

# MONTHLY NEWS REPORT ON GRAINS

FAO Markets and Trade Division

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# Market News

## US wheat crop hit by dry winter then soggy spring, adding to global tightness

31 May - Reuters

North Dakota farmer Dwight Grotberg wanted to plant more wheat this spring to capitalize on soaring prices since Russia's invasion of Ukraine cut grain exports and left the world short of millions of tonnes of wheat supply.

Heavy rain has prevented Grotberg from planting as much wheat crop as he wanted and is hampering farmers across the state, the top U.S. grower of spring wheat.

Instead of boosting supply, North Dakota expected to plant wheat over the smallest share of its farmland on record, according to government data.

The United States is the world's fourth-largest wheat exporter and problems are hitting output at a time when the world can ill afford to lose any more supplies of the staple grain amid a global food crisis.

Benchmark Chicago Board of Trade wheat prices surged 50% to more than \$13.60 a bushel after Russia's invasion in February halted shipments of nearly a third of the world's wheat exports, and little has gone right for wheat since then.

Worsening harvest prospects in China and parts of Europe, followed by an export ban by major producer India, have tightened stocks and exacerbated global food supply concerns.

The United Nations has warned the impact of the war on grains, oils, fuel and fertilizer could throw millions of people into famine and take years to resolve.

Washington has been calling on U.S. farmers to seed more winter wheat this autumn, and the government said it would allow planting on some environmentally sensitive land beginning this fall. But the drought and costly farm inputs could limit production gains, say grain analysts.

There are two wheat crops in the United States: spring wheat planted now, and winter wheat planted in autumn that will be harvested soon. Both are in trouble.

The problems with the spring wheat planting faced by farmers like Grotberg come after drought hit the winter wheat crop in Kansas, the top growing state.

The U.S. winter wheat harvest potential there has fallen by more than 25% due to severe drought. Kansas farmers may abandon thousands of acres of wheat in fields this year, instead of paying to harvest the drought-scorched grain.

Back in North Dakota, it is too much water that is the problem. An historic April blizzard left the state's expansive, pothole-dotted fields under more than 3 feet (1 m) of snow in some areas, triggering floods as the deluge melted.

Grotberg has only been able to plant about 500 acres (200 hectares) with wheat so far - just a quarter of the land he had aimed to sow - because of the wet conditions.

Seeds sown in soggy soils can struggle to emerge or come up unevenly, while heavy farm machinery can tear up overly muddy fields, compact soils or get lodged in the muck.

Now, Grotberg's planting window is closing fast.

Wheat planted too late in the spring is likely to yield less grain or be at risk of frost before the crop fully ripens.

"We're stuck ... Normally we're wrapping up wheat planting by this time," Grotberg said.

Soggy spring weather has all but ensured that the northern U.S. Plains breadbasket will not produce a bumper crop this year.

U.S. farmers have only seeded 49% of their intended spring wheat acres as of May 22, matching 2014 for the slowest pace since 1996, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

In North Dakota, which produces about half of U.S. spring wheat, growers have planted just 27% of their crop, the second slowest pace in four decades.

“Some farmers have not turned a wheel yet,” said North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “If North Dakota is not able to get a substantial amount in, it’s just going to wreak more havoc on the global market.”

In the southern U.S. Plains, winter wheat farmers have received very little rain and are concerned about the size of their harvest - or if the shriveled plants will simply need to be plowed under.

A private group touring wheat fields in Kansas in mid-May forecast its harvest would shrink by 28% this year and more fields than normal may go unharvested due to drought damage. About 6% of the state’s planted acres would be abandoned, according to the latest USDA estimates. But given the drought damage, Kansas State University wheat agronomist Romulo Lollato thinks the abandonment rate would be higher.

“I would not be surprised if 8%, 9%, 10%” of planted acres are abandoned this year, Lollato said.

In neighboring Colorado, abandonment could top 30%, Colorado Wheat Executive Director Brad Erker told tour participants.

“Wheat yields are affected by weather in May, and we’ve had a really dry May,” said Kansas farmer Vance Ehmke. “The trend is not our friend.”

U.S. wheat output has been on longer-term decline as farmers favored maize and soybean production, which are more lucrative due to demand from biofuels producers. Seed science also has boosted their yields by 30% or more since 2000, outpacing just 6% for wheat.

