual harvest services later this year is also greater than at the same time last year. The extent of the recent flood damage in Zarkapatia is likely to be limited but could delay spring planting in that area. Although indications are that the harvest could be larger, the mild wet winter has led to increased weed infestation and disease and could affect crop quality. FAO's preliminary forecast is for the 2001 cereal harvest to increase by 7 million tonnes to nearly 30 million tonnes. Output of wheat could recover to 16.6 million tonnes, from last year's drought reduced level of 11 million tonnes, while that of coarse grains could increase more modestly (+1.2 million tonnes) to 13 million tonnes.

- **Oceania**

In Australia, planting of the main 2001 **wheat** and **coarse grains** crops is due to start in May. Early official forecasts indicate an increase in wheat production to some 23 million tonnes from a below average output of 21.2 million tonnes in 2000. The forecast is based on an expected increase in plantings to about 12 million hectares, and an assumption of average seasonal weather conditions, giving an average yield of about 1.9 tonnes/hectare. The winter barley crop is also forecast to increase, by about 5 percent, to reach almost 6 million tonnes. Harvest of the minor 2001 summer coarse grains crop, mainly sorghum and maize, is underway. Output is sorghum is forecast to fall significantly to about 1.5 million tonnes reflecting dry conditions at planting time.

The 2001 **rice** harvest has started sooner than expected due to good weather during the maturation period. The 2001 rice output is forecast to reach 1.75 million tonnes, more than 60 percent above last year, following a 40 percent expansion in the area to 186 000 hectares and good yield prospects.

Trade[1/]

World trade in 2000/01 could fall slightly below the previous season

The forecast for world **cereal** trade in 2000/01 has been lowered this month to 233 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes less than was reported in February. At the current forecast level, world trade in cereals in 2000/01 would be some 2 million tonnes below the previous season, which was a record. Among the individual cereals, trade in wheat is expected to contract the most while rice imports in 2001 are tentatively forecast to decrease marginally. By contrast, world imports of coarse grains are forecast to remain at last year's record volume.

The forecast for global trade in **wheat** and wheat flour (in grain equivalent) in 2000/01 (July/June) has been lowered by 1 million tonnes this month to 107 million tonnes. At this level, world wheat imports would be 2 million tonnes below the previous season's level. FAO's forecasts for wheat imports have been lowered continuously over the past few months largely due to China. Initially, the sharp fall in 2000 production in China gave way to expectations for much larger wheat purchases this season, but abundant stocks have confined wheat imports to a relatively small volume of high milling quality, needed for blending purposes.

Total wheat imports by countries in **Asia** in 2000/01 are currently forecast at 48 million tonnes, down 3 million tonnes from 1999/2000. Beside China, which is likely to import less than in the previous season, India and Pakistan, usually wheat importing countries, harvested bumper crops in 2000 and are exporting some of the surplus. Nevertheless, not all countries in Asia will cut their imports this season. In some of the drought-affected countries, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, imports are expected to remain at last year's record volume. Wheat imports by Iraq are forecast to rise, not only because of lower domestic output, but also because of higher prices for petroleum, which the country exports in exchange for food imports under the UN agreement. Wheat imports by the Republic of Korea are also forecast to increase, although this would mostly reflect larger imports of feed quality wheat.

Aggregate wheat imports by countries in **Africa** are forecast to rise to 25 million tonnes, up over 1 million tonnes from the previous year and slightly higher than that reported in February. The increase from last year would be in response to larger imports by several drought-affected countries in North Africa, particularly Algeria, where imports are expected to surge to a new record. Total imports by countries in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to approach 8 million tonnes, down slightly from 1999/2000 but more than was reported earlier. Most of this month's upward revision reflects higher forecasts for Ethiopia. Despite larger wheat production in Ethiopia, some 6.5 million people will require food assistance. Therefore, the bulk of this year's large imports, put at some 900 000 tonnes, are expected to be in the form of food aid.

In **Europe**, total imports are expected to be smaller than in the previous season. Overall, this year's likely sharp drop in imports by the Russian Federation, mostly as a result of a recovery in 2000 production, would more than offset the expected surge in purchases by the EC, Poland and Romania. This month's forecast for imports by the EC has been raised to take account of stronger demand for milling quality wheat. In Poland, following a sharp drop in 2000 production, imports are forecast to double this year under the agreement to allow up to 1 million tonne of imports at zero-duty. Also in Romania, the decline in 2000 output coupled with small inventories is expected to necessitate large imports before the summer harvest. In the **Latin American and Caribbean** region, Mexico is expected to lower its imports because of higher domestic production. Imports by Brazil, the region's largest wheat importer, are forecast to surge above last year. The increase would also include a likely expansion in purchases from the United States of all varieties of soft wheat. This follows the Brazilian Government's decision in March to lift the phytosanitary restrictions on wheat imports from the United States.

Although world wheat trade in 2000/01 is proving less upbeat than was envisaged earlier in the season, it would still represent the second largest volume after

1/ World trade in wheat and coarse grains is based on estimated imports delivered through 30 June of the July/June trade year. Some late-season purchases may be included in the next season if deliveries occur after 30 June. In general, exports and imports are calculated based on estimated shipments and deliveries during the July/June trade season and thus they may not be equal for any given year due to time lags between shipments and deliveries. Trade in rice is reported on a calendar year basis for the first year shown.

last year's record. From the major exporters' perspective, this season is providing better opportunities especially for the United States and Argentina. Their wheat exports (on July/June basis) could increase by 4 million tonnes and 1 million tonnes, respectively. By contrast, neither Australia nor Canada may be in the position to repeat last year's above-average exports, mostly because of smaller export availabilities. Based on the slow pace of sales from the EC so far, exports from the Community are unlikely to exceed last year's levels and could even decline. Strong domestic demand during the first half of the season and the WTO-imposed ceiling of 14.4 million tonnes of subsidized wheat exports, coupled with continued low international prices, are among the main reasons for this development.

Among other exporters, the decline in 2000 production in several countries in Europe outside the EC has sharply reduced export supplies in the affected countries: Poland and Romania will not export wheat this season while Ukraine and Hungary could make only limited sales to world markets. Elsewhere, shipments from Turkey are also likely to remain at last year's reduced volume because of smaller domestic supplies. By contrast, India and Pakistan have large exportable supplies this season. Exports from India are forecast to be significant following the latest large sale to the Russian Federation (for 550 000 tonnes). Total exports from India are now expected to approach the Government's target of 2 million tonnes. Larger sales enabled India to export some of its surplus in recent months, but increasing competition from major suppliers could slow export sales considerably during the second half of this season.

Since the last report, the forecast for world trade in **coarse grains** in 2000/01 (July/June) has been lowered by 1 million tonnes to roughly 104 million tonnes. At this level, world imports of coarse grains would be similar to the previous year's record volume. Total imports of coarse grains by countries in **Asia** are put at over 56 million tonnes, down 2 million tonnes from the previous year and slightly smaller than were expected earlier. The decline since the last report reflects small downward adjustments to the forecasts for maize imports into several important markets combined with smaller forecasts for barley purchases, particularly by China and Saudi Arabia.

Aggregate imports by countries in **Africa** are now put at 14 million tonnes, up 800 000 tonnes from 1999/2000, but slightly below the previous estimate. The increase from last year would be mostly on account of larger imports of barley by Morocco and maize by Kenya, as both countries experienced a sharp fall in their domestic production because of drought. In Kenya, the drought has undermined the food security of more than 4 million people and a massive UN-led relief operation is under way. While imports of coarse grains by most other countries in Africa are not expected to diverge significantly from the volume of the previous season, several countries in southern Africa, especially Zambia and Zimbabwe, where 2000 production largely recovered, could sharply reduce their imports during the current trade season, which ends in July. However, imports could surge in 20001/02 based on the latest FAO assessment of sharply reduced 2001 production prospects in southern African region. High levels of imports will continue to be needed in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, following two seasons of reduced harvests, and in Angola, because of civil war.

Imports of coarse grains by countries in **Europe** are likely to exceed 9 million tonnes, up over 1 million tonnes from the previous season. The increase is due to higher requirements in several central and eastern European countries, particularly Romania and Poland, following last year's poor output. Imports by the Russian Federation, however, are seen to fall sharply in response to much larger domestic production. Imports by the EC are likely to remain unchanged from the previous year and be mostly unaffected by ongoing problems associated with animal diseases. Beside, the bulk of imports by the EC are destined for Spain and Portugal, because of their special preferential import quota agreement when they joined the Community.

Total coarse grains imports by the **Latin American and Caribbean** countries could fall slightly below the previous year to just under 20 million tonnes. Total imports by Mexico, the world's second largest importer of coarse grains after Japan, are forecast to hit a new record of 10 million tonnes, as more maize and sorghum imports are needed to satisfy the fast growing demand from the livestock sector, especially because of the rapid recovery in Mexico's poultry sector after a disease-driven slow down in 1999. By contrast, a likely bumper maize crop in Brazil could not only lead to a drop in imports but also result in the country becoming a net maize exporter for the first time in nearly 2 decades. Prospects for its maize exports are good, especially in light of the increasing import demand for non-GM maize by some major markets.

The strong trade prospects this season would benefit nearly all five major exporters. The only exception may be the EC, where barley exports seem to have been affected most because of the slow pace of export licenses so far and a likely decrease in demand from Saudi Arabia, the world's largest importer of feed barley and the EC's biggest market. Sales from Argentina and the United States are forecast to exceed last year's levels, driven mostly by strong world import demand for maize. However, the forecast for exports from the United States has been cut by nearly 2 million tonnes since the previous report, mostly in view of a reduction in the forecasts for total world trade. While exports from Canada and Australia are not expected to diverge significantly from the previous year's levels, China, Brazil and the Republic of South Africa are all expected to see their sales rise significantly in the 2000/01 season. Higher exports from those countries would also largely compensate a sharp reduction in export supplies in some European countries, such as Hungary and Romania.

Overview of World Cereal Imports - Forecast for 2000/01

	Wheat		Coarse grains		Rice (milled)		Total	
	1999/2000	2000/01	1999/2000	2000/01	2000	2001	1999/2000	2000/01
	(. . . . million tonnes . . . .)							
Asia	51.0	47.9	58.6	56.4	11.6	11.1	121.1	115.4
Africa	23.7	25.1	13.2	14.0	5.7	5.8	42.6	44.9
Central America	6.0	5.8	12.9	13.4	1.6	1.6	20.4	20.8
South America	12.6	13.0	7.2	6.4	1.0	1.1	20.8	20.6
North America	2.6	2.6	3.6	4.1	0.6	0.6	6.7	7.3
Europe	12.9	12.1	8.2	9.4	1.7	1.7	22.7	23.1
Oceania	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.9
WORLD	**109.2**	**107.0**	**103.7**	**103.7**	**22.5**	**22.3**	**235.4**	**233.1**
Developing Countries	82.4	80.8	69.0	67.8	18.7	18.4	170.1	166.9
Developed Countries	26.8	26.3	34.7	35.9	3.8	3.9	65.3	66.1

Source: FAO

Weak global **rice** demand and low prices continue to dominate the international rice market in the first quarter of 2001. As a result, FAO's forecast for world rice trade in calendar year 2001 has been reduced from the previous report by 900 000 tonnes to 22.3 million tonnes. At this level, the volume traded this year would be marginally lower than in 2000, reflecting mainly a depressed import demand in Asia.

