



GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 24-September-2025

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production of 2025 main wet season paddy forecast slightly above average
- Maize exports in 2025/26 marketing year forecast well below average
- Domestic prices of rice at high levels in June 2025

Production of 2025 main wet season paddy forecast slightly above average

Harvesting of the (mostly) rainfed 2025 main wet season paddy crops, which accounts for about 90 percent of the annual output, began in September in upland areas and it is expected to start in mid-October in the lowlands. In the key paddy producing central and southern provinces, the 2025 main paddy crop production is forecast above the five-year average, reflecting an expansion in plantings, supported by high domestic prices at planting time and generally favourable weather conditions that boosted yields. By contrast, in the northern provinces, which account for about 20 percent of annual output, the season has been less favourable. Between May and June 2025, low precipitation amounts hindered planting operations and multiple replanting of crops were required in many areas. Several tropical depressions and cyclones in July and August brought heavy rains that triggered floods and landslides, causing severe localized crop losses, particularly in Sayaboury, Laung Prabang, Houaphanh, Xiengkhouang and Vientiane provinces. The (mostly) irrigated 2025 secondary dry season paddy crops will be planted from December onwards.

Harvesting of the 2025 main wet season maize crops is expected to start in early October and production is forecast at a below-average level. The low output reflects below-average plantings and yields due to soil moisture deficits in the main maize producing northern areas. In addition, some farmers opted to plant more remunerative crops, such as coffee, bananas and vegetables. The 2025 secondary dry season maize crops will be planted early next year.

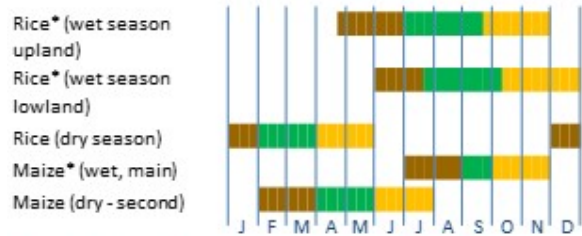
Maize exports in 2025/26 marketing year forecast well below average

In the 2025/26 marketing year (September/August), exports of maize, the country's main exported cereal, are forecast at 120 000 tonnes, well below the average, reflecting expectations of a reduced harvest in 2025 and the low output obtained in

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period (mostly north)

Lean period (mostly centre and south)

Sowing (Brown)
Growing (Green)
Harvesting (Yellow)

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal Production

	2020-2024		2025	change
	average	2024	forecast	2025/2024
000 tonnes				
Rice (paddy)	3 721	3 710	3 600	-3.0
Maize	614	499	470	-5.8
Total	4 335	4 209	4 070	-3.3

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

2024.

Domestic prices of rice at high levels in June 2025

Domestic prices of rice, the country's main staple food, remained generally stable between October 2024 and June 2025, but at very high levels following the sharp increases that occurred in 2023 and 2024. The high prices reflect high costs of production and transport as well as generally tight market availability, amid strong domestic demand and stagnant output in 2023 and 2024. As of June 2025, prices of rice were between 3 and 8 percent above the already elevated levels of the previous year.

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FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS)
<https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/>.

FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool
<https://fpma.fao.org/>.

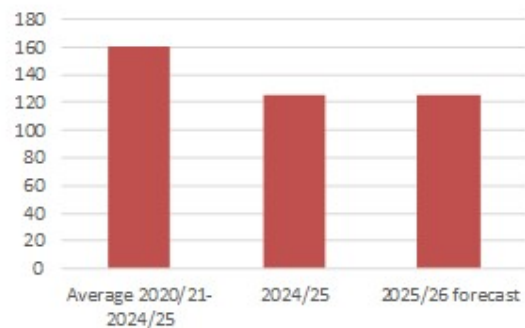
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring
<https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Maize Exports

000 tonnes

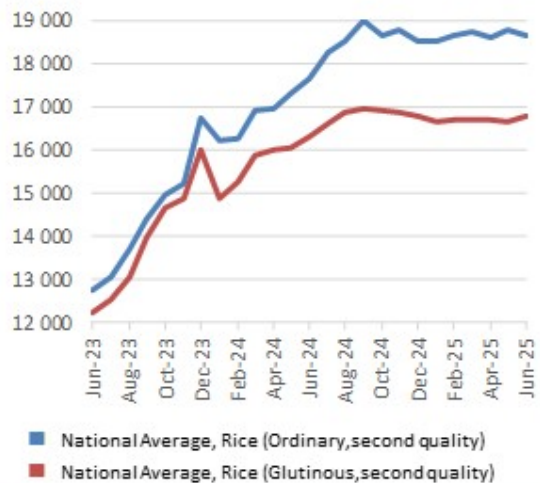


Note: Split years refer to crop marketing year.

Lao

Retail prices of rice

Kip per kg





GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 30-April-2025

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly above-average paddy output obtained in 2024
- Maize exports in 2024/25 marketing year forecast well below average
- Domestic prices of rice at very high levels in February 2025

Slightly above-average paddy output obtained in 2024

According to preliminary findings of the 2024 [FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission \(CFSAM\)](#), aggregate paddy production in 2024 is estimated at 3.8 million tonnes (rice in paddy equivalent), slightly above the five-year average, reflecting an expansion in plantings driven by attractive domestic prices of rice at planting time. However, yields are estimated to be at below-average levels due to farmers' limited access to critical agricultural inputs and localized crop losses caused by flooding triggered by several tropical storms and cyclones between June and October 2024. Aggregate maize production is estimated at 613 000 tonnes, about 10 percent below the five-year average, reflecting a cutback in plantings as many farmers preferred to grow more remunerative crops, such as coffee, bananas, sugarcane and cassava.

Maize exports in 2024/25 marketing year forecast well below average

In the 2024/25 marketing year (September/August), exports of maize, the country's main exported cereal, are forecast at 230 000 tonnes, well below the average level due to limited exportable availability following the low outputs harvested in 2023 and 2024.

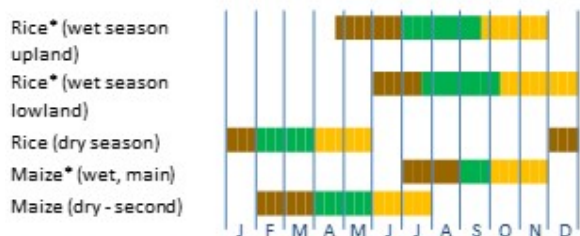
Domestic prices of rice at very high levels in February 2025

Domestic prices of rice, the country's main food staple, increased steadily between April 2023 and September 2024, reaching record levels largely due to soaring costs of production and transport. Concerns over the negative effects of flooding on the 2024 main paddy production contributed to price increases. Although prices eased slightly from October 2024 to February 2025 with the commercialization of the 2024 main harvest, they remained between 10 and 15 percent higher than the already elevated levels of a year earlier.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period (mostly north)

Lean period (mostly centre and south)

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Lao People's Democratic Republic

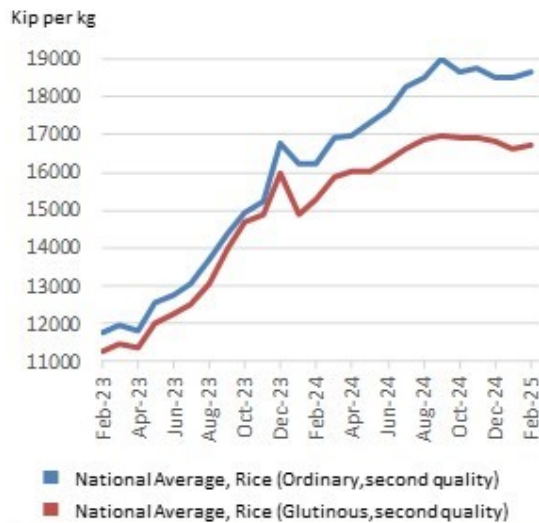
Cereal Production

	2019-2023 average	2023	2024 forecast	change 2024/2023
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 677	3 900	3 790	-2.8
Maize	687	620	613	-1.1
Total	4 364	4 520	4 403	-2.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Retail prices of rice



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FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.



GIEWS Country Brief The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 22-July-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2024 main cereal crops ongoing with some delay in southern and northern parts of the country
- Maize exports in 2023/24 forecast well below average
- Record high prices of most basic food products in May 2024

Planting of 2024 main cereal crops ongoing with some delay in southern and northern parts of the country

Planting of the 2024 main *wet* paddy crop, accounting for almost 90 percent of the annual output, started in mid-May with a two-to-three week delay due to soil moisture deficits in most cropping areas. In late May and June, rainfall amounts were average to above average in the main producing central provinces, which account for about 55 percent of total paddy sowings, allowing plantings and supporting crop establishment and development. By contrast, water deficits persisted in southern and parts of northern provinces, hindering plantings and affecting the early stages of crops. In these provinces, FAO's Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), as of early July 2024, indicated that between 25 to 70 percent of cropland was affected by drought conditions (red, orange and yellow areas on ASI map). However, the final output depends on the performance of the rainy season until October as adequate rains are needed to support plantings and proper crop development. Rains are also needed to replenish main reservoirs, which will provide water for irrigating the 2024 secondary *dry* paddy crop that will be planted at the end of the year.

Planting of the 2024 main *wet* maize crop, for harvest at the end of the year, started in early July. The area planted is forecast well below the average, continuing the steady decline of the last eight consecutive years, as many farmers prefer to grow more remunerative crops such as coffee, bananas, sugarcane and cassava. The 2024 secondary *dry* maize crop will be planted early next year.

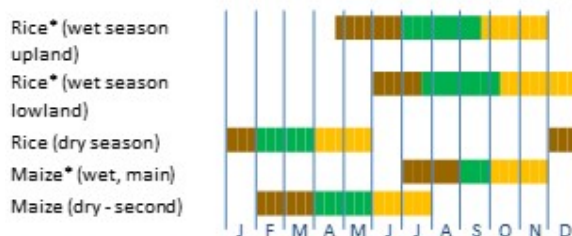
Maize exports in 2023/24 forecast well below average

In the 2023/24 marketing year (September/August), exports of maize, the country's main exported cereal, are forecast at a well

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



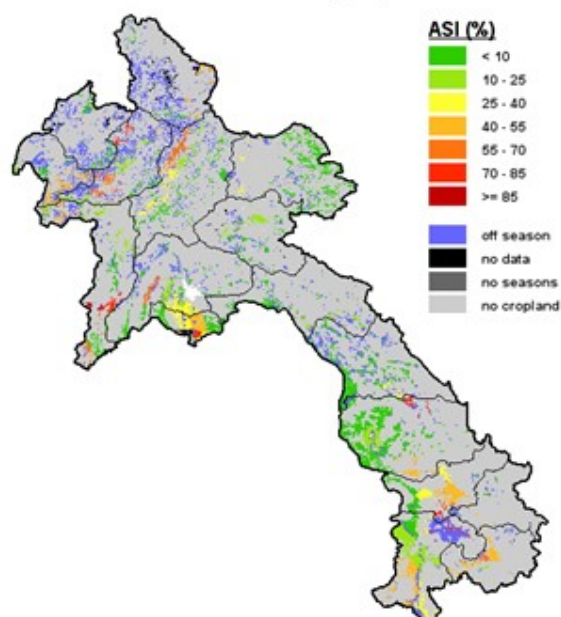
Lean period (mostly north)

Lean period (mostly centre and south)

Sowing (brown)
Growing (green)
Harvesting (yellow)

Lao People's Democratic Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 1, July 2024



below average level of 130 000 tonnes due to limited exportable availability following the low outputs harvested in 2022 and 2023.

Record high prices of most basic food products in May 2024

Domestic prices of rice, the country's main food staple, have steadily increased since April 2022, reaching record levels in May 2024 mainly due to soaring costs of production and transportation. Concerns about the negative effects of water deficits on production prospects of the 2024 main crops contributed to further increase prices. Domestic prices of several imported and locally produced basic food commodities, including eggs, meat and cooking oils, were also at high levels in May 2024, mostly due to high production and transport costs. The sharp depreciation of the national currency (LAK) made imports more expensive exerting upward pressure on imported foods. In May 2024, prices of chicken and pork meat, important source of proteins in local diet, were respectively about 70 percent and 10 percent higher than their already elevated levels of a year earlier. The record-high food prices and the low purchasing power of households, amid persistent macroeconomic difficulties, including rampant inflation, severely constrain access to food for the most vulnerable people.