Biofuels demand is likely to continue to erode wheat acres as two new soy processing plants are set to open in eastern North Dakota, including one by Archer-Daniels-Midland Company that will supply Marathon Petroleum Corporation with soyoil for renewable diesel fuel.

As the planting window in the northern Plains narrows, North Dakota farmers are weighing options that include shifting to soybeans, which can be sown later in the spring than wheat, or filing prevented planting insurance claims.

“It gets pretty tempting to file those claims,” Grotberg said. “Once you get into June, you might be lucky to get half a crop. And with costs as high as they are, that’s hard to stomach.”

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## **Egypt ups allowed moisture level for wheat imports**

30 May - UkrAgroConsult

Due to global supply concerns, Egypt, perennially among the world’s largest wheat importers, will allow wheat shipments with a moisture level of up to 14% for a year, up from 13.5%.

Egypt usually sources most of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine, where conflict has disrupted its purchases of relatively cheaper Black Sea wheat and inflated global prices. The North African country received 82% of its wheat from Ukraine and Russia in 2020, and a March US Department of Agriculture (USDA) report estimated Egypt would import a total of 12 million tonnes of the staple food crop in 2021-22.

The Egyptian government has been diversifying its sources of wheat, recently adding India as an accepted wheat import origin. Increasing the accepted moisture level could potentially encourage more offers in its state grains buyer’s tenders, traders said.

Traders noted European Union wheat, particularly Poland and the Baltic Region, have 14% moisture level in their contracts, and that is why they usually are offered in tenders. In

Egypt's last wheat purchasing tender in April, German wheat was offered cheapest on a free-on-board basis but was not purchased due to its moisture level.

Egypt's state grains buyer, the General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC), typically purchases wheat through international tenders, but the country's supply minister recently said the cabinet had approved direct purchases from countries or companies.

Egypt was in talks with Australia, Kazakhstan and France for such deals, he said, adding that Cairo had agreed to buy 500,000 tonnes of wheat from India.

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### **Russia expects to boost grain exports in the new season**

28 May – Hellenicshipping.com

Russia, one of the world's largest wheat exporters, will have 50 million tonnes of grain available for export in the new July-June marketing season, up from more than 37 million tonnes in the current season, its agriculture minister said.

Russia competes with the European Union and Ukraine to supply wheat to the Middle East and Africa. It continues to export despite difficulties with logistics and payments caused by Western sanctions on Moscow over what Russia terms its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Russia is expected to harvest 130 million tonnes of grain in 2022, including 87 million tonnes of wheat, President Vladimir Putin said earlier in May.

"The 2022 grain harvest may substantially exceed last year's level and reach the amount mentioned by the president in his speech, and approach, in fact, the maximum (level)," Dmitry Patrushev told a grain conference on Friday.

Russia produced a record grain crop 133.5 million tonnes in 2020, including 85.9 million tonnes of wheat. The crop was smaller in 2021.

Patrushev said Russia has exported more than 35 million tonnes of grain, including 28.5 million tonnes of wheat, this season.

He did not give an estimate for wheat exports in the new season.

Russia is advancing a new law allowing it to take control of the local businesses of Western companies that decide to leave. Foreign firms including Starbucks and McDonald's left the market after Moscow sent thousands of troops to Ukraine on Feb. 24.

However, some global grain traders such as Viterra continue working in Russia.

When asked by Viterra about Moscow's stance on foreign companies, which still operate in Russia's grain sector, Patrushev said Moscow wants them to stay and will support them.

Exports of grain and other commodities from Russia continue amid a lack of vessels as many owners of large ships stopped working with the market amid Western sanctions.

Patrushev said that his ministry was in talks with the state United Shipbuilding Corporation about construction of vessels for grain exports to address the shortage.

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### **Turkey's wheat farmers await state price amid criticism of higher-priced imports**

27 May – S&P Global Platts

As the wheat harvest begins in Turkey, the country's state grains board will soon set the price at which it buys grains on the domestic market — a fraught political moment with the government under fire for paying far higher prices for imported supplies.

Turkey is one of the world's largest wheat importers and its farmers are blocked from selling the grain for export. Like other major importers, such as Algeria and Egypt, its state grains

board is one of the largest buyers on the global market, holding regular tenders in which it procures as much as 400,000 mt on a single day.

The Turkish board, TMO, sells wheat at subsidized prices to Turkish flour mills to ensure that bakeries can provide lower priced bread at official outlets, which attract large queues in cities like Istanbul, where those products are around half the price of commercially-produced bread.