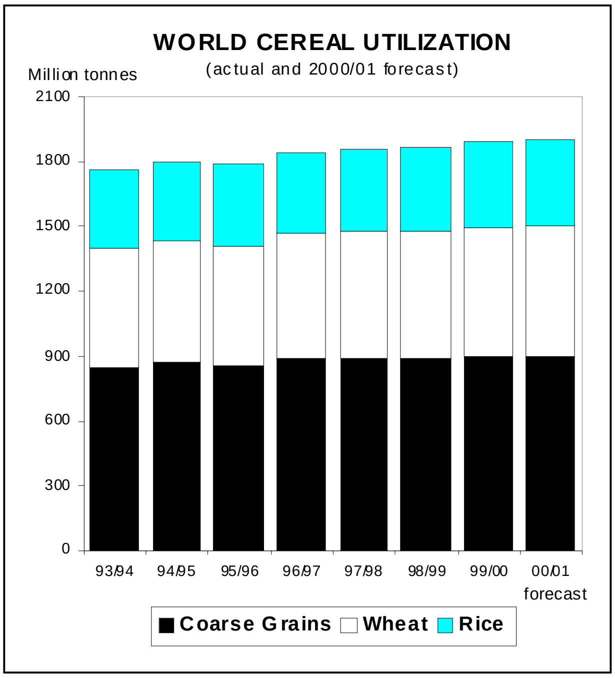
Owing to the satisfactory production outcome during the 2000 season and large opening stocks, Indonesia is expected to slash rice purchases in 2001 by 800 000 tonnes from last year to 1.2 million tonnes, 600 000 tonnes less than previously anticipated. The revision reflects the recent introduction of new import restrictions and a weakening of the local currency, which should make foreign supplies less competitive on the domestic market. The forecast for Bangladesh, which has harvested bumper crops for the last three years, has also been cut by 200 000 tonnes to 300 000 tonnes, the lowest level since 1997. Sri Lanka's rice purchases in 2001 are currently forecast at 100 000 tonnes, half the level originally expected, but much higher than the official 27 000 tonnes estimate for 2000. By contrast, imports by Iraq in 2001 are currently put at 1.2 million tonnes, unchanged from last year, but 200 000 tonnes more than previously anticipated. The forecasts for the other major importers in the region remain unchanged from the last report, at 1.2 million tonnes for the Islamic Republic of Iran and at 700 000 tonnes for Malaysia and the Philippines. Following a rise in tariffs from 50 percent to 75 percent announced in February, the 2001 import forecast for Nigeria has been lowered by 100 000 tonnes to 800 000 tonnes, the same level as last year. Official estimates for Guinea have put imports in 2000 at 150 000 tonnes, reflecting good harvest during the past season despite the occurrence of conflicts and natural disasters. The forecast for 2001 has been revised downward accordingly from 240 000 tonnes to 150 000 tonnes, pending more information on the country's production this season. By contrast, the forecast for the Côte d'Ivoire has been raised slightly to 800 000 tonnes, which would still be 100 000 tonnes less than last year. Shipments to Senegal and South Africa have been lowered from the last report by a combined 90 000 tonnes. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the import forecast for Brazil remains unchanged at 800 000 tonnes in 2001, 140 000 tonnes more than last year, in anticipation of a fall in production. Shipments to Guatemala are also anticipated to rise slightly from last year, following an increase in the preferential access quota, the bulk of which are likely to be in the form of paddy rice. The forecast for Peru, however, has been lowered by 80 000 tonnes to 97 000 tonnes based on an official estimate. No major revision has been made for the other countries in the region.

Since the last report, the 2001 forecast for China's exports has been reduced by 500 000 tonnes to 3.0 million tonnes, about the same level as last year. Shipments by India have also been cut by 400 000 tonnes to 1.3 million tonnes. Although the country has authorized the sale of 2 million tonnes of rice from Government stocks for export, the minimum prices for releasing them from inventories remain too high for Indian rice to compete on world markets. By contrast, deliveries by Thailand have been raised by 200 000 tonnes to 6.2 million tonne, the new Government export target, which remains still short of the 6.6 million tonnes shipped last year. The drop in output last season may also prompt a cut in sales by Pakistan from the 2 million tonnes in the previous year to 1.9 million tonnes, unchanged from the previous report. The export forecasts for Argentina and Uruguay have been lowered by about 50 000 tonnes each, in anticipation of much smaller crops this year. As a result, exports from those countries are expected to fall by 150 000 tonnes and 65 000 tonnes, respectively, from last year. Deliveries by Viet Nam have been revised downward by 500 000 tonnes to 3.5 million tonnes, a mere 100 000 tonnes more than in 2000 and well below the 2001 target of 4 million tonnes. The country has recently announced minimum export prices. For instance, the price for 25 percent broken rice was set at US$140 per tonne, which is low relative to prevailing international price levels. By contrast, deliveries by Egypt have been adjusted upward by 150 000 tonnes to 500 000 tonnes, substantially higher than the 350 000 tonnes exported last year. The forecast for sales by Australia has also been raised by 150 000 tonnes to 700 000 tonnes. At that level, exports would be 200 000 tonnes more than in 2000 and the best performance ever. Deliveries from the United States remain officially forecast at 2.7 million tonnes, only 100 000 tonnes less than in 2000.

Utilization

Cereal demand expected to stagnate in 2000/2001

Following a fairly robust 2 percent growth in 1999/00, total cereal utilization could stagnate in 2000/01 at 1,907 million tonnes. Nevertheless, total cereal utilization would still be above the average of the preceding three years. The volume of cereals used for food consumption is currently forecast to rise by 1.1 percent, primarily among the developing countries in Asia and in the CIS. On a per caput basis, however, this would not be sufficient to raise the average kilogram intake of cereals either at the world level or for the developing countries as a group. In spite of the concerns about the contamination of animal feed with BSE infected meat and bone meal and, more recently, the foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease, global feed usage is not likely to be significantly affected in the short-run from these animal diseases.



Cereal food consumption to be sufficient to maintain per caput intake

For 2000/01, the forecast of global consumption of cereals as food is put at 971 million tonnes, some 50 percent of total world utilization. The anticipated absolute increase is about 11 million tonnes over the estimate for 1999/00, three-quarters of which is likely to be accounted for by the developing countries. The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC), considered by FAO to be the group of countries most vulnerable to food insecurity, are expected to consume about 641 million tonnes of cereals in 2000/01, an increase of 5.7 million tonnes from the previous year, or about 1 percent.

Per Caput Food Consumption of Cereals

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01 forecast
	(. . . . . kg. per head . . . . .)		
Developing countries	168	169	169
Developed countries	130	130	131
TOTAL	**160**	**161**	**161**
Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries	171	172	171
(excluding China and India)	(156)	(158)	(158)
Wheat	70	71	70
Coarse grains	31	30	31
Rice (milled)	59	59	60

Source: FAO

Globally, the growth in world food consumption is forecast to barely keep pace with the rise in population, resulting in per caput food consumption of cereals remaining unchanged at 161 kilograms in 2000/01. The developing countries, in total, could maintain average per caput food consumption at 168 kilograms, while the LIFDC sub-group could see a slight decline in per caput cereal consumption to 171 kilograms. The declines are mostly because of reduced supplies, especially among some developing countries in Africa due to a combination of poor weather and civil strife. Of particular concern in southern Africa is the prospect for very poor 2001 maize harvests which could threaten domestic availabilities in many countries in the subregion. Also in parts of Asia, smaller output in 2000 could slow the expansion of cereal food consumption, although bumper crops in India and Pakistan could give rise to some increase in food consumption in those countries, in particular for wheat. The food consumption of cereal is expected to increase about 2 percent in the Latin American and Caribbean region where crop conditions were generally favourable, including bumper maize crops in Brazil and Mexico in 2000 and an expected record output in Brazil in 2001.

Feed demand expands, but only slightly

The expansion of world feed utilization of cereals is forecast to slow in 2000/01 to 0.6 percent, compared to almost 1.3 percent in 1999/00. Global feed use is currently put at 686 million tonnes, largely due to anticipated higher usage in Asia, primarily in China (mainland). In spite of a smaller crop in 2000 and large exports during the first half of the season, it is estimated that domestic maize supplies are sufficient to allow the continued growth in China's feed grain sector during 2000/01. Last year's bumper cereal harvests in India could also encourage more feeding this season, although feed use in the country is well below the Asian average. Partially offsetting the increase feed use in Asia are expected reductions in the Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia. In the former country, cattle inventories have been progressively cut back in anticipation of the opening of the domestic market to low priced imports as of January 2001. In Saudi Arabia, good pastures are likely to limit the demand for feed, in particular barley. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the growth in feed use could expand due mostly to bumper coarse crops in Mexico (2000) and those forecast for South America in 2001, especially in Brazil. In the case of Brazil, while some of the surplus from the record maize harvest is expected to be exported, a significant amount is likely to be diverted to domestic feed use to support a rapidly growing, and increasingly competitive, poultry industry, and whose export demand could also benefit from the BSE crisis in Europe.

World Cereal Utilization

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01 f'cast
	(. . . . . . million tonnes . . . . . .)		
Total utilization			
World	**1 872**	**1 901**	**1 907**
Developing countries	1 130	1 154	1 155
Developed countries	742	747	752
Food consumption1/			
World	**942**	**960**	**971**
Developing countries	773	791	800
Developed countries	169	169	172
Feed use			
World	**673**	**682**	**686**
Developing countries	241	247	249
Developed countries	432	435	437
Other uses 2/			
World	**256**	**258**	**249**
Developing countries	116	116	106
Developed countries	141	143	143

Source: FAO **Note**: Total computed from unrounded data.

1/ For direct human consumption.

2/ Other uses include seed, industrial uses and post harvest losses.

