GIEWS Country Brief
The Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 23-December-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Aggregate 2020 cereal output forecast close to average level
- Rice exports forecast to expand in 2021
- COVID-19 pandemic and cereal production shortfalls in north heighten food insecurity for vulnerable households

Aggregate 2020 cereal output forecast close to average level

Harvesting of the 2020, mostly rainfed main (wet), paddy crop, accounting for about 90 percent of the annual output, is nearing completion. The May-September rainy (monsoon) season was characterized by an erratic temporal and spatial distribution. Precipitation amounts were average to above average over the main rice producing central and southern provinces, which combined account for about 80 percent of the main crop. By contrast, in minor producing northern provinces and in the central provinces of Vientiane and Xiangkhouang, the season was less favourable. The well below-average rains at planting time between May and July, hindered sowing operations and multiple replanting of crops was required in many areas. Rains improved from August onwards and brought some relief to soil moisture conditions, but they were too late and, in these areas, the harvested area and yields are estimated below the average levels. Farmers are currently planting the 2020 mostly irrigated secondary (dry) crop, for harvest next April, under generally favourable weather conditions. Above-average monsoon precipitation amounts in the southern and central provinces, where the bulk of the secondary crop is grown, contributed to replenishing the reservoirs, water of which will be used to irrigate these crops. The aggregate rice production is forecast at a near-average level of 3.8 million tonnes and about 23 percent above the 2019 output that had been severely affected by drought and floods.

Harvesting of the 2020 maize crop has recently completed and the output is estimated at 1 million tonnes, almost 20 percent below the five-year average. Poor rains from May to September affected crops at critical development stages over the main producing areas located in the north, resulting in below-average area planted and yields. The output is estimated to increase by 40 percent compared 2019, when a severe drought led to widespread wilting of crops.
Rice exports forecast to expand in 2021

The country is largely self-sufficient in rice, exporting small volumes of rice to neighbouring countries. In calendar year 2021, rice exports are forecast at 150 000 tonnes, up from the 90 000 tonnes in calendar year 2020.

During the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June), maize exports are forecast well below the five-year average, at 250 000 tonnes, due to low exportable availabilities following reduced outputs in 2019 and 2020.

COVID-19 pandemic and cereal production shortfalls in north heighten food insecurity of vulnerable households

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been severe on the local economy. According to the latest data from the Asian Development Bank, the economic growth is estimated to contract by 2.5 percent in 2020, after it has grown on average by 5 percent per year in the last five years. Income losses associated with the COVID-19-related economic downturn and a strong decrease in remittance inflows heighten food insecurity for the most vulnerable households. In northern parts of the country, cereal production shortfalls for the second consecutive year have limited the availability of food for households’ own consumption and reduced income from crop sales, further constraining access to food.

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GIEWS Country Brief
The Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 22-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Secondary season 2019 paddy output estimated at below-average level
- Aggregate 2019 paddy output estimated at below-average level
- Rice import requirements forecast to increase considerably in 2020 on reduced output
- Adverse weather conditions negatively impacted livelihoods and food security of affected households

Output of 2019 paddy estimated at below-average level

Harvesting of the 2019 irrigated secondary season paddy crop started at the beginning of April and will continue in some areas until May and the production is estimated at a below-average level. This mainly reflects a decline in both area harvested and yields as less irrigation water has been available following the damages to the irrigation infrastructure caused by recurrent floods in 2018 and 2019. The 2019 main season was concluded last December and the output is officially estimated at a below-average level, affected by unfavourable weather conditions.

A prolonged drought from May to December in the north and severe floods in August and September in the south and parts of the centre, caused widespread crop losses, leading to a reduction in the area harvested compared with the average levels. According to a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), the 2019 aggregate paddy output is estimated at 3.4 million tonnes, about 10 percent below the five-year average.

Harvesting of the 2019 maize crops was completed last December and the output is officially estimated at about 717 000 tonnes, more than 40 percent below the five-year average. The decrease is attributed to a decline in the area planted, reflecting the low import demand from China (Mainland) and to low yields following the severe drought throughout 2019 in the main producing areas located in the north and damages caused by Fall Armyworm infestations.

No livestock deaths were reported as a result of the dry weather conditions and the floods. In 2019, African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks were reported throughout the country. The Ministry of...
Agriculture and Forestry confirmed the first ASF outbreak in Salavan Province on 20 June 2019 and the disease rapidly spread throughout the country, killing at least 40,000 pigs, about 1 percent of the total national herd. By November 2019, ASF outbreaks were controlled and no new cases were reported.

**Rice import requirements for 2020 marketing year (January/December) forecast at high level**

Rice import requirements in the 2020 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at a well above-average level of 260,000 tonnes and are expected to be fully covered by commercial imports.

During the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June), maize exports are forecast at 114,000 tonnes, about half the level of the previous year and considerably below the five-year average. This is the result of low exportable availabilities after the reduced output in 2019 and the low demand from China (Mainland).

**Adverse weather conditions negatively impacted livelihoods and food security of affected households**

Drought and flooding in 2019 had a negative impact on the livelihoods and food security of most households in the affected areas. According to the CFSAM, as of March, approximately 67,800 people were estimated to face food insecurity. The worst food insecurity conditions were reported among the poor households that are mainly dependent on upland rice cultivation.

**COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government**

Overall, the number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, as of mid-April, is minimal. As a measure to prevent the spread of the virus, the Government of the People’s Democratic Republic of Lao has ordered a countrywide lockdown starting from 1 April until 3 May 2020 and imposed restrictions on international and national travels, limiting travel to other provinces, suspending domestic passenger transport services and closing border checkpoints. In addition, the Government prohibited the large gatherings of people and closed schools, universities, public institutions and sports venues. Transportation of goods and agricultural activities are authorized to continue in order to ensure adequate market availabilities. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry established a Task Force to work with concerning agencies and support agricultural production.

There are concerns related to the effects of the virus on food prices as a result of panic-buying, hoarding and potential disruptions to the movement of food supplies. On 30 March 2020, the Government has imposed price control measures in order to avoid price spikes for several essential goods, including medicines, medical devices and rice, the country’s main staple.

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Reference Date: 26-July-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near-average rains in southern and most central parts benefitted planting and germination of 2019 main crop
- In northern and some central rice producing areas, poor early season rains delayed sowing and affected early crop development
- Maize exports forecast at high level in 2019/20 marketing year

Mixed performance of 2019 rainy season so far

Planting of the 2019 main (wet) season paddy crop, representing almost 90 percent of the annual paddy output, is nearing completion. So far, the May to September rainy season has been characterized by near-average precipitations in southern and most of central parts of the country (locally referred to as Mekong River Corridor and Central and Southern Highland areas), benefitting planting and germination of crops. By contrast, in northern rice producing areas, poor rains delayed planting operations and affected early crop development. In particular, in the provinces of Bokco, Oudomxai, Luannamtha, Xayabouri and parts of Vientiane, which account for about 25 percent of the main season’s output, the moisture deficits resulted in below-average vegetation conditions (see VHI map). The performance of seasonal rains in the next weeks will be crucial for the final outcome of the cropping season. The 2019 secondary (dry) season crops will be planted next year.

Planting of the 2019 main maize crop, for harvest at the end of the year, is progressing at a normal pace in the main southern producing areas. Some delays were reported in northern and parts of central areas due to below-average rains. Strong demand from the local feed industry and export markets are expected to keep the planted area above the five-year average.

Maize exports forecast at above-average level in 2019/20 marketing year

Maize exports in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 380 000 tonnes, based on expectations of a bumper output as well as due to the strong import demand from China (Mainland).
### Lao People's Democratic Republic

#### Cereal Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice (paddy)</td>
<td>4,117 4,240 4,300</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1,536 1,600 1,650</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,653 5,840 5,950</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.9</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

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GIEWS Country Brief
The Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 18-July-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Paddy production in 2017 estimated close to previous year’s above-average level

Paddy production in 2017 estimated close to previous year’s above-average level

The 2017 secondary (irrigated) paddy crop was harvested by April 2018, while the harvest of the 2017 main (wet) rice crop was completed in December 2017. Overall, weather conditions were favourable throughout the season, benefitting plantings and overall yields. Some crop losses were registered in the northern parts of the country due to floods in August 2017 and localized locust outbreaks. On aggregate, the 2017 rice output is estimated at 4.2 million tonnes, marginally above the bumper level of 2016 and 9 percent above the five-year average.

The 2017 maize output is estimated at 1.4 million tonnes, 4 percent above the previous year’s high level, reflecting an increase in both plantings and yields.

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Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

Lean period - CFSVA 2007
Lean period - GiEWS

Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2007

Cereal production

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>000 tonnes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>3 824</td>
<td>4 120</td>
<td>4 170</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1 240</td>
<td>1 350</td>
<td>1 400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5 065</td>
<td>5 470</td>
<td>5 570</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets
GIEWS Country Brief
The Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 05-July-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Main 2017 season started under generally favourable weather conditions
- Rice imports to decrease in 2017

Main 2017 season started under generally favourable weather conditions
Planting of the 2017 main (wet) season paddy crop started in mid-April in the northern parts, while the bulk of the crop, grown in central and southern parts, will be sown until July. Remote sensing data indicates near-normal rainfall since mid-April over the main cereal-producing areas in the centre and south of the country. However, northern parts of the country, which produce a small share of the main season paddy crop, may have some delays in planting operations due to below-average rains since the start of the season. Assuming near-average yields, FAO tentatively forecasts the 2017 paddy production at 4 million tonnes, slightly above last year’s good level. Similarly, the 2017 maize output is projected to surpass the 2016 bumper crop and reach 1.4 million tonnes.

Rice imports to decrease in 2017
Rice imports only account for a small percentage of the total supplies. Considering the slow year-to-date import pace and expectations of good local availabilities, rice imports in calendar year 2017 are forecast by FAO to decrease to 150 000 tonnes.

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice (Dry Season)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice (Wet Season)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Lean period - CFSVA 2007
Lean period - GIEWS

Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFS/AM

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Cereal production

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>000 tonnes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice (paddy)</td>
<td>3 726</td>
<td>3 910</td>
<td>4 010</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1 240</td>
<td>1 350</td>
<td>1 400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 966</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 260</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 410</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Total cereal imports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17 Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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Cereal production in 2016 forecast to recover

Harvesting of the 2016 main (wet) paddy crop is nearing completion, while the 2016 secondary (dry) season crop is being planted for harvest as of April. FAO forecasts the aggregate paddy production in 2016 at 4 million tonnes, implying a 5 percent recovery from the 2015 weather-affected outcome. The upturn is expected to be primarily sustained by an increase in the main crop, facilitated by favourable rainfall during the cropping season. Prospects are also favourable for the forthcoming secondary season, owing to improved water availability for irrigation.