According to the Lao Statistics Bureau, food inflation has been declining since May 2023, but it remains at very high levels, estimated at 27.7 percent in May 2024.

The LAK has depreciated steadily since late 2021 and, in June 2024, it reached a low level of LAK 21 773 per USD 1, largely due to concerns about the government's ability to meet its debt repayment obligations and sizeable current account deficits.

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Lao People's Democratic Republic

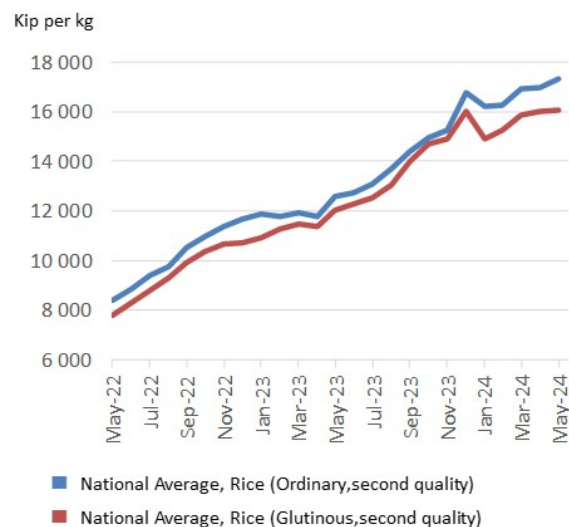
Cereal Production

	2018-2022	2022	2023	change
	average		estimate	2023/2022
000 tonnes				
Rice (paddy)	3 566	3 774	3 835	1.6
Maize	759	635	600	-5.5
Total	4 325	4 409	4 435	0.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

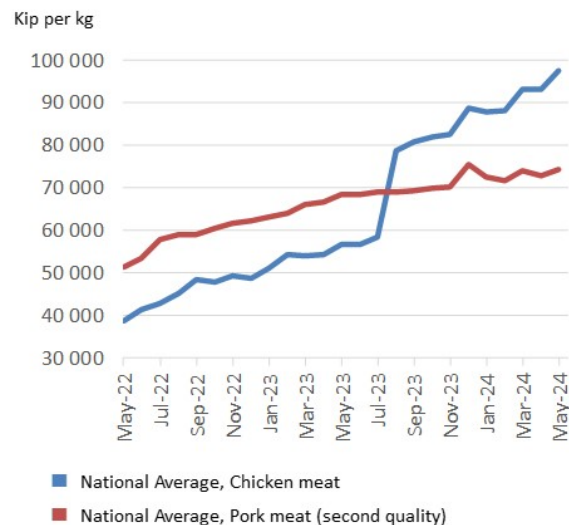
Lao

Retail prices of rice



Lao

Retail prices of chicken meat and pork meat



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FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.



GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 16-August-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Poor rains affect planting and establishment of 2023 main crops in parts of country
- Maize exports in 2022/23 forecast well below average
- Record high prices of most basic food products in June 2023
- Acute food insecurity underpinned by record food prices and macroeconomic difficulties

Poor rains affect planting and establishment of 2023 main crops in parts of country

In key producing central and southern provinces, planting operations of the main (wet) season paddy crop, representing almost 90 percent of the annual output, started in late May with a delay of almost one month due to severe soil moisture deficits. Average to above-average precipitation amounts in June and July have allowed sowings to pick up and improved vegetation conditions, while water deficits persist in some southeastern areas. In Vientiane and northern provinces, well below-average rainfall amounts since late April hindered planting operations and reduced sowings are expected. Yields are likely to be negatively affected, particularly in Vientiane and southern Xayaboury provinces, due to severe drought conditions (ASI map, red and orange areas). The mostly irrigated 2023 secondary (dry) season crops will be planted at the end of the year.

Planting of the 2023 main maize crop, for harvest at the end of the year, is ongoing at a very slow pace due to soil moisture deficits in northern parts of the country, where maize cultivation is concentrated. If rains do not improve in the next few weeks, both area planted and yields are likely to be at a below-average level.

Maize exports in 2022/23 forecast well below average

Exports of maize, the country's main exported cereal, are forecast at 150 000 tonnes in the 2022/23 marketing year (September/August), well below the five-year average, mainly due to the sharply reduced harvest obtained in 2022.

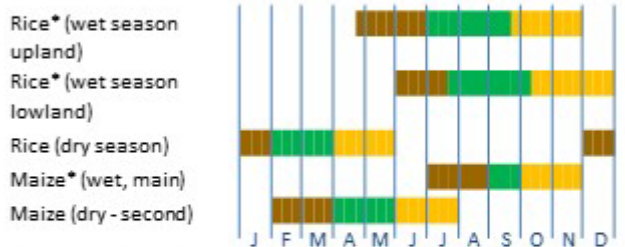
Record high prices of most basic food products in June 2023

Prices of the glutinous Type 2 rice variety, widely consumed in the country, soared in most markets throughout 2022, mainly reflecting high production and transport costs. Prices stabilized at

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



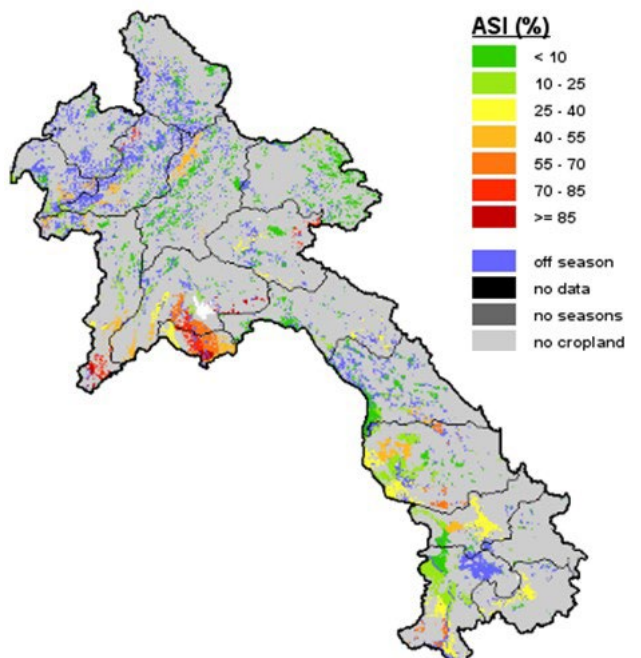
Lean period (mostly north)

Lean period (mostly centre and south)

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Lao People's Democratic Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 3, July 2023



the beginning of 2023, but resumed their upward trend last April over concerns about the impact of water deficits on the 2023 main crops. Prices of several imported and locally produced basic food commodities, including wheat flour, eggs, meat and cooking oils, have increased since early 2022 and reached, in many cases, record levels in June 2023, mainly reflecting the sharp depreciation of the national currency (Lao kip). In June, prices of chicken and pork meat, important source of proteins in the local diet, were about 40 and 30 percent, respectively, higher than their already elevated levels of a year earlier.

The Lao kip depreciated steadily since late 2021 and, last May, it reached a record low level at LAK 17 553 per USD 1, largely due to concerns about the government's ability to meet its debt repayment obligations and sizeable current account deficits.

Acute food insecurity underpinned by record food prices and macroeconomic difficulties

According to the 2022 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission [report](#), as of November 2022, approximately 1.04 million people (14 percent of the total country's population) were estimated to be moderately acute food insecure and 71 000 people to be severely acute food insecure. The main drivers of acute food insecurity were the high food prices and the reduced incomes due to the slowdown of the national economy in 2022. In 2023, concerns on the access to food persist as prices stand at record levels and purchasing power of the most vulnerable households remain low, amid persistent macroeconomic difficulties, including rampant inflation. According to the Lao Statistics Bureau, the food inflation rate was estimated at 37.8 percent in July 2023. Currency depreciation and low foreign exchange reserves are contributory factors to the inflationary pressure and resulted in increased costs of imports of essential products. In northern rural areas, the below-average cereal production in 2022 resulted in the early depletion of food stocks and it severely affected the financial capacity of farmers to adequately carry out agricultural activities during the current season.

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Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

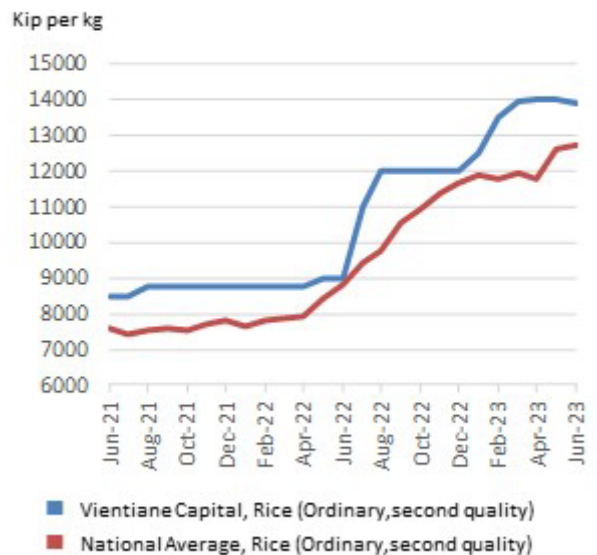
Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 590	3 673	3 568	-2.8
Maize	871	703	635	-9.7
Total	4 461	4 376	4 203	-3.9

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

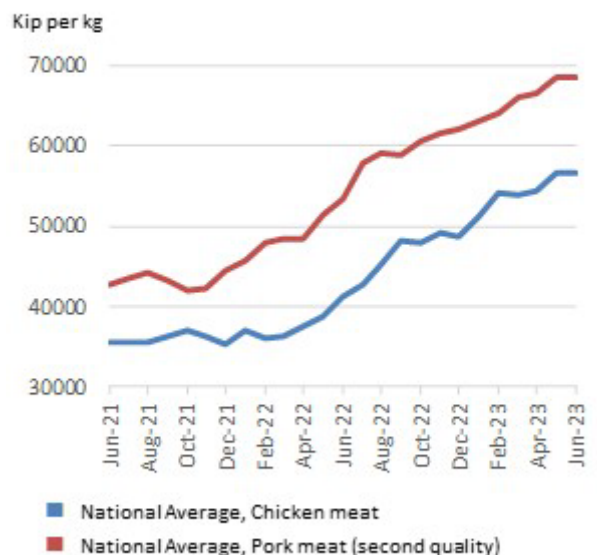
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Retail prices of Rice



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Retail prices of Chicken meat and Pork meat





GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 28-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs raise concerns for 2022 cereal output
- Maize exports in 2023 forecast below average
- High prices of most basic food products in September 2022
- Acute food insecurity deteriorated since early 2022

Shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs raise concerns for 2022 cereal output

Harvesting of the 2022 mostly rainfed main (wet) paddy crop, accounting for about 90 percent of the annual output, is ongoing and will finalize in December. The 2022 May-September rainy season was generally favourable over the key rice producing central and southern provinces, benefitting crop development. However, shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, resulted in their reduced application, curbing yields across the country. In the minor paddy producing northern provinces, yields were also affected by erratic and below-average rainfall amounts between May and September.

Overall, the production of the 2022 main (wet) paddy production as well as output of other crops, such as maize, cassava and vegetables, are expected at below-average levels.

Starting in mid-November-2022, FAO and WFP will conduct an in-country Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM). The Mission aims to assess the agricultural production in 2022, particularly of the main staple cereals, and to analyze market conditions and households' food security situation.

Maize exports in 2023 forecast below average

Exports of maize, the country's main exported cereal, are forecast at 150 000 tonnes, well below the five-year average, reflecting the expectation of a reduced 2022 output.