Among the major livestock producers, feed use in the United States is officially forecast to be down in 2000/01 (Sept/Aug) in response to lower pig inventories in 2000, slow growth in poultry output and weak demand in the cattle and dairy sectors. Within Europe, production shortfalls in some eastern and central European countries are likely to limit feed use this season. Although the Hungarian Government lifted the ban on maize imports in February 2001 and offered duty-free import quotas on barley and oats, feed use is still expected to be reduced because of supply shortages and high domestic prices. The country most affected by the grain production shortage in the subregion, Romania, is forecast to reduce its feed use by up to 20 percent compared to the previous season.

The FAO forecast for feed use in the EC in 2000/01 is currently put at 114 million tonnes, some 4 percent above the previous season. Much of this is on account of the expected increase in the use of wheat for feed resulting from a relatively large supply of low quality wheat, especially in France, and a price advantage over non-grain feeds following the cut in intervention prices under the Agenda 2000 CAP reform which came into force in July 2000, and the weakness of the Euro relative to the US dollar which made non-grain feed imports more expensive. However, the impact of the BSE and FMD infections among EC livestock herds on feed use of cereals in 2000/01 poses a complex situation in which the reconciliation of countervailing forces is not easily quantifiable. The reported sharp reduction in consumer demand for beef and related products in response to the BSE crisis would tend to force producers to keep larger cattle inventories than normal and, thus, use more feed to maintain weights. In this case, the feed demand for cereal may actually increase, at least in the short-run. In addition, the willingness of consumers to shift preferences to other meats, primarily poultry and pigmeat, would also tend to increase the demand for livestock feed to support the expected increase in alternative meat production. However, feed demand outlook in the EC has been further complicated by the FMD. While emergency slaughtering to-date accounts for less than one percent of total inventories in the United Kingdom, it is unclear how long the problem will persist or how many animals will be involved. A large reduction in total animal numbers to control the disease will ultimately result in reduced feed demand. In the short-run, however, the available information suggests that feed use in the EC and, thus, at the global level, would not likely be significantly affected by the animal disease crisis as long as consumers continue to purchase by substituting between livestock products.

"Other uses" of cereals expected to be down

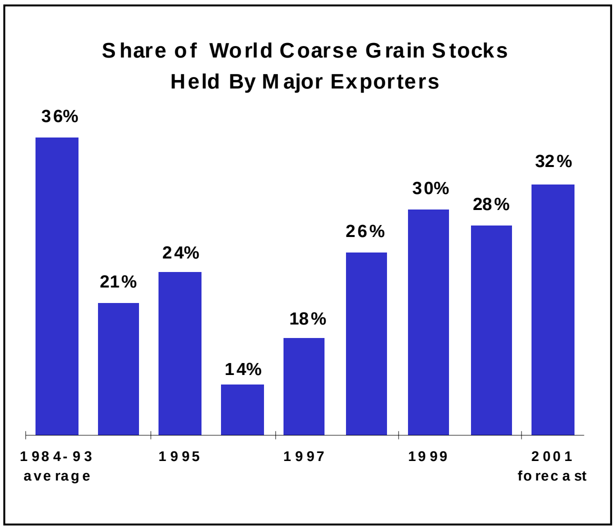
Aside from food and feed use as well as seed requirements, industrial use is another important category of overall cereal utilization. Demand for industrial products made from cereals in some developed countries is forecast to expand this season. In the United States, according to the official sources, industrial uses of maize in 2000/01 are forecast to rise in aggregate about 4 percent compared to the previous year, with ethanol production leading the increase (up 9 percent), followed by high fructose corn syrup (2 percent) and starch production (2 percent). One of the main factors likely giving rise to a more rapid increase in ethanol production is the surge in petroleum prices. The expansion in syrup production may be more modest given the sluggish prospects in the sugar markets.

Carryover Stocks

Global cereal stocks fall sharply but export supplies remain adequate

Since the previous report in February, the forecast for global **cereal** stocks by the close of the seasons ending in 2001 has been raised by 5 million tonnes to 645 million tonnes, down 48 million tonnes, or 7 percent, from their opening levels. This year's sharp decline in cereal stocks would be mostly in view of significant drawdown in China, while smaller inventories are also anticipated in the United States. The declines in China and the United States would more than offset the likely expansion in the cereal carryovers in India, the EC and the Russian Federation. Despite the drastic fall in the level of world cereal stocks this season, exportable supplies have continued to exceed import demand, leading to persistent downward pressure on international prices. The ratio of the volume of cereal stocks held by the major cereal exporters to the total disappearance (their domestic cereal consumption plus exports) in 2000/01 is currently estimated to reach 33 percent, down slightly from the previous season but over one percentage point above the average levels in the 1990s. For coarse grains, the anticipated increase in production in the five major exporting countries is expected to keep the stocks-to-disappearance ratio at around 17 percent, unchanged from the previous season and above average. The ratio for wheat is likely to decline slightly to 19 percent, but even that would be considerably above the 17 percent ratio registered in the 1990s. The ratio for rice is seen to drop to 61 percent, which would be considerably below the estimated 64 percent for last year. However, most of this decline would be account of a sharp (10 million tonnes) drop in 2000 production in China, a major rice exporter.

World stocks of **wheat** for crop years ending in 2001 are currently put at 243 million tonnes, up slightly from the previous report. At this level, world wheat inventories would be 14 million tonnes, or 5 percent, below the previous year's volume. Total wheat stocks held by the five major exporters are also likely to decline this year, mostly in the United States. However, their global share is likely to remain stable, at around 20 percent for the third consecutive year. Most of the decline in global stocks from the previous season would be in China, where reduced plantings and drought lowered last year's wheat production resulting in at least 12 million tonnes drawdown of stocks to 120 million tonnes. While large reductions are also anticipated in a number of countries affected by drought last year, especially in North Africa and in the Middle East, end-of-season inventories are expected to surge in India because of a record crop and in spite attempts to sell large amounts of publicly-held stocks to world markets.



Global **coarse grain** inventories for crop years ending in 2001 are currently put at 249 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes higher than that reported earlier but 26 million tonnes less than the opening levels. However, total coarse grain stocks held by the five major exporters are forecast to rise slightly compared to the previous year mainly because of above-average crops in the United States and the EC. As a result, the overall share of world stocks held by major exporters is forecast to rise above the average in the 1990s to 32 percent. In the United States, maize production in 2000 was near record but despite continued strong domestic demand and larger exports, carryover stocks are forecast to increase by almost 3 million tonnes. The increase in the EC is less significant although much remains uncertain because of the precarious situation facing the livestock sector. As in the case for wheat, the bulk of the anticipated sharp reduction in global inventories of coarse grains would be on account of a large drawdown in China, caused by policy changes, as was reported in the previous issue of Food Outlook. A drastic cut in 2000 maize production coupled with continued large exports could bring China's total coarse grains stocks to 133 million tonnes, down 22 million tonnes, or 14 percent, below the previous year and the smallest in more than a decade. Smaller coarse grain stocks are also anticipated in several central and eastern European countries because of last year's reduced output, especially in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania.

Global **rice** stocks at the close of the marketing seasons ending in 2001 are forecast to fall by about 8 million tonnes from their opening levels, to 153 million tonnes. The contraction reflects smaller 2000 crops, as a result of which consumption is expected to outpace production. The bulk of the stock reduction is anticipated to be concentrated in China (Mainland) and India, the two countries that recorded the steeper contraction in output last season. Stocks are also expected to be draw down in Indonesia and the Philippines on anticipation of smaller imports both in 2000 and 2001. By contrast, a built-up is expected in exporting countries, in particular Egypt, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, in light of the good crops harvested in 2000 and, in the latter case, relatively poor export performances expected in 2001. Ending inventories in the United States, however, are forecast to drop, following the cut in production last season.

World Carryover Stocks of Cereals

	Crop year ending in:		
	1999	2000 estimate	2001 forecast
	(. . . . million tonnes . . . .)		
Wheat	260.4	256.9	243.0
Coarse grains	284.2	275.4	249.1
of which:			
Maize	223.4	224.7	204.2
Barley	35.7	28.2	24.9
Sorghum	8.4	8.4	7.5
Others	16.7	14.0	12.6
Rice (milled)	155.8	161.2	152.9
TOTAL	**700.4**	**693.4**	**645.0**

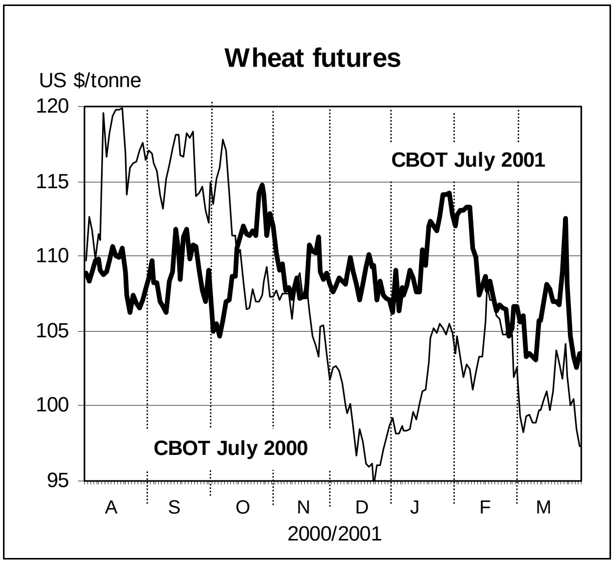
Source: FAO

Export Prices

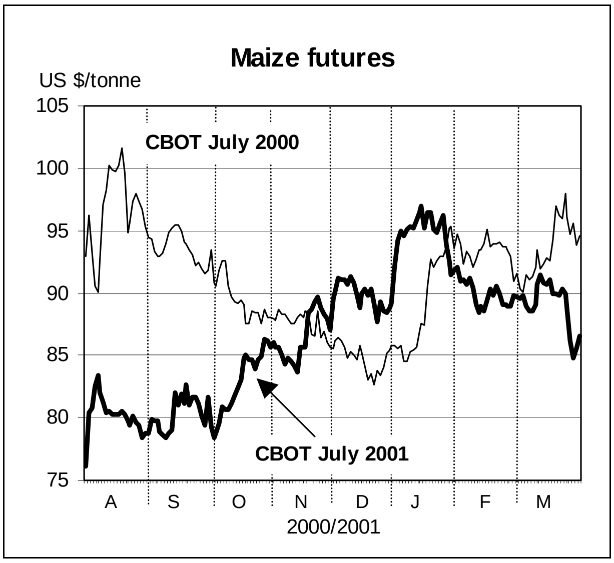
International cereal prices remain depressed and prospects are not encouraging

In recent months world cereal prices have remained under downward pressure largely as a result of ample exportable supplies and slower pace of growth in demand. The weakness in cereal prices is likely to continue into the next season, given a likely increase in the overall cereal production in 2001, prospects for some slackening in global economic growth and continued uncertainties surrounding the impacts of recent animal diseases on both production and demand for meat products (for more details see the utilization section).