The 2016 maize output, harvested by October, is estimated by FAO at 1.3 million tonnes, 23 percent above last year's reduced level, following a recovery in both area and yields.

Cereal exports in 2016 to increase from last year's low level

Cereal exports in the 2017 marketing year are forecast at 400 000 tonnes, almost 30 percent above the previous year's level. The increase is the result of higher maize exports, which are forecast to almost double last year's low level and reach 300 000 tonnes, in line with a strong rebound in 2016 output.
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Total cereal exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011/12-2015/16</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17 forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing year.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets
GIEWS Country Brief
The Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 24-May-2016

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Dry weather affects start of 2016 main rice season
- Cereal production decreased in 2015 due to dry weather
- Cereal exports in 2016 forecast to increase from last year’s high level

**Dry weather affects start of 2016 main rice season**
Planting of the 2016 main (wet) season paddy crop, normally starts in mid-April in the northern parts, while the bulk of the crop, grown in central and southern parts is sown from late May onwards. However, for this season so far, remote sensing data indicates lower-than-average rainfall since early April over much of the northern growing areas, which has likely delayed planting operations and, should it persist could reduce the area sown. In the main growing areas in the centre and south of the country, the performance of the monsoon rains in the coming weeks will be crucial for the outcome of the main season.

**Cereal production in 2015 decreased due to dry weather**
FAO’s latest estimate puts the 2015 aggregate rice production (including the 2015 main season, harvested by December 2015 and secondary season, harvested by April 2016) at 3.2 million tonnes, 4 percent below the record level of 2014. This reflects a small decrease in both area and yields, following poor rains particularly during the first part of the main season, associated with the El Niño episode. Similarly, maize output is estimated 5 percent below the 2014 level at 1.1 million tonnes.

Livestock conditions have been negatively affected by a period of extreme low temperatures in January 2016, coupled with reduced water availability and lack of adequate pasture. Latest reports estimate that some 4 000 head of livestock have been lost.

**Cereal exports in 2016 to increase from last year’s level**
Cereal exports in marketing year 2016 are forecast at 350 000 tonnes, 8 percent above the previous year’s level. The increase is mainly the result of anticipated higher rice exports, which notwithstanding a smaller output in 2015, are projected to increase, due to ample stock availabilities. By contrast, maize
Exports are expected to decline as a result of the smaller crop in 2015, as well as strong local demand from the feed industry.
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 05-June-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Prospects for planting of 2015 main season rice uncertain due to dry weather
- Maize exports in 2015 forecast to decrease from previous year’s high level

Prospects for planting of 2015 main season rice uncertain due to dry weather
Planting of the 2015 main (wet) season paddy crop has just started and will continue until July. Remote sensing data indicate lower-than-average rainfall since the second dekad of May over the main rice producing areas, including the provinces of Savannakhet, Champasak, Luang Prabang, Vientiane and Vientiane Prefecture, which all together produce about 50 percent of the total rice output. The dry weather is likely to have delayed planting operations and could reduce the area planted to the 2015 main season rice crop in these areas. The current dry weather may be attributed to the onset of a weak El Niño event this year, as the phenomenon is often associated with below-average precipitation in South-East Asia. Rainfall performance in the following weeks will be crucial for avoiding reductions in plantings and yield potential of the 2015 main season rice crop. The FAO’s Global Information and Early Warning System will continue to closely monitor the weather situation and assess possible effects on rice production.

Maize exports in 2015 are forecast to decrease from last year’s high level
Cereal exports for the 2015 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 315 000 tonnes, 7 percent below last year’s high level. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are set to decrease by 9 percent compared to the record level of the previous year and reach 265 000 tonnes. The expected decline is the result of a small contraction in the 2014 harvest, as well as strong local demand from the feed industry.
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal exports

Note: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 11-May-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Rice production in 2015 forecast to increase from last year’s average level
- Cereal exports in 2015 forecast to decrease from previous year’s high level

2015 rice production forecast to increase from last year’s average level
Planting of the main 2015 season paddy crop is currently underway and will continue until July. FAO tentatively forecasts the aggregate 2015 rice output (including the ongoing 2015 main and the forthcoming 2015/16 secondary seasons), at 3.4 million tonnes, 3 percent up from the previous year’s average output. Similarly, the 2015 total maize output is forecast at about 1.2 million tonnes, 5 percent above the high level of 2014.