TMO held its most recent tender for imported wheat on April 29, when traders said it made provisional purchases of 480,000 mt of wheat, with the lowest parcel offered at \$409/mt ex-bonded warehouse for 12.5% protein wheat. However, TMO cancelled those purchases a day later, and several Geneva-based traders said that TMO had requested offers below \$400/mt CFR Turkey.

TMO's cancellation might have been a response to political pressure in Turkey, where the tender price triggered critical newspaper headlines, given that TMO's price for domestic purchases is far lower.

Turkey's wheat farmers have not always lost out through TMO's import tenders — when there is a small crop in Turkey there is no discount for domestic wheat and TMO's purchases are exclusively from the global market.

However, after Turkey's wheat crop in May 2021, TMO set its purchase price at Turkish lira 2,250/mt for its benchmark grade, Anatolian

Hard Red Milling Wheat. That was equivalent to \$140/mt at the current lire/dollar exchange rate.

Over the last 12 months, global wheat prices have soared, especially in Russia, the source of most of Turkey's wheat imports. On May 25, 2021, Platts assessed the price of a 25,000 mt cargo of 12.5% protein wheat at \$269/mt FOB Novorossiisk, according to data from S&P Global Commodity Insight. It was assessed at \$430/mt on May 24, 2022.

The wide gap between TMO's domestic purchase price and the global price also reflects the weakness of the Turkish lira, which has also depreciated by more than 50% since May 2021. Commercial wheat prices on Turkey's domestic market have better reflected those trends, with wheat quoted above Turkish Lira 6,000/mt (\$373/mt) on the Turkish Mercantile Exchange on May 25.

"TMO would have to increase the domestic purchase price by more than 120% [from last year] to keep up with the market," said one wheat trader in Turkey. "I don't think they'll do that because it will make more headlines about the real rate of inflation."

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## **China, Brazil sign agreement to boost trade of maize**

25 May – GlobalTimes.cn

China and Brazil have reached an agreement to boost cooperation in agricultural trade including maize, soybean meal and peanuts, as China expands the import of feed grains for the needs of deeper agricultural processing, an expert said on Wednesday.

The General Administration of Customs (GAC) and the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture signed the Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for exporting Brazilian maize to China (revised edition), according to a statement on the website of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

"The signing of the agreement indicates that China moves to enlarge the import of maize while reducing purchase of soybeans in an effort to increase food security," Li Guoxiang, a research fellow at the Rural Development Institute under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Li said that China's output of maize as feed grains is basically sufficient, whereas expanding imports could better boost the development of the deeper agricultural processing sector. China's import of feed grains, especially maize, has increased in the past two years. According to data from the GAC, China imported 28.35 million tons of maize in 2021, an increase of 152.2 percent compared with the previous year. China used to import maize mainly from the US and Ukraine, with Brazil accounting for a small share for use as seeds.

The MOFCOM listed the deals on Tuesday along with other outcomes from the sixth meeting of the China-Brazil High-level Coordination and Cooperation Committee. At the meeting, the Chinese and Brazilian government departments also signed documents to jointly improve taxation services for cross-border businesses, strengthen bilateral trade on agricultural products, deepen cooperation on pesticides, and boost investment in the low-carbon and clean-technology sector. The two countries also agreed to discuss greater integration regarding the digital economy, push for enhanced cooperation in scientific innovation, collaborate on industrial and supply chains, and enhance digital-technology exchanges.

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### **EU feed demand forecast to fall**

20 May – World-grain.com

The spread of animal diseases and the continued global grain market rally, fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, will result in a reduction of 4 million to 5 million tonnes in compound feed demand in the European Union in 2022, according to the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC).

EU-27 compound feed production for farmed animals in 2021 is estimated at 150.2 million tonnes, an increase of 0.03% compared with 2020, according to data provided by FEFAC members.

Except for the pig feed sector, all other sectors managed to stabilize/or slightly increase their production despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, global grain market rally, supply chain disruptions and spread of animal diseases, FEFAC said.

FEFAC noted that following the 2021 EU critical pigmeat situation, facing challenges of reduced meat demand in key export markets (sanitary import ban and Asia-Pacific's recovery from African swine fever ((ASF)), high costs for feed grains, the impact of ASF and significantly increased 2020 production, pig feed production decreased by 1.5% in 2021. The countries most affected were Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Slovenia and Hungary. The Netherlands and Belgium have continued depopulation of their pig herds to lower agricultural environmental emissions.