Among the major cereals only **wheat** prices remain above last year. The main reason is stronger demand for high quality milling wheat. Since January, the US hard wheat export prices have remained stable at around US$134 per tonne, up by more than US$20 per



tonne from the corresponding period in the previous season. On the other hand, export prices for the US soft wheat followed a declining trend since January and are currently traded at only US$5 per tonne above last year's reduced levels. During recent weeks, large exports from India and bigger sales from major exporters other than the United States have also had negative impacts on US export prices. In the futures market, slower sales from the United States coupled with a generally favourable production outlook for 2001, and spillover weakness from the plunging equities markets, continued to weigh on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) soft red winter prices. By late March, the July wheat contracts were quoted at US$104 per tonne, converging closer to prices during the corresponding period in 1999.



All through the current season, international **maize** prices have remained generally below the previous season's already low levels. By March, the US maize export prices averaged US$92 per tonne, a further US$3 per tonne drop since January, and also US$3 per tonne below March 2000. Despite a likely increase in export volume from the United States, the US export prices remain under continued downward pressure. Several reasons contribute to this development, including large sales from China and renewed large exportable supplies in Brazil. The continuing weakness in maize markets is also reflected by the performance of prices in the CBOT futures market. Over the past months, the July maize futures continued to slide and by March they were quoted at US$87 per tonne, some US$9 per tonne down from the corresponding period last year. However, the sluggish performance of the US maize futures also reflect the impact of slowed US sales to some Asian markets following the discovery of GM-contaminated maize and the recent plunge in world financial markets which could undermine economic growth prospects and, hence, reduce demand for meat products and also lower the demand for feed grains.

Cereal Export Prices *

	2001		2000
	March	Jan.	March
	(. . . . . . US$/tonne . . . . . .)		
United States			
Wheat 1/	134	134	112
Maize	92	95	95
Sorghum	99	104	95
Argentina 2/			
Wheat	119	120	98
Maize	81	84	85
Thailand 2/			
Rice white 3/	181	187	232
Rice, broken 4/	127	134	151

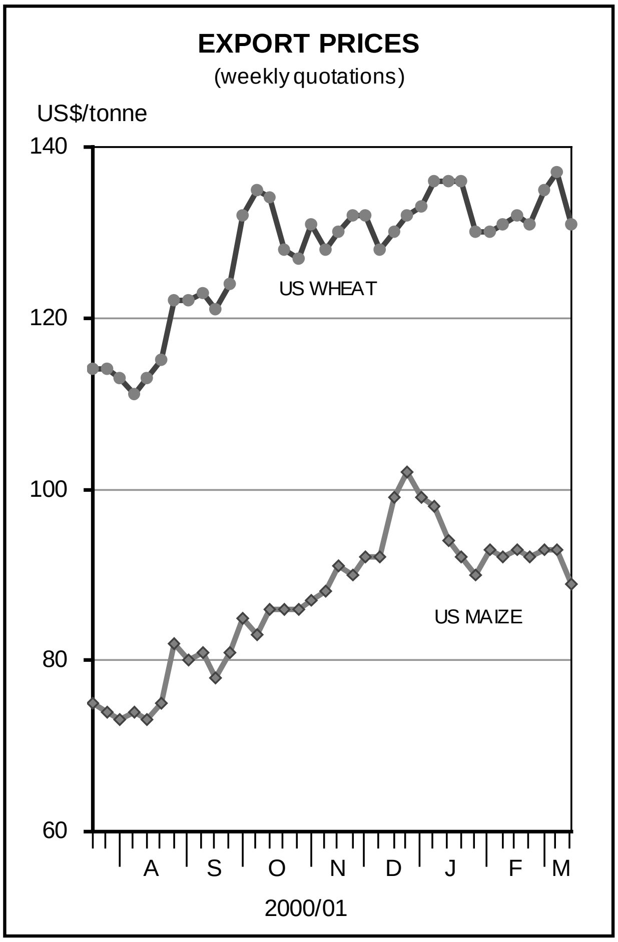
Source: FAO, see Appendix Table A.6

* Prices refer to the monthly average.
1/ No. 2 Hard Winter (Ordinary Protein).
2/ Indicative traded prices.
3/ 100% second grade, f.o.b. Bangkok.
4/ A1 super, f.o.b. Bangkok.

International rice prices recovered slightly in January and February before falling again in March, as fresh supplies arrived into the market in some major exporting countries and import demand remained subdued. The FAO Export Price Index for **rice** (1982-84=100) fell accordingly to 92 percentage points, down from the average of 94 points in December 2000.

Thai Government market intervention in February sustained the price of high quality Thai 100% B rice, which rose from US$187 in December 2000 and January 2001 to US$190 per tonne in February. It has since resumed its slide and tumbled to US$181 per tonne in March. By contrast, the price of the US N.2/4 long grain N.2/4% has kept firm, resulting in a widening of the price differential with the Thai 100% B rice.

The price of the low quality, fully broken rice (Thai A1 Super), which had also strengthened in reaction to Thai Government purchases, dipped steeply to US$127 per tonne in March, from US$136 February.



Barring a major supply or demand shock, world prices are expected to remain under pressure at least until mid-year, when more information on the extent of adjustment to lower prices on 2001 rice production prospects in the northern hemisphere becomes available.

Ocean Freight Rates

At the start of 2001 most shipowners took a moderately bullish view of the short-term outlook for freight rates. Those for Panamax vessels on major grain shipping routes were already well above the corresponding levels of a year earlier. Demand also was stimulated by large requirements of iron ore for steel manufacturers in Far East Asia, but this support was forecast to decline in the second half of the year. The factor most likely to curtail rate rises, especially in the Panamax sector, is the large number of new vessels expected to enter service in the coming months.

The trend of rates was therefore strongly influenced by the growth in “spot” tonnage.

Large harvests of maize and soyabeans in both Argentina and Brazil are expected to result in an upsurge in exports. A significant proportion of these shipments could consist of non-GM beans and products, which are specifically requested by some buyers in western Europe and Far East Asia.

It was uncertain to what extent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in different regions could affect normal trade patterns. Any decline in demand for grain might result in a rise in import requirements of meat. A loss for the dry bulk sector might represent a gain for "reefers", or refrigerated vessels.

The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) measures the movement of representative rates in the dry cargo sector. At the beginning of the year it stood at 1599. By mid-February it had declined to 1455, but recovered to 1508 at the end of March.

Fertilizers

Urea prices weakened somewhat in March. However, prices from these origins remain well above their values a year earlier in eastern Europe (+15 percent), while in the Near East they decreased by 7 percent. In Indonesia, a number of plants had to stop urea and ammonium production as due to unrest gas and oil production was shut down. This kept prices firm in South East Asia and the Near East. China will reportedly export to South East Asia. The Arab Gulf is supplying large quantities to Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Canada, the United States, the Republic of Korea and Australia. There is strong competition between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea producers regarding Latin American markets. Argentina stopped production and Brazil has not yet restarted its urea plant, while there are still difficulties in Venezuela with urea production. Prices might strengthen from late March onwards when seasonal demand could develop from Latin America, but the demand is not sufficient to sustain present levels. The Peruvian government has levied import duties on urea, so importers have returned to the market. The Turkish market is still dormant as there is a currency devaluation crisis. Adverse weather conditions in Southern Europe reduced the demand significantly.

Ammonia prices have decreased between 9 and 16 percent over the past two months and are expected to decline further. High inventories in the United States and in the Black Sea continue to depress prices. Increased demand is expected from India, Morocco, the Philippines, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea. India is reportedly planning to build an ammonium plant in Australia.

Prices for **ammonium sulphate** were reasonably stable during February and March but were between 18 percent to 45 percent higher than a year ago. Demand for ammonium sulphate is 10 000 tonnes from Sri Lanka and 8 000 tonnes from Thailand.

Average Fertilizer Spot Prices (bulk, f.o.b.)

	2001		2000	Change from last year 1/
	February	March	March	
	(. . . . . US$/tonne	. . . .)		(. percentage .)
Urea				
eastern Europe	102-106	97-99	84-86	15.3
Near East	147-154	122-125	132-134	-7.1
Ammonium Sulphate				
eastern Europe	60-64	59-61	41-43	42.9
Far East	67-70	70-73	60-61	18.2
U.S. Gulf	55-60	60-65	43-45	42.0
western Europe	70-75	70-75	55-60	26.1
Diammonium Phosphate				
Jordan	169-173	169-172	159-164	5.6
North Africa	162-171	165-171	149-158	9.4
U.S. Gulf	164-166	166-168	146-150	12.8
Triple Superphosphate				
North Africa	128-132	125-130	126-131	-0.8
U.S. Gulf	127-134	127-134	135-139	-4.7
Muriate of Potash				
eastern Europe	91-106	91-106	92-111	-3.0
Vancouver	116-130	115-130	117-131	-1.2
western Europe	115-122	115-122	115-122	0.0

Source: Compiled from Fertilizer Week and Fertilizer Market Bulletin. 1/ From mid-point of given ranges.

Diammonium phosphate (DAP) prices remained stable over the past few weeks. However, prices are 5 percent to 13 percent higher than during the same period last year. In China 940 000 tonnes are being moved from the warehouses to the northern provinces and about 1.5 million tonnes will reportedly be imported. India is importing 75 000 tonnes from Jordan. The Government of Pakistan has postponed the implementation of the 15 percent sales tax on fertilizers as farmers are already in difficulties due to the prolonged drought. The government has not yet announced the new 10-year fertilizer policy. Viet Nam has high stocks and suppliers are selling below international market prices because of weak domestic prices. Imports are expected to be low because of decrease in acreage in the Mekong Delta and low export prices for the crops. In the United States DAP production was cut by 26 percent and domestic demand supported prices while there were no exports. The market in Europe is generally slow due to adverse weather. CIS producers are supplying Europe and Turkey. Ethiopia is entering the market for 75 000 tonnes, while Kenya is understood to import 50 000 tonnes. Some Latin American countries are slowly entering the market, while Mexico is directing DAP to domestic demand and exporting to Australia and New Zealand.

Prices of **triple superphosphate** (TSP) remained stable in early 2001. For both North Africa and the US Gulf prices are about 1 percent and 5 percent below those a year ago. Morocco and Tunisia are exporting 30 000 tonnes each to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Average spot prices of **muriate of potash** (MOP) remained unchanged in March. Prices were about 1 to 3 percent down from a year ago in eastern Europe and Vancouver, and remained at the same level in western Europe. China has purchased over 3 million tonnes since the beginning of this year. Most South East Asian countries have entered the market and consequently prices will remain stable. Importers in Japan have reached an agreement on supply arrangements with Canadian exporters. India closed a tender for 25 000 tonnes. In the United States producers hold out for higher prices in early spring. CIS producers are supplying Mozambique and the United States, while western Europe and the Philippines are importing from Jordan. Demand for potash in Brazil is slow, but in other Latin American countries demand has increased.