Cereal exports in 2015 are forecast to decrease from last year’s high level
Cereal exports for the 2015 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 315 000 tonnes, 7 percent below last year’s high level, mainly reflecting slightly lower cereal harvests in 2014. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are set to decrease by 9 percent compared to the record level of the previous year to 265 000 tonnes, given the slight contraction in the 2014 harvest, as well as strong demand from feed industry. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self-sufficient in rice.
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 23-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Rice production in 2015 forecast to increase from last year’s average level
- Cereal exports in 2015 forecast to decrease from the previous year’s high level
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

2015 rice production forecast to increase from last year’s average level
Planting of the 2015 main (wet) season paddy crop will start in mid-May and will continue until July. FAO tentatively forecasts the aggregate 2015 rice output (including the forthcoming 2015 main and the 2015/16 secondary seasons), at 3.4 million tonnes, 3 percent up from the previous year’s average output. Similarly, FAO’s early forecast puts the total 2015 maize output at about 1.2 million tonnes, 5 percent above the near-average level of 2014.

2014 rice production is forecast at a slightly reduced level
Harvesting of the 2014 secondary (dry) season paddy crop is nearing completion. Below-average rains between January and mid-April 2015 over the main rice producing areas, including the provinces of Savannakhet, Champasak, Khammouane and Vietaine Prefecture, resulted in localized losses of the secondary season rice crop. Including the slightly reduced 2014 main season, harvested by December, FAO’s forecast for the 2014 aggregate rice production stands at 3.3 million tonnes, 3 percent below the 2013 bumper level.

The 2014 maize output is estimated by FAO at an average level of 1.1 million tonnes, some 4 percent below last year’s high level.

Cereal exports in 2015 are forecast to decrease from last year’s high level
Cereal exports for the 2014/15 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 315 000 tonnes, 7 percent below last year’s high level, mainly reflecting slightly lower cereal harvests in 2014. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are set to decrease by 9 percent compared to the record level of the previous year to 265 000 tonnes. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self-sufficient in rice.

Food insecurity remains a concern in some parts of the country
Despite steady economic growth, food insecure areas exist at the sub-national level. Ethnic groups and children living in
remote and rural areas are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 75 percent of the economically active population derive their income from the agricultural sector. According to IFPRI’s Global Hunger Index Report (2014), the under-five mortality rate is 7.2 percent and some 26.5 percent of children under five years are underweight.
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 19-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- 2014 rice output is forecast to decrease slightly, but remains just above average
- Cereal exports in 2014 forecast to increase from last year’s high level
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

2014 rice production is forecast to decrease slightly
Harvesting of the 2014 main (wet) season paddy crop is currently underway and will continue until the end of December. FAO’s current forecast for the aggregate 2014 rice output (including the ongoing main season and the forthcoming 2014/15 secondary seasons), stands at 3.3 million tonnes, about 3 percent below last year’s production. The slight decline is on account of heavy rains in early August that caused localized flooding across northern and central parts of the country, resulting in some crop losses. In addition, relatively low rice prices at sowing time resulted in a slight contraction in the area planted for the main season rice crop, further contributing to the expected production decrease.

The 2014 maize output is estimated by FAO at 1.13 million tonnes, marginally below last year’s high level.

Cereal exports in 2014 are forecast to increase from last year’s high level
Cereal exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 340 000 tonnes, some 6 percent above last year’s high level, mainly reflecting bumper cereal harvests in 2013. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are forecast slightly higher than last year’s above-average level of 280 000 tonnes. Much of the trade takes place with Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self-sufficient in rice.

Food insecurity remains a concern in some parts of the country
Despite steady economic growth, food insecure areas exist at the sub-national level. Ethnic groups and children living in remote and rural areas are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derive their income from the agricultural sector. The floods in August 2014 affected at least 120 000 people, damaging houses and infrastructure.

The latest available official data indicated that the national year-on-year inflation rate in September 2014 was 3 percent.
The 2014 rice production is forecast to decrease slightly
Planting of the 2014 main (wet) season paddy crop was completed in mid-July. According to satellite-based information and analysis, favourable weather conditions prevailed between mid-May and early August in most parts of the country. However, the continuation of relative low rice prices has resulted in further diversion of land to more profitable crops this season. As a result, FAO tentatively forecasts the 2014 aggregate rice production (including the 2014 main and the 2014/15 secondary seasons), at 3.3 million tonnes, some 3 percent below last year’s output. The maize output is expected to remain similar to 2013’s harvest.

Cereal exports in 2014 forecast to increase slightly
Cereal exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 330 000 tonnes, slightly above last year’s high level. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are forecast slightly higher than last year’s above-average level of 280 000 tonnes. Much of the trade takes place with Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self-sufficient in rice.

Rice prices remain stable
Prices of glutinous rice, the main staple in the country, have remained unchanged in recent months despite new supplies from the main and secondary season harvest, as the national output was estimated at slightly lower level compared to the previous year.

The latest available official data indicated that the national year-on-year inflation rate in June 2014 was 4.6 percent.

Food insecurity is of concern in some parts of the country
Despite steady economic growth, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Ethnic groups and children living in remote and rural areas are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from the agricultural sector.
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- The 2014 rice production forecast to decrease for the second consecutive year
- The 2013 rice production revised downward
- Cereal exports in 2014, mostly maize, forecast at last year's level
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

The 2014 rice production forecast to decrease for the second consecutive year
Planting of the 2014 main (wet) season paddy crop has just started and will continue until July. Continuing relatively low prices are expected to result in further diversion of land to more profitable crops this season. As a result, FAO tentatively forecasts the 2014 aggregate rice production (including the 2014 main and the 2014/15 secondary seasons), at 3.2 million tonnes, some 3 percent below last year’s output.