The EU poultry feed sector managed to increase its production by 1.1% compared to the previous year, recovering partially from losses linked to COVID-19 lockdown measures (HORECA) in 2020.

Cattle feed production increased by 0.2% compared with the previous year due to a higher increase in production in Ireland, Bulgaria and Austria (+6%) following a severe drought impacting grass growth. In Italy and the Czech Republic, dairy farmers decided to buy industrial compound feed rather than mixing their feed on farms, reacting to high costs for raw materials.

In 2022, the EU pig and poultry sector are expected to reduce their activities due to the high cost of feed materials, lower market demand and expanding avian influenza outbreaks in several countries, FEFAC said. Hence, FEFAC members estimate a 4.2% decline in pig feed production and a 3% drop in poultry feed output. Cattle feed production is expected to decrease by 1.6%.

Overall industrial compound feed production is estimated to decrease by 2.9% (4.3 million tonnes) compared with 2021. However, market uncertainties remain very high due to ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine.

“The immediate loss of feed maize, sunflower meal and other feed materials from Ukraine and Russia could only be partially compensated by increased feed imports, mainly from the US and Canada,” FEFAC said.

It added that key logistical challenges are persisting on how to move existing grain stocks out of Ukraine and will continue to impact market availability in the new marketing year.

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### **Bangladesh – government mulls importing wheat from five other countries**

17 May – daily-sun.com

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said the government plans to import wheat from five other countries after India slapped a ban on wheat export.

He informed this in a meeting with Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters’ Forum (BSRF) at the Secretariat on Monday.

"We have already engaged in talks with Canada among other countries that we are trying to reach out for wheat import," Tipu Munshi said.

Earlier this week, India – the world's second-biggest wheat producer - banned wheat exports to curb rising domestic prices and address the needs of neighbouring and vulnerable countries.

Tipu Munshi hopes that India will reconsider their decision on wheat export.

Bangladesh is the top destination of India's wheat exports. India exported 1,157,399 tonnes of wheat worth \$299.4 million to Bangladesh in 2020-21 constituting 55.4 percent in terms of the total volume of India's total wheat exports.

In reply to a query on the recovery of a huge volume of hoarded edible oil, Tipu Munshi said they made a mistake by not fixing the prices of edible oil in line with the international market prices in the last two months.

“Edible oil prices in the international markets increased in the last two months, but we did not adjust the prices for the local markets,” Munshi said.

“Businesses knew that the prices will rise after the Eid-ul Fitr and they took the chance of hoarding it,” Munshi added.

On the drive against hoarders, he said the government does not want to create any situation that can destabilise the market.

“We want to keep the market situation stable instead of controlling it by creating panic,” Munshi said.

The commerce minister also said that the Russia-Ukraine war has created an adverse impact on the global commodity prices, which have impacted food prices in Bangladesh.

He said a more challenging time is ahead but there is nothing to be worried about. “We have to be economical amid this situation,” he added. Some people fear that the situation

may take a Sri Lanka-like turn but there is no chance here, Munshi said, adding that Bangladesh itself has given a loan to Sri Lanka.

Regarding onion price, he said the agriculture ministry has stopped importing onion so that the farmers get a fair price, he said.

The decision has been taken so that farmers can sell per kg of onion at Tk 25 and consumers will buy it at Tk 45 per kg, he said.

Meanwhile, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) sales targetting one crore people will begin next month as planned, the minister confirmed.

Regarding the export target, the commerce minister noted the export target for this year as \$60 billion, while for 2024; it has been set at \$80 billion.

As the demand for apparel products increases, the commerce minister said that there is a plan to raise the number of the country's ready-made garments industry labours to five million from the four million current RMG workforces.

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## **Wheat soars in risk to food inflation as India restricts exports**

16 May – Independent.ie

Wheat jumped by the exchange limit after India's move to restrict exports, exposing just how tight global supplies are after the war in Ukraine and threatening to drive up food prices even more.

The government will suspend overseas sales to manage its food security, according to a notification dated May 13.

This drew criticism from the agriculture ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) nations, who said that such measures make the world's crisis worse.

Benchmark futures rose as much as 5.9pc to \$12.47 1/2 a bushel in Chicago, the highest in two months.

Prices have surged about 60pc this year, increasing the cost of everything from bread to cakes and noodles.