A.1 a) - **WORLD CEREAL PRODUCTION – Estimates for 2000 as of March 2001**

	Wheat			Coarse Grains		
	1998	1999	2000 estim.	1998	1999	2000 estim.
	(. . . . million tonnes	. . . .)				
ASIA	**254.7**	**260.4**	**251.9**	**229.1**	**218.0**	**193.0**
Bangladesh	1.8	1.9	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
China 1/	109.7	113.9	101.0	147.4	141.2	116.9
India	66.3	70.8	75.6	31.7	30.5	31.1
Indonesia	-	-	-	10.2	9.2	9.2
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	12.0	8.7	8.0	4.3	2.8	2.3
Japan	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2
Kazakhstan	5.5	11.2	9.1	1.5	2.8	2.3
Korea, D. P. R.	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	1.3	1.2
Korea, Rep. of	-	-	-	0.3	0.4	0.3
Myanmar	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5
Pakistan	18.7	17.9	21.1	2.3	2.2	1.9
Philippines	-	-	-	3.8	4.6	4.5
Saudi Arabia	1.7	2.0	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.6
Thailand	-	-	-	5.2	4.6	4.7
Turkey	21.0	18.0	19.0	10.9	9.5	10.1
Viet Nam	-	-	-	1.6	1.8	1.9
AFRICA	**18.4**	**15.2**	**14.2**	**80.1**	**77.7**	**78.7**
North Africa	**14.3**	**11.3**	**9.7**	**10.8**	**9.9**	**8.6**
Egypt	6.1	6.3	6.6	7.4	7.2	7.3
Morocco	4.4	2.2	1.4	2.2	1.7	0.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	**4.1**	**3.9**	**4.5**	**69.3**	**67.9**	**70.1**
Western Africa	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**31.1**	**31.9**	**29.5**
Nigeria	-	-	0.1	17.8	18.1	17.4
Central Africa	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2.6**	**2.7**	**2.6**
Eastern Africa	**1.8**	**1.7**	**1.9**	**20.6**	**17.4**	**18.0**
Ethiopia	1.1	1.2	1.4	6.6	6.3	7.6
Sudan	0.2	0.2	0.3	5.0	2.9	3.1
Southern Africa	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**15.0**	**15.9**	**20.1**
Madagascar	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.1
South Africa	1.9	1.7	2.1	8.3	8.0	11.6
Zimbabwe	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.5	1.7	2.2
CENTRAL AMERICA	**3.3**	**3.1**	**3.4**	**28.8**	**28.7**	**28.7**
Mexico	3.2	3.1	3.4	25.4	25.2	25.4
SOUTH AMERICA	**17.4**	**20.1**	**20.3**	**62.8**	**59.4**	**62.0**
Argentina	12.4	15.5	16.3	24.2	17.8	21.2
Brazil	2.2	2.4	1.7	30.6	33.7	33.0
Colombia	0.1	0.1	-	1.6	1.5	1.5
NORTH AMERICA	**93.4**	**89.5**	**87.3**	**298.7**	**290.6**	**299.2**
Canada	24.1	26.9	26.8	26.8	27.0	24.5
United States	69.3	62.6	60.5	271.9	263.6	274.7
EUROPE	**188.7**	**177.9**	**186.4**	**202.4**	**202.9**	**198.1**
Bulgaria	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.7	1.7
EC 2/	103.7	97.1	105.7	106.6	103.6	109.2
Hungary	4.9	2.6	3.8	8.1	8.7	6.2
Poland	9.5	9.1	8.5	17.6	16.7	13.8
Romania	5.2	4.7	4.4	10.3	12.4	5.4
Russian Fed.	30.0	34.0	38.0	22.2	24.6	31.4
Ukraine	17.0	15.0	11.0	11.4	11.3	11.8
OCEANIA	**22.3**	**25.3**	**21.4**	**10.4**	**9.4**	**10.7**
Australia	22.1	25.0	21.2	9.8	8.7	10.0
WORLD	**598.2**	**591.3**	**585.0**	**912.2**	**886.7**	**870.4**
Developing countries	278.2	277.4	270.2	389.3	371.0	346.8
Developed countries	320.0	314.0	314.8	522.9	515.7	523.5

Source: FAO **Note:** Totals computed from unrounded data.
1/ Including Taiwan Province. **2/** Fifteen member countries.

Table A.1 b) **- WORLD CEREAL PRODUCTION – Estimates for 2000 as of March 2001**

	Rice (paddy)			Total Cereals 1/		
	1998	1999	2000 estim.	1998	1999	2000 estim.
	(. . . . million tonnes			. . . .)		
ASIA	**535.8**	**555.9**	**543.2**	**1 019.7**	**1 034.2**	**988.1**
Bangladesh	29.9	34.2	35.6	31.7	36.2	37.5
China 2/	200.6	200.5	191.5	457.7	455.6	409.4
India	129.1	134.4	129.9	227.1	235.6	236.5
Indonesia	49.2	50.9	51.2	59.4	60.0	60.4
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	2.8	2.3	2.3	19.0	13.9	12.6
Japan	11.2	11.5	11.8	11.9	12.3	12.6
Kazakhstan	0.2	0.2	0.2	7.2	14.2	11.6
Korea, D. P. R.	2.1	2.3	1.7	3.9	3.8	3.0
Korea, Rep. of	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.6	7.6
Myanmar	17.1	19.8	20.0	17.7	20.4	20.6
Pakistan	7.0	7.7	6.9	28.0	27.8	29.9
Philippines	10.3	12.0	12.5	14.1	16.5	16.9
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	2.2	2.5	2.1
Thailand	23.6	24.2	24.0	28.8	28.8	28.7
Turkey	0.3	0.3	0.3	32.2	27.8	29.4
Viet Nam	30.9	32.7	32.7	32.5	34.5	34.6
AFRICA	**16.1**	**17.4**	**17.2**	**114.5**	**110.3**	**110.1**
North Africa	**4.5**	**5.9**	**6.0**	**29.6**	**27.0**	**24.3**
Egypt	4.5	5.8	6.0	17.9	19.4	19.9
Morocco	-	-	-	6.6	3.9	2.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	**11.6**	**11.5**	**11.2**	**84.9**	**83.3**	**85.8**
Western Africa	**7.2**	**7.5**	**7.5**	**38.4**	**39.4**	**37.1**
Nigeria	3.3	3.4	3.4	21.1	21.6	20.9
Central Africa	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**3.0**	**3.1**	**3.0**
Eastern Africa	**1.2**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**23.6**	**19.9**	**20.7**
Ethiopia	-	-	-	7.7	7.5	8.9
Sudan	-	-	-	5.2	3.1	3.4
Southern Africa	**2.7**	**2.9**	**2.4**	**20.0**	**20.9**	**25.0**
Madagascar	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.3
South Africa	-	-	-	10.2	9.7	13.7
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	1.8	2.0	2.4
CENTRAL AMERICA	**2.2**	**2.3**	**2.4**	**34.3**	**34.1**	**34.4**
Mexico	0.4	0.4	0.4	29.1	28.7	29.1
SOUTH AMERICA	**16.8**	**21.4**	**20.7**	**96.9**	**100.9**	**103.1**
Argentina	1.0	1.7	0.9	37.6	35.0	38.4
Brazil	8.5	11.6	11.4	41.3	47.6	46.1
Colombia	1.8	1.8	1.8	3.4	3.4	3.4
NORTH AMERICA	**8.4**	**9.3**	**8.7**	**400.4**	**389.4**	**395.2**
Canada	-	-	-	50.9	53.9	51.3
United States	8.4	9.3	8.7	349.6	335.5	343.8
EUROPE	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.1**	**394.2**	**384.0**	**387.7**
Bulgaria	-	-	-	5.7	5.9	4.6
EC 3/	2.6	2.7	2.4	212.9	203.4	217.3
Hungary	-	-	-	13.0	11.4	10.0
Poland	-	-	-	27.2	25.7	22.3
Romania	-	-	-	15.4	17.0	9.8
Russian Fed.	0.4	0.4	0.6	52.6	59.0	70.0
Ukraine	0.1	0.1	0.1	28.5	26.3	22.9
OCEANIA	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.1**	**34.1**	**36.0**	**33.2**
Australia	1.3	1.4	1.1	33.2	35.1	32.3
WORLD	**583.8**	**611.1**	**596.4**	**2 094.2**	**2 089.1**	**2 051.8**
Developing countries	559.1	584.9	571.1	1 226.6	1 233.3	1 188.1
Developed countries	24.7	26.1	25.3	867.6	855.8	863.6

Source: FAO **Note**: Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Rice is included in the cereal total in paddy terms. **2/** Including Taiwan Province. **3/** Fifteen member countries.