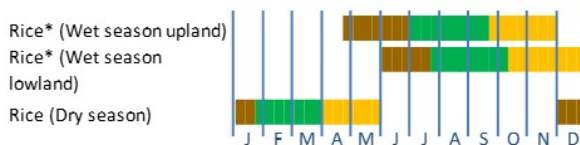
High prices of most basic food products in September 2022

Prices of rice, the country's main staple food, increased in most markets since the beginning of 2022 and were at high levels in September. The price increase was associated with high transportation and input costs, coupled with expectations of a reduced production of the 2022 main paddy crops. Similarly,

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period (mostly north)

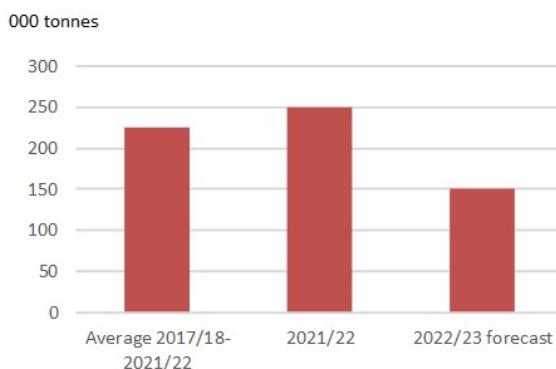
Lean period (mostly centre and south)

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2019.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Maize Exports



Note: Split year refers to crop marketing year.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

prices of a wide range of imported and locally produced basic food commodities, including wheat flour, meat and cooking oils, have risen throughout 2022 and reached, in many cases, record or near-record levels in September. According to the Lao Statistics Bureau, the inflation rate last September was estimated at 34 percent, the highest level since May 2000. The local currency (kip) depreciated steadily since late 2021 and last September it reached a record low level at LAK 15 894/USD 1, largely due to concerns about the government's ability to meet its debt repayment obligations and sizeable current account deficits.

Acute food insecurity deteriorates since early 2022

The number of people facing acute food insecurity has increased since early 2022, mainly due to prevailing high food prices and reduced incomes owing to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy. Food insecurity of rural households is likely to deteriorate in the next months as their livelihoods have been already under stress due to the high prices of agricultural inputs and the expected decrease in agricultural output.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 04-April-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Aggregate cereal output forecast at above-average level in 2021**
- **Maize exports in 2021/22 forecast at average level**
- **COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect livelihoods of large number of people**

Above-average aggregate cereal output forecast in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 minor irrigated paddy crop, which accounts for about 10 percent of the annual output, just started and production prospects are favourable. The area planted is estimated above the five-year average, supported by strong domestic demand. Overall favourable weather conditions and adequate availability of agricultural inputs, such as irrigation water, seeds and fertilizers, boosted yield prospects. The 2021 main rainfed paddy crop was harvested by last December and production is estimated at an above-average level, reflecting large sowings and good yields. The 2021 rainy season (May-September), which is critical for the main crops, was favourable over the key rice producing central and southern provinces, supporting yields. In the minor producing northern provinces, below-average rainfall amounts resulted in localized production shortfalls. The 2021 aggregate rice production is forecast at about 3.9 million tonnes, 5 percent above the five-year average.

Harvesting of the 2021 maize crop just concluded in March and the output is estimated at an average level of 1.05 million tonnes. The average output is the result of high sowings, after farmers reacted positively to strong export demand that offset a reduction in yields, due to below-average rainfall amounts in main northern producing areas.

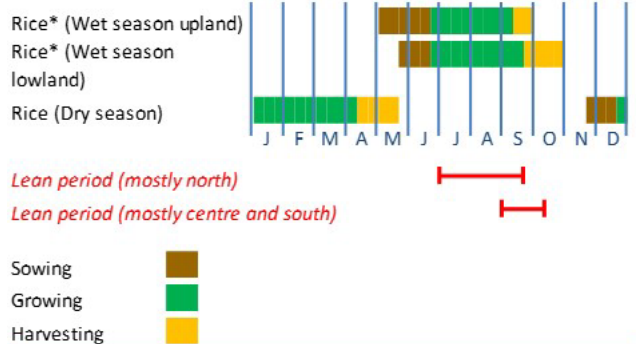
Maize exports in 2021/22 forecast close to average

Exports of maize, the country's main exportable cereal, are forecast at an average level of 250 000 tonnes in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June), reflecting the sustained demand from traditional buyers, mostly China (mainland).

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2019.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average		2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 682	3 517	3 870	10.0
Maize	1 041	684	1 050	53.5
Total	4 723	4 201	4 920	17.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect livelihoods of large number of people

Food security conditions are overall good. However, the containment measures adopted to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic decreased income and hampered remittance flows and these effects continue to negatively affect the livelihoods and purchasing power of a large number of people.

High prices of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables are likely to constrain access to food for the most vulnerable households. According to the Laos Statistics Bureau, in February 2022, the inflation rate was estimated at 7.3 percent, the highest level since January 2016. The food component of the consumer price index (CPI), increased by 5.5 percent compared to the previous year. The kip (LAK) depreciated steadily since February 2021, especially since October 2021. Overall, in February 2022, the kip weakened by 20 percent against US dollar, year on year. The depreciation of the national currency caused a strong rise in domestic prices of imported food items, such as meat, pharmaceutical and petroleum products. In particular, high oil prices are likely to increase production costs for most food commodities, including fruits and vegetables.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 23-December-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

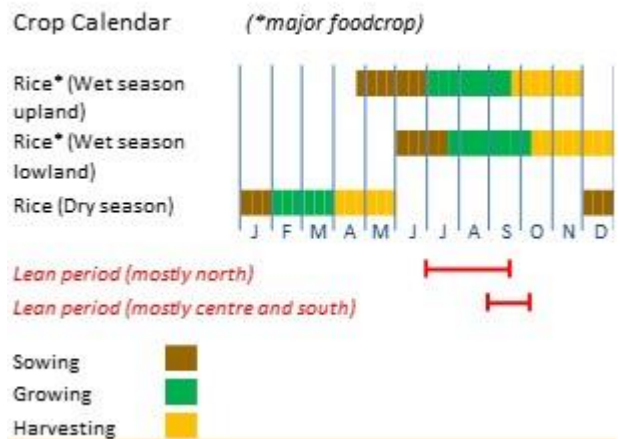
- Aggregate 2020 cereal output forecast close to average level
- Rice exports forecast to expand in 2021
- COVID-19 pandemic and cereal production shortfalls in north heighten food insecurity for vulnerable households

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.

Lao People's Democratic Republic



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2019.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 714	3 052	3 770	23.5
Maize	1 192	717	1 000	39.5
Total	4 906	3 769	4 770	26.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period (mostly north)

Lean period (mostly centre and south)

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2019.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 897	3 370	3 438	2.0
Maize	1 280	768	717	-6.6
Total	5 177	4 138	4 155	0.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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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GIEWS Country Brief The Lao People's Democratic Republic

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

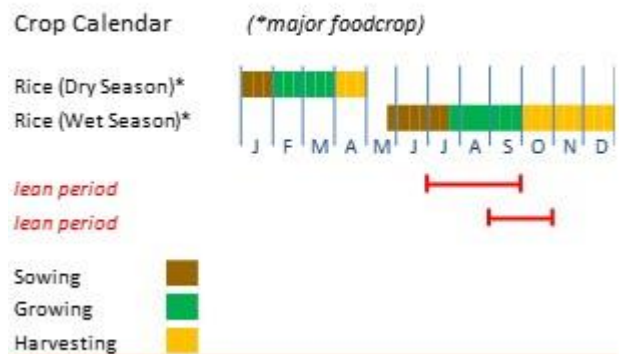
Planting of the 2019 main (wet) season paddy crop, representing almost 90 percent of the annual paddy output, is nearing completion. So far, the May to September rainy season has been characterized by near-average precipitations in southern and most of central parts of the country (locally referred to 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 Bokeo, 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).

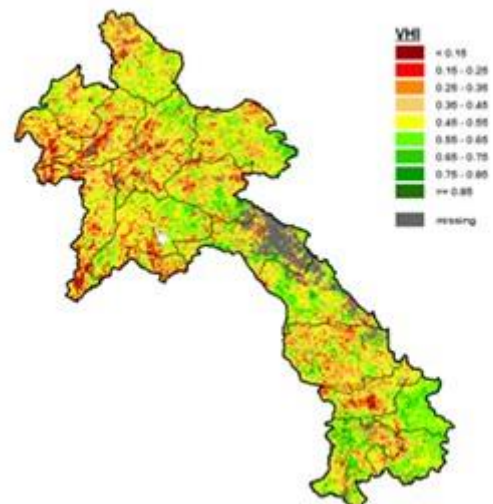
Lao People's Democratic Republic



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2007.

Lao People's Democratic Republic - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

June 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	4 117	4 240	4 300	1.4
Maize	1 536	1 600	1 650	3.1
Total	5 653	5 840	5 950	1.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 18-July-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

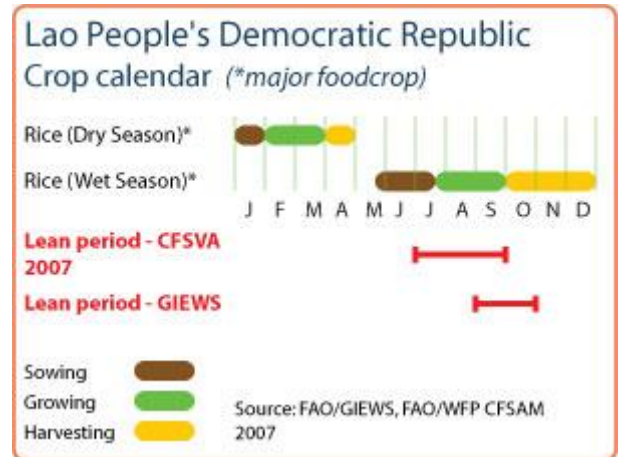
- Paddy production in 2017 estimated close to previous year's above-average level

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 Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 824	4 120	4 170	1
Maize	1 240	1 350	1 400	4
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	5 065	5 470	5 570	2

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

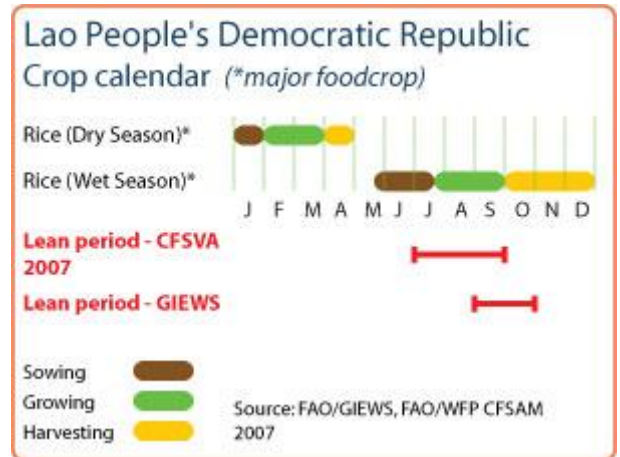
- Main 2017 season started under generally favourable weather conditions
- Rice imports to decrease in 2017

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.

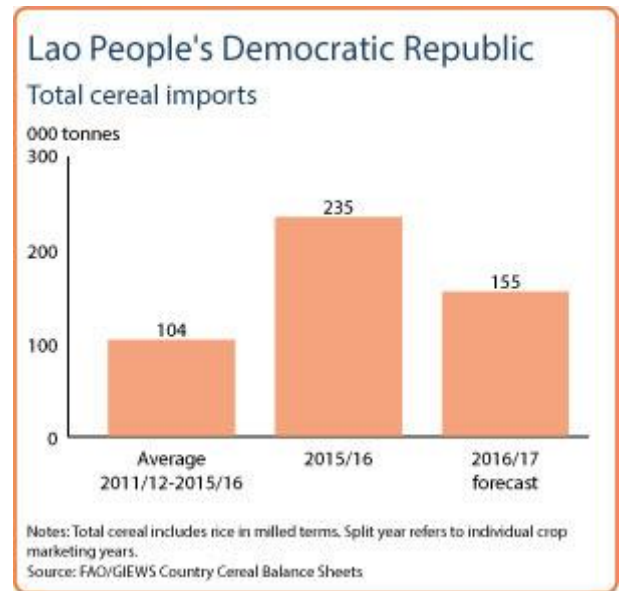


Lao People's Democratic Republic
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016 percent
	000 tonnes			
Rice (paddy)	3 726	3 910	4 010	3
Maize	1 240	1 350	1 400	4
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 966	5 260	5 410	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Reference Date: 20-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 forecast to recover
- Cereal exports in 2016 to increase from last year's low level

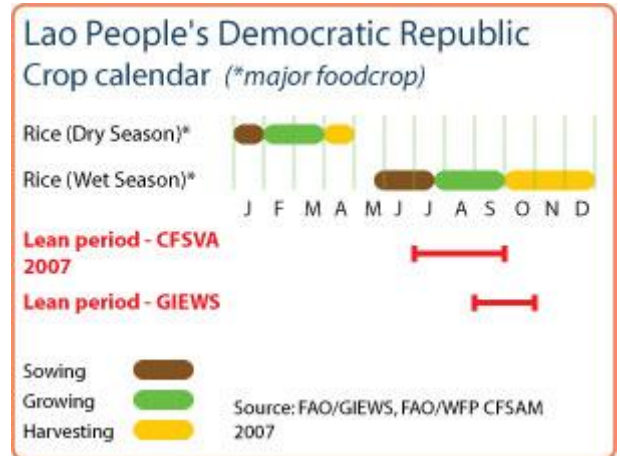
Cereal production in 2016 forecast to recover

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.