The 2013 rice production revised downward
FAO's latest estimates put the 2013 aggregate rice production (including the 2013 main season, harvested by December 2013 and secondary season, harvested by April 2014) at 3.3 million tonnes, 5 percent below the 2012 record output. This reflected a slight contraction in area planted, following a shift to more profitable crops and lower yields as a result of localized floods in September 2013 across the north-eastern and southern parts of the country.

Cereal exports in 2014 forecast at last year's level
Cereal exports for the in 2013/14 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 330 000 tonnes, similar to last year's above-average level. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are forecast slightly above last year’s above-average level at 280 000 tonnes. Much of the trade takes place with Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self-sufficient in rice.

Rice prices remain stable
Price of glutinous rice, the main staple in the country have remained unchanged in recent months despite the main and secondary season harvest, as outputs were estimated lower than in the previous year.

The latest available official data indicated that the overall national year-on-year consumer price inflation in April 2014 was 5.3 percent.

Food insecurity is of concern in some parts
of the country

Despite steady economic growth, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Ethnic groups and children living in remote and rural areas are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from the agricultural sector.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Record rice crop estimated in 2013
- Maize exports to increase in 2013
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

Record rice crop estimated in 2013

Planting of the 2013/14 mostly dry season irrigated paddy crop is almost completed, under generally favourable weather conditions. Harvesting of the 2013 main season rice was completed in December. In aggregate, the 2013 rice output (including the main wet and the ongoing secondary dry seasons), is estimated by FAO at 3.5 million tonnes, similar to last year’s bumper output. Heavy monsoon rains from late June throughout September 2013 resulted in localised flooding across north-eastern and southern parts of the country. According to the National Disaster Management Office the floods are estimated to have affected at least 24,000 hectares of paddy crop, limiting potentiality higher production this year. Continued public assistance supported larger plantings.

Maize exports to increase in 2013

The country is expected to remain more-or-less self sufficient in rice. However, some 280,000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during the 2014 marketing year (January/December). Much of the trade takes place with Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China.

The latest available official data indicate that the overall national year-on-year consumer price inflation in December 2013 was 6.7 percent

Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

Despite steady economic growth at an average rate of some 8 percent since 2007, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Ethnic groups living in remote areas and rural children are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from agricultural sector. According to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity is caused mainly by localized shocks.
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 12-July-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Beneficial rains received at the start of 2013 main wet season
- 2012 rice production estimated at a near average level
- Maize exports to increase in 2013
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

Beneficial rains received at the start of 2013 main wet season
Planting of the 2013 main season paddy crop started in May and will continue until July. Relatively normal rainfall pattern was recorded between early May and mid June, benefiting planting activities. Preliminary forecast put the 2013 rice output, including the ongoing 2013 main (wet) and the 2013/14 secondary (dry) season, at 3.06 million tonnes, similar to the 2012 output.

2012 rice production estimated at a near average level
Harvesting of the 2012 main season paddy crop was completed in December 2012, while the secondary season concluded in April 2013. In aggregate, the 2012 rice output is estimated by FAO at 3.05 million tonnes, similar to the 2011 output. Despite a slight increase in planted area, the 2012 production remained almost unchanged from the 2011 flood affected harvest, mainly as result of the negative effects of excess rains and floods, as well as shortages of inputs.

Maize exports to increase slightly in 2013
The country is expected to remain more-or-less self-sufficient in rice with small exportable surpluses in recent years. However, some 260,000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during 2013. Much of the trade takes place with neighbouring Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China.

Rice prices stabilise in February and March 2013
Prices of most consumed first and second quality glutinous rice remained stable in Vientiane market in February and March 2013 averaging KIP 7,500 (about USD 0.97) and 6,500 (about USD 0.84) per kg, respectively. In July and August 2012 prices decreased markedly, following the expectations of a bumper 2012 wet season crop. However in October and November prices reversed, mainly as a result of Government decision to set a minimum purchase price to support farmers’ income.

The latest available official data from Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) indicate that the overall national year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose in April 2013 by 5.5 percent.
Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

In spite of the country being virtually self-sufficient in rice and a net exporter of maize at the national level, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Given that some 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from agricultural sector, any production shocks increase risks to the vulnerable population.
Above average rice crop estimated in 2012
Planting of the 2012 dry season paddy crop is completed, under favourable weather conditions. Harvesting of the 2012 main season rice was completed in December. In aggregate, the 2012 rice output (including the main wet and the ongoing secondary dry seasons), is estimated by FAO at 3.1 million tonnes, some 3 percent up on the flood affected 2011. Generally above average rainfall during the main season and continued public assistance, which supported larger plantings, are attributed to the increase in production.

Maize exports to increase in 2013
The country is expected to remain more-or-less self sufficient in rice. However, some 320 000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during the 2013 marketing year (January/December). Much of the trade takes place with Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China.

Rice prices stable since November 2012
Prices of most consumed first and second quality glutinous rice have remained stable in Vientiane market since November 2012 averaging KIP 8 000 (about USD 1.01) and 7 000 (about USD 0.88) per kg, respectively. In July and August prices decreased markedly, following the expectations of a bumper 2012 wet season crop. However in October and November prices reversed, mainly as result of Government decision to set a minimum purchase price to support farmers' income.