Table A.2 a) - **WORLD IMPORTS OF CEREALS**

	Wheat (July/June) 1/			Coarse Grains (July/June)		
	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast
	(. . . . . million tonnes . . . .)					
ASIA	**45.7**	**51.0**	**47.9**	**52.6**	**58.6**	**56.4**
Bangladesh	2.4	1.7	1.4	-	-	-
China	1.5	2.0	1.8	6.8	8.0	7.0
Taiwan Province	1.0	1.1	1.1	4.5	5.4	5.0
China, Hong Kong SAR	0.4	0.4	0.5	-	-	-
Georgia	0.6	0.6	0.6	-	-	0.1
India	1.5	1.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3
Indonesia	3.1	3.5	3.9	0.4	0.8	1.1
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	2.8	7.0	7.0	1.5	2.1	2.5
Japan	5.8	5.8	5.9	21.0	20.6	20.5
Korea, Rep. of	4.7	3.8	4.0	7.5	9.3	8.3
Malaysia	1.2	1.3	1.3	2.4	2.4	2.4
Pakistan	2.9	2.3	0.2	-	-	0.1
Philippines	2.2	2.8	2.6	0.2	0.5	0.6
Saudi Arabia	-	0.1	0.1	6.0	6.0	5.8
Singapore	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Sri Lanka	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Syria	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.5	0.5
Thailand	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.3
Uzbekistan	0.5	0.6	0.7	-	-	-
Yemen	2.0	2.3	2.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
AFRICA	**24.2**	**23.7**	**25.1**	**11.9**	**13.2**	**14.0**
North Africa	**16.2**	**15.2**	**17.2**	**8.5**	**8.5**	**9.6**
Algeria	3.7	4.5	5.2	1.8	1.7	1.8
Egypt	7.4	5.8	6.5	3.6	3.8	4.2
Morocco	2.7	2.8	3.2	1.8	1.4	2.1
Tunisia	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	**7.8**	**8.3**	**7.8**	**3.3**	**4.7**	**4.3**
Cote d'Ivoire	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	-	-
Ethiopia	0.6	1.1	0.9	-	0.1	0.1
Kenya	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.0	1.4
Madagascar	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-
Senegal	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-
Sudan	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
CENTRAL AMERICA	**5.7**	**6.0**	**5.8**	**11.4**	**12.9**	**13.4**
Mexico	2.5	2.6	2.4	8.6	9.7	10.0
SOUTH AMERICA	**12.1**	**12.6**	**13.0**	**7.0**	**7.2**	**6.4**
Brazil	7.0	7.2	7.7	1.5	1.6	0.7
Colombia	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.9	1.9
Peru	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0
Venezuela	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
NORTH AMERICA	**2.9**	**2.6**	**2.6**	**3.2**	**3.6**	**4.1**
EUROPE	**7.5**	**12.9**	**12.1**	**6.5**	**8.2**	**9.4**
EC 2/	2.7	3.2	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.8
Russian Fed.	1.9	5.2	2.5	0.8	2.5	0.9
OCEANIA	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**
WORLD	**98.7**	**109.2**	**107.0**	**92.7**	**103.7**	**103.7**
Developing countries	77.2	82.4	80.8	60.1	69.0	67.8
Developed countries	21.5	26.8	26.3	32.6	34.7	35.9

Source: FAO   **Note:** Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Including wheat flour in wheat grain equivalent, but excluding semolina.
2/ Excluding trade between the fifteen EC member countries.

Table A.2 b) - **WORLD IMPORTS OF CEREALS**

	Rice (milled)			Total Cereals 1/		
	1999	2000 estim.	2001 f'cast	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast
	(. . . .	. . . million	tonnes . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .)
ASIA	**13.8**	**11.6**	**11.1**	**112.1**	**121.1**	**115.4**
Bangladesh	1.8	0.5	0.3	4.2	2.1	1.7
China	0.2	0.2	0.2	8.5	10.3	9.0
Taiwan Province	-	-	-	5.5	6.5	6.0
China, Hong Kong SAR	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8
Georgia	-	-	-	0.6	0.6	0.7
India	-	0.1	0.1	1.7	2.1	0.4
Indonesia	4.2	2.0	1.2	7.7	6.3	6.2
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	1.0	1.1	1.2	5.3	10.2	10.7
Japan	0.7	0.8	0.8	27.5	27.2	27.2
Korea, Rep. of	0.1	0.1	0.1	12.3	13.2	12.4
Malaysia	0.6	0.7	0.7	4.2	4.4	4.4
Pakistan	-	-	-	2.9	2.3	0.3
Philippines	0.8	0.7	0.7	3.2	4.0	3.9
Saudi Arabia	0.8	0.9	0.9	6.8	7.0	6.8
Singapore	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9
Sri Lanka	0.2	-	0.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
Syria	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.8	0.8
Thailand	-	-	-	0.9	1.1	1.1
Uzbekistan	-	-	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.8
Yemen	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.4	2.7	2.7
AFRICA	**5.5**	**5.7**	**5.8**	**41.6**	**42.6**	**44.9**
North Africa	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**25.0**	**23.9**	**27.0**
Algeria	-	-	-	5.6	6.3	7.0
Egypt	-	-	-	11.0	9.6	10.7
Morocco	-	-	-	4.6	4.3	5.3
Tunisia	-	-	-	1.7	1.6	1.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	**5.2**	**5.5**	**5.6**	**16.4**	**18.5**	**17.8**
Cote d'Ivoire	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.1
Ethiopia	-	-	-	0.7	1.3	0.9
Kenya	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.7	2.0
Madagascar	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Senegal	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8
Sudan	-	-	-	0.9	1.0	1.1
CENTRAL AMERICA	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**18.7**	**20.4**	**20.8**
Mexico	0.4	0.4	0.4	11.4	12.7	12.8
SOUTH AMERICA	**1.3**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**20.5**	**20.8**	**20.6**
Brazil	1.0	0.7	0.8	9.5	9.5	9.2
Colombia	-	0.1	0.1	2.8	3.2	3.2
Peru	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.7	2.4	2.3
Venezuela	-	0.1	0.1	2.7	2.6	2.7
NORTH AMERICA	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**6.7**	**6.7**	**7.3**
EUROPE	**1.8**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**15.8**	**22.7**	**23.1**
EC 2/	0.7	0.7	0.7	6.8	6.8	7.2
Russian Fed.	0.6	0.4	0.4	3.3	8.1	3.8
OCEANIA	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**0.9**
WORLD	**24.9**	**22.5**	**22.3**	**216.4**	**235.4**	**233.0**
Developing countries	21.1	18.7	18.4	158.5	170.1	166.9
Developed countries	3.8	3.8	3.9	57.9	65.3	66.1

Source: FAO **Note:** Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Trade in rice refers to the calendar year of the second year shown.
2/ Excluding trade between the fifteen EC member countries.

Table A.3 a) - **WORLD EXPORTS OF CEREALS**

	Wheat (July/June) 1/			Coarse Grains (July/June)		
	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast
	(.	million tonnes	. . . .)			
ASIA	**7.7**	**10.8**	**9.8**	**5.8**	**9.4**	**11.1**
China 2/	0.3	0.2	0.2	3.3	7.2	9.5
India	0.1	0.5	1.8	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
Japan	0.4	0.5	0.3	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	2.1	6.1	4.1	0.4	0.9	0.4
Myanmar	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1
Pakistan	0.3	0.3	0.5	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1
Turkey	2.6	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.6	0.6
Viet Nam	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
AFRICA	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**2.2**	**1.7**	**2.9**
Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.5	1.9
Sudan	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	0.1	-	-
CENTRAL AMERICA	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**
SOUTH AMERICA	**8.7**	**10.3**	**11.2**	**11.4**	**9.3**	**11.9**
Argentina	8.3	10.3	11.2	10.8	8.6	11.0
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1
NORTH AMERICA	**43.2**	**47.9**	**51.5**	**55.5**	**59.9**	**60.7**
Canada	14.2	18.5	18.0	2.7	3.2	3.2
United States	29.0	29.5	33.5	52.8	56.7	57.5
EUROPE	**24.1**	**20.3**	**17.9**	**14.2**	**17.1**	**13.2**
EC 3/	13.7	15.0	15.0	9.1	11.8	10.7
Hungary	1.5	0.5	0.8	1.9	2.1	0.4
Poland	0.4	0.2	-	-	0.2	-
Romania	0.4	0.3	-	0.2	0.5	-
Russian Fed.	1.5	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.6
Ukraine	4.4	2.0	0.2	1.4	1.0	1.3
OCEANIA	**16.4**	**17.1**	**16.0**	**4.8**	**3.9**	**3.8**
Australia	16.4	17.1	16.0	4.8	3.9	3.8
WORLD	**100.8**	**106.8**	**107.0**	**93.9**	**101.5**	**103.7**
Developing countries	14.2	14.8	17.1	17.9	19.2	23.7
Developed countries	86.6	92.1	90.0	76.1	82.3	80.0

Source: FAO

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Including wheat flour in wheat grain equivalent, but excluding semolina.
2/ Including Taiwan Province.
3/ Excluding trade between the fifteen EC member countries.

Table A.3 b) - **WORLD EXPORTS OF CEREALS**

	Rice (milled)			Total Cereals 1/		
	1999	2000 estim.	2001 f'cast	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast
	(million tonnes)					
ASIA	**19.2**	**17.2**	**16.9**	**32.8**	**37.4**	**37.8**
China 2/	2.8	3.0	3.1	6.5	10.4	12.7
India	2.6	1.3	1.3	2.6	1.8	3.1
Indonesia	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
Japan	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	2.5	7.0	4.5
Myanmar	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Pakistan	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.4
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.9	6.6	6.3
Turkey	-	-	-	3.9	2.1	2.1
Viet Nam	4.6	3.4	3.5	4.7	3.5	3.7
AFRICA	**0.3**	**0.4**	**0.5**	**2.8**	**2.3**	**3.7**
Egypt	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5
South Africa	-	-	-	1.3	0.6	2.0
Sudan	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	0.1	-	-
CENTRAL AMERICA	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**
SOUTH AMERICA	**1.8**	**1.4**	**1.3**	**21.8**	**21.0**	**24.4**
Argentina	0.7	0.4	0.3	19.8	19.2	22.4
Suriname	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Uruguay	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7
NORTH AMERICA	**2.6**	**2.8**	**2.7**	**101.4**	**110.6**	**114.8**
Canada	-	-	-	16.9	21.7	21.2
United States	2.6	2.8	2.7	84.5	88.9	93.7
EUROPE	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**38.6**	**37.6**	**31.3**
EC 3/	0.2	0.2	0.2	23.0	27.0	25.9
Hungary	-	-	-	3.4	2.6	1.2
Poland	-	-	-	0.4	0.4	-
Romania	-	-	-	0.7	0.8	-
Russian Fed.	-	-	-	1.6	0.7	1.5
Ukraine	-	-	-	5.8	3.0	1.5
OCEANIA	**0.7**	**0.5**	**0.7**	**21.9**	**21.5**	**20.5**
Australia	0.7	0.5	0.7	21.9	21.5	20.5
WORLD	**24.9**	**22.5**	**22.3**	**219.6**	**230.8**	**233.0**
Developing countries	20.8	18.4	18.0	52.9	52.3	58.7
Developed countries	4.1	4.1	4.3	166.7	178.5	174.3

Source: FAO

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Trade in rice refers to the calendar year of the second year shown.
2/ Including Taiwan Province.
3/ Excluding trade between the fifteen EC member countries.