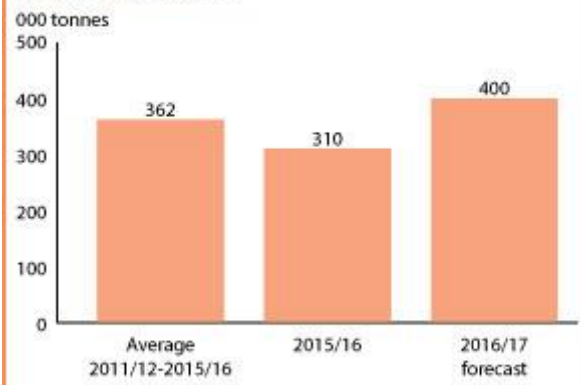
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 550	3 800	3 980	5
Maize	1 189	1 100	1 350	23
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 740	4 900	5 330	9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal exports



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

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.

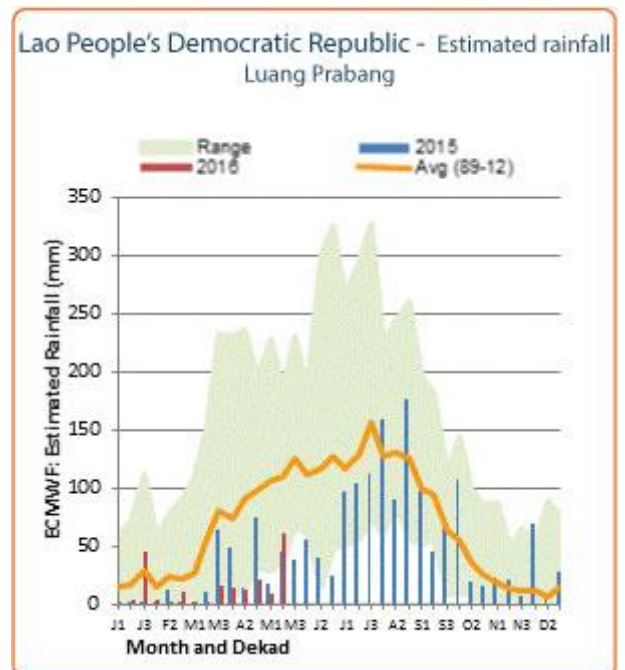
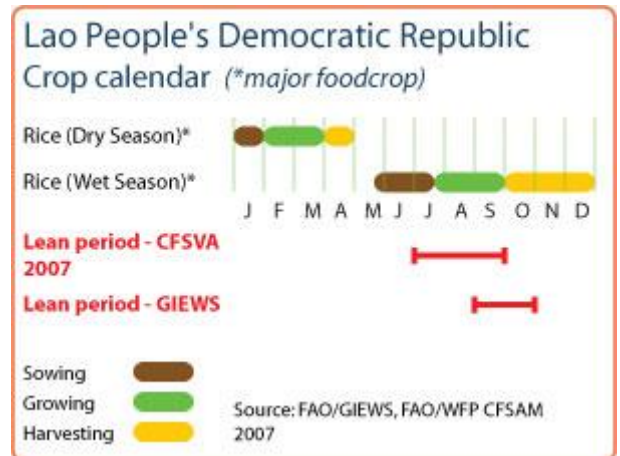
Cereal production in 2015 decreased due to dry weather

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, 6 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.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

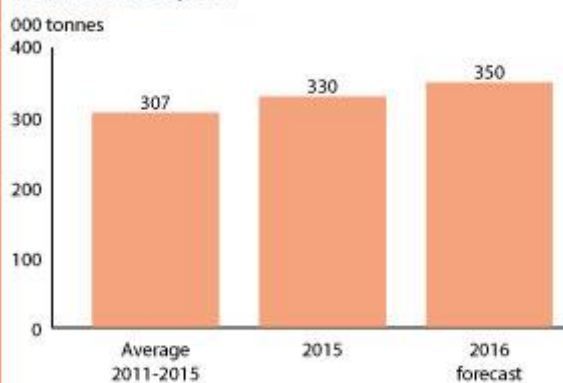
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 242	3 385	3 240	-4
Maize	1 098	1 100	1 050	-5
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 341	4 485	4 290	-4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal exports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 05-June-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

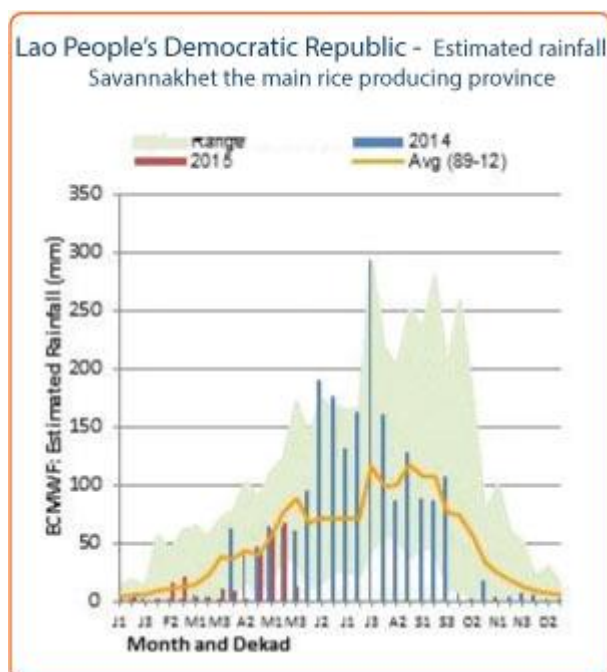
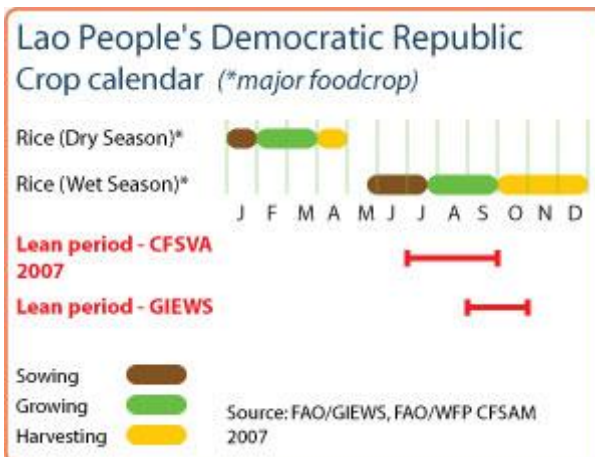
- Prospects for planting of 2015 main season rice uncertain due to dry weather
- Maize exports in 2015 forecast to decrease from previous year's high level

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.



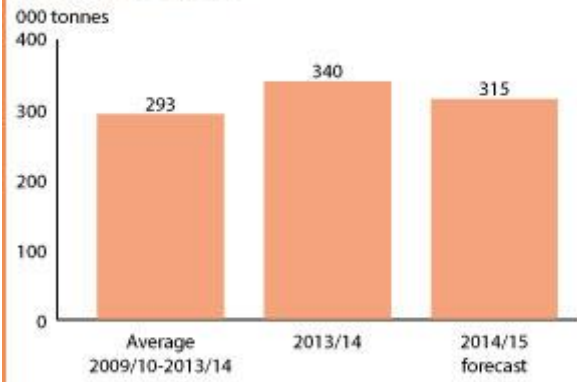
Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 237	3 415	3 300	-3
Maize	1 105	1 150	1 100	-4
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 342	4 565	4 400	-4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal exports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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

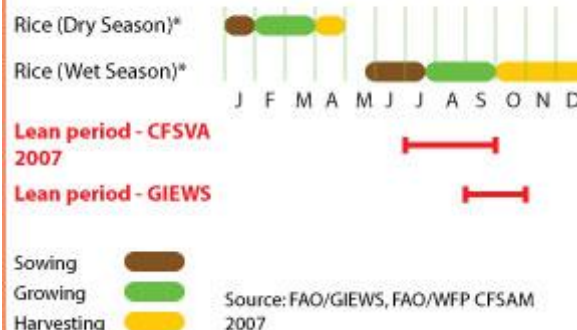
2015 rice production forecast to increase from last year's average level

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.

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

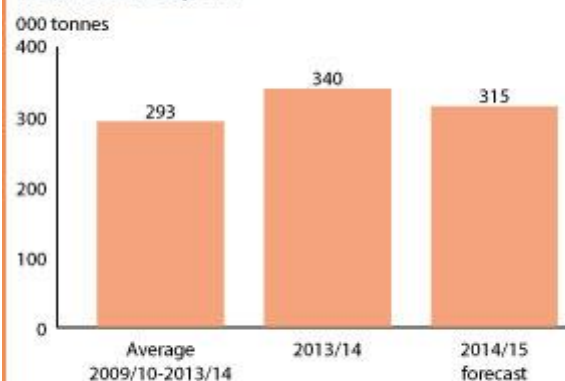


Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 268	3 300	3 400	3
Maize	1 098	1 100	1 150	5
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 367	4 400	4 550	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic Total cereal exports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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.

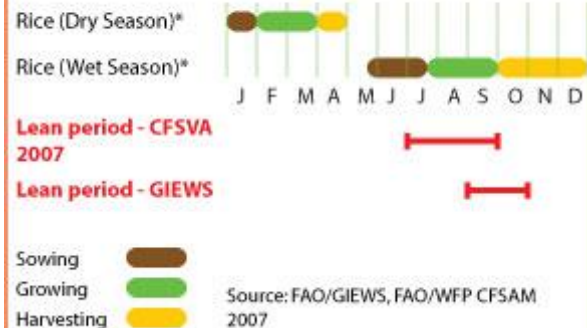
Cereal exports in 2015 are forecast to decrease from last year's high level

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

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

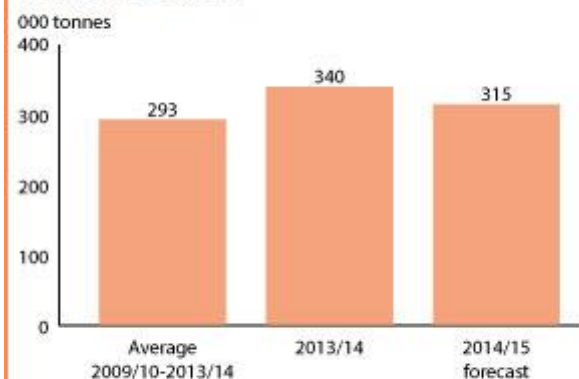


Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 268	3 300	3 400	3
Maize	1 098	1 100	1 150	5
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 367	4 400	4 550	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic Total cereal exports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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.

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.

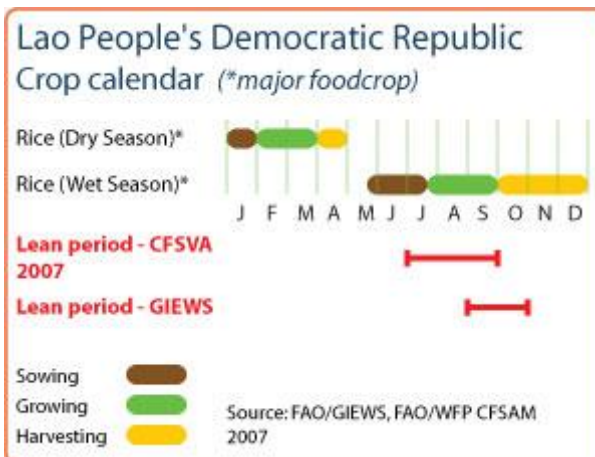
Cereal exports in 2014 are forecast to increase from last year's high level

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.