The surprising thing is that India isn't even a prominent exporter on the world stage.

The fact that it could have such a major impact underscores the bleak prospect for global wheat supplies. War has crippled Ukraine's exports, and now droughts, floods and heat waves threaten crops in most major producers.

"If this ban occurred in a normal year the impact would be minimal, but the loss of Ukraine volumes exacerbates the issues," said Andrew Whitelaw, a grains analyst at Melbourne-based Thomas Elder Markets.

India's decision to halt wheat exports came after a record-breaking heat wave parched the crop during a crucial period, spurring estimates of slumping yields.

The output risk created a dilemma for India, which has tried to fill the gap as the shortfall in Ukraine's exports push buyers toward alternative origins.

India prioritised the domestic market, even as the move risks tarnishing its international image as a reliable supplier.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces frustration on home soil about surging inflation, an issue that brought down the previous government and paved the way for his ascension to power.

India will approve exports to countries that require wheat for food security needs and based on the requests of their governments.

It will also allow shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit have been issued. Its supplies usually go to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

"Directing the wheat exports through government channels would not only ensure fulfilling the genuine needs of our neighbours and food-deficit countries, but also control inflationary expectations," India's food ministry said in a statement. It added that the country has adequate food stocks.

That view may be called into question.

The government's wheat procurement has halved and may not be enough to meet the needs of its subsidised food programs, according to Citigroup Inc.

Farmers could have been more willing to sell to private players who offered a better price. Authorities have also cut the allocation of wheat and increased that of rice under its free food program.

"Even after making these adjustments, the government might not have enough wheat to meet its annual requirement," Citi analysts said in a note.

Based on India's production estimate of 105 million tons, exports of 10 million or more as targeted by officials would be tough to achieve, according to the bank.

The move by India adds to a growing wave of food protectionism since the war started.

Governments around the world are seeking to ensure local food supplies with agriculture prices surging.

Indonesia has halted palm oil exports, while Serbia and Kazakhstan imposed quotas on grain shipments.

Traders are frustrated by the policy. A day before India's export halt was announced, the government said it was sending trade delegations to countries to explore the possibility of boosting wheat exports. This will not happen now.

The food ministry had also said it saw no need to control exports as Bloomberg News reported that authorities were considering the move.

"A lot of exporters and actual users worldwide have commitments of purchase of Indian wheat, which should be honored," said Vijay Iyengar, chairman and managing director of Singapore-based Agropcorp International, which trades about 12 million tons of grain annually.

Global prices of different wheat varieties climbed. Hard red winter futures surged by 70 cents, the exchange limit, to \$13.52 a bushel, the highest price since 2008, while spring wheat was up almost 4pc. Corn increased 2.3pc.

The export ban could be long lasting, if global food prices remain elevated, according to Nomura Securities.

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## **Persistent drought to make Iran big wheat importer for second straight year**

10 May – Intellinews.com

Persistent drought conditions mean Iran will need to import at least 7mn tonnes of wheat in the Persian calendar year to March 2023, meaning the country will face a second consecutive year marked by high wheat imports at a time when grain prices are climbing to worrying heights.

The wheat import forecast was given by Iran's Grain Union chairman, Kaveh Zargaran, in a conference presentation on May 10. Reuters was provided with extracts from the presentation.

Iran's cash-strapped government ended subsidies for imported wheat on May 1, leading to warnings that the impact on bread and pasta prices could lead to social unrest in the country of 85mn.

In the Persian year to March 2022, the Iran Grain Union estimated, the country imported a record 8mn tonnes of wheat, with Iran one of a number of countries in the Middle East to suffer poor rainfall. Neighbour Turkey has also had to increasingly turn to global markets to meet its grain needs.

In some recent years, Iran has been self-sufficient in wheat.

With millions of tonnes of Ukrainian wheat blockaded by Russia at ports along Ukraine's Black Sea and Sea of Azov coasts, wheat importers this year face a headache sourcing enough supplies of the staple grain. Canada on May 10 offered to work with Ukraine on solving the dilemma of how to get at least a substantial amount of its wheat to the global market. Some shipments have been sent by rail and road.

Iran's projected wheat imports would form part of an estimated 25mn tonnes of grains, meal and oilseeds that the country would require in the ongoing 12-month period, Zargaran reportedly added in his presentation.