Table A.4 - **WHEAT, COARSE GRAINS AND RICE: Supplies and utilization in main exporting countries, National Crop Years**

	Wheat 1/			Coarse Grains 2/			Rice (milled basis)		
	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast	1998/99	1999/2000 estim.	2000/01 f'cast
	(. . . . . million tonnes . . . . .)								
	UNITED STATES (June/May)			**UNITED STATES**			**UNITED STATES** (Aug./July)		
Opening stocks	19.7	25.7	25.8	38.2	51.3	48.8	0.9	0.7	0.9
Production	69.3	62.6	60.5	271.9	263.6	274.7	5.8	6.5	6.0
Imports	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total Supply	**91.8**	**90.9**	**88.9**	**312.8**	**317.5**	**326.0**	**7.0**	**7.5**	**7.2**
Domestic use	37.7	35.4	36.1	205.5	212.2	214.6	3.6	3.8	3.9
Exports	28.4	29.7	33.0	56.0	56.4	60.8	2.7	2.8	2.6
Closing stocks	25.7	25.8	19.8	51.3	48.8	50.5	0.7	0.9	0.8
	CANADA (August/July)			**CANADA**			**THAILAND** (Nov./Oct.) 3/		
Opening stocks	6.0	7.4	7.4	4.4	5.0	6.0	1.5	1.1	1.1
Production	24.1	26.9	26.8	26.8	27.0	24.5	15.6	16.0	15.9
Imports	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	1.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Supply	**30.2**	**34.3**	**34.2**	**32.1**	**33.1**	**32.0**	**17.1**	**17.1**	**17.0**
Domestic use	8.0	8.7	8.8	24.3	24.1	23.7	9.3	9.5	9.6
Exports	14.7	18.3	17.9	2.8	3.0	3.3	6.7	6.6	6.2
Closing stocks	7.4	7.4	7.5	5.0	6.0	5.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
	ARGENTINA (Dec./Nov.)			**ARGENTINA**			**CHINA** (Jan./Dec.) 3/ 4/		
Opening stocks	1.6	1.5	1.3	0.4	1.9	2.3	111.2	113.2	113.0
Production	12.4	15.5	16.3	24.2	17.8	21.2	137.5	137.4	131.3
Imports	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Supply	**14.1**	**17.0**	**17.6**	**24.6**	**19.7**	**23.5**	**248.8**	**250.8**	**244.5**
Domestic use	4.7	4.9	5.0	9.1	8.9	9.0	132.8	134.8	134.8
Exports	7.8	10.8	10.8	13.7	8.5	12.3	2.8	3.0	3.1
Closing stocks	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.1	113.2	113.0	106.6
	AUSTRALIA (Oct./Sept.)			**AUSTRALIA**			**PAKISTAN** (Nov./Oct.) 3/		
Opening stocks	1.5	2.0	3.7	2.1	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.6	0.9
Production	22.1	25.0	21.2	9.8	8.7	10.0	4.7	5.2	4.6
Imports	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Supply	**23.6**	**27.0**	**24.8**	**11.9**	**10.0**	**11.3**	**5.0**	**5.7**	**5.5**
Domestic use	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.6	2.6	2.8	2.9
Exports	16.4	17.6	16.0	4.7	3.3	3.9	1.9	2.0	1.9
Closing stocks	2.0	3.7	3.2	1.3	1.3	1.8	0.6	0.9	0.8
	EC (July/June) 5/			**EC** 5/			**VIET NAM** (Nov./Oct.) 3/		
Opening stocks	11.0	16.1	14.0	23.9	24.8	18.8	1.9	2.2	3.0
Production	103.7	97.1	105.7	106.6	103.6	109.2	20.1	21.3	21.3
Imports	2.7	3.2	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Supply	**117.3**	**116.4**	**123.4**	**133.9**	**131.3**	**130.8**	**22.0**	**23.5**	**24.3**
Domestic use	87.2	87.3	91.4	100.0	100.6	100.8	15.2	17.1	17.5
Exports	14.0	15.1	15.5	9.1	11.8	10.7	4.6	3.4	3.5
Closing stocks	16.1	14.0	16.5	24.8	18.8	19.2	2.2	3.0	3.3
TOTAL ABOVE									
Opening stocks	39.9	52.8	52.2	68.9	84.3	77.2	115.8	117.7	118.8
Production	231.6	227.1	230.5	439.2	420.7	439.5	183.7	186.4	179.1
Imports	5.5	5.8	6.3	7.3	6.5	6.8	0.5	0.6	0.5
Total Supply	**277.0**	**285.6**	**289.0**	**515.3**	**511.6**	**523.6**	**300.0**	**304.6**	**298.4**
Domestic use	143.0	141.9	147.0	344.8	351.3	353.8	163.6	168.0	168.6
Exports	81.2	91.5	93.2	86.3	83.0	91.1	18.7	17.8	17.2
Closing stocks	52.8	52.2	48.8	84.3	77.2	78.7	117.7	118.8	112.7

Source: FAO **Note:** Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Trade data include wheat flour in wheat grain equivalent. For the EC semolina is also included.

2/ **Argentina** (Dec./Nov.) for rye, barley and oats, (March/February) for maize and sorghum; **Australia** (November/October) for rye, barley and oats, (March/February) for maize and sorghum; **Canada** (August/July); **EC** (July/June); **United States** (June/May) for rye, barley and oats, (September/August) for maize and sorghum.

3/ Rice trade data refer to the calendar year of the second year shown.

4/ Including Taiwan province.

5/ Excluding trade between the fifteen EC member countries.

Table A.5 - **WORLD STOCKS: Estimated Total Carryovers of Cereals 1/**

	Crop Years ending in:						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 estim.	2001 f'cast
	(.	. . . .	. . . .	million tonnes	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .)
TOTAL CEREALS	**637.8**	**589.9**	**635.4**	**674.6**	**700.4**	**693.4**	**645.0**
Wheat	**232.6**	**221.7**	**232.2**	**254.9**	**260.4**	**256.9**	**243.0**
held by:							
- main exporters 2/	31.8	28.9	37.0	39.9	52.8	52.2	48.8
- others	200.8	192.8	195.2	215.0	207.6	204.7	194.2
Coarse Grains	**258.4**	**223.5**	**251.7**	**267.2**	**284.2**	**275.4**	**249.1**
held by:							
- main exporters 2/	62.4	31.9	46.3	68.9	84.3	77.2	78.7
- others	196.0	191.6	205.3	198.4	199.9	198.1	170.4
Rice (milled basis)	**146.8**	**144.7**	**151.5**	**152.5**	**155.8**	**161.2**	**152.9**
held by:							
- main exporters 3/	106.2	106.9	111.8	115.8	117.7	118.8	112.7
excl. China 4/	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.6	5.9	6.1
- others	40.6	37.9	39.7	36.7	38.1	42.3	40.2
BY REGIONS							
Developed Countries	**157.7**	**104.0**	**121.9**	**168.4**	**175.2**	**164.6**	**158.0**
Australia	2.6	3.1	4.1	3.7	3.4	5.1	5.0
EC 5/	23.0	22.7	24.4	35.1	41.2	33.3	36.2
Canada	9.2	9.8	14.0	10.4	12.5	13.4	12.6
Hungary	1.4	1.2	2.3	3.2	3.4	2.9	2.6
Japan	5.5	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.0	5.9	5.4
Poland	1.6	1.9	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.6	1.4
Romania	3.3	3.3	1.2	4.5	2.7	2.7	0.8
Russian Fed.	15.9	7.2	6.5	18.0	5.8	4.9	7.4
South Africa	3.2	1.3	1.9	3.3	1.9	1.7	3.2
Ukraine	9.5	7.6	3.6	4.5	2.2	2.2	1.7
United States	60.2	25.5	39.9	58.7	77.8	75.5	71.1
Developing Countries	**480.1**	**485.9**	**513.5**	**506.2**	**525.2**	**528.8**	**487.1**
Asia	**446.7**	**456.7**	**476.8**	**474.6**	**488.7**	**492.5**	**454.7**
China 4/	372.5	384.4	400.5	396.8	405.3	402.1	361.6
India	35.8	31.7	32.0	37.3	40.2	48.3	53.4
Indonesia	5.0	6.0	6.4	4.7	5.4	5.6	5.0
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	5.4	4.6	5.5	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.3
Korea, Rep. of	2.5	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1
Pakistan	3.2	3.4	3.7	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.0
Philippines	1.2	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.0	1.8
Syria	3.0	3.3	3.2	2.2	2.1	1.3	0.9
Turkey	1.9	4.0	5.8	6.2	7.3	5.0	4.2
Africa	**19.1**	**14.1**	**22.3**	**19.4**	**22.4**	**20.0**	**16.8**
Algeria	2.7	2.0	2.6	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.2
Egypt	1.3	1.6	2.4	3.0	3.7	3.1	3.5
Ethiopia	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8
Morocco	2.9	0.6	3.8	2.5	4.3	3.0	1.2
Nigeria	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.3
Tunisia	1.5	1.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.5
Central America	**4.6**	**5.8**	**6.7**	**4.7**	**5.7**	**6.1**	**6.2**
Mexico	2.8	4.5	5.4	3.6	4.6	5.0	5.3
South America	**9.5**	**9.2**	**7.6**	**7.5**	**8.3**	**10.0**	**9.3**
Argentina	0.7	1.0	2.3	2.2	3.4	3.8	4.1
Brazil	5.8	5.5	3.0	2.7	1.9	3.4	2.6

Source: FAO **Note:** Based on official and unofficial estimates. Totals computed from unrounded data.

1/ Stock data are based on an aggregate of carryovers at the end of national crop years and should not be construed as representing world stock levels at a fixed point in time.

2/ The major wheat and coarse grains exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EC and the United States. See Table A.4 for country details.

3/ The major rice exporters include China (total), Pakistan, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam. See Table A.4 for country details.

4/ Including Taiwan Province.

5/ From 1996, includes 15 member countries.

Table A.6 - **EXPORT PRICES OF CEREALS AND SOYBEANS**

	Wheat			Maize		Sorghum	Soybeans
	U.S. No.2 Hard Winter Ord. Prot. 1/	U.S. Soft Red Winter No.2 1/	Argentina Trigo Pan 2/	U.S. No.2 Yellow 1/	Argentina 2/	U.S. No.2 Yellow 1/	U.S. No.2 Yellow 1/
	(. . . US$/tonne . . .)						
July/June							
1996/97	181	158	157	135	133	124	299
1997/98	142	129	137	112	109	111	263
1998/99	120	100	118	95	98	92	202
1999/2000	112	97	104	91	88	89	190
2000 – March	112	98	98	95	85	95	198
August	115	90	111	76	74	76	182
September	122	97	109	80	74	82	191
October	131	104	123	85	76	92	182
November	130	103	126	89	79	96	187
December	130	105	109	97	88	102	199
2001 - January	134	109	120	95	84	104	191
February	131	106	121	93	81	101	182
March I	135	110	120	93	84	101	181
II	137	111	119	93	81	100	178
III	131	102	117	89	77	97	175

Sources: International Grain Council, USDA, Bolsa de Cereales and Reuters.

1/ Delivered U.S. Gulf ports. **2/** Buenos Aires, indicative traded prices.