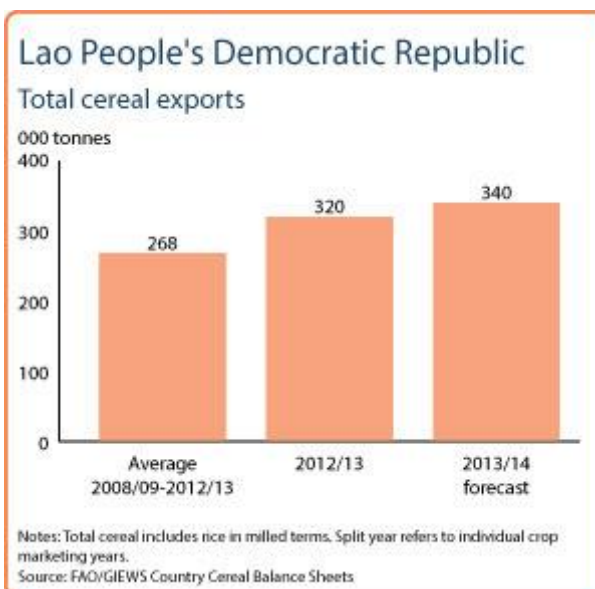
The latest available official data indicated that the national year-on-year inflation rate in September 2014 was 3 percent.



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	3,237	3,415	3,300	-3
Maize	1,105	1,150	1,130	-2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4,342	4,565	4,430	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 11-August-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2014 rice output is forecast to decrease slightly
- Rice production in 2013 was revised downward
- Cereal exports in 2014 forecast to increase slightly
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

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.

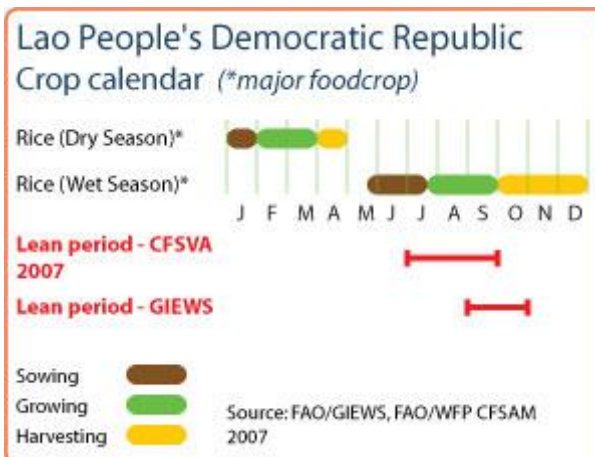
Rice prices remain stable

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

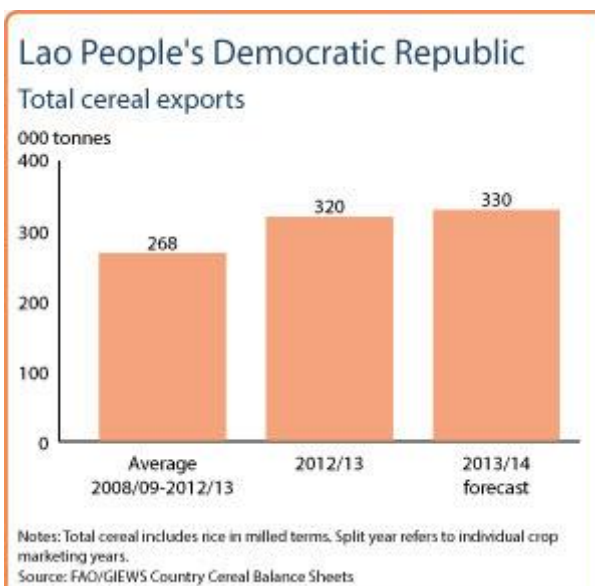
Despite steady economic growth, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Ethnic groups and children living in remote and rural areas are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from the agricultural sector.



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

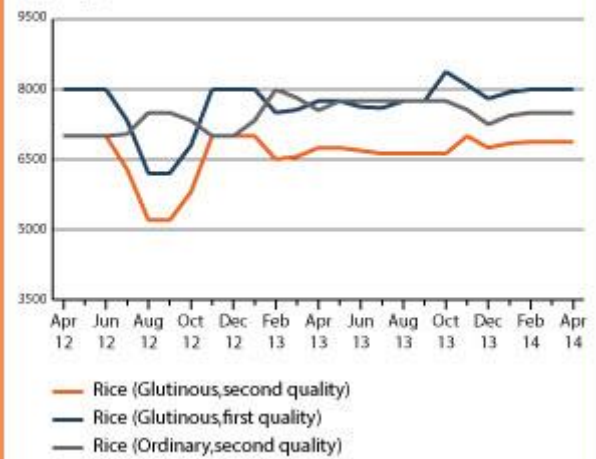
	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	3 237	3 415	3 300	-3
Maize	1 105	1 150	1 150	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 342	4 565	4 450	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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

Kip per Kg



Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Reference Date: 30-May-2014

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

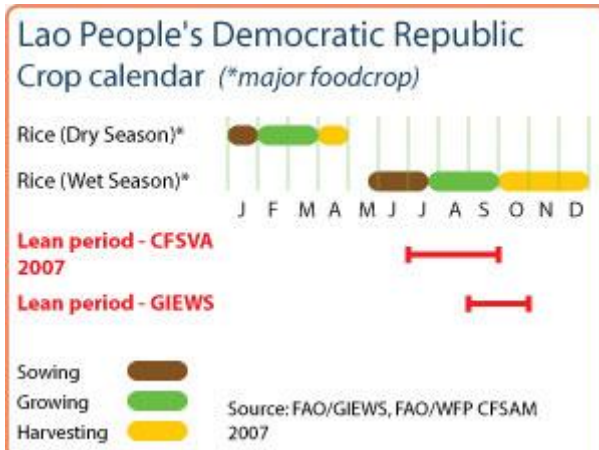
Cereal exports for the in 2013/14 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 330 000 tonnes, similar to last year's above-average level. Most of this volume is maize, exports of which are forecast slightly above last year's above-average level at 280 000 tonnes. Much of the trade takes place with 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.

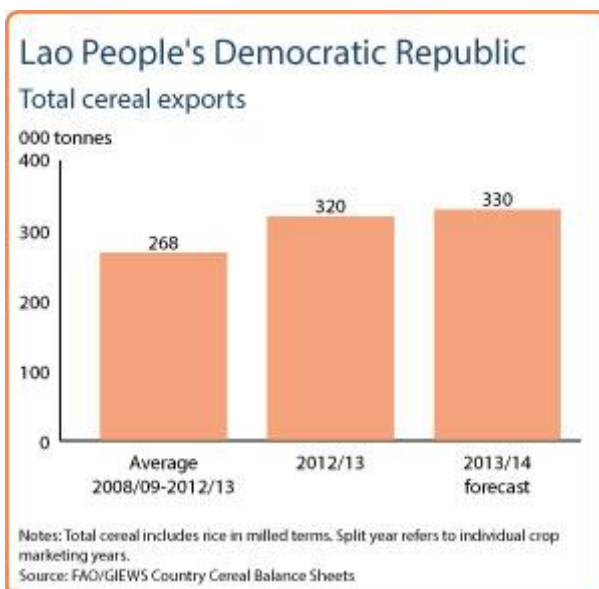
Food insecurity is of concern in some parts



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

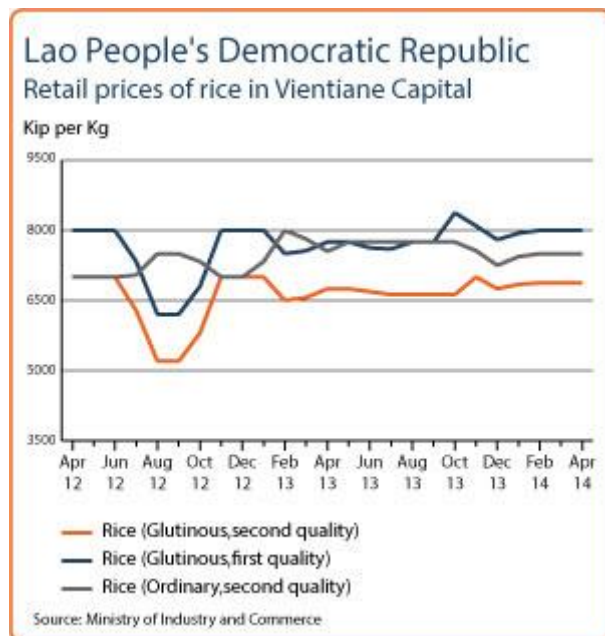
	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		forecast	2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 214	3 300	3 200	-3
Maize	1 105	1 150	1 150	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 319	4 450	4 350	-2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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.



Reference Date: 28-January-2014

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.

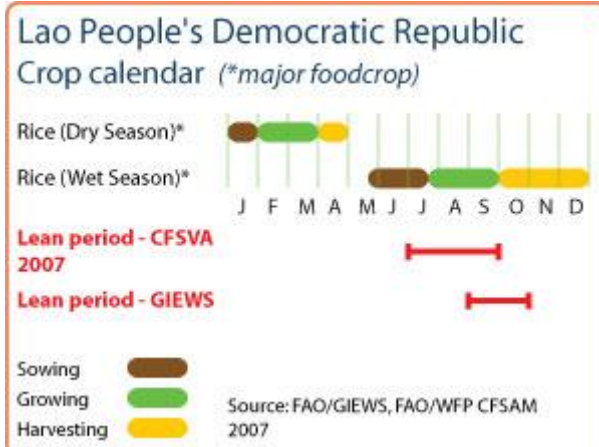
Maize exports to increase in 2013

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

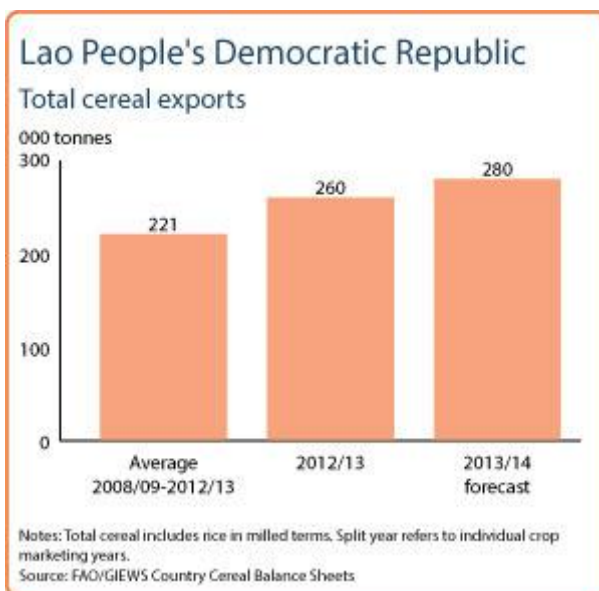
Despite steady economic growth at an average rate of some 8 percent since 2007, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Ethnic groups living in remote areas and rural children are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from agricultural sector.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



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3,139	3,489	3,500	0
Maize	1,097	1,126	1,150	2
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4,236	4,615	4,650	1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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

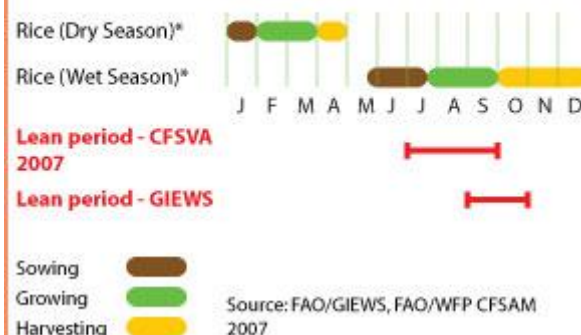
The country is expected to remain more-or-less self sufficient in rice with small exportable surpluses in recent years. However, some 260 000 tonnes of maize are likely to be exported during 2013. Much of the trade takes place with neighbouring Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China.

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.