The latest available official data indicate that the overall national year-on-year consumer price index (CPI) in December 2012 was relatively low at 4.7 percent.

Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country
In spite of the country being virtually self-sufficient in rice and a net exporter of maize at the national level, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from agricultural sector. According to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity is caused mainly by localized shocks.
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Total cereal imports

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Average 2007/08-2011/12</th>
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<th>2012/13 estimate</th>
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Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Rice (Gletirous, second quality)</th>
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<th>Rice (Ordinary, second quality)</th>
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Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce
**GIEWS Country Brief**

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Reference Date: 7-August-2012

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**

- Early indications for the 2012 paddy crop point to a recovery in production
- Maize exports to increase in 2012
- Rice prices have stabilized since November 2010
- Food insecurity concerns rise due to the adverse impact of floods

**Early indications for the 2012 paddy crop point to a recovery in production**

Planting of the 2012 main season paddy crop is virtually completed, under favourable weather conditions. Preliminary forecast put the 2012 rice output at 3.1 million tonnes, some 3.4 percent above the 2011 floods affected harvest, but at the same level as the three-year average (2008-2010).

Harvesting of the 2012 secondary season paddy crop was completed in April. The country received generally below average rains during January and April, although most of dry season paddy crop is irrigated. However, the low water resources and delays in repairing the irrigation systems damaged by tropical storms during last year’s monsoon are expected to reduce yields of the dry season paddy crop.

In aggregate, the 2011 rice production (dry and wet seasons) is estimated to decrease to 3.0 million tonnes (equivalent to 1.8 million tonnes of milled rice), some 4 percent below 2010 bumper output, following heavy rains, combined with typhoons during last year’s monsoon season, which caused localized flooding in Mekong river basin particularly in the central and southern areas of the country.

**Maize exports to increase in 2012**

The country is expected to remain more or less self-sufficient in rice. However, some 320 000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during the 2012 marketing year. Much of the trade takes place informally through the porous borders with Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia.

**Rice prices have remained stable since November 2010**

Prices of glutinous rice, the most common type, have stabilized in Vientiane market since November 2010 averaging at KIP 7 000 (about USD 0.87) per kg and dropping from a brief peak in October 2010 following the fears of low production both nationally and regionally. The latest available official data indicate that the overall national year-on-year consumer price inflation (CPI) in June 2012 was relatively low at 3.6 percent.

**Food insecurity concerns remain due to the**
In spite of the country being virtually self-sufficient in cereals at the national level, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Food situation worsened due to adverse impact of floods, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derives their income from the agricultural sector. According to the Food and Crop Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy rice production of the 2011 main (wet) season estimated at above average but similar to the record level of year before
- Rice prices have stabilized since November 2010
- Food insecurity concerns rise due to the adverse impact of floods, especially in central and southern parts of the country

Paddy rice production of the 2011 main season estimated at above average but similar to the record level of year before

The 2012 dry season paddy crop is currently in growing stage under mixed performance of rains, although most of it is irrigated.

Harvesting of the 2011 main season rice was completed in December 2011. Heavy rains, combined with typhoons during last year’s monsoon season caused localized flooding in Mekong river basin particularly in the central and southern areas of the country.Reportedly, nearly 64 000 hectares of rice fields, or about 7 percent of the total area under paddy, were affected since the end of June 2011. In spite of this localized flood damage to the wet season paddy crop, the annual aggregate production in 2011 is estimated at 3 million tonnes (equivalent to 1.8 million tonnes of milled rice), similar to the record harvest a year before. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self sufficient in rice. However, some 220 000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during 2012. Much of the trade takes place informally through the porous borders with Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Rice prices have remained stable since November 2010

Prices of glutinous rice, the most common type, have stabilized in most markets of the country since November 2010 averaging at KIP 7 000 (about USD 0.87) per kg and dropping from a brief peak in October 2010 following the fears of low production both nationally and regionally. The latest available official data indicate that the overall national year-on-year consumer price inflation in December 2011 was 7.7 percent.

Food insecurity concerns remain due to the adverse impact of floods

In spite of the virtual national self-sufficiency in cereals, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Food situation worsened due to adverse impact of floods, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derives their income from the agricultural sector. According to the Food and Crop
Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks.
Paddy rice production of the 2011 main season estimated to decline slightly mainly due to floods this year

Harvesting of the 2011 main season rice is virtually complete. Heavy rains, combined with typhoons during this year’s monsoon season caused localized flooding in Mekong river basin particularly in the central and southern areas of the country. Reportedly, nearly 64,000 hectares of rice fields, or about 7 percent of the total area under paddy, were affected since the end of June. In spite of this localized flood damage to the wet season paddy crop, the annual aggregate production in 2011 is estimated at 3 million tonnes (equivalent to 1.8 million tonnes of milled rice), similar to the record harvest a year before. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self sufficient in rice. However, some 220,000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during 2012. Much of the trade takes place informally through the porous borders with Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Rice prices have remained stable at the same level since November 2010

Prices of glutinous rice, the most common type, have stabilized in most markets of the country since November 2010 averaging at KIP 7,000 (about USD 0.87) per kg and dropping from a brief peak in October 2010 following the fears of low production both nationally and regionally. The latest available official data indicate that the overall national year-on-year consumer price inflation in October 2011 was 6.6 percent.