Table A.7 - **WORLD PRICES AND PRICE INDICES FOR RICE AND OILCROP PRODUCTS**

	RICE						OILCROP PRODUCTS		
	Export prices			FAO Indices			FAO Indices		
	Thai 100%B 1/	Thai broken 2/	U.S. Long grain 3/	Total	Quality High	Quality Low	Marketing years	Edible/ soap fats and oils	Oilcakes and Meals
January/December	(. . . . US$/tonne . . .)			(. . . 1982-84=100 . . .)			**Oct./Sept.**	(. . . 1990-92=100 . . .)	
1997	316	214	439	127	129	120	1990/91	97	100
1998	315	215	413	127	128	126	1991/92	103	104
1999	253	192	333	114	115	110	1992/93	103	97
2000	207	143	271	98	101	89	1993/94	127	93
2000 – March	232	151	271	102	105	93	1994/95	153	94
November	190	130	294	95	98	84	1995/96	140	128
December	187	131	293	94	97	84	1996/97	134	133
2001 – January	187	134	291	94	97	84	1997/98	154	116
February	190	136	291	94	98	84	1998/99 - Oct.-Mar.	141	90
March I	186	131	291	)			- Apr.-Sep.	109	74
II	184	129	291	)			1999/00 - Oct.-Mar.	98	87
III	178	126	291	) 92	96	79	- Apr.-Sep.	84	90
IV	175	122	291	)			2000/01- Oct.-Feb.	75	100

Sources: Rice Indices: FAO ; Rice prices: International rice brokers and trading companies.

Note: The FAO Indices are calculated using the Laspeyres formula. The rice export price indices are calculated for 15 export prices. In this table two groups representing "High" and "Low" quality rice are shown. The price indices for oilcrop products are calculated for international prices of ten selected oils and fats and seven selected cakes and meals. The weights used are the average export values of each commodity for the 1990-92 period.

1/ White rice, 100% second grade, f.o.b. Bangkok, indicative traded prices. **2/** A1 super, f.o.b. Bangkok, indicative traded prices **3/** U.S.No.2, 4% brokens f.a.s.

Table A.8 - **WHEAT AND MAIZE FUTURES PRICES**

		May		July		September		December	
		this year	last year	this year	last year	this year	last year	this year	last year
		(US$/tonne)							
WHEAT									
February	13	101	103	105	107	109	111	115	116
	20	102	101	106	106	110	109	115	114
	27	99	94	103	98	107	102	112	107
March	6	104	96	108	100	111	104	116	109
	13	105	97	113	101	118	105	122	110
	20	99	98	104	102	107	106	113	112
MAIZE									
February	13	86	91	89	94	92	96	96	99
	20	87	90	90	93	93	96	97	98
	27	86	87	89	90	92	93	97	95
March	6	88	90	91	93	94	96	98	98
	13	87	91	90	94	93	97	97	99
	20	83	92	87	96	90	99	94	101

Source: Chicago Board of Trade

Table A.9 - **OCEAN FREIGHT RATES FOR WHEAT**

	From U.S. Gulf ports to:				From North Pacific ports to:	
	Rotterdam 1/	CIS Black Sea 1/ 2/	Egypt (Alexandria) 1/	Bangladesh 1/	China 1/	Japan 1/
	(US$/tonne)					
July/June						
1995/96	12.95	30.00	16.83	21.67	25.94	35.00
1996/97	11.00	18.85	12.77	20.00	27.00	28.29
1997/98	9.60	18.10	11.70	20.17	27.00	28.00
1998/99	9.42	25.45	9.25	18.75	27.00	29.17
1999/2000	12.60	40.97	13.65	18.50	27.00	32.83
2000 - March	11.10	40.97	12.00	18.50	27.00	32.50
August	16.00	40.97	16.25	18.50	27.00	36.00
September	16.00	40.97	16.50	18.50	27.00	36.00
October	14.50	40.97	16.00	18.50	27.00	36.50
November	14.50	40.97	14.75	18.50	27.00	36.50
December	12.25	40.97	13.00	18.50	27.00	36.50
2001 - January	12.25	40.97	14.25	18.50	27.00	36.50
February	12.00	40.97	13.80	18.50	27.00	36.50
March	11.50	40.97	14.00	18.50	27.00	36.50

Source: International Grain Council

Note: Estimated mid-month rates based on current chartering practices for vessels ready to load three to four weeks ahead.
1/ Size of vessels: Rotterdam over 40 000 tonnes; CIS 20-40 000 tonnes; Egypt over 30 000 tonnes; Bangladesh over 40 000 tonnes; China 20-35 000 tonnes; Japan 15-24 999 tonnes.
2/ Excludes CIS and United States flag vessels.

Table A.10 - **UNITED STATES: CEREALS AND SOYBEANS - PRODUCTION FOR 2000**

	1998	1999	2000	Change 2000 over 1999
	(. . . . . million tons	. . . .)		(. . . percentage . . .)
Wheat	69.3	62.6	60.5	-3.3
of which: winter	51.2	46.2	42.5	-7.9
Coarse grains	271.9	263.6	274.7	4.2
of which: maize	247.9	239.5	253.2	5.7
Rice (paddy)	8.4	9.3	8.7	-7.2
Soybeans	74.6	72.2	75.4	4.4

Source: USDA: March 2001.

Table A.11- **CANADA: CEREALS AND OILSEEDS - PRODUCTION FOR 2000**

	1998	1999	2000	Change 2000 over 1999
	(. . . . . thousand tonnes	. . . .)		(. . percentage . . .)
Wheat	24 082	26 900	26 804	-0.4
Oats	3 958	3 641	3 389	-6.9
Barley	12 709	13 196	13 468	2.1
Rye	398	387	260	-32.8
Maize	8 952	9 161	6 827	-25.5
Mixed Grains	548	447	382	-14.5
Linseed	1 081	1 022	693	-32.2
Rapeseed	7 643	8 798	7 119	-19.1

Source: Statistics Canada, March 2001.

Table A.12 - **AUSTRALIA: CEREAL PRODUCTION FOR 2000**

	1998	1999	2000	Change 2000 over 1999
	(. . . . . thousand tonnes	. . . .)		(. . percentage . .)
Wheat	22 100	25 012	21 168	-15.4
Oats	1 874	1 092	1 212	11.0
Barley	5 990	5 043	5 600	11.0
Sorghum	1 070	1 660	2 163	30.3
Maize	322	365	381	4.4
Triticale	480	521	601	15.4
Rice (paddy)	1 335	1 350	1 084	-19.7

Source: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics, March 2001.

Table A.13 - **SELECTED INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICES**

	Currency and Unit	Effective Date	Latest Quotation	1 month ago	1 year ago	Average 1989-91
Sugar (I.S.A. daily price)	US cents per lb	15.03.01	9.3	9.9	5.2	11.4
Coffee (I.C.O. daily price)	US cents per lb	23.03.01	47.3	50.6	72.4	76.7
Cocoa (I.C.C.O. daily price)	US cents per lb	23.03.01	50.5	55.5	43.5	56.0
Tea (total tea, Mombasa)	US$ per kg.	19.03.01	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.5
Bananas (Central America, f.o.b., Hamburg)	DM per tonne	13.03.01	2 231 1/ 1 624 2/	1 969 1/ 1569 2/	1 850 1/ 1408 2/	1 107
Rubber (RSS 1, spot London)	Pence per kg.	13.03.01	48.0	50.0	49.0	54.5
Cotton (COTLOOK, index "A" 1-3/32")	US cents per lb	13.03.01	54.9	60.3	57.3	78.5
Wool (64's, London)	Pence per kg	13.03.01	352	365	280	466

Source: FAO
1/ EC duty paid, estimated. 2/ Estimated price for EFTA markets.

STATISTICAL NOTE: Data are obtained from official and unofficial sources. For cereals, production data refer to the calendar year in which the whole harvest or bulk of harvest takes place. For sugar, production data relate to the October/September season. For vegetable oils and oil meals derived from oilseeds, production data refer to the year in which the bulk of the seeds concerned are crushed. For trade in wheat and coarse grains, the time reference period is normally the July/June marketing year unless otherwise stated. Trade data for rice and other commodities refer to the calendar year. Coarse grains refer to all other cereals except wheat and rice. Quantities are in metric tonnes unless otherwise stated. '-' means nil or negligible.

In the presentation and analysis of statistical material, countries are sub-divided, where appropriate, into the following two main economic groupings: "Developed countries" (including the developed market economies and the transition markets) and "Developing countries" (including the developing market economies and the Asia centrally planned countries). The designation "Developed and "Developing" economies is intended for statistical convenience and does not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

Food Outlook is issued by FAO under the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. It gives a concise analysis of information affecting the situation and outlook for basic foodstuffs. The **release dates** and **contents** in 2001 are as follows:

Issue No. Release Date[1/]	**1 22 February**	**2 11 April**	**3 13 June**	**4 17 October**	**5 12 December**
Contents					
Cereals					
Cereal supply/demand roundup[2/]	●	●	●	●	●
Cereal production, trade, stocks & prices	●	●	●	●	●
Extended report on cereal utilization		●			
Food Aid					●
Ocean Freight Rates		●		●	
Other Commodities					
Cassava			●		●
Fertilizer	●	●	●	●	●
Meat	●		●	●	
Milk and milk products			●		●
Oilseeds, Oils and Oilmeals	●		●		
Sugar			●		●
Fish	●				
Special Features [3/]					

1/ These dates are tentative and refer to the release of the English version. Food Outlook in Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish language is available shortly after the release of the English version.
2/ Including update on food emergencies. 3/ Each report may include topical notes as considered appropriate.

This month's issue is based on information available up to 30 March 2001. Contributors to this issue are as follows:

Cereal Production (excl. rice): S. Ahmed (Eastern Africa & Near East); Ms. L. Balbi (Southern Africa and Great Lakes); M. Bamba (North Africa & Oceania developing); Ms. M. Drysdale (CIS); S. Jost (Western and Central Africa); P. Arias (Latin America and Caribbean); A. Markanday (Asia); P. Racionzer (Europe, North America & Oceania developed)

Cereal Trade, Stocks and Prices (excl. rice): A. Abbassian ; **Cereal Utilization** : M. Mielke

Rice: Ms. C. Calpe; **Fertilizers**: J. Poulisse

ENQUIRIES should be directed to Mr. Abdur Rashid, Chief, Global Information and Early Warning Service, Commodities and Trade Division (ESC), FAO - Rome. Direct Facsimile: 39-06-5705-4495; E-mail giews1@fao.org).

Please note that this and other GIEWS reports are available on the Internet as part of the FAO World Wide Web at the following URL address: http://www.fao.org/giews/. In addition, some of the GIEWS regular reports can be received by E-mail through automatic mailing lists. More information is available on the Web at: http://www.fao.org/giews/english/listserv.htm