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

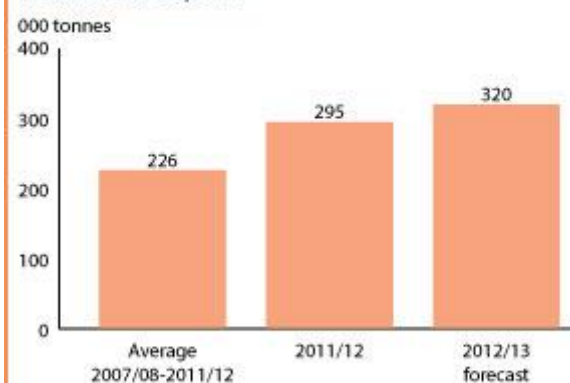


Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2008-2012	2012	2013	change
	average			
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3 052	3 050	3 060	0
Maize	1 102	1 150	1 150	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 153	4 200	4 210	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic Total cereal exports



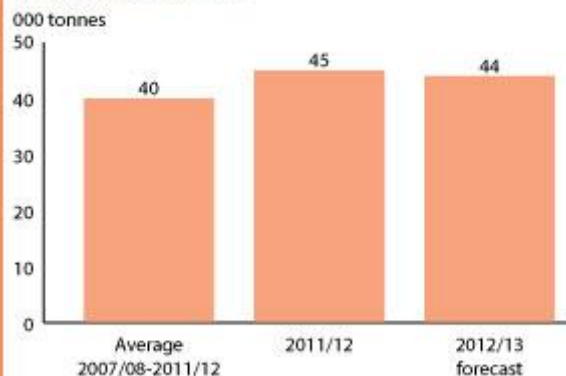
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal imports

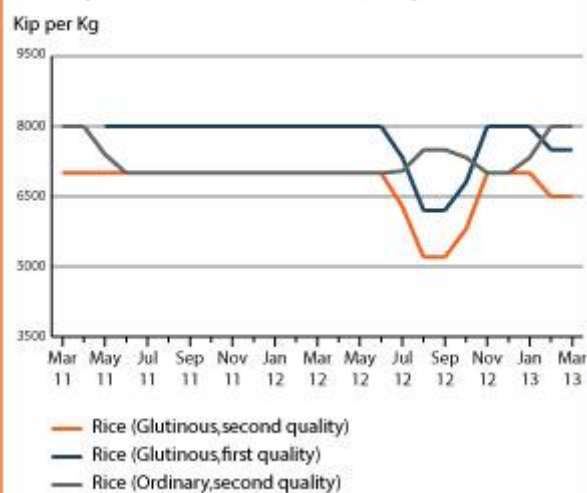


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital



Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

GIEWS Country Brief

Lao People's Democratic Republic



Reference Date: 11-February-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rice crop estimated in 2012
- Maize exports to increase in 2013
- Rice prices stable since November 2012
- Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

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.

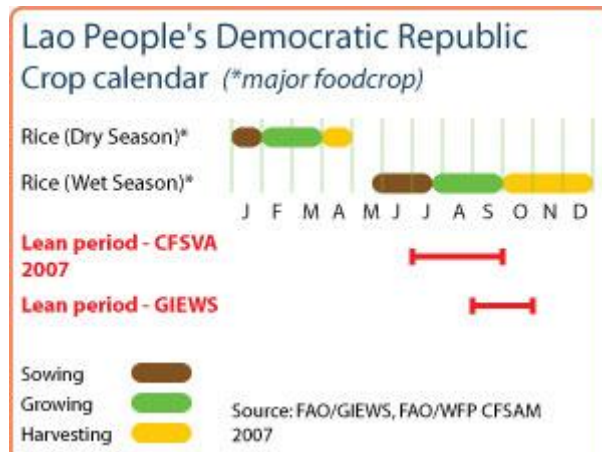
Rice prices stable since November 2012

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

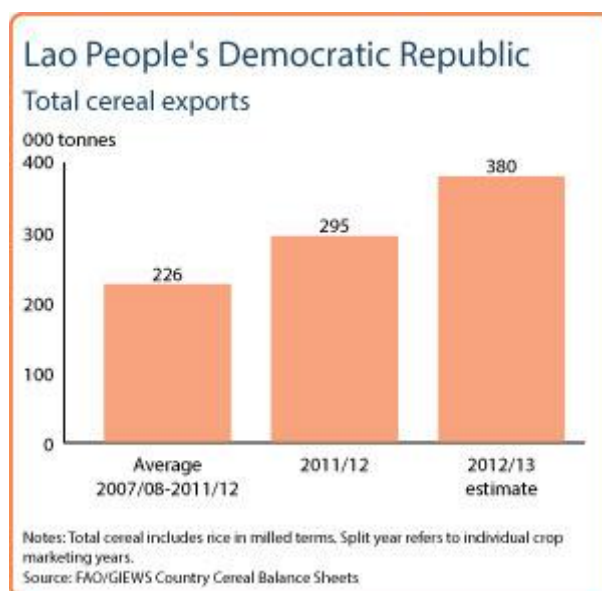
In spite of the country being virtually self-sufficient in rice and a net exporter of maize at the national level, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Approximately 90 percent of the rural people derive their income from agricultural sector. According to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security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



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

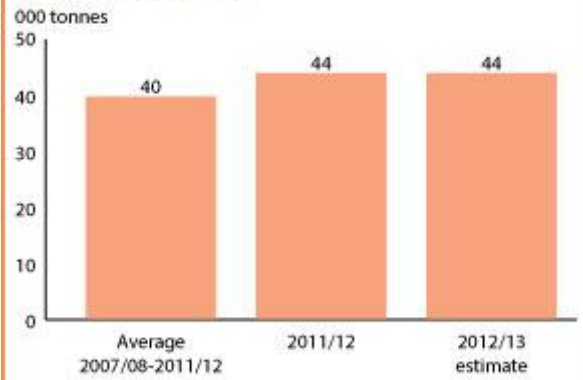
	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2,960	2,950	3,050	3
Maize	1,053	1,250	1,400	12
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4,013	4,200	4,450	6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal imports

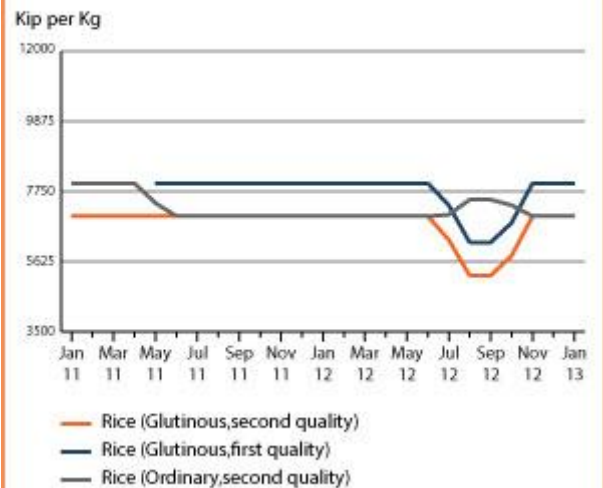


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital



Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

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.

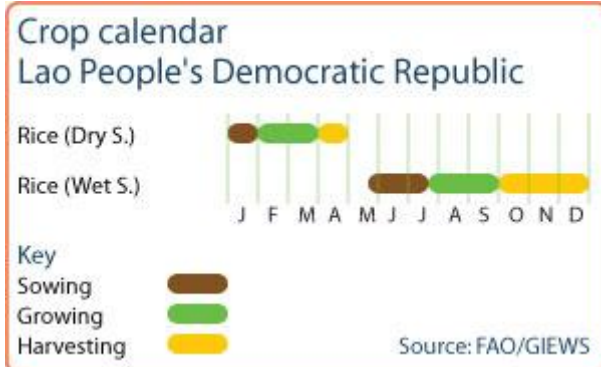
Maize exports to increase in 2012

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.

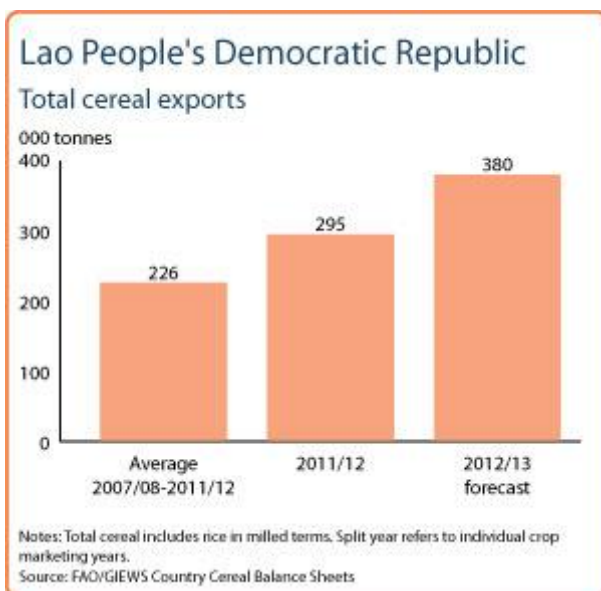
Food insecurity concerns remain due to the



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

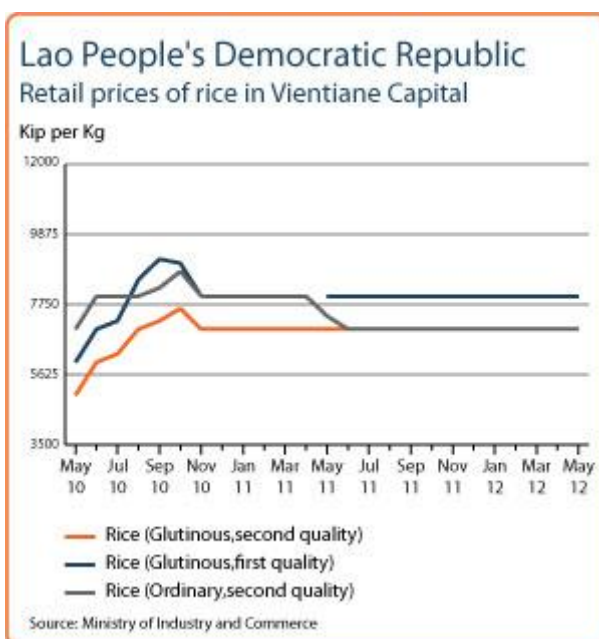
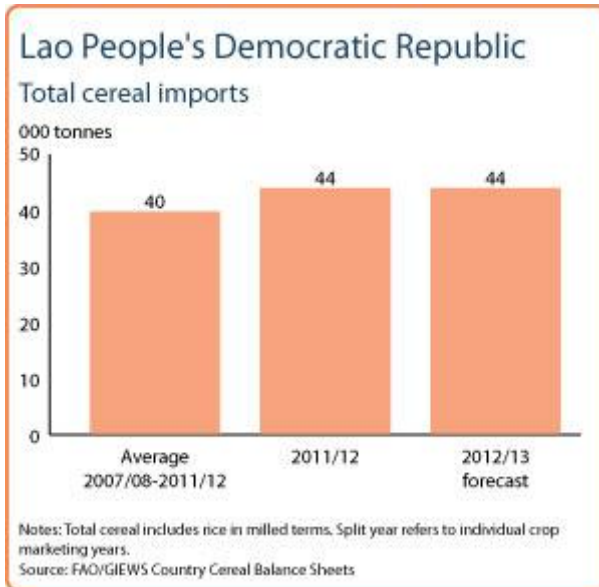
	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	2 960	2 950	3 050	3
Maize	1 053	1 250	1 350	8
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 013	4 200	4 400	5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



adverse impact of floods

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.



Reference Date: 14-February-2012

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.

