



HIGHLIGHTS

- **A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April with dire humanitarian consequences:** millions of people are affected in 39 districts of Western and Central Regions, out of 75 districts countrywide.
- **Although agricultural damages have not yet been assessed, the impact on food security and agricultural livelihoods is expected to be very high.**
 - The food security of the affected population is adversely impacted by the difficulties to access food.
 - Wheat and maize crops in the Central Mountain, Central Hills, Western Mountain and Western Hills Regions are likely to be most affected due to landslides and disruption of harvesting operations.
 - Losses to stored food and agricultural inputs, and damage to irrigation and drainage canals are likely high.
 - Around two-thirds of Nepalese have agriculture-based livelihoods, including many subsistence farmers.
- **FAO co-leads the Food Security Cluster with the World Food Programme and is supporting government-led efforts to rapidly restore rural livelihoods and food production in Nepal.**
- **Partners of the Food Security Cluster seek USD 128 million within the Nepal Earthquake Flash Appeal, launched 29 April, to deliver critical food security assistance.**
- **Of this total, FAO seeks USD 8 million to deliver time-critical interventions:**
 - ensure 2015 rice planting through the provision of crop production packages.
 - keep animals healthy and productive through the emergency provision of animal feed and veterinary supplies.
- **The window of opportunity to assist vulnerable farming families is critical:**
 - Farmers who miss the imminent planting season will be unable to harvest rice again until late 2016.
 - Further loss of livestock – which are costly to replace – leaves vulnerable families without a vital and continuous source of food and income.

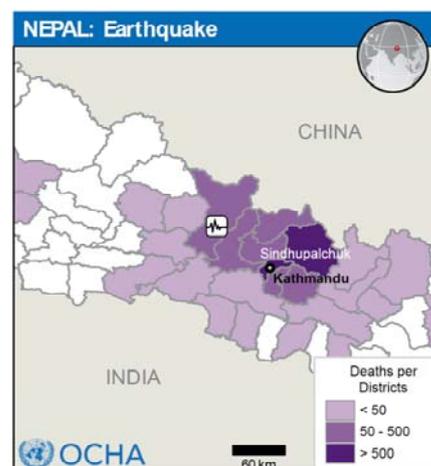
BACKGROUND

Nepal was struck by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake on 25 April – the most devastating in over 80 years. Millions of people are affected in 39 districts of Western and Central Regions, out of 75 districts countrywide.

The affected areas range from Nepal's largest cities (Kathmandu and Pokhara) to highly vulnerable rural areas. The massive quake and aftershocks have severely injured and killed thousands of people, flattened homes, downed power and destroyed infrastructure, including roads to access affected populations.

FAO is working closely with the Government of Nepal and Food Security Cluster partners to meet the most urgent needs of the affected population.

Reference map (source: OCHA)



AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE, NEEDS AND RESPONSE

- ❖ **The impact on food security and agricultural livelihoods is expected to be very high.**

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for two-thirds of Nepal's population, including many subsistence farmers. Although damage to the agriculture sector has not yet been assessed, affected families have likely lost livestock, standing crops, food stocks and agricultural inputs, while facing market disruptions and constrained movement of emergency assistance. Damages to irrigation and drainage canals are also likely to be high.

❖ **The earthquake struck during the wheat harvest, with maize planting ongoing and rice sowing expected to start from late May onwards.**

Before the disaster, FAO estimated 2015 wheat production at 1.8 million tonnes – 5 percent below last year’s record harvest. However, this forecast may not materialize due to crop damage and disrupted harvest operations in earthquake affected areas.

❖ **It is critical that farmers receive agricultural support to sow rice during the imminent planting season (late May–August).**

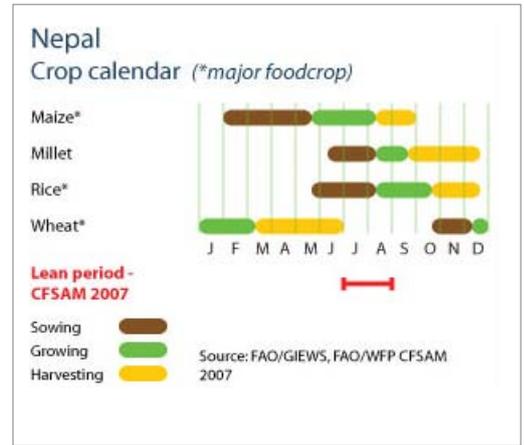
Farmers who miss the season will be unable to harvest rice – Nepal’s primary staple food crop – until late 2016. This would deprive families of a year’s worth of food supply, wipe out anticipated income and prolong dependence on external assistance.

❖ **There is also a critical window of opportunity to preserve the livestock assets of affected families.**

Livestock are a continuous source of food and income for poor rural households, which are costly to replace. Further livestock losses can be prevented with the timely provision of veterinary supplies and animal feed.

❖ **FAO is supporting Government efforts to rapidly restore rural livelihoods and food production.**

Donor funding is needed for urgent agricultural interventions that will increase the resilience of affected farming families and greatly reduce the time and costs of recovery.



Food Security Cluster

FAO and WFP co-lead the Food Security Cluster to ensure an effective, coordinated and evidence-based response.



Time-critical priorities for agriculture

The most time-critical support to affected rural families includes:



Emergency livestock support, including veterinary supplies and animal feed to keep livestock healthy and productive.



Provision of crop production packages to secure the 2015 rice sowing season.

\$ 8 million

FAO initial funding requirements within the Nepal Earthquake Flash Appeal

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