The difficulties faced by Iran in equitably distributing its water resources are, in the face of repeated droughts, worsening by the year. Water shortages last year caused unrest, leading to deadly clashes with security forces, in parts of the country.

There have been complaints from some quarters that Iranian officials have foolishly encouraged the development of rice farming, with high water consumption, in parts of the country that do not have sufficient water resources.

Desalination of Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman waters is seen as one option for boosting Iran's usable water volumes, but the technology for desalination remains expensive.

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### **Africa turns to alternatives as wheat prices soar**

8 May – Bloomberg.com

Global wheat prices are so high that African consumers are starting to ditch the grain from their diet.

Food producers in Kenya, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria and Cameroon say they are mixing cheaper alternatives into their breads, pastries and pastas. Local rice, manioc flour and sorghum are substituted for wheat, which has spiked about 40% this year as Russia's invasion squeezed exports from Ukraine, one of the biggest shippers. These domestic crops are less exposed to trade disruptions and global inflation, thus offering some protection from food prices that remain near record levels.

Kenya imports about 44% of its wheat from the Black Sea region, and the surging prices helped stoke inflation to 6.5% in April. Unga Group, the Nairobi-based maker of Exe brand wheat flour and Jogoo maize flour, is seeing a shift in sales to its Amana line of rice and pulses.

"There is a spike in the price of maize and wheat driving consumers to other alternatives," MD Joseph Choge said. "Pulses and rice sales are growing while wheat is coming down." The farm-gate price of maize has doubled and millers are struggling to get enough supplies, he said.

Global supplies of wheat could shrink even more as India considers restricting exports after severe heatwaves damaged crops.

Previously, the country slashed its production estimate for this season but said there was enough supply to meet domestic demand.

"We could be seeing some pressure towards greater consumption of domestically produced coarse grains," said Shirley Mustafa, an economist at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The FAO cut its 2022 outlook for global wheat production, saying the forecast for Ukraine remained below average. The war will reduce the harvested area by at least a fifth. Egypt is the biggest buyer of wheat, with more than 80% of imports coming from Ukraine and Russia. Government purchases are running 13% behind last year.

Facing that sort of pressure, pasta-maker Egyptian Swiss Group is experimenting with new recipes using rice, maize and lentil flour. “The price is the name of the game,” said Ahmed El-Sebaie, a general manager.

Nestlé Nigeria, maker of Golden Morn cereal, is introducing more locally produced crops to its line-up. These include sorghum and soybeans.

In the DRC, the government approved a programme supporting the production of manioc flour to make bread and pastries. The flour is made from cassava. That could help the DRC reduce its dependence on imported wheat, which costs about \$87m a year, minister of industry Julien Paluku said.

“If the majority of these products were made on the ground, we would suffer less from the Ukrainian crisis,” said Andre Wameso, the president’s deputy chief of staff for economic issues.

Cameroon imports about 1-million tonnes of wheat annually, ranking among the top 10 buyers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Declining domestic production prompted it to suspend exports of wheat flour, rice and cereals to neighbouring countries. The move came after the government raised prices for bread by 20% in March. In response, some food companies are pivoting to potatoes.

“The demand for Irish potatoes by bread producers has increased tremendously,” said Sylvanus Nsaichia Kiyung, a farmer in the northwest town of Santa. “I am planning to acquire more farmland and plant more potatoes to catch up with demand. All seven tonnes of potatoes I produced this year have been cleared.”

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## Reports

### **May 2022 CropWatch Bulletin - CropWatch**

May 2022 CropWatch Bulletin is based mainly on current remote sensing inputs in addition to detailed and spatially accurate reference data about crops and their management. Focusing on the months of January to April 2022, chapters cover global, national, and regional level agroclimatic conditions and the condition of crops that were growing during this time. For China, the bulletin presents crop conditions for each of seven key agro-ecological zones, an updated estimate of trade prospects (import/export) of major crops. The focus section reports on the estimate by CropWatch for maize, rice, wheat and soybeans production in 2022, recent disaster events with an impact on agriculture, the possibility of an El Niño event and the impact of Russia Ukraine conflict on world food supply.

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**Early Warning Crop Monitor – GEOGLAM**

**Commodity Price Data - World Bank**

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**Club Demeter Système de veille**

**FAO's Big Data tool on food chains under the COVID-19 pandemic**

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**IFPRI COVID-19 Food Trade Policy Tracker**

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<https://www.fao.org/markets-and-trade/en/>