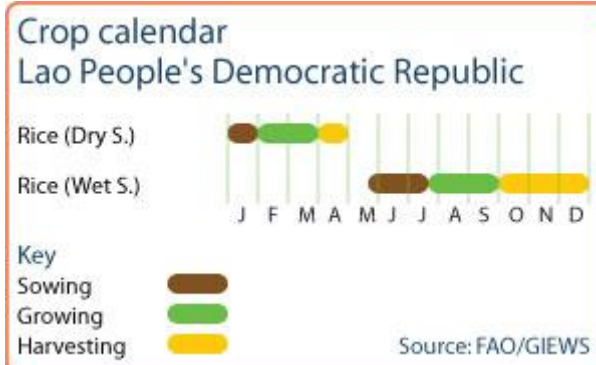
Harvesting of the 2011 main season rice was completed in December 2011. Heavy rains, combined with typhoons during last year's monsoon season caused localized flooding in Mekong river basin particularly in the central and southern areas of the country. Reportedly, nearly 64 000 hectares of rice fields, 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

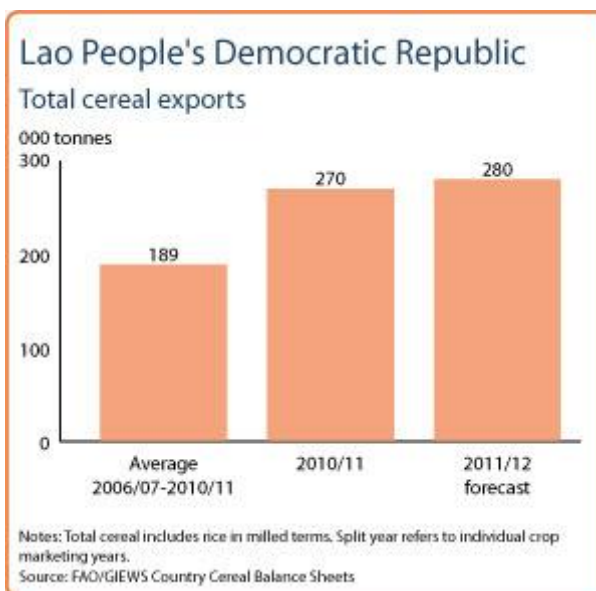
In spite of the virtual national self-sufficiency in cereals, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Food situation worsened due to adverse impact of floods, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derives their income from the agricultural sector. According to the Food and Crop



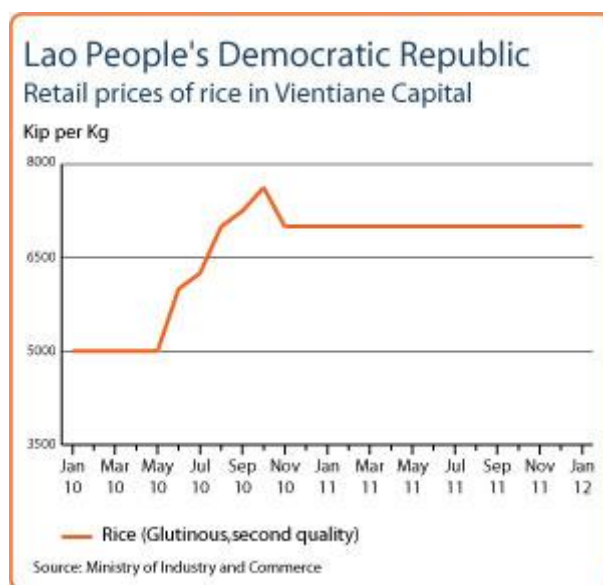
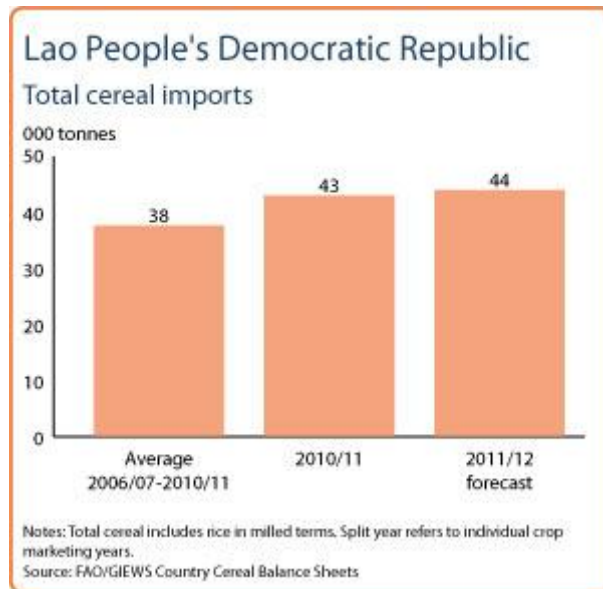
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 889	3 000	3 000	0
Maize	897	1 100	1 200	9
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	3 786	4 100	4 200	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Assessment Mission (CFSAM) 2009 report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks.



Reference Date: 21-December-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy rice production of the 2011 main (wet) season estimated to remain similar to the record harvest a year before
- Rice prices have stabilized since November 2010 at the same level like a year ago
- 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 to decline slightly mainly due to floods this year

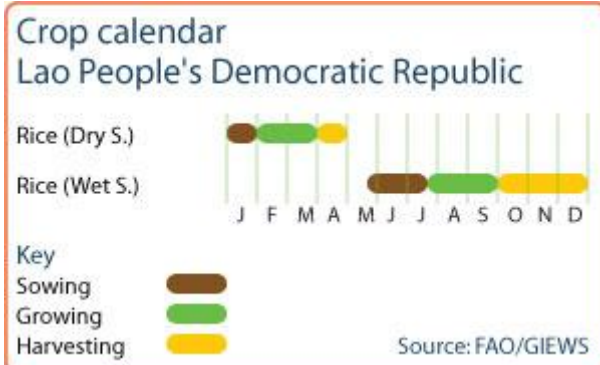
Harvesting of the 2011 main season rice is virtually complete. Heavy rains, combined with typhoons during this year's monsoon season caused localized flooding in Mekong river basin particularly in the central and southern areas of the country. Reportedly, nearly 64 000 hectares of rice fields, or about 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

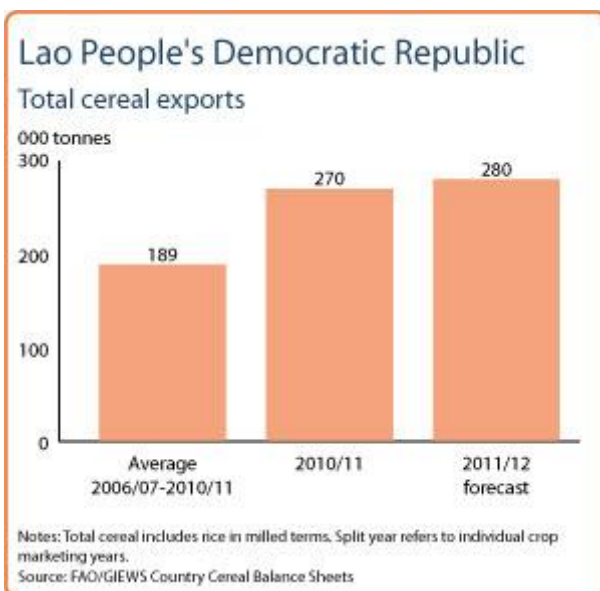
In spite of the virtual national self-sufficiency in cereals, food insecure areas exist at sub-national level. Food situation worsened due to adverse impact of floods, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. Approximately 90 percent of the rural population derives their income 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 Cereal production

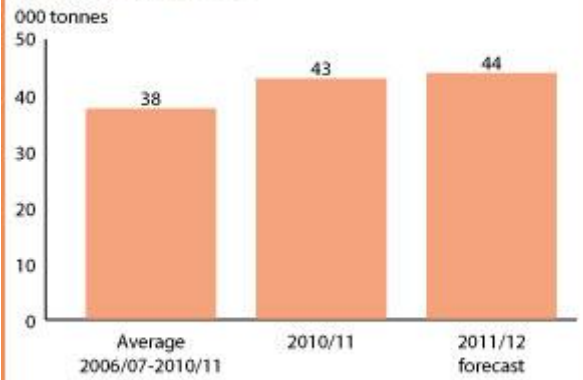
	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 889	3 000	3 000	0
Maize	897	1 100	1 200	9
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	3 786	4 100	4 200	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Total cereal imports

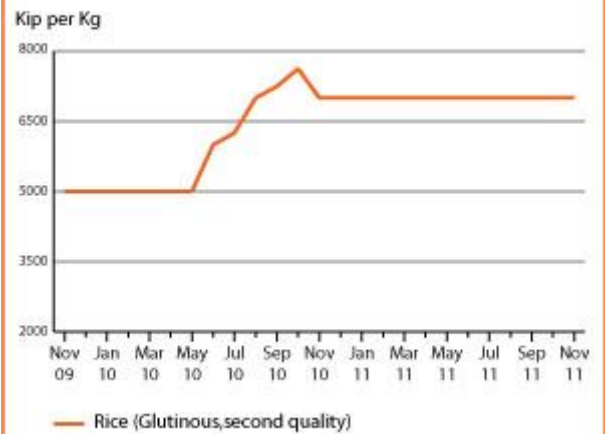


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Retail prices of rice in Vientiane Capital



Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

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 Bolikhamxay 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 stocks 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.

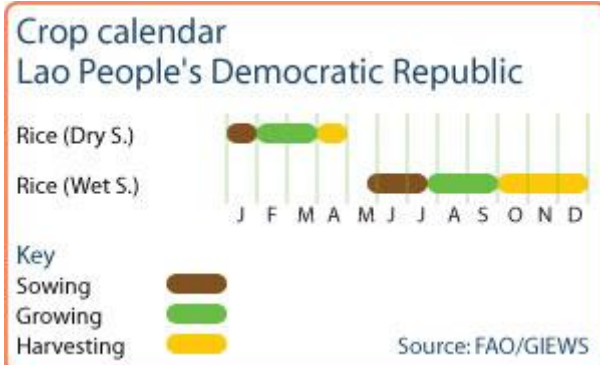
Although a detailed assessment of the crop losses is not yet available, the paddy crop, which is predominantly grown in the lowland of the Mekong River basin, will be affected the most. Some areas that were affected by floods in June-July were replanted.

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.

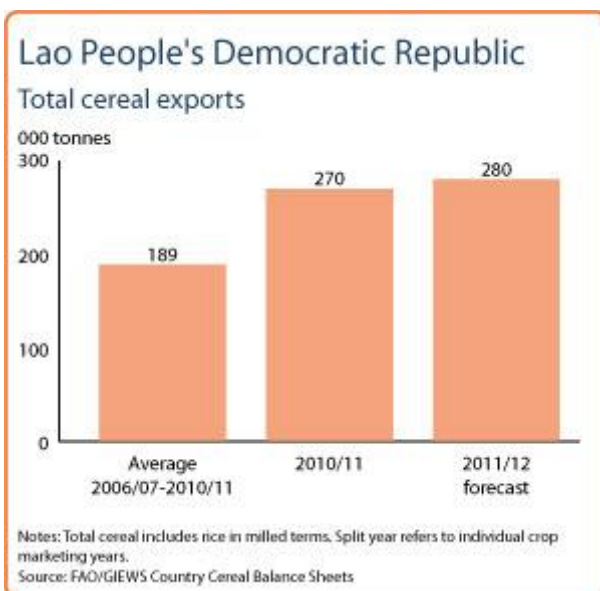
Food insecurity concerns rise due to the adverse impact of floods, especially in



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

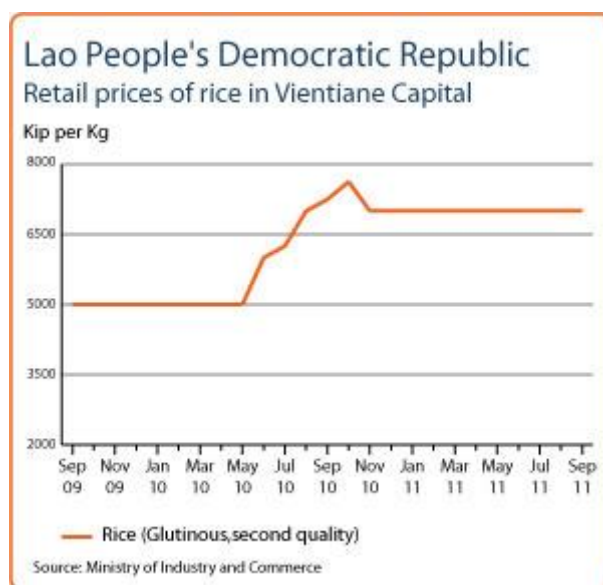
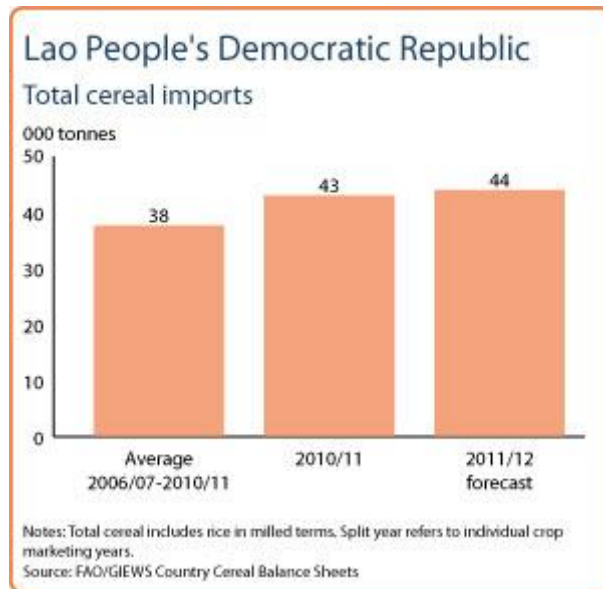
	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 889	3 000	3 000	0
Maize	897	1 100	1 200	9
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	3 786	4 100	4 200	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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 areas 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.