Food insecurity concerns remain due to the adverse impact of floods

In spite of the virtual national self-sufficiency in cereals, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Food situation worsened due to adverse impact of floods, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derives their income from the agricultural sector. According to the Food and Crop Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks.
**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**Total cereal imports**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2006/07-2010/11</th>
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<tr>
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<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
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Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<td>May 07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 07</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 07</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Jan 08</td>
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<td>Nov 08</td>
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Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 27-October-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Flooding and prolonged water logging affects paddy crop of the current main season
- Rice prices have stabilized since November 2011 at higher levels than year ago
- Food insecurity concerns rise due to the adverse impact of floods, especially in central and southern parts of the country

Flooding and prolonged water logging affects paddy crop of the current main season
Typhoon Haima struck the northern and central provinces on 24 June while tropical storm Nock-Ten hit central and southern areas on 30 and 31 July, causing severe flooding in Xayaboury, Xiengkhuang, Vientiane and Bolikhamsai provinces and, according to the Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition report (WFP), destroying at least 7 200 hectares of paddy, maize, vegetables, cash crops and fruit trees. In addition, a total of 48.3 tonnes of rice seeds and a household rice stock were lost to the floods. Since the beginning of September, unusually heavy rains led to severe flooding in the Mekong river basin, exacerbating the situation. Reportedly, nearly 64 000 hectares of rice fields have been affected since the end of June, which represents about 7 percent of the total area under paddy.

Although a detailed assessment of the crop losses is not yet available, the paddy crop, which is predominantly grown in the lowland of the Mekong River basin, will be affected the most. Some areas that were affected by floods in June-July were replanted.

The provisional FAO aggregate forecast for the 2011 rice production has been revised down to 3 million tonnes (equivalent to 1.8 million tonnes of milled rice), similar to the record harvest a year before. The country is expected to remain more-or-less self sufficient in rice. However, some 120 000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during 2012.

Rice prices have stabilized since November 2011 at higher levels than a year ago
Prices of glutinous rice, the most common variety, in recent months have stabilized in most markets of the country, although at a much higher level than before their increase that reached record levels in October 2010, following the fears of low production both nationally and regionally.

Food insecurity concerns rise due to the adverse impact of floods, especially in central and southern parts of the country.
According to the official estimates the recent floods have affected some 430,000 people and caused the loss of at least 30 lives. The expected reduction of cereal harvest due to the floods in the affected area is likely to have a significant impact on the population, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derives their income from the agricultural sector. According to the Food and Crop Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks. The high food prices also raise concerns about access to food by low-income sectors of the population. The report also estimated the overall food aid requirements for 2011 at 8,200 tonnes, mostly of rice.
**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Good harvest of the 2011 secondary dry season (irrigated) rice crop
- Rice prices in recent months have settled at higher levels than a year ago
- Over 111,000 people in need of food assistance

Harvest of the 2011 dry season (irrigated) rice is estimated to improve slightly
The output of the dry season irrigated paddy crop, harvested in April 2011, is estimated slightly improved over the previous year. The area planted to and the production of this season’s paddy crop amount to a small share (approximately 13 percent of area planted and 17 percent of production) in the national annual. But over the last five years, both the area and production have increased by about 55 percent.

A Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) visited the country in November 2010 to assess the main wet season cereal production and implications for food security. The Mission concluded that most parts of the country were affected by a prolonged dry period at the beginning of the 2010 main paddy cropping season and localized flooding towards the end. This resulted in the total 2010/11 paddy production being reduced to about 3 million tonnes, approximately 6 percent less than in 2009/10. Consequently, rice import requirements in 2011 are estimated at 38,000 tonnes. However, most of this requirement is anticipated to be covered by commercial imports.

Rice prices in recent months have stabilized at higher levels than a year ago
Prices of rice in recent months have stabilized in most markets of the country, although at a much higher level than before their increase peak to record levels in October 2010 reflecting fears of low production both nationally and regionally and remained higher than expected after harvest. For example, the price of glutinous rice quality no. 2 in Vientiane capital market in March 2011 was at LAK 7,000/kg, some 40 percent above the level in March 2010.

Over 111,000 people in need of food assistance in central and southern Laos
According to the CFSAM report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks, which may have severe impacts at the community and district level. As a result of incomplete recovery following Typhoon Ketsana in late 2009 and the 2010 drought and floods, food insecurity is still concentrated in the central and southern regions of the country. The price...
situation raises concerns about access to food by low-income sections of the population. The Mission estimates that 111,918 people will continue to require external support in the period before the main wet season rice harvest in October 2011. Overall food aid requirements for 2011 are estimated at over 4,000 tonnes of rice.

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Total cereal exports

Laos People's Democratic Republic
Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital market

Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
Favourable prospects for the dry season (irrigated) rice crop but 2010/11 total annual paddy harvest estimated below the record level of the year before

Dry season irrigated paddy crop currently in growing stage is approaching maturity. The early prospects indicate a good harvest similar to last year’s bumper crop. Although the area planted to and the production of this season’s paddy crop amount to a small share (approximately 13 percent of area planted and 17 percent of production) in the national annual, both, the area and production have increased by about 55 percent in last five years.

A Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) visited the country in November 2010 to assess the main wet season cereal production and implications for food security. The Mission concluded that most parts of the country were affected by a prolonged dry period at the beginning of the 2010 main paddy cropping season and localized flooding towards the end. This resulted in the total 2010/11 paddy production being reduced to about 3 million tonnes, approximately 6 percent less than in 2009/10. Consequently, rice import requirements in 2011 are estimated at 38 000 tonnes. However, most of this requirement is anticipated to be covered by commercial imports.

Rice prices in recent months have stabilized at higher levels than a year ago

Prices of rice in recent months have stabilized in most markets of the country, although at a much higher level than before after peaking at an unusually high level in August and September 2010 reflecting fears of low production both nationally and regionally and remained higher than expected after harvest. For example, the price of glutinous rice quality no. 2 in Vientiane capital market recently was at LAK 7 000/kg, some 40 percent above the level in May 2010.

Over 111 000 people in need of food assistance in central and southern Laos

According to the CFSAM report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized
small scale shocks, which may have severe impacts at the community and district level. As a result of incomplete recovery following Typhoon Ketsana in late 2009 and the 2010 drought and floods, food insecurity is still concentrated in the central and southern regions of the country. The price situation raises concerns about access to food by low-income sections of the population. The Mission estimates that 111,918 people, will continue to require external support in the period before the main wet season rice harvest in October 2011. Overall food aid requirements for 2011 are estimated at over 4,000 tonnes of rice.
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 2-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Late and erratic rains delay planting of the main season crops.
- Rice price has nearly doubled in last 12 months.
- Food security concerns exist in parts of the country.

Late and erratic rains delay planting of the main wet season crops
Reduced precipitation throughout the country since the beginning of the wet season in May-June delayed and subsequently reduced plantings of paddy crop this year. Thus the prospects for harvest are unfavourable. Insufficient rainfall during the first few months of 2010 also had affected the dry season crops such as maize and secondary paddy. Irrigation in the first season has helped reduce the loss. FAO preliminarily forecasts the total cereal production in 2010 at 3.95 million tonnes (including paddy), about 8 percent below last year’s good harvest. The country is expected to be self-sufficient in cereal production.

Escalating rice prices in recent months
Reduced supplies of rice in most local markets have resulted in prices shooting up. For example, according to the official source (quoted in KPL – 2 Spt. 2010) the price of ordinary rice in Nongchanh market in Vientiane capital in late August was 60 000 to 100 000 kip/12kg bag, increasing from the last year’s price level of 40 000 to 45 000 kip.

Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country
In spite of the virtual national self-sufficiency in cereals, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. The situation has gotten much more difficult due to the steep rise in rice price especially for the low income families. Some 30 percent of the population is estimated to live below the national poverty line. One-third of the population, predominantly in upland areas, experiences rice deficits for four months in a normal year. At the end of September 2009 the southern part of the Lao PDR was hit by Typhoon Ketsana which affected some 250 000 people.
GIEWS Country Brief
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 11-March-2010

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Low rainfall during the past few months may affect production of the current dry season paddy rice
- 2009 cereal harvest estimated at above average but slightly below the record level of 2008
- Food security concerns exist in parts of the country

Low rainfall for the current dry season paddy crop
Extremely dry weather has persisted since the beginning of the secondary cropping season for rice paddy since December 2009. Although the most of the paddy crop in this season is irrigated, lack of rain may affect the total water supply for irrigation. Dry season paddy crop accounted for about 15 percent of the annual production and about 11 percent of the area harvested according to the 2001 FAO/WFP CFSAM report. However, the contribution of this secondary season has been rising with increased emphasis on irrigation infrastructure.

2009 cereal harvest estimated at above average level but slightly below the record of 2008
Wet season paddy, harvested from October to December, is estimated at a record level of 3.1 million tonnes, making the country more-or-less self-sufficient in rice. Wet season paddy is predominantly grown in the lowland of the Mekong River basin while a smaller low-performing monsoon crop is cultivated in the uplands. Rice accounts for about 90 percent of annual cereal production. This bumper harvest reflects favourable weather and high rice prices. The maize harvest, estimated at 1 million tonnes, represents a significant jump over the average of the previous five years of 565 000 tonnes.

Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country
In spite of the virtual national self-sufficiency in cereals, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Some 30 percent of the population is estimated to live below the national poverty line. One-third of the population, predominantly in upland areas, experiences rice deficits for four months in a normal year. At the end of September 2009 the southern part of the Lao PDR was hit by Typhoon Ketsana which affected some 250 000 people.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvest of the 2009 main season paddy is forecast at a record level.
- The country maintains its self sufficiency in cereal production.
- Food security concerns exist in parts.

Another bumper harvest of rice is anticipated for 2009

Harvesting of the 2009 wet season paddy is currently underway. Wet paddy is predominantly grown in the lowland of the Mekong River basin while a smaller low-performing monsoon crop is cultivated in the uplands. Rice accounts for about 90 percent of annual cereal production. The aggregate 2009 rice production is preliminarily forecast at 3.1 million tonnes of paddy, showing a marginal increase from the record level harvest the year before. This bumper harvest is a reflection of favourable weather and high rice prices. With expected higher rice production, the country can virtually maintain its cereal sufficiency in 2010.

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