GIEWS Country Brief

Lao People's Democratic Republic



Reference Date: 26-May-2011

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.

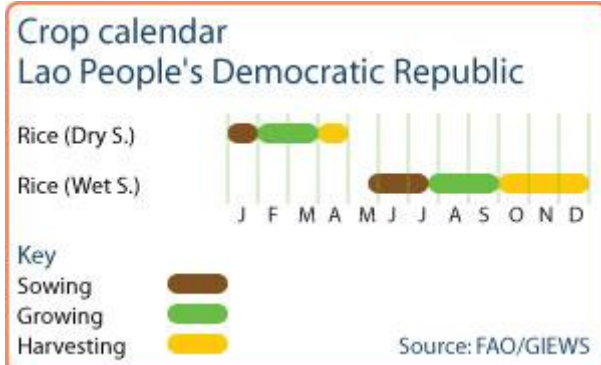
A Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) visited the country in November 2010 to assess the main wet season cereal production and implications for food security. The Mission concluded that most parts of the country were affected by a prolonged dry period at the beginning of the 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

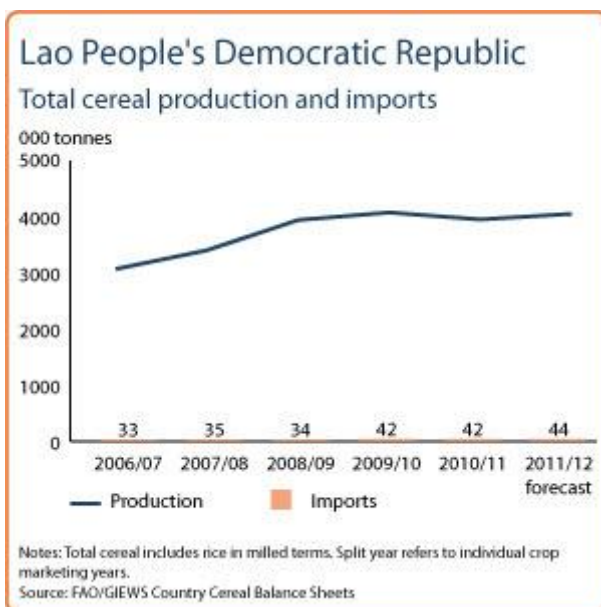
According to the CFSAM report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized small scale shocks, which may have severe impacts at the community and district level. As a result of incomplete recovery following Typhoon Ketsana in late 2009 and the 2010 drought and floods, food insecurity is still concentrated in the central and southern regions of the country. The price



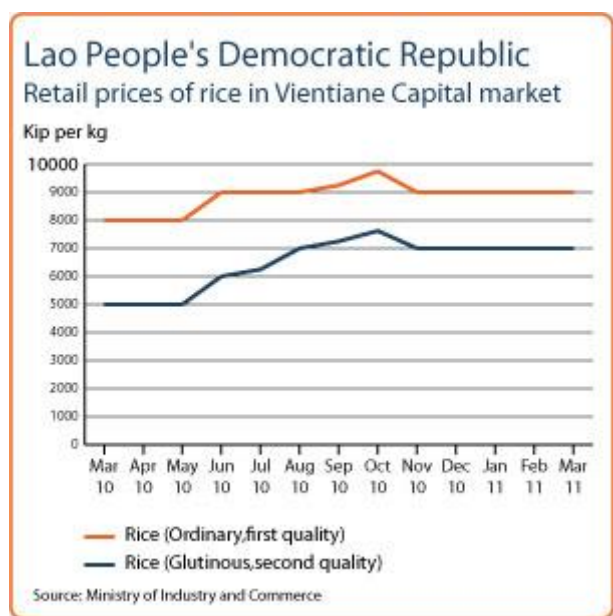
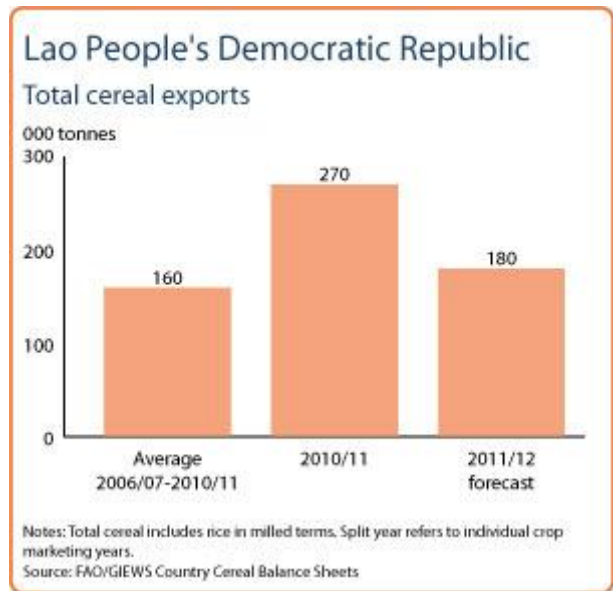
Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	2 889	3 000	3 100	3
Maize	798	950	950	0
Wheat	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	3 687	3 950	4 050	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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.



Reference Date: 25-March-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for the dry season (irrigated) rice crop, nevertheless the 2010/11 total annual paddy harvest estimated below the record level of the year before
- Rice prices in recent months have settled at higher levels than a year ago
- Over 111 000 people in need of food assistance

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.

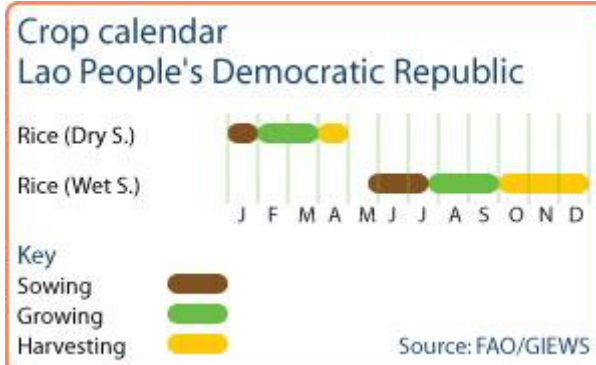
A Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) visited the country in November 2010 to assess the main wet season cereal production and implications for food security. The Mission concluded that most parts of the country were affected by a prolonged dry period at the beginning of the 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

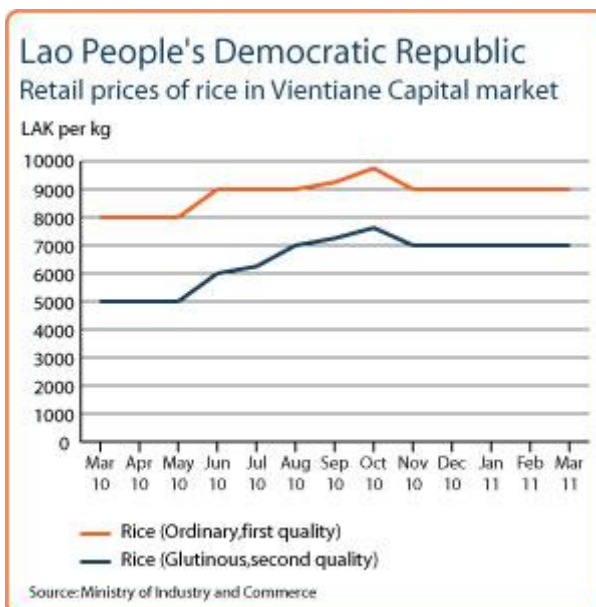
According to the CFSAM report, vulnerability and food insecurity continue to be characterized by highly localized



Lao People's Democratic Republic Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2802	3145	3007	-4
Maize	682	929	950	2
Rye	0	0	0	0
Total	3485	4074	3957	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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.

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

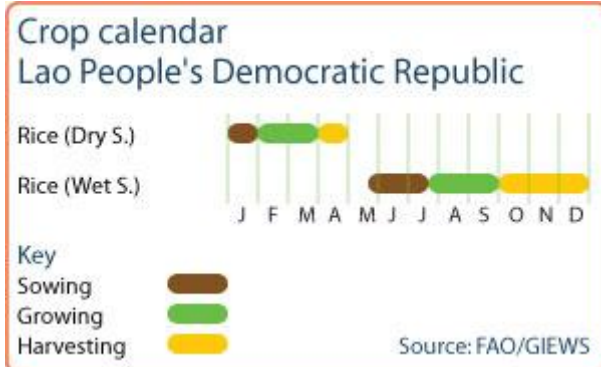
Reduced precipitation throughout the country since the beginning of the wet season in May-June delayed and subsequently reduced plantings of paddy crop this year. Thus the prospects for harvest are unfavourable. Insufficient rainfall during the first few months of 2010 also had affected the dry season 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.



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2802	3145	3000	-5
Maize	751	1134	950	-16
Rye	0	0	0	0
Total	3554	4279	3950	-8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

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

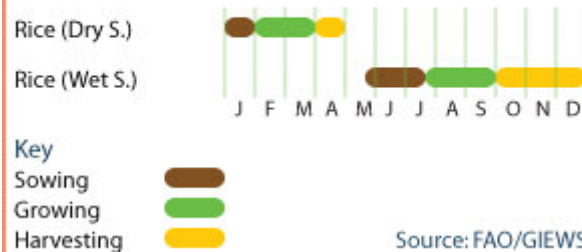
Wet season paddy, harvested from October to December, is estimated at a record level of 3.1 million tonnes, making the country more-or-less self-sufficient in rice. Wet season paddy is predominantly grown in the lowland of the Mekong River basin while a smaller low-performing monsoon crop is cultivated 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.

Crop calendar

Lao People's Democratic Republic



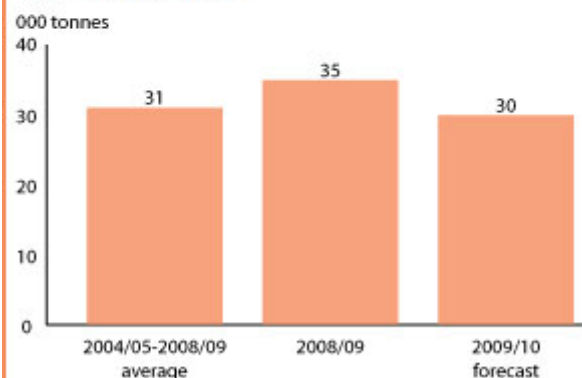
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2752	3029	3100	2
Maize	565	1108	1000	-10
Total	3317	4137	4100	-1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 23-October-2009

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.

Food insecurity is of concern in parts of the country

In spite of the 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 deficit for four months in a normal year. At the end of September 2009 southern part of the Lao PDR was hit Typhoon *Ketsana* which affected some 250 000 people.

Crop calendar

Lao People's Democratic Republic

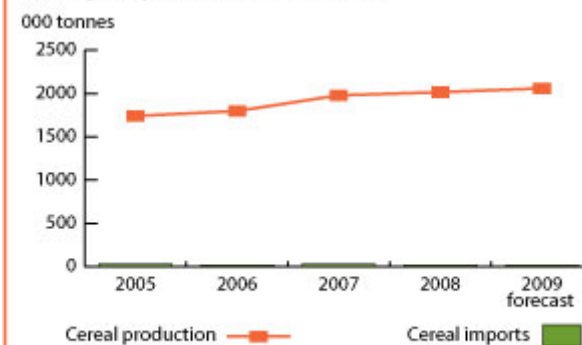


Cereal production and imports

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change*
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (milled)	1651	1817	1860	2.3%
Maize	200	199	200	0.5%
Total Cereals	1851	2016	2060	2.2%

* Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets