



# Crop Prospects and Food Situation

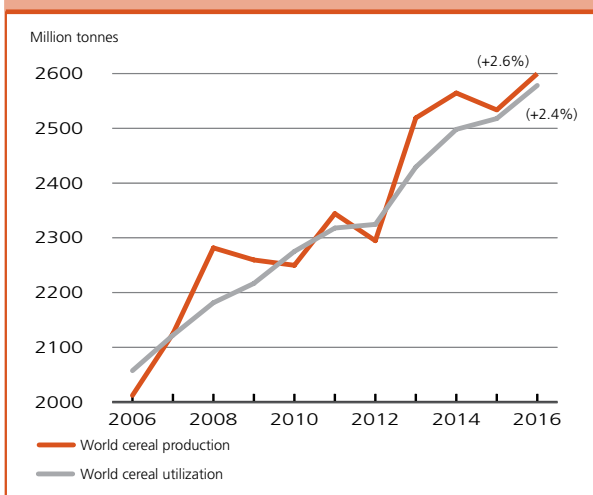
## HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO's first forecast of global wheat production in 2017 points to an above-average output, but down from the record high of 2016, mostly reflecting expectations of reduced crops in North America.**
- **COUNTRIES IN NEED OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE:** FAO estimates that 37 countries, including 28 in Africa, are in need of external assistance for food. Conflicts and weather-related shocks are the main drivers of food insecurity. The food security situation is of grave concern in northern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, where over 20 million people are facing severe food insecurity due to the protracted conflicts compounded by droughts in some cases. Famine was already officially declared in South Sudan.
- **AFRICA:** Dry weather-reduced outputs in North and Southern Africa drove the 2016 regional output downwards to a below-average level; however production in these subregions are expected to recover in 2017 due to overall beneficial weather. Conflicts in parts of Central, East and West Africa continue to severely stress food security conditions and undermine the agriculture sector, while drought in parts of East African has also intensified food insecurity.
- **ASIA:** Early prospects for the 2017 winter wheat crop are generally favourable, following an above-average regional cereal output in 2016. Conflicts continue to acutely impact agriculture, livelihoods and food security in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Iraq, resulting in low harvests and increased humanitarian needs.
- **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** A record cereal crop in Mexico and production recoveries elsewhere in Central America, after last year's drought-reduced harvests, resulted in a bumper 2016 cereal output in the subregion. Prospects for the 2017 maize harvest in South America are overall favourable, mainly reflecting price-induced expansion in plantings in the main producing countries Argentina and Brazil.

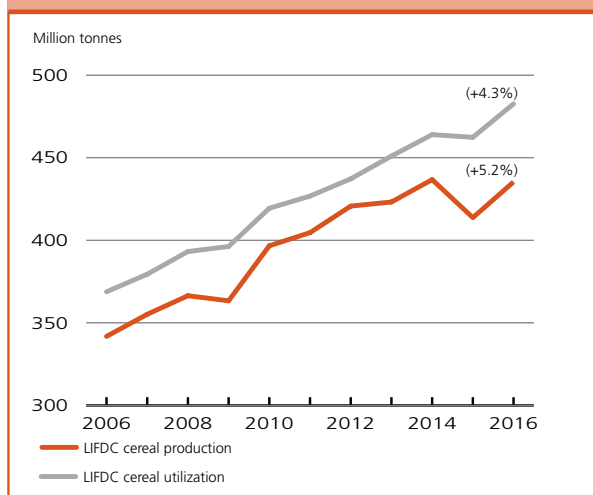
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Global cereal supply and demand situation comfortable for the third consecutive season, supported by a further lifting of the 2016 world production estimate

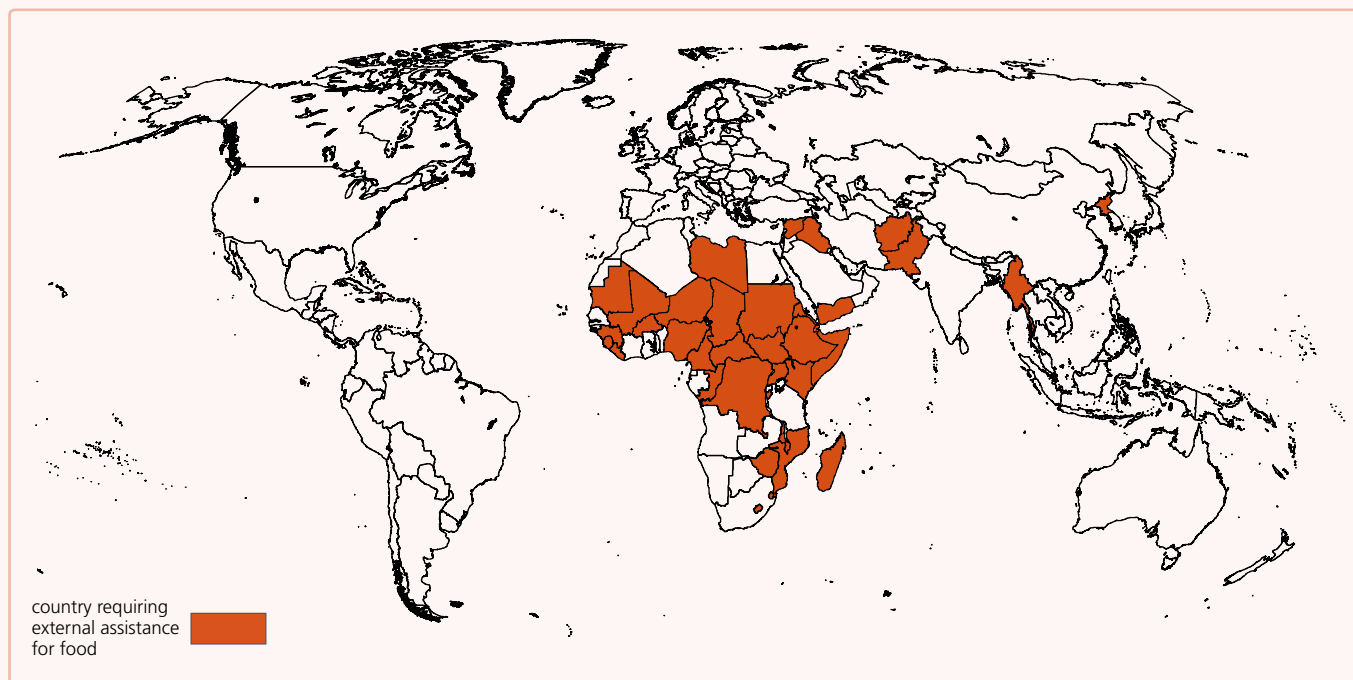


LIFDC production partially recovers in 2016, reflecting more favourable weather conditions in several countries



# Countries requiring external assistance for food<sup>1</sup>

World: 37 countries



## AFRICA (28 countries)

### EXCEPTIONAL SHORTFALL IN AGGREGATE FOOD PRODUCTION/SUPPLIES

#### Central African Republic

*Conflict, displacements and food supply constraints*

- The Internally Displaced Person (IDP) caseload was estimated at 412 000 in mid-January, a slight decline from its peak of 434 000 in late November 2016 when renewed violence displaced about 150 000 people in central and southern prefectures. About 2 million people (40 percent of the total population) are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") as a result of three consecutive years of reduced harvests and food access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power.

#### Malawi

*Tight cereal supplies and higher food prices*

- An estimated 6.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly a result of the reduced harvest in 2016 and higher food prices.
- Production prospects for the 2017 cereal crop are overall favourable, but an army worm infestation and localized floods may restrain outputs in some areas.

#### Zimbabwe

*Significant reduction in cereal production in 2016*

- An estimated 44 percent (4.07 million people) of the rural population are currently food insecure, mostly due to the impact of the 2016 drought on agricultural production.
- The production outlook for the 2017 cereal crop is more favourable than the previous year, but an army worm infestation may limit outputs in some areas, further stressing food security conditions.

### WIDESPREAD LACK OF ACCESS

#### Burundi

*Civil insecurity and economic downturn*

- Disruptions to markets, farming activities and livelihoods, coupled with limited humanitarian assistance and declining food import capacity, continue to seriously affect food security conditions of households, especially in Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces.
- About 1.5 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure.

#### Chad

*Population displacements and civil insecurity*

- Approximately 393 000 refugees, 108 000 IDPs, as well as an estimated 115 000 Chadian returnees, continue to add pressure on local food supplies, negatively affecting food security.
- About 456 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis (November 2016).

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

*Conflict and displacements in eastern provinces, as well as influx of refugees putting strain on host communities*

- As of late December 2016, the IDP caseload was estimated at 2.2 million, 300 000 more than the previous estimate in late September. About 6 million people are estimated to be in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). The country hosts 102 500 refugees from the Central African Republic, 66 700 from South Sudan and 36 300 from Burundi.

**Djibouti**

*Lingering effects of unfavourable rainy seasons on pastoral livelihoods*

- About 197 000 people are severely food insecure, down from the previous estimate, mainly concentrated in pastoral inland areas of Obock and Dikhil regions.

**Eritrea**

*Economic constraints have increased the population's vulnerability to food insecurity*

**Ethiopia**

*Lingering effects of the previous year's severe drought on local livelihood systems*

- Drought affected second season crops and pastures in south and southeastern areas; lingering effects of 2015 severe drought on local livelihood systems.
- Overall, an estimated 5.6 million people are food insecure.

**Lesotho**

*Tighter domestic supplies and higher food prices*

- Just under 710 000 people are estimated to be food insecure on account of the drought-reduced 2016 harvest and higher food prices.

**Mozambique**

*Tighter supplies and sharply higher food prices*

- Drought conditions in 2016 resulted in lower cereal outputs in southern provinces and in parts of central provinces, while higher prices are adversely impacting food access. Nearly 2 million people are food insecure and require humanitarian assistance.
- Recent flooding in some central and southern parts is likely to restrain 2017 cereal production in the affected areas.

**Niger**

*Population displacements and civil insecurity*

- More than 300 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.
- Approximately 61 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country.
- Almost 121 000 people, mostly in the southeast Diffa Region, have been displaced due to fear of attacks.

**Nigeria**

*Economic downturn, steep depreciation of the local currency, population displacements and severe civil insecurity in northern areas*

- About 8.1 million people are estimated to be facing acute food insecurity and require urgent lifesaving response and livelihood protection, including 55 000 people in CH Phase 5: "Famine" (i.e. IPC Catastrophe), according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis. Despite the above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2016, the sharp depreciation of the Naira, coupled with persisting civil conflict in northern states has continued to disrupt market activities and keep prices at high levels.
- Approximately 1.8 million people have been internally displaced in the northeastern region of the country.

**South Sudan**

*Conflict, civil insecurity and severe economic downturn*

- Famine has been declared in parts of former Unity State. Over 4.9 million people are severely food insecure, mainly in the conflict-affected states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile, but also in traditional surplus-producing areas of Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Equatoria regions due to insecurity, trade disruptions and high prices.

**Swaziland**

*Reduced agricultural output following drought conditions*

- Nearly 640 000 people are in need of assistance, reflecting the impact of the drought-reduced 2016 harvest and livestock losses. Higher food prices have further affected food security conditions.
- Production prospects for the 2017 crop are favourable and an improved agricultural output will help to recuperate food security conditions.

**SEVERE LOCALIZED FOOD INSECURITY****Burkina Faso**

*Refugees putting strain on host communities*

- Over 32 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country.
- About 153 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, despite the bumper 2016 cereal harvest.

**Cameroon**

*Influx of refugees putting strain on host communities and displacements*

- The number of refugees from the Central African Republic was estimated in December at 276 000. Insecurity along the borders with Nigeria also led to the internal displacement of 192 000 individuals.
- The number of food insecure people is currently estimated at 2.8 million.

**Congo**

*Influx of refugees straining the already limited resources of host communities*

- As of mid-November 2016, about 23 600 refugees from the Central African Republic are sheltering in the country.

**Guinea**

*Lingering impact of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak*

- All neighbouring countries have re-opened their borders with Guinea, which has led to a significant increase in trade flows.
- About 51 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

**Kenya**

*Drought impact on crop production and livestock during the last quarter of 2016*

- About 2.7 million people are severely food insecure, mainly located in eastern, southeastern and coastal areas, following the negative impact of poor 2016 "short rains".

**Liberia**

*Lingering impact of the EVD outbreak*

- The country is hosting approximately 19 000 refugees as of end-December 2016, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire.
- About 53 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

**Madagascar**

*Severe drought conditions in southern areas*

- The sharp decrease in the 2016 cereal harvest compared to the average resulted in severe food insecurity conditions; approximately 850 000 people require humanitarian assistance in Androy, Anosy and Astimo Andrefana. Higher food prices have also exacerbated the situation.
- Agricultural conditions in southern parts have improved in 2017 due to beneficial seasonal rains, but drier conditions in eastern and some northern parts may limit this year's harvest in the affected areas.

## Mali

*Population displacements and civil insecurity in northern areas*

- An estimated 37 000 people have been internally displaced in the country mostly residing in Timbuktu, the most affected region.
- About 177 000 people, located mostly in Timbuktu, Mopti and Bamako regions, are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

## Mauritania

*Refugee caseload continues to put additional pressure on local food supplies*

- As of December 2016, about 45 000 Malian refugees remain in southeastern Mauritania in the Mbeera camp.
- Over 119 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

## Sierra Leone

*Lingering impact of the EVD outbreak*

- About 159 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

## Somalia

*Conflict, civil insecurity and widespread drought conditions*

- About 2.9 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency assistance, mainly IDPs and drought-affected agro-pastoral communities across the country.

## Sudan

*Conflict and civil insecurity*

- An estimated 3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly IDPs and host communities in conflict-affected areas.

## Uganda

*Below-average crop production*

- About 1.6 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure following two consecutive seasons of reduced agricultural outputs.

## ASIA (8 countries)

### EXCEPTIONAL SHORTFALL IN AGGREGATE FOOD PRODUCTION/SUPPLIES

#### Syrian Arab Republic

*Worsening civil conflict*

- Agricultural production continues to be significantly affected by conflict, despite favourable weather.
- About 7 million people are estimated to be food insecure and a further 2 million are at risk of food insecurity.
- Although some international food assistance is being provided, Syrian refugees are also putting strain on other host communities in neighbouring countries.

### WIDESPREAD LACK OF ACCESS

#### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

*Low agricultural output and economic downturn*

- Localized floods across northeastern parts of the country in September 2016, resulted in damage to arable land, housing and infrastructure. These areas were also negatively impacted by the floods in August 2015.
- Despite an expected partial recovery in the 2016 aggregate food production, supplies remain tight and 18 million people remain dependent on Government distributed food rations.
- Given the overall tight supply situation, most households are anticipated to continue to experience borderline or poor food consumption rates.

## Yemen

*Conflict, poverty, and high food and fuel prices*

- According to the Emergency Food and Nutrition Assessment, over 17 million people are food insecure, with an increase of 3 million from the last IPC analysis of June 2016. The risk of famine declaration is high.
- A below-average cereal harvest was gathered in 2016 but abundant rainfall had positive effects on livestock production.

### SEVERE LOCALIZED FOOD INSECURITY

#### Afghanistan

*Continuing conflict and population displacement*

- Almost 1.6 million people are severely food insecure and 9.7 million people moderately food insecure.
- Over 630 000 people were displaced by the conflict in 2016, mostly in the hard-to-access areas.
- Since 1 January 2016, over 728 000 undocumented Afghans have returned mostly due to changes in refugee policies in Pakistan.

#### Iraq

*Civil conflict*

- Over 3 million people have been internally displaced.
- About 2.4 million people are estimated to be food insecure, of which 1.5 million severely food insecure.

#### Libya

*Civil insecurity*

- The number of people in need of food assistance is estimated at 0.4 million, with refugees, asylum seekers and internally-displaced among the most vulnerable.
- Food shortages are reported mostly in the south and east where basic food items, including wheat, bread, flour, pasta, oil, milk and fortified blended foods for children are in short supply. Access to subsidized food among the affected population is limited.

#### Myanmar

*Impact of floods for a second consecutive year and renewed conflict in northern parts of Rakhine State*

- Floods in 2016 severely affected an estimated 500 000 people.
- Households in Chin and Rakhine states still remain highly vulnerable as they have not yet recovered from the impact of the floods in 2015.
- Around 120 000 people are estimated to have been displaced in Rakhine and 98 000 in Kachin and Shan states. Around 162 000 people are estimated to be food insecure with at least 78 000 in urgent need of food.

#### Pakistan

*Population displacement and localized cereal production shortfalls*

- As of January 2017 an estimated 3.2 million people were in need of humanitarian aid. About 504 000 people (approximately 74 000 families) remain displaced in northern Pakistan due to recurrent insecurity.
- In Tharparkar District and the surrounding areas of Sindh Province, the drought-affected cereal production and the loss of livestock for the third consecutive year have aggravated the food insecurity and caused acute malnutrition.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (1 country)

### SEVERE LOCALIZED FOOD INSECURITY

#### Haiti

*Recurrent droughts and hurricane damage*

- Recurring droughts in 2014 and 2016, coupled with the effects of Hurricane Matthew in 2016, had a devastating impact on food security.
- As a result of the reduced availability and access to food in the affected areas, an estimated 1.5 million people are food insecure, of which 1.3 million will be assisted in 2017.

## Countries with unfavourable prospects for current crops<sup>2</sup> (total: 2 countries)

### AFRICA (1 country)

#### Central African Republic

*Widespread conflict, which caused large-scale displacements, the loss and depletion of households' productive assets and input shortages continues to weigh on the early 2017 production prospects.*

### ASIA (1 country)

#### Sri Lanka

*Prolonged dry weather has lowered production prospects for the 2017 crop and almost 1 million people in 23 districts, out of 25, have been negatively affected by drought conditions. FAO and WFP will conduct a joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) from mid-March 2017, at the request of the Government, to assess the impact of the drought on the 2017 main-crop harvest and to evaluate the food security situation.*

Key - New Entry +

#### Terminology

<sup>1</sup> **Countries requiring external assistance for food** are expected to lack the resources to deal with reported critical problems of food insecurity. Food crises are nearly always due to a combination of factors but for the purpose of response planning, it is important to establish whether the nature of food crises is **predominantly** related to lack of food availability, limited access to food, or severe but localized problems. Accordingly, the list of countries requiring external assistance is organized into three broad, not mutually exclusive, categories:

- Countries facing an **exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies** as a result of crop failure, natural disasters, interruption of imports, disruption of distribution, excessive post-harvest losses, or other supply bottlenecks.
- Countries with **widespread lack of access**, where a majority of the population is considered to be unable to procure food from local markets, due to very low incomes, exceptionally high food prices, or the inability to circulate within the country.
- Countries with **severe localized food insecurity** due to the influx of refugees, a concentration of internally displaced persons, or areas with combinations of crop failure and deep poverty.

<sup>2</sup> **Countries facing unfavourable prospects for current crops** are countries where prospects point to a shortfall in production of current crops as a result of a reduction of the area planted and/or yields due to adverse weather conditions, plant pests, diseases and other calamities.

# Cereal Supply and Demand

## CEREAL PRODUCTION 2016

With the bulk of the crop already gathered, FAO estimates world cereal production in 2016 at 2 600 million tonnes, up 7.9 million tonnes (0.3 percent) from February expectations, mainly reflecting improved prospects for wheat in Australia, maize in Ukraine and rice in India. At this level, global cereal production would be 66.2 million tonnes (2.6 percent) higher than in 2015, with a large part of this growth resulting from the 37.5 million tonnes (2.9 percent) expansion in coarse grains output to 1 344 million tonnes. Global wheat output

also registered strong growth, expanding by 22.8 million tonnes or 3.1 percent to 758 million tonnes. In the case of rice, an expected 5.9 million tonne (1.2 percent) annual increase would position world rice production in 2016 at a fresh peak of 498 million tonnes.

## WHEAT 2017

Looking ahead, FAO's first forecast of global wheat production in 2017 stands at 744.5 million tonnes, indicating a 1.8 percent decline from the 2016 record level but still above the last five-year average. The year-on-year decline would mostly reflect the projected decrease in

plantings in North America, and a return to normal production levels in Australia following an exceptionally high output in 2016. With the winter wheat crop emerging from dormancy in Northern Hemisphere countries, prospects are good in Asia, where larger plantings in China, India and Pakistan are expected to push production upwards. In Europe, conducive winter weather and a small expansion in the area sown are set to result in higher outputs, especially in the European Union and the Russian Federation. In North America, wheat production is forecast to decline in the United States of America and Canada, mostly reflecting price-induced cuts in winter wheat sowings, coupled with some concerns about potentially lower crop yields. Planting of the wheat crop in Southern Hemisphere countries will begin later in the year.

**Table 1. World cereal production<sup>1</sup>**  
(million tonnes)

	2014	2015	2016 estimate	Change: 2016 over 2015 (%)
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1 116.3</b>	<b>1 120.2</b>	<b>1 132.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Far East	1 019.9	1 015.1	1 028.6	1.3
Near East	64.4	70.5	67.9	-3.7
CIS in Asia	32.1	34.6	36.2	4.7
<b>Africa</b>	<b>175.3</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
North Africa	33.1	37.3	28.6	-23.4
West Africa	51.9	51.7	55.0	6.5
Central Africa	4.7	4.5	4.1	-8.6
East Africa	51.6	46.1	49.4	7.1
Southern Africa	34.0	26.8	23.9	-10.9
<b>Central America and Caribbean</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>179.1</b>	<b>186.7</b>	<b>170.9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>491.3</b>	<b>482.9</b>	<b>530.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>523.7</b>	<b>498.7</b>	<b>506.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
European Union	330.6	313.3	300.5	-4.1
CIS in Europe	178.5	172.8	193.0	11.7
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>41.4</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>2 564.5</b>	<b>2 533.6</b>	<b>2 599.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Developing countries	1 454.3	1 457.5	1 453.1	-0.3
Developed countries	1 110.2	1 076.1	1 146.7	6.6
- wheat	730.5	735.2	758.0	3.1
- coarse grains	1 339.2	1 306.5	1 344.0	2.9
- rice (milled)	494.8	491.9	497.8	1.2

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> Includes rice in milled terms.

## COARSE GRAINS 2017

Prospects for 2017 coarse grains production, mainly maize, are generally favourable in the Southern Hemisphere with the crop in its final development stage. Reflecting wetter conditions in most of Southern Africa, production is expected to recover from the drought-reduced output of 2016, with South Africa harvesting a maize crop 50 percent larger than in 2016. However, an outbreak of armyworms and localized floods are likely to limit production gains in some other countries of the subregion. In South America, sharp increases in production are forecast for Argentina and Brazil, given the increase in plantings and generally favourable weather conditions. In the Northern Hemisphere, maize plantings in the key producing countries will only commence in late spring.



## RICE 2017

Prospects for 2017 paddy crops along and south of the Equator remain mixed. Among the major rice producers, abundant rains permitted main crop plantings in Indonesia to begin ahead of schedule and advance at a fast pace, while in Brazil conducive weather is expected to sustain a yield-driven output recovery. At the same time, overly wet conditions in Viet Nam slowed winter-spring sowing progress, further clouding the yield outlook for this first crop of the season.

## UTILIZATION 2016/17

The forecast of world cereal utilization in 2016/17 has been raised by 11 million tonnes since February to almost 2 578 million tonnes, mostly reflecting a significant upward revision for the 2016 wheat crop in India, as well as a higher anticipated use of maize for feed in China and Mexico. At the current forecast level, global cereal utilization would be 2.4 percent (60.4 million tonnes) greater than in 2015/16, sustained by a 1.4 percent (15 million tonnes) increase in food consumption and a 3.1 percent (28 million tonnes) expansion in feed utilization. Large wheat supplies, coupled with generally lower prices, are behind an expected 3.5 percent (25 million tonnes) increase in total wheat utilization in 2016/17, to 739 million tonnes. Total use of wheat for direct human consumption is forecast at 499 million tonnes, 1.1 percent higher than in 2015/16 and sufficient to keep the average global per caput wheat consumption level stable at 67.2 kg. Feed utilization of wheat is also forecast to increase by as much as 6 percent to nearly 145 million tonnes, underpinned by notable increases in feed use of wheat in North America, China and the Russian Federation. Total utilization of coarse grains is forecast to rise by 2.4 percent (31 million tonnes) to almost 1 340 million

**Table 2. Wheat production: leading producers<sup>1</sup>**  
(million tonnes)

	Average 2014-16	2015	2016 estimate	2017 forecast	Change: 2017 over 2016 (%)
European Union	154.0	160.5	144.5	150.0	3.8
China (Mainland)	128.3	130.2	128.6	129.0	0.3
India	91.5	86.5	92.3	95.5	3.5
Russian Federation	64.9	61.8	73.3	74.0	1.0
United States of America	58.0	56.1	62.9	50.0	-20.5
Canada	29.6	27.6	31.7	28.6	-9.8
Australia	27.7	24.2	35.1	28.0	-20.2
Pakistan	25.5	25.1	25.5	26.0	2.0
Ukraine	25.5	26.5	26.0	25.0	-3.8
Turkey	20.7	22.6	20.6	21.0	1.9
Kazakhstan	13.9	13.7	14.9	13.5	-9.4
Argentina	13.9	11.3	16.5	16.0	-3.0
Iran Islamic Rep. of	11.9	11.5	13.5	12.0	-11.1
Egypt	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	0.0
Uzbekistan	7.1	7.0	6.7	7.0	4.5
Other countries	59.7	59.7	59.8	59.9	0.2
<b>World</b>	<b>741.2</b>	<b>735.2</b>	<b>758.0</b>	<b>744.5</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Countries ranked according to average production in 2014-16.

tonnes in 2016/17. Global feed use would account for 759 million tonnes of this total volume, with the 2.7 percent year-on-year expansion led by sharp increases in maize feed utilization in China, Mexico and the United States of America, which would more than offset expected reductions in Brazil and the European Union. World rice utilization is predicted to reach 500 million tonnes in 2016/17, with growing consumption of rice as food sustaining much of the projected 1 percent annual expansion.

## STOCKS 2016/17

FAO's February forecast of world cereal stocks at the close of the crop seasons ending in 2017 has been lowered by about 3 million tonnes, mainly reflecting downward adjustments to wheat inventories in India. At 678 million tonnes, the revised cereal global carryover forecast would still be 2.5 percent (16.8 million tonnes) higher than a year earlier. This would position the world cereal stock-to-use ratio in 2016/17 slightly above the previous season's level, at close

to 26 percent. The major cereal exporters' stock-to-disappearance ratio (defined as domestic utilization plus exports) is also set to increase, from 16 percent in 2015/16 to 17 percent in 2016/17. Among the major cereals, wheat global inventories are anticipated to rise the most, by 6.6 percent (15 million tonnes) to nearly 240 million tonnes. Much of this projected expansion reflects significant inventory build-ups in Australia, China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, which would more than offset drawdowns in the European Union and India. At almost 267 million tonnes, the forecast for world coarse grains carryovers remains nearly unchanged from February and from last year's high level. This season's record maize crop in the United States of America is expected to boost the size of total coarse grains inventories in the country to an all-time high of nearly 63 million tonnes, up as much as 31 percent from their opening level. At the same time, other major producers, most notably China, Brazil, the European Union and South Africa, are projected to draw their stocks down sharply, in most cases due

to lower domestic production. Following a 1.6 million-tonne upward adjustment, world rice inventories in 2017 are seen largely stable year-to-year at 172 million tonnes. India accounted for most of this month's upward revision to rice closing stocks, consistent with improved production outlook for the country and the fast progress of Government procurement.

## TRADE 2016/17

World trade in cereals in 2016/17 is forecast to reach nearly 393 million tonnes, slightly more than predicted in February, but still 0.4 percent (1.8 million tonnes) below the 2015/16 level. All of the annual contraction in world cereal flows is expected to be driven by a sharp

reduction in trade of coarse grains, while global trade of both wheat and rice are set to expand. Total trade in coarse grains in 2016/17 (July/June) is forecast to fall as much as 4.5 percent (8.4 million tonnes) below the 2015/16 record level to 177.5 million tonnes. However, most of this decrease would reflect smaller imports of barley, maize and sorghum by China, in line with expectations of much higher utilization of locally-produced maize given the country's ample maize inventories. While smaller imports are also forecast for the European Union (maize) and Saudi Arabia (barley), a number of other countries are expected to increase their level of purchases, particularly Morocco (maize and barley) and Viet Nam (maize). World trade in wheat (including wheat

flour in wheat equivalent) in 2016/17 (July/June) is forecast at a new record of 172 million tonnes, 1 million tonnes higher than predicted in February, as a result of upward revisions to imports by Bangladesh and Viet Nam. At the current forecast level, world trade in wheat would stand some 3 percent (5.2 million tonnes) above the 2015/16 level, with most of the increase driven by larger wheat projected purchases by Brazil, India, Turkey and Viet Nam. International trade in rice in calendar year 2017 is still forecast to expand by 4 percent to 43 million tonnes. On the export side, India and Viet Nam are predicted to lead the world trade upturn, although in both cases growth could be capped by intense competition for markets and lingering subdued demand in key markets.



# Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries Food Situation Overview<sup>1</sup>

## Early prospects for LIFDC cereal production in 2017 are mixed

In Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), harvesting of the 2017 crops has already commenced in some countries of *East Africa* for the minor season, and will continue in April in *Southern Africa* and parts of *Asia* for the main season crops.

In *Asia*, an expansion in wheat plantings in **India**, the largest producing LIFDC, is expected to result in an increased crop in 2017. In **Pakistan**, the wheat output is also forecast to rise on a yearly basis, supported by a larger sown area and a recovery in yields. In the *Near East*, the ongoing conflict and lack of inputs in **the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen** continues to significantly hamper agricultural activities.

In *sub-Saharan Africa*, the main season harvest will commence in April in *Southern Africa*, where the 2017 cereal production is expected to recover from the drought-reduced level of last year, mostly owing to wetter conditions. However, an army worm outbreak and localized flooding could limit larger production gains. In *East Africa*, with planting operations for the main season underway, a severe drought since late 2016 has heightened concerns about the 2017 crop, particularly with drier conditions predicted for the March-May rainy season. In **Burundi** and **Rwanda**, production of the first season's crop, harvested in February,

**Table 3. Basic facts of the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) cereal situation** (million tonnes, rice in milled basis)

	2014/15	2015/16 estimate	2016/17 forecast	Change: 2016/17 over 2015/16 (%)
<b>Cereal production<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>436.7</b>	<b>413.7</b>	<b>435.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<i>excluding India</i>	192.3	184.1	190.3	3.4
<b>Utilization</b>	<b>464.0</b>	<b>462.4</b>	<b>482.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Food use	371.4	375.9	384.4	2.3
<i>excluding India</i>	178.9	182.6	188.0	2.9
Per caput cereal food use (kg per year)	146.8	146.0	146.7	0.5
<i>excluding India</i>	144.9	144.4	145.2	0.6
Feed	36.3	35.8	36.8	2.8
<i>excluding India</i>	21.7	21.3	21.4	0.5
<b>End of season stocks<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
<i>excluding India</i>	41.0	38.9	38.3	-1.5

<sup>1</sup> Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.

<sup>2</sup> May not equal the difference between supply and utilization because of differences in individual country marketing years.

**Table 4. Cereal production<sup>1</sup> of LIFDCs** (million tonnes)

	2014	2015	2016 estimate	Change: 2016 over 2015 (%)
<b>Africa</b> (37 countries)	<b>119.1</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
East Africa	51.6	46.1	49.4	7.1
Southern Africa	11.0	9.1	8.3	-8.7
West Africa	51.9	51.7	55.0	6.5
Central Africa	4.6	4.4	4.0	-8.7
<b>Asia</b> (12 countries)	<b>316.2</b>	<b>301.1</b>	<b>316.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>
CIS in Asia	10.6	10.9	10.8	-0.9
Far East	295.6	280.3	297.2	6.0
- India	244.4	229.6	245.1	6.7
Near East	10.0	9.9	8.7	-11.9
<b>Central America and the Caribbean</b> (3 countries)	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>Oceania</b> (2 countries)	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>LIFDC</b> (54 countries)	<b>436.7</b>	<b>413.7</b>	<b>435.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> Includes rice in milled terms.

<sup>1</sup> The **Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs)** group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011). The current list of the LIFDCs stands at 54 countries. For full details see: <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc/en/>

was already estimated to be down from the previous year due to below-average rains. In *Central Africa*, despite some improvements, insecurity continues to weigh negatively on the production outlook in **the Central African Republic**, where households' productive capacity has already been eroded after successive years of conflict.

### Production rebounds in Far East Asia and East Africa boost LIFDC cereal output in 2016

FAO's latest estimate for aggregate cereal production of LIFDCs in 2016 was raised marginally by 1.4 million tonnes since the previous issue of this publication in December 2016, to 435.3 million tonnes. The increase is mainly accounted for by an upward revision of **India's** output (mostly maize and rice), while small positive adjustments were made to production estimates for *East* and *Central Africa*.

At this level, aggregate LIFDC cereal production in 2016 is 5.2 percent above the 2015 output.

In *sub-Saharan Africa*, the 2016 aggregate production estimate for LIFDCs stands at 116.8 million tonnes, 5 percent higher than the previous year's level. Larger outputs in *East* and *West Africa* were the main drivers behind the year-on-year increase, mostly reflecting beneficial weather that boosted yields. These increases more than outweighed production declines in *Southern African* countries, which were severely affected by drought conditions, and in *Central Africa*, where conflicts negatively affected production, despite generally beneficial weather.

In *Asia*, aggregate production of LIFDCs is forecast at 316.8 million tonnes, 5.2 percent higher than the level in 2015. The bulk of the increase mainly relates to a near 16-million-tonne recovery in **India's** output, due to a rebound in yields to

average levels. In the *Near East*, production is estimated at a well-below average level and is over 1 million tonnes down from 2015, as the persisting conflicts severely weakened the agriculture sector in **Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen**.

### LIFDC imports forecast to increase in 2016/17

The forecast for aggregate cereal imports by LIFDCs in the 2016/17 marketing year was raised by about 2 million tonnes since the previous edition of this report in December 2016. Most of this growth relates to higher imports of wheat by **India**. On an annual basis, Imports are forecast to expand by 5.3 percent, mainly on account of increased imports in *Southern African* countries, following the sharp production decline in 2016, and in **India**. Imports by LIFDCs in *West* and *Central Africa* are also foreseen to rise but moderately, and in *East Africa* import expectations increased in

**Kenya** mainly reflecting the drought-reduced output. In *Asia*, cereal imports are forecast to contract in *CIS Asian* countries as a result of recoveries in domestic outputs, while larger volumes of imported wheat in **India** pushed up the aggregate import forecast for the *Far East*. In the *Near East*, conflicts continue to constrain import capacities, although food aid needs are higher. In *Central America*, imports are foreseen to fall on the back of a partial recovery in cereal production in 2016.

**Table 5. Cereal imports of LIFDCs**  
(thousand tonnes)

	2014/15 or 2015	2015/16 or 2016		2016/17 or 2017	
	Actual imports	Import forecast	of which food aid	Import requirement <sup>1</sup>	of which food aid
<b>Africa</b> (37 countries)	<b>32 326</b>	<b>32 159</b>	<b>1 223</b>	<b>33 846</b>	<b>953</b>
East Africa	10 459	10 671	873	10 709	624
Southern Africa	2 718	2 891	37	4 091	47
West Africa	17 247	16 827	156	17 027	124
Central Africa	1 903	1 770	156	2 019	157
<b>Asia</b> (12 countries)	<b>19 601</b>	<b>22 894</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>24 295</b>	<b>809</b>
CIS in Asia	4 138	4 387	1	4 241	1
Far East	6 455	8 335	201	9 862	198
Near East	9 007	10 172	602	10 192	610
<b>Central America and the Caribbean</b> (3 countries)	<b>1 973</b>	<b>2 248</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2 065</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Oceania</b> (2 countries)	<b>473</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b> (54 countries)	<b>54 372</b>	<b>57 782</b>	<b>2 063</b>	<b>60 676</b>	<b>1 775</b>

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> The import requirement is the difference between utilization (food, feed, other uses, export plus closing stocks) and domestic availability (production plus opening stocks).

# Regional reviews

## NORTH AFRICA

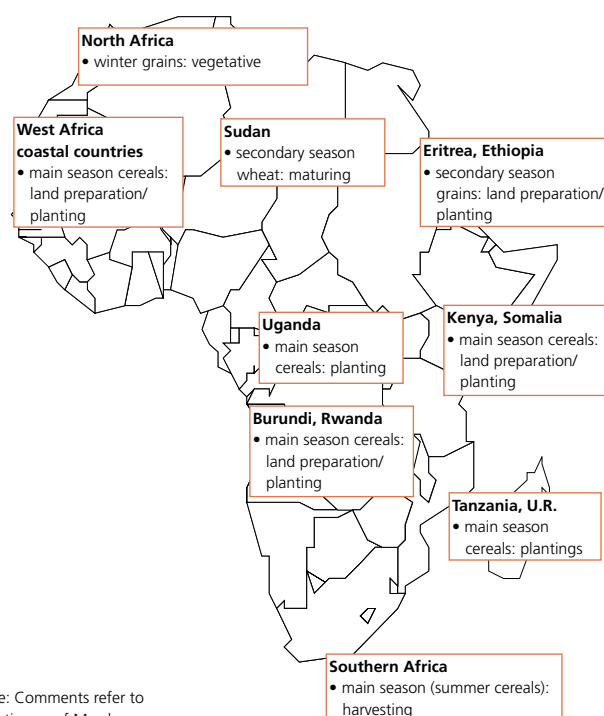
### Favourable prospects for 2017 winter crops

Prospects for the 2017 winter wheat and coarse grains crops, to be harvested from May, remain favourable. While parts of **Morocco** and western **Algeria** suffered from autumn drought up to mid-November 2016, delaying plantings in some areas, good precipitation in December and January replenished soil moisture maintaining good yield prospects in **Morocco**, **Algeria** and **Tunisia**. In **Egypt**, with mostly irrigated wheat, reports indicate average conditions, resulting in a preliminary wheat production forecast of 9 million tonnes, similar to last year's average level.

### Above-average import requirement estimated for the 2016/17 marketing year owing to a below-average 2016 cereal harvest

The aggregate 2016 subregional cereal production (including rice in paddy terms) is estimated at 30.5 million tonnes, 22 percent down from previous year's above-average output and 18 percent below the five-year average. Total wheat production in 2016 decreased by almost 28 percent on an annual basis to 15 million tonnes, while the coarse grain harvest is estimated at 9.2 million tonnes, about 20 percent below the five-year average and about 25 percent lower than the previous year. The biggest year-on-year decline in wheat production was recorded in **Morocco**, where only 2.7 million tonnes of wheat were harvested compared to 8 million tonnes in 2015, mainly due to poor rains that significantly restricted yields.

With a significantly below-average 2016 harvest, the subregion's aggregate cereal import requirement (of which



wheat accounts for about 60 percent) for the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) is estimated at approximately 51.1 million tonnes, 17 percent above the previous five-years average. The below-average 2016 harvest in **Morocco** increased forecasted cereal imports to 8.8 million tonnes (18 percent above the 2015/16 volumes), while a slightly improved crop in **Tunisia** decreased the import requirement by about 4 percent compared to last year. At 21 million and 13.6 million tonnes, respectively, the cereal import forecasts in **Egypt** and **Algeria** are about the same as in the previous year.

**Table 6. North Africa cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>-22.0</b>
Algeria	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	4.1	3.3	-19.5
Egypt	9.3	9.0	9.0	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.2	5.9	6.3	22.1	21.7	22.1	1.9
Morocco	5.1	8.0	2.7	1.9	3.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	11.7	3.5	-69.8
Tunisia	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.3	1.3	-2.1

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

## Inflation increases in Egypt, remains stable elsewhere

Food price inflation in January 2017 (or December 2016, depending on data availability) ranged from 2.6 percent in **Morocco** (December 2016) to over 37 percent in **Egypt**. A food price inflation of 4.9 percent in December 2016 was reported in **Algeria** and 4.7 percent in January 2017 in **Tunisia**. While only small adjustments took place across the subregion, unusually large increases in **Egypt** (up from 13.8 percent in October 2016) were driven by the sharp currency depreciation in early November 2016 causing prices of imported goods to increase, while consequent higher fuel prices pushed up distribution costs. In **Libya**, where the overall yearly inflation rate in 2016 was estimated at over 14 percent, driven by supply chain disruptions due to infrastructure destruction, that offset the downward pressure from fuel and food subsidies.

## WEST AFRICA

Seasonal dry conditions in 2017 prevail in the Sahel, while in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea land preparation for the first maize crop is underway. Planting will begin with the arrival of rains, usually from April.

### Record 2016 cereal harvest gathered in the Sahel

The subregion's aggregate cereal output in 2016 was estimated at about 60.6 million tonnes, which is 6.5 percent higher than the previous year's bumper crop and 10 percent above average. A record cereal output is forecast in the Sahelian countries, (**Mali**, **Niger** and **Senegal**), following beneficial rains over the main producing areas, while a near-record production is expected in **Burkina Faso**. Significantly above-average harvests are anticipated in all other Sahel countries except **the Gambia** and **Mauritania**. The 2016 aggregate cereal production of the nine Sahel countries

was estimated at around 25 million tonnes, 10 percent above the 2015 level and 23 percent above average. Similarly, in coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, crops benefited from favourable weather conditions during the sowing and vegetative periods. As a result, above-average cereal harvests are expected in most coastal countries, including **Nigeria**, where the aggregate cereal output is forecast at 5 percent above the previous year's bumper crop. The Boko Haram conflict has, however, had a significant impact on the agricultural sector in the northeast due to large-scale population displacements that led to a sharp drop in plantings in the affected areas, notably in Borno State.

### Coarse grain prices stable or declining and generally at relatively low levels, except in Nigeria

Coarse grain prices generally declined in recent months and were around or below their levels a year earlier reflecting increased market supplies from the recently-harvested 2016 harvests. In the Sahel belt, in **Mali**, prices of millet declined in January, while those of sorghum remained virtually unchanged. Prices were around their levels of a year earlier. Similarly, in **Burkina Faso**, prices of locally-produced millet and sorghum declined or remained relatively stable and were close to their year-earlier values as a result of the good 2016 harvests. In **Niger**, millet prices remained virtually unchanged, while those of sorghum decreased on account of the recent harvest and imports. Prices, however, were higher than in January last year, after the sharp increases in mid-2016 when seasonal trends were exacerbated by concerns about crop performance in some areas due to unfavourable weather. In **Chad**, prices of millet and sorghum declined significantly in December and were below their year-earlier values as a result of the above-average 2016 harvest. Similarly, in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of maize, the most consumed cereal, decreased substantially in late 2016. In **Togo**, despite some increase in December, maize prices were well below their year-earlier levels, after the significant declines between

September and November on account of harvest pressure. The main exception is **Nigeria**, the largest producing country of the subregion, where coarse grain prices followed mixed trends in December. Prices of sorghum generally declined as a result of the recent above-average 2016 harvest, while those of maize strengthened in several markets as the downward pressure from the good harvest was offset by

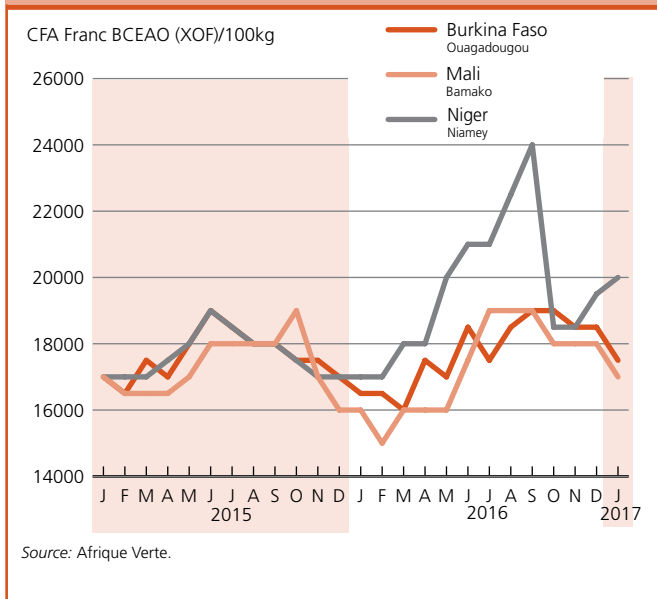
**Table 7. West Africa cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals <sup>1</sup>			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Burkina Faso	4.1	3.9	4.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	4.5	4.2	4.7	12.3
Chad	2.4	2.2	2.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.7	2.5	2.8	14.7
Ghana	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9
Mali	4.8	5.7	6.1	2.2	2.3	2.8	7.0	8.1	9.0	11.1
Niger	4.8	5.2	5.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.9	5.4	5.9	9.2
Nigeria	18.8	16.8	17.6	4.9	4.8	5.0	23.7	21.6	22.6	4.8

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

**Figure 1. Millet prices in selected West African markets**



the continuing steep depreciation of the local currency and civil insecurity, which kept prices well above their year-earlier levels.

### Deepening food crisis in northern Nigeria

In spite of two consecutive years of above-average cereal harvests, the humanitarian situation remains critical in northern **Nigeria**, mainly due to the continuing civil conflict which has resulted in large population displacements, both internally and in the neighbouring countries of **Cameroon**, **Chad** and the **Niger**. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), about 2.6 million people have been internally displaced in the Lake Chad Basin region, including 1.8 million in **northern Nigeria**. The conflict has also caused widespread disruption to agricultural and marketing activities. Results of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis held in November 2016 in 16 states of northern Nigeria indicate that about 8.1 million people (9 percent of the population studied) were facing acute food insecurity and required urgent life-saving response and livelihood protection. Disaggregated, about 6.2 million people were in CH Phase 3: "Crisis", 1.8 million in CH Phase 4: "Emergency" and 55 000 in CH Phase 5: "Famine" (i.e. IPC Catastrophe). A further 18.6 million people (22 percent) were in CH Phase 2: Stress, requiring resilience-building interventions. Projections indicate that the situation is likely to deteriorate during the next lean period (June-August 2017): 8.7 million people are expected to be in "Crisis", 2 million in "Emergency" and 121 000 in "Famine" conditions, bringing the total number of severely food-insecure people to 11 million in case of lack of adequate and timely response. **Chad** has also

seen increased numbers of refugees and returnees due to the civil conflict in the Sudan, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Libya. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food security situation. Overall, about 456 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3 and above in the country. In **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**, in spite of the lingering negative impact of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on economic activities and livelihoods, continue to affect households' food security. As a result of the shocks mentioned above, the aggregate subregional number of people in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above is estimated to be over 10 million, including 8.1 million in Nigeria according to the latest "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### Main 2017 cropping season is about to start; uncertain prospects in the Central African Republic due to persistent civil insecurity

Planting of the 2017 main season maize crops, due for harvest from July, will begin in March. In **the Central African Republic**, agricultural activities continue to be hampered by the widespread conflict which resulted in massive population displacements, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate. Although the security situation has improved in some areas and FAO will continue to assist crisis-affected households through input distributions and resilience strengthening programmes, prospects remain uncertain for the 2017 crops. In southern uni-modal rainfall areas of **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, where the rainfall pattern is similar to *Southern Africa*, the maize crop, for harvest from March 2017, benefited from favourable weather conditions this season, except in the southernmost Haut Katanga Province, where planting operations have been delayed by early season dryness.

### Below-average 2016 cereal harvest, amid continued conflict in some countries

In **the Central African Republic**, harvesting of the 2016 main season cereal crops was completed in October. According to the preliminary findings of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted in January 2017, the 2016 aggregate production of food crops increased by 16 percent from the sharply-reduced 2015 output, mainly due to an increase in cassava production (+26 percent), but still remained 17 percent below the pre-crisis five-year average (2008-2012). The cereal output increased by a 9 percent from 2015, but is 30 percent lower than the pre-crisis average. Despite some improvements in the security situation, the ongoing socio-political crisis continued



to constrain agricultural and marketing activities. FAO and NGO partners helped to mitigate the impact of the crisis by providing crop production support to 123 600 vulnerable households (618 000 individuals) across the country, distributing 3 311 tonnes of cereal, groundnut and sesame seeds and 320 400 tools. In addition, about 850 000 heads of livestock have been vaccinated and treated. In **Cameroon**, with harvesting of the second season crops completed in January in the Centre and South, total cereal production for 2016 is estimated to be lower than the previous year and the five-year average. This decline mainly reflects erratic rains that adversely affected the 2016 main season's crop. In addition, in Far North Region, civil insecurity continued to severely disrupt agricultural activities and caused a further reduction in the planted area. For instance, according to the findings of a multi-agency Crop Assessment Mission conducted last November in East, Adamaoua, North and Far North regions, the 2016 cereal production in the Far North Region was 25 percent lower than the already reduced 2015 output. In **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, harvesting of the 2016 main maize crops was completed in November in the north, while in central parts it has been recently concluded. According to remote sensing analysis, average to above-average rainfall was received in northern and western cropping areas, while in central and eastern parts of the country the cumulative rainfall from July to December was about 20 percent below average. In addition, in eastern provinces (Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu) an increased incidence of crop pests, including cassava brown streak disease and banana bacterial wilt has been reported. In **the Congo** and **Gabon**, where the main season harvest normally starts in December, coastal cropping areas were affected by erratic and poor precipitation. Earlier in the year, the second season maize crop, harvested in June-July, was also affected by erratic rainfall resulting in below-average vegetation conditions in several cropping areas. In both countries, however, the bulk of the national cereal requirement is imported. Overall, the subregional production forecast for cereals in 2016 is put at 4.3 million tonnes, 8 percent less than the previous year and 12 percent below the average of the previous five years.

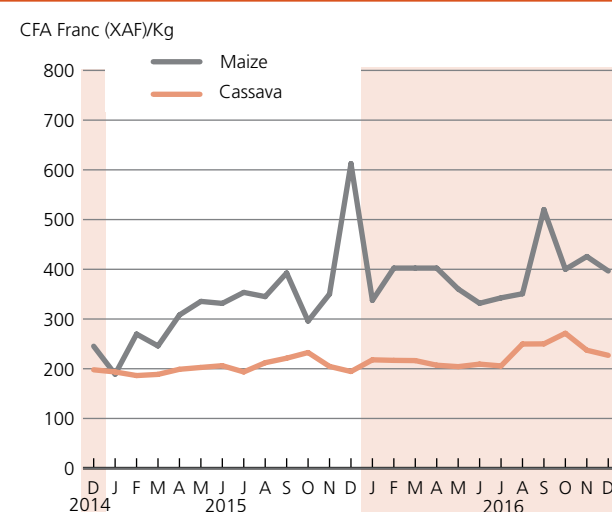
**Table 8. Central Africa cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals <sup>1</sup>			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>Central Africa</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>-8.3</b>
Cameroon	2.8	2.7	2.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.0	2.9	2.6	-10.2
Central African Republic	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	-6.1

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

**Figure 2. Retail prices in Bangui, Central African Republic**



Source: Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques des Etudes Economiques et Sociales.

### Food prices declining in the Central African Republic but still well above their pre-crisis levels

In **the Central African Republic**, the inflation rate declined to about 4 percent in 2015 and 2016 from the high levels of 2014 and was still slightly above the convergence rate of 3 percent set by the "Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale". In the capital, Bangui, prices of maize, the most consumed cereal, declined by 25 percent between October and December reflecting increased supplies from the main harvest. December prices were 35 percent below the levels of a year earlier but still 49 percent above their pre-crisis levels of December 2012. In Bangui, prices of cassava, the main staple, declined by 16 percent between September and December 2016 and were 17 percent higher than the very low levels in December 2015, when trade disruptions restricted the flow of cassava away from the producing regions surrounding

Bangui, but 14 percent below their pre-crisis levels. Prices of bovine meat in December were 19 percent lower than 12 months earlier due to a partial resumption of trade flows between the key livestock market in Kaga Bando and the slaughterhouse in Bangui. However, prices remained 53 percent higher than their pre-crisis levels. Similarly,

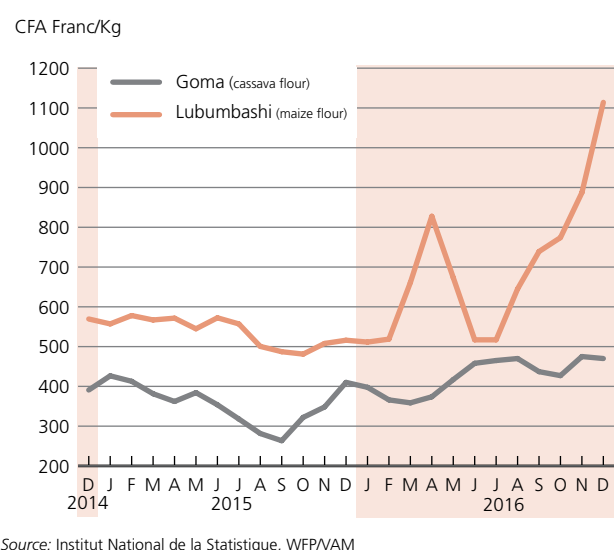


prices of various types of fish in December were about 20 percent lower than one year earlier, due to improvements in the security situation in some fishing areas near Bangui, but still about 70 percent higher than before the crisis. In northern regions of **Cameroon**, where widespread insecurity disrupted agricultural and marketing activities, cereal prices in November were reported to be 25-50 percent higher than 12 months earlier. In **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, prices of cassava flour (a main food staple in northern and eastern parts) increased by 10 percent between October and December 2016 in Goma market, northeastern North-Kivu Province, and were 15 percent up on an annual basis, partly due to the heightened demand from increasing numbers of Burundian refugees. In Lubumbashi market, located in the far south, prices of maize, the main staple in southern areas, more than doubled in the second semester of 2016, reaching record levels in December, as seasonal patterns were compounded by reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia and the devaluation of the local currency. In **Gabon**, prices of imported wheat and imported rice, the most important staples for urban consumers, increased by 13 and 6 percent, respectively, between November 2016 and January 2017 in the capital, Libreville. In January, prices of imported wheat were 26 percent higher than 12 months earlier, while prices of imported rice were around their year-earlier levels. In **the Congo**, prices of imported rice increased by 1 036 percent between September and December in most monitored markets partly due to the instability of disrupting trade flows in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### Conflict worsens food insecurity in the Central African Republic and parts of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Continued civil insecurity in **the Central African Republic** and in eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has resulted in massive population displacements hindering access to food for the affected population. As of December 2016, about 473 000 refugees from **the Central African Republic** have sought refuge in neighbouring **Cameroon** (276 000), **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (102 500), **Chad** (71 000) and **the Congo** (23 600), straining the already limited resources of the hosting communities. The Internally Displaced Person (IDP) caseload in **the Central African Republic**, which peaked at 434 000 in late November as renewed violence displaced about 150 000 people in central and southern Haute Kotto, Basse Kotto and Ouaka prefectures, decreased to 412 000 by mid-January as some displaced persons returned to the capital, Bangui, where the security situation is improving. Three consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, resulted in an alarming food security situation. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), in August 2016, about 2 million people (40 percent of the total population) were in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). Ten out of 16 prefectures are in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis", while Vakaga Prefecture, Kabo and Batangafo subprefectures (Ouham Prefecture), Ngaoundaye subprefecture (Ouham Pendè Prefecture) and Mbrès subprefecture (Nana-Gribizi Prefecture) were in IPC Phase 4: "Emergency". Similarly, in **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, civil conflict especially in the eastern provinces, has continued to severely damage local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of late December 2016, the IDP caseload was estimated at 2.2 million, 300 000 more than the previous estimate in September. The increase is mostly due to the surge in inter-communal violence in Tanganyika Province since mid-December 2016. About 40 percent of the displaced population is located in North Kivu and the rest mainly resides in South-Kivu, Maniema, Tanganyika and Haut Katanga provinces. The country also hosts 102 500 refugees from the Central African Republic, 66 700 from South Sudan and 36 300 from Burundi. According to the latest available IPC analysis, in June 2016, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") was estimated at about 5.9 million, about 10 percent less than a year earlier. However, armed clashes in late October-early November in the Dibaya territory (Kasaï Central Province), which caused the destruction of standing crops and food stocks and affected about 100 000 individuals, and the recent resurgence of conflict in Tanganyika Province are likely to have caused an increase in the food insecure

**Figure 3. Retail prices of cassava (flour) and maize (flour) in selected Democratic Republic of the Congo markets**



Source: Institut National de la Statistique, WFP/VAM

caseload. In **Cameroon**, as of early February 2017, the Far North Region hosted about 84 500 refugees fleeing civil unrest in Nigeria, which has spread into neighbouring countries and has also resulted in the displacement of 192 000 Cameroonians. The number of food insecure people in Cameroon is currently estimated at 2.8 million, including 300 000 severely food insecure individuals. The area most affected by food insecurity is the Far North Region, where one-third of the population is food insecure.

## EAST AFRICA

### Drought severely affects secondary season crops in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and northern United Republic of Tanzania

Harvesting of the 2016 secondary season crops is almost complete, except in Ethiopia where planting of the “*belg*” season crops is about to start. Cereal production in 2016 is estimated well below-average levels in several countries following the extremely poor performance of the October to December rainy season, especially over the eastern part of the subregion.

In southern and central **Somalia**, production of the “*deyr*” crops is estimated to be about 70 percent below average, as rains were particularly unfavourable over major cropping areas, severely affecting the extent of planted area and yields. In addition, following poor rains over eastern Ethiopian highlands, the levels of Juba and Shabelle rivers have been very low during the season, limiting opportunities for irrigated crops. Production of off-season crops, to be harvested by March, is also expected to be reduced due to lack of seasonal floods and their residual moisture normally used for recession cultivation. Also in southeastern and coastal areas of **Kenya**, “*short-rains*” maize production is estimated at very low levels, ranging from 50 to 80 percent of the previous five-year average. In these areas, seasonal rains were characterized by the late onset, below-average values and

erratic distribution, leading to reduced yields and plantings as a significant number of farmers decided to not plant at all or to opt for more drought-tolerant crops, such as cassava.

Below-average secondary season cereal production has been gathered in most central and southern areas of **Uganda**. Rainfall has been particularly poor and erratic in some districts around the Lake Victoria basin and in most parts of Acholi and Teso subregions in the north. Similarly, in northeastern and central areas of **the United Republic of Tanzania**, the “*vuli*” maize crops have been affected by dry weather conditions and production is expected to be about half of the five-year average, with very low yields recorded in high potential producing areas of Arusha and Shinyanga districts.

The 2016 aggregate cereal output for the subregion is estimated at 50.8 million tonnes, over 7 percent above last year’s drought-affected harvest and 10 percent higher than the five-year average. This positive result is mainly due to the above-average main season cereal output gathered at the end of last year in Ethiopia and the Sudan that more than compensated, at the aggregate level, for the production failures that occurred during the second season.

### Land preparation is underway for 2017 main season crops

Land preparation for the 2017 main season cereal crops has started in major growing areas of Central, Rift Valley and Western provinces in **Kenya** (“*long-rains*” season), in south and central **Somalia** (“*gu*” season), in bi-modal rainfall areas of **South Sudan** and southern **Uganda**. In **the United Republic of Tanzania**, planting of the 2017 main “*msimu*” crops has just been completed in southern and central areas, with some delay due to the late onset of rains. Prospects for “*msimu*” crops, to be harvested in May, are uncertain as rains have been mostly below-average so far. Land preparation for the 2017B season crops is underway in **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, while the harvest of the 2017A season crops recently concluded and production is

estimated to be 10-20 percent below average in both countries due to dry weather conditions.

According to the latest weather forecast by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF), the March-to-May rainy season is expected to be drier than usual in southern **Somalia**, south and southeastern **Ethiopia**, eastern and coastal **Kenya**, eastern **South Sudan**, northern **United Republic of Tanzania**

**Table 9. East Africa cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Total cereals <sup>1</sup>			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>East Africa</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Ethiopia	4.2	4.2	4.3	19.2	18.8	19.0	23.6	23.1	23.4	1.1
Kenya	0.3	0.4	0.4	3.9	4.0	3.4	4.3	4.5	4.0	-12.6
Sudan	0.5	0.5	0.5	7.4	2.9	7.4	7.9	3.4	7.9	128.9
Uganda	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.6	3.4	3.2	-7.3
United Republic of Tanzania	0.2	0.1	0.1	8.0	7.2	6.5	10.8	10.3	10.0	-2.6

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

and the Karamoja region in **Uganda**. Most of these areas have already suffered well below-average October-to-December rains in 2016. By contrast, there is high probability of above-average to average rains in central **United Republic of Tanzania**, **Rwanda**, **Burundi**, western **Kenya** and the "green belt" zone in western **South Sudan**.

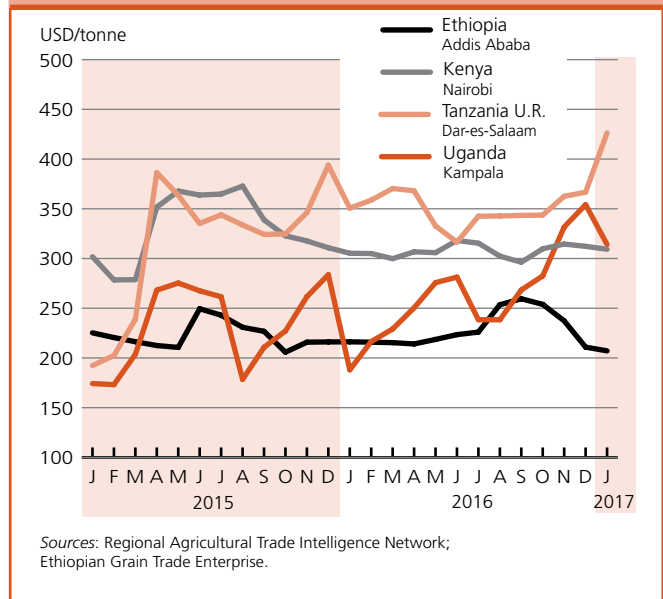
### Poor pasture conditions persist in large parts of Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and United Republic of Tanzania

An alarming situation is reported in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of northeastern, eastern and coastal **Kenya**, southern and central **Somalia**, southern parts of SNNPR, Oromia and Somali regions in **Ethiopia** and northern **United Republic of Tanzania**, where grazing resources have been severely affected by the poor October-to-December rainy season. As a result, trekking distances have generally increased, livestock body conditions range from fair to poor and milk production is generally below average. In these areas, pasture conditions and water availability are further deteriorating during the current dry season and improvements are not expected earlier than end-March or early April with the likely onset of the next rainy season.

### High and rising prices of cereals following drought-reduced harvests

Prices of cereals surged in recent months to near-record or record levels in most countries of the subregion, while prices of livestock declined to very low levels in drought-affected areas as animal body conditions dramatically deteriorated. In **Somalia**, prices of locally-produced maize and sorghum continued to soar in January on the back of the dismal performance of 2016/17 secondary "deyr" harvest. In Mogadishu and Marka, located in the key maize-producing region of Lower Shabelle, prices of maize and sorghum increased by 20-35 percent. Overall, prices of coarse grains in January in key markets of central and southern Somalia were up to twice their levels of 12 months earlier. At the same time, livestock prices sharply declined in recent months to very low levels. For instance in Middle Juba, prices of goats decreased by about 50 percent between October 2016 and January 2017. In **the United Republic of Tanzania** and **Uganda**, prices of maize increased by about 40 percent between September/October and January, when they were at near record to record levels, underpinned by unfavourable prospects for the recently-concluded harvests. In **Kenya**, reflecting the impact of the reduced "short-rains" harvest, prices of maize in January were 20-30 percent higher than 12 months earlier. In drought-affected coastal counties, sharper year-on-year increases were recorded and prices of maize were up to 40 percent higher on a yearly basis as of January 2017. In

Figure 4. Maize prices in selected East African markets



eastern and northern pastoral areas, where drought conditions prevailed, prices of livestock declined significantly in recent months and in January 2017 were up to 30 percent below their year-earlier levels.

In **the Sudan**, prices of locally-produced sorghum declined by about 20 percent between August and December with the commercialization of the 2016 above-average harvest and started to seasonally increase in January. Prices of millet, mainly grown and consumed in western regions also declined. Prices of wheat, mostly imported and consumed in urban areas, surged by 23 percent between November and January in Khartoum reaching record levels as austerity policy measures, introduced in November, caused the depreciation of local currency and increased of transport costs following the reduction of fuel subsidies. In **Ethiopia**, maize prices declined by about 20 percent between September and January as the 2016 "meher" main season harvest increased supplies. In drought-affected Somali Region, by contrast, prices of cereals are reported to be about twice their average levels. Here, prices of goats and sheep in December were about one-third of their average values. In **South Sudan**, prices of maize and sorghum declined in January in Juba partly as a result of the harvesting of 2016 second season crops in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, while in markets located in central and northern uni-modal rainfall areas prices of sorghum continued to increase. However, in January, cereal prices in nominal terms were between two and four times above their year-earlier levels, due to insecurity, a tight supply situation and a significant depreciation of the local currency.

## Famine declared in parts of South Sudan, alarming food insecurity persists in Somalia

In **South Sudan**, food insecurity has escalated during the last three years due to conflict, violence, macro-economic collapse and exhaustion of households' coping mechanisms. According to the latest IPC analysis, localized famine conditions are reported in Unity State, with a caseload of about 100 000 people in IPC category 5 ("Catastrophe") in Leer and Mayendit counties. There is an elevated risk that famine is also occurring in Koch County, but it cannot be confirmed due to limited available evidence, while in Panyijiar County famine has been avoided so far only thanks to adequate humanitarian assistance. Between February and April, about 4.9 million people, over 40 percent of the total population, are estimated to be severely food insecure and this figure is projected to reach 5.5 million people at the peak of the lean season in July. Although most food insecure people are concentrated in Greater Upper Nile region, food security has drastically deteriorated in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Equatoria Region.

The situation is extremely worrisome also in **Somalia**, where nearly 3 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure. This represents a more than twofold increase compared to six months ago. Three consecutive poor rainfall seasons have severely affected livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral households. Food stocks from the well below-average "deyr" harvest have already been depleted and livestock body conditions are generally poor, with low milk productivity and birth rates. Widespread livestock deaths are reported throughout the country. Food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate until June/July, when first green "gu" crops will be available for consumption.

In the rest of the subregion, the number of food insecure people has declined in **Ethiopia** and **the Sudan**, following favourable main season crops harvested at the end of last year. However, in drought-affected areas of southern and southeastern **Ethiopia**, purchasing power and access to food of pastoralist households are severely constrained. Here, milk availability is poor and terms of trade for pastoralists are at low levels as declining livestock prices, due to poor animal body conditions and low demand, are combined with higher-than-normal staple food prices. The situation is likely to deteriorate further until May/June when the next rainy season is expected to start. Food insecurity levels have recently significantly worsened also in parts of **Uganda**, northern **United Republic of Tanzania** and pastoral and coastal areas of **Kenya** due to the effects on crops and livestock of below-average second rainy season. The estimated total caseload of severely food insecure people in these three countries has escalated from 1.7 million people at the end of 2016 to 5.5 million people.

The aggregate number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at record high of 23.6 million people, about 2.5 million higher than one year ago when the

subregion was affected by the El Niño phenomenon. It includes 5.6 million in **Ethiopia**, 4.9 million in **South Sudan**, 3 million in **the Sudan**, 2.9 million in **Somalia**, 2.7 million in **Kenya**, 1.6 million in **Uganda**, 1.5 million in **Burundi**, 1.2 million in **the United Republic of Tanzania** and 200 000 in **Djibouti**. As a consequence of conflicts and economic crises, the number of refugees and IDPs in the subregion has almost reached 10 million people which, together with host communities, show the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Cereal production forecast to recover in 2017, but pest infestations and localized floods will restrain output in some areas

Cereal production in 2017 is forecast to recover from the sharply-reduced output of the previous year, mainly on account of overall beneficial seasonal rains that are expected to raise yields. An anticipated increase in the area harvested, particularly in **South Africa**, will also help to spur aggregate cereal production this year. Despite the favourable prospects, pests and flood damages are likely to restrain outputs in some areas.

An outbreak of African army worms and fall army worms, a new invasive species in the subregion, was detected in **Zambia** in December and has since reportedly spread to **Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa** and **Zimbabwe**. Affected cropped areas are likely to experience reduced yields and in some cases total crop losses. Governments have responded with spraying operations, with FAO supporting the control activities. In addition, heavy rains and localized flooding in January and February also pose a key risk to this year's harvest, while it has also lessened the effectiveness of army worm control operations in some areas, washing away pesticides. Localized flood-related crop losses have already been reported in **Mozambique** and **Zimbabwe**, while the excessive rains and water-logging could restrain yields in other areas. Monthly rainfall volumes for January were well-above the average and in some regions of **Mozambique, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe** were nearly twice the normal levels. Localized floods mainly occurred in riverine areas, notably in downstream parts of the Zambezi and Limpopo river basins in **Mozambique**, which also suffered further agricultural damage from Cyclone Dineo in mid-February. With above-average rains forecast to continue until the end of the season in April/May, the risk of further flooding remains high. On the positive side, the heavy rains have also helped to replenish water reserves, including dams that were at critically low levels, and revitalize pastures that were severely affected by the drought conditions in 2016.

**Table 10. Southern Africa cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>-10.2</b>
<b>- excl. South Africa</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>-5.8</b>
Madagascar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.1	2.0
Malawi	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	2.9	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.2	3.0	2.5	-15.8
Mozambique	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.1	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	2.0	2.5	2.4	-3.6
South Africa	1.8	1.4	1.9	15.6	11.1	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.3	12.6	10.6	-15.7
Zambia	0.2	0.2	0.3	3.4	2.7	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	2.9	3.2	10.0
Zimbabwe	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.9	0.6	-26.9

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

At the country level, maize production in **South Africa** is forecast to rebound by more than 50 percent, which could result in an output of 13 million tonnes or higher. The expected increase would mostly rest on an expansion in plantings, mostly stimulated by higher prices, while the good seasonal rains are forecast to boost yields. Elsewhere in the subregion, the recovery in crop yields are expected to be the main driver of increased production in 2017, as constrained seed supplies, particularly from households' own production following two years of below-average outputs, will restrain significant increases in plantings. Initial reports from **Zimbabwe**, which suffered a sharply reduced harvest in 2016, point to a near-average area planted of 1.2 million hectares for maize, up on a yearly basis, and with yields expected to rebound production could reach close to 1 million tonnes in 2017. **Malawi** and **Zambia** are also anticipated to harvest larger maize crops and prevailing vegetation conditions, despite poor rains at the start of the season in some of the main producing areas, confirm generally favourable production prospects. However the army worm infestation in the three aforementioned countries, may limit year-on-year gains. Crop conditions in **Botswana**, **Lesotho** and **Swaziland** appear favourable and year-on-year production gains are projected. Vegetation conditions in **Angola** and **Namibia** are much improved compared to the previous year, and while below-average rains were recorded in northern parts of Angola and western areas of Namibia resulting in abnormal seasonal dryness, production is expected to be higher than the previous year in both countries. In **Madagascar**, cumulative rainfall levels between October and January were close to average in the southern regions helping to somewhat reverse the impact of drought conditions in 2016. By contrast, eastern and some northern areas, including parts of the main rice-producing regions, received well below-normal rains retarding vegetation growth compared to average conditions. Given the current conditions, rice production is forecast to remain close to 2016's below-average level. **Mozambique** has experienced varied conditions, with abundant rains in southern parts, while

suppressed seasonal rains were observed in the main cereal-producing northern provinces causing below-average vegetation growth in cropped zones. As a result, prospects are uncertain and the 2017 maize harvest is expected to remain close to the previous year's slightly above-average output.

### Tight supply situation to ease in 2017/18

Aggregate maize import requirements for the forthcoming 2017/18 marketing year (generally May/April) are expected to contract from the increased needs of the current marketing season, reflecting the improved production prospects in 2017. However, with domestic supplies still expected to be tight, following two consecutive poor agricultural outputs in 2015 and 2016, import levels are forecast to remain higher than average as countries seek to replenish depleted stocks.

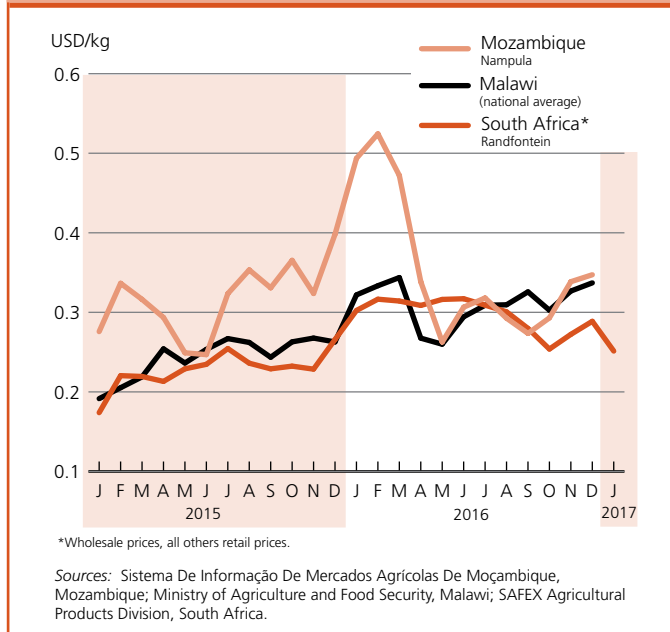
In the current 2016/17 marketing year, subregional maize imports are forecast at well-above the average levels. Most of this higher volume is accounted for by increased needs in **South Africa** and **Zimbabwe**. About 2 million tonnes of maize was imported by South Africa as of early February 2017, and total imports are forecast to reach 2.5 million tonnes, about 25 percent up on the previous year. Despite being a net importer, **South Africa** still remains the main exporter of maize in the subregion, and is forecast to export 0.85 million tonnes, of which about 0.65 million tonnes have already been exported; Botswana, Swaziland and Zimbabwe were the main recipients. South Africa is also a conduit for other countries to import maize, with about 160 000 tonnes imported via the country, mostly destined for Zimbabwe.

### Prices remained high and firm, but declined in South Africa

Tight supplies and currency weakness have contributed to sustaining maize prices at levels well above those of a year earlier. **South Africa**, however, is an exception, with white maize prices generally falling since mid-2016 and in January 2017 were about



Figure 5. White maize prices in selected Southern African markets



30 percent below their near-record highs of February 2016. The decreasing trend is reflective of a favourable supply outlook for the 2017 crop, the appreciation of the local currency against the US dollar and previously declining international prices. Prices of maize meal in **Lesotho**, **Namibia** and **Swaziland** have remained relatively stable in recent months and were still above their levels of the previous year. The overall declining price trend in **South Africa**, their key source of cereal supplies, contributed to offset the upward pressure from still tight domestic supplies after the 2016 drought-reduced outputs. Tighter supplies and the rapid depreciation of the currency in **Mozambique** caused persistent maize price increases throughout the country, notably

in southern markets where prices were more than double their year-earlier levels in January. In **Zimbabwe**, the positive impact of the US dollar's strength (the main currency used in the country) on food import costs has weakened in recent months due to an appreciation of the South African rand. However, the decline in maize prices in **South Africa**, which has supplied 150 000 tonnes of maize since May last year, has contributed to maintaining stable prices. In **Malawi**, maize grain prices increased in recent months and were 60 percent above their year-earlier levels as of December 2016, mostly reflecting the drought-reduced domestic harvest in 2016 coupled with a weak currency.

### Food insecurity peaks, but conditions expected to improve with the 2017 harvest

Food insecurity is expected to have peaked in the first quarter of 2017, with approximately 18.6 million people requiring assistance, up from 10.8 million in the previous year, according to the 2016 Vulnerability Assessment Committees' (VACs) evaluations. The sharp increase is mainly reflective of the impact of the drought-reduced agricultural output and higher food prices. The food insecurity situation was further exacerbated by an economic downturn in some countries that weakened households' capacity to effectively respond to shocks. **Malawi** and **Zimbabwe** were estimated to have the highest numbers of food insecure persons, put at 6.7 million, recently revised upwards, and 4.1 million people, respectively. Governments and the humanitarian community are providing food assistance to the affected population, in addition to supporting the agricultural productive capacities of farming households in the current cropping season, which were eroded due to consecutive seasons of reduced harvests. Conditions are expected to improve in the next months as the newly-harvested 2017 crops will help to replenish households food supplies.

<sup>3</sup> This figure excludes South Africa.



## FAR EAST

## Favourable prospects for 2017 wheat crop production

The subregion's 2017, mostly irrigated, winter wheat crop is at the late maturing stage in most countries, with harvest operations to start from April. Ample irrigation water supplies and overall favourable weather conditions since the start of the season in October supported expansions in plantings and are benefitting crop development. In **India**, FAO forecasts the 2017 wheat production at 95.5 million tonnes, 2 percent above last year's normal level. A return to average yields, from last year's near-record level, is expected to partially offset a 7 percent expansion in plantings. In **China**, given a small increase in the area planted and assuming normal weather conditions from March, when most winter wheat crops will break dormancy, the 2017 wheat production is projected by FAO to increase marginally to 129 million tonnes. Similarly, in **Pakistan**, the 2017 wheat output is officially forecast to increase slightly and reach a record level of 26 million tonnes, reflecting some increase in plantings and good expectations about irrigation water availability, fertilizers and herbicides that are anticipated to increase yields.

## Aggregate cereal production in 2016 estimated at a record level, mainly reflecting a strong increase in India

Harvesting of the 2016 main season paddy and coarse grains crop was completed at the end of last year, while harvesting of

the 2016 secondary season is expected to start in March-April. FAO forecasts the subregion's 2016 aggregate cereal production at 1 255 million tonnes, representing a 16.3-million-tonne recovery (in absolute terms) from the weather-affected 2015 harvest and a record high. The bulk of the production upturn is expected to come from India, the subregion's second largest cereal producer, mainly reflecting increased yields following favourable monsoon rains. Including the ongoing secondary 2016/17 "rabi" season cereal crops, **India's** aggregate cereal productions is forecast at a record level of 299.5 million tonnes, a 17.7-million-tonne (including rice in paddy terms) or 6 percent increase compared with the 2015 reduced output.

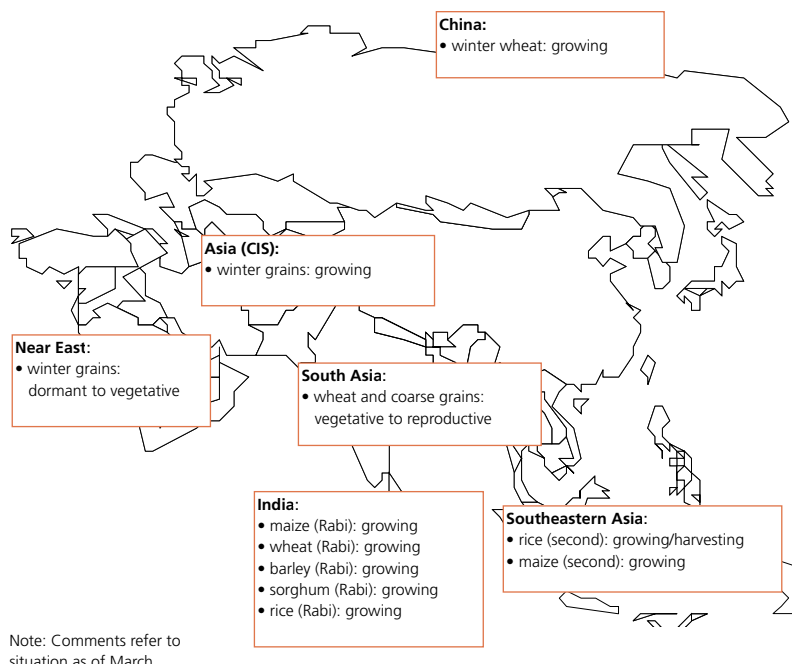


Table 11. Far East cereal production  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>Far East</b>	<b>252.9</b>	<b>246.4</b>	<b>251.2</b>	<b>323.0</b>	<b>327.3</b>	<b>330.8</b>	<b>668.6</b>	<b>664.7</b>	<b>672.7</b>	<b>1 244.6</b>	<b>1 238.4</b>	<b>1 254.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Bangladesh	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.6	2.8	2.9	51.8	52.5	52.6	55.7	56.6	56.9	0.4
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.7	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.9	9.7	10.2	4.8
China	126.2	130.2	128.6	225.2	234.2	230.3	208.2	209.8	208.5	559.7	574.2	567.5	-1.2
India	95.9	86.5	92.3	43.1	38.7	43.9	158.2	156.6	163.3	297.1	281.8	299.5	6.3
Japan	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	10.8	10.5	10.7	11.8	11.7	11.6	-0.7
Myanmar	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.8	1.9	28.2	27.5	28.0	30.1	29.4	30.1	2.2
Nepal	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	4.8	4.3	5.2	9.3	8.6	9.7	13.0
Pakistan	26.0	25.1	25.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	10.5	10.2	10.0	42.0	40.9	41.3	0.8
Philippines	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	7.0	8.1	18.9	17.5	18.5	26.6	24.4	26.6	8.8
Republic of Korea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.9	-2.2
Thailand	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	33.5	28.5	31.1	38.4	33.3	35.9	7.8
Viet Nam	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	5.3	5.2	45.0	45.2	43.6	50.2	50.5	48.8	-3.3

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

Similarly, favourable weather conditions boosted cereal production in **Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Thailand** and resulted in a recovery from 2015's reduced harvests in **Nepal, the Philippines, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar**. By contrast, reduced outputs are forecast in **Indonesia, Viet Nam, Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka**, mostly due to recurrent dry spells during the cropping season. In **China**, adverse weather conditions negatively impacted on the 2016 wheat and rice crops, whereas maize output have decreased as a result of lower plantings, following the Government's decision to end maize procurement in 2016. In **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Japan and Pakistan**, cereal production in 2016 is forecast to remain close to 2015's level.

Aggregate 2016 paddy output is forecast at 673 million tonnes, 1.2 percent above 2015's reduced level, mainly reflecting abundant monsoon rains and improved water availabilities for irrigation. **India** is expected to account for much of the subregion's projected growth, with paddy production in the country set to reach a record of 163.3 million tonnes, up 6.7 million tonnes from 2015's reduced output. The increase would be driven by an expansion in plantings, reflecting State incentives provided in the form of large public sector purchases at a higher Minimum Support Price (MSP), and favourable yields resulting from beneficial rains. Abundant monsoon rains and improved water availability are also expected to lead to large recoveries in paddy output in **Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand**. Although smaller in absolute terms, gains in paddy output are also expected in **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic**, as well as **the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar**, where the 2016 paddy outputs are seen to be recovering from the 2015 reduced levels. By contrast, dry weather conditions linked to the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon negatively affected the main season crops, which were harvested by the second quarter of the year, resulting in overall lower harvests in **Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam**. In **China** (Mainland), paddy production is officially reported at 206.9 million tonnes, slightly below the 2015 record, mostly on account of lower yields, following excessively wet conditions and storm-related damages. Paddy output is also estimated to have decreased in **Pakistan**, owing to a price-induced reduction in plantings, while in **Sri Lanka** unfavourable weather reduced the 2016 secondary crop, resulting in an 8 percent decrease in the overall output.

The subregion's 2016 maize output is forecast at 300 million tonnes, close to 2015's record level. Larger outputs in **India and the Philippines** are seen to more than offset a 5-million-tonne cut estimated for **China** maize production in 2016. Last year, the Government of China decided to end maize procurement at high minimum support prices and it prompted farmers to shift land from maize to more profitable crops, including soybeans, rice and peanuts.

With most official estimates now available, FAO has revised down the estimate for the subregion's 2016 wheat production to 251.2 million tonnes. The latest revision mainly takes into account the final official figure released by **India**, which indicates a smaller harvest than previously anticipated. At 92.3 million tonnes, the output is set to have recovered only partially from 2015's reduced level and remain 3.6 million tonnes below the record crop gathered in 2014.

### Cereal imports forecast to fall, while exports expected to expand slightly

Aggregate cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year are forecast at 125.7 million tonnes, 3 percent below the 2015/16 level, but 8 percent above the average of the past five years. The bulk of the decline is on account of falling purchases of barley, maize and sorghum by **China** (Mainland) due to expectations of a much larger use of domestic maize for feed in view of the Government's plan to cut its inventories. Consequently, imports of barley and sorghum, which are two of the main grains used for feed, are both forecast to fall in the 2016/17 marketing year by around 45 percent. Similarly, imports of maize are currently foreseen to decrease by almost 40 percent to 2 million tonnes. Subregional aggregate wheat imports in 2016/17 are set to increase sharply, underpinned by a growing demand for both food and feed. Wheat imports by **Indonesia**, the subregion's largest wheat importer, are projected at 9.6 million tonnes, with a 9 percent increase year-on-year.

**Table 12. Far East cereal production and anticipated trade in 2016/17<sup>1</sup>**  
(thousand tonnes)

	Avg 5-yrs (2011/12 to 2015/16)	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17 over 2015/16 (%)	2016/17 over 5-yr avg (%)
Coarse grains- Exports	4 613	2 643	3 055	15.6	-33.8
Coarse grains - Imports	59 859	69 008	60 529	-12.3	1.1
Coarse grains - Production	322 716	327 349	330 808	1.1	2.5
Rice-milled - Exports	35 013	33 354	34 955	4.8	-0.2
Rice-milled - Imports	13 726	12 485	13 466	7.9	-1.9
Rice-milled - Production	443 420	441 405	446 659	1.2	0.7
Wheat - Exports	5 435	2 697	2 835	5.1	-47.8
Wheat - Imports	42 429	45 454	51 513	13.3	21.4
Wheat - Production	247 679	246 372	251 176	1.9	1.4

<sup>1</sup> Marketing year July/June for most countries. Rice trade figures are for the second year shown.

Similarly, wheat imports are expected to increase in **Bangladesh, China (Mainland), India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia** and **the Philippines**. In case of rice, imports in 2017 calendar year are forecast to increase by 8 percent to 13.5 million tonnes, mostly reflecting higher anticipated deliveries to **China (Mainland), the Philippines** and **Sri Lanka**.

Exports of cereals in the subregion consist mostly of rice and, to a lesser extent, wheat. Aggregate rice exports in calendar year 2017 are forecast at 35 million tonnes, implying only a partial recovery from last year's reduced level, given expectations of relatively subdued global import demand. Wheat exports are also projected to increase by 5 percent to 2.8 million tonnes, but remain well below the five-year average reflecting lower exports by **India**.

### Rice prices followed mixed trends, while prices of wheat are stable

Domestic rice prices, in local currencies, have followed mixed trends across the subregion in recent months. In **Thailand**, after four consecutive months of declines, rice prices edged up in January, as main crop harvests drew to a close and demand from *African* and *Asian* countries revived. Similarly, in **India**, rice prices strengthened in January on account of renewed demand coupled with large ongoing Government procurement programmes. Domestic rice prices also increased in **Cambodia**, due to reduced harvest pressure. In **Viet Nam**, rice prices remained virtually unchanged as seasonal upward pressure ahead of the 2017 winter/spring crop harvest was offset by a slow pace of exports. By contrast, rice prices in **Myanmar** continued to decline in January and were down from a year earlier, reflecting improved supplies from the

2016 main season harvest and weak import demand from the country's main buyer, China. Among the importing countries, including **China, the Philippines** and **Indonesia**, rice prices were overall stable in recent months and close to their year-earlier levels, reflecting good domestic availabilities from the 2016 harvests and imports. Also in **Bangladesh**, adequate supplies from the 2016 recently-harvested "*aman*" paddy crop, accounting for 40 percent of the annual output, kept rice prices stable. However, quotations remained above their year-earlier levels after the steep increases recorded in the second half of last year due to lower imports and a reduced 2016 main "*boro*" output. By contrast, in **Sri Lanka** rice prices increased steeply for the fourth consecutive month and reached record levels in January reflecting the reduced outputs of the 2016 secondary "*yala*" output, gathered in September, and the 2017 main "*maha*" crop, currently harvested. Prices of wheat and wheat flour were generally stable in recent months, but increased in **China**, reflecting damage caused by rains to wheat crops at harvest, which downgraded crop quality, mainly across East China's wheat-growing provinces. In **India**, wheat prices stabilized in January, after previously rising, on account of increased imports after the removal of import duties in December and ongoing releases of wheat reserves through the Open Market Scheme. Similarly, wheat flour quotations remained stable in **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka** and **Indonesia**, mirroring sustained imports, as these countries mostly rely on imports to meet their consumption requirements. In **Pakistan**, prices of wheat grain and wheat flour remained stable and generally low, reflecting ample supplies from the 2016 bumper harvest and generally favourable prospects for the 2017 crop.

Figure 6. Rice retail prices in selected Far East countries

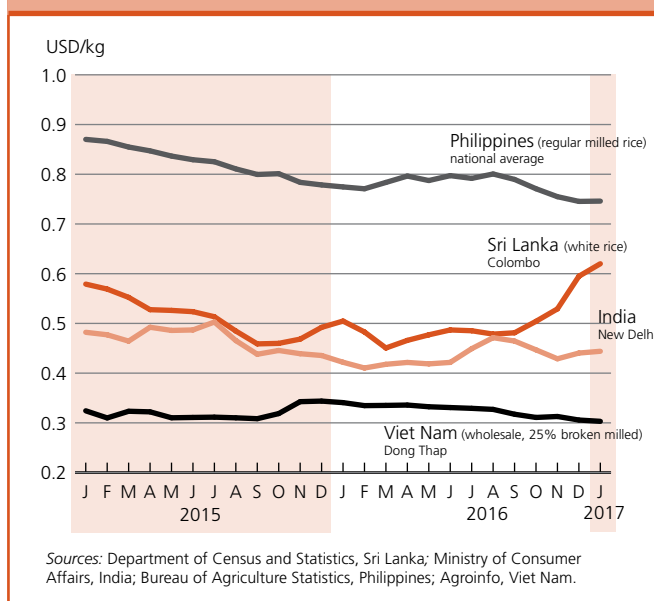
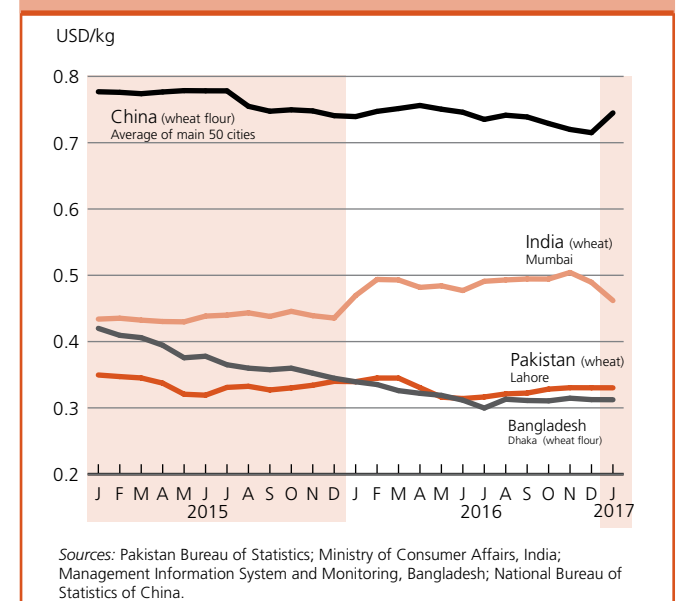


Figure 7. Wheat and wheat flour retail prices in selected Far East countries



## NEAR EAST

### Favourable outlook for the 2017 winter crops in major producing countries

Wheat and barley crops, for harvest from June, remain in their final stages of dormancy. After prevailing dry weather conditions in October and November, abundant precipitation resumed in December. As of mid-February, moisture supplies remained generally favourable across the subregion for crop development although slightly above average temperatures were melting the protective snow cover in central **Turkey** and northwestern **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**. If normal weather conditions prevail for the remainder of the season, preliminary forecasts of wheat production in **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** and **Turkey**, the main producing countries of the subregion, are estimated at slightly above average levels of 12 and 21 million tonnes, respectively. This result is expected, despite the early season dryness in Turkey where wheat sown in the autumn became dormant by late November following a cold spell and which will rely on sufficient winter precipitation for spring emergence and establishment. The ongoing conflict and lack of inputs are continuously hampering agricultural activities in **the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Iraq**.

### Above-average 2016 winter cereal crop harvested, despite ongoing conflict in parts, resulting in a lower import requirement

The aggregate subregional 2016 cereal output (including paddy rice) is put at 69.6 million tonnes, a decrease of about 4 percent from last year's exceptional production, but 3 percent above the five-year average. In **Turkey**, the main producer in the subregion, official estimates indicate a 9 percent decrease in cereal production in 2016 compared to last year, with about 35.3 million tonnes, including 20.6 million tonnes of wheat (10 percent below the output in 2015) and 13.8 million tonnes of coarse grains (11 percent down from the 2015 harvest). In **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**, the second biggest wheat producer in the subregion,

the 2016 production exceeds the 2015 harvest by 2 million tonnes and was 38 percent above the five-year average. In **Afghanistan**, despite higher-than-usual winter temperatures that diminished water moisture, an average 4.6 million tonnes of wheat were harvested. As a result of the above-average harvest, the cereal import requirement was 2.5 percent below the five-year average.

### Yemen at risk of famine; civil unrest affects food security of large numbers of people across the subregion

Food security situation remains extremely worrisome in **Yemen**, where the latest multi-agency Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA), using data collected in November 2016, estimated that over 17 million people are food insecure, with an increase of 3 million from the last available Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), from June 2016. About 65 percent of Yemeni households are estimated to be food insecure, compared to 41 percent in the pre-crisis period (2014). Out of 17 million food insecure, about 7.3 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency food assistance. The risk of famine declaration in the country is very high.

In **Iraq**, as of November 2016, about 3 million people are internally displaced. The changing conflict dynamics are mirrored into a volatile food security situation across the country with 2.4 million people estimated to be food insecure, of which 1.5 million are severely food insecure. In **the Syrian Arab Republic**, as of November 2016, about 7 million Syrians were estimated to be food insecure and a further 2 million are at risk of food insecurity. In **Afghanistan**, almost 1.6 million people are considered to be severely food insecure and 9.7 million people moderately food insecure. Over 630 000 individuals were displaced by the conflict in 2016 and a large share of the displaced are located in the hard-to-access areas. Both documented and undocumented Afghans have been returning for a variety of reasons, including from the deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. Since 1 January 2016, over 728 000 undocumented Afghans have returned to the country.

**Table 13. Near East cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>Near East</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>-3.4</b>
Afghanistan	5.4	4.7	4.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	6.9	6.0	5.9	-2.1
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10.6	11.5	13.5	3.7	3.9	3.9	2.3	2.7	2.9	16.7	18.1	20.3	12.1
Iraq	3.5	3.2	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	5.1	4.4	4.3	-1.8
Syrian Arab Republic	1.9	2.4	1.5	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.6	2.6	-27.9
Turkey	19.0	22.6	20.6	12.9	15.1	13.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	32.8	38.6	35.3	-8.7

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

Across the countries in conflict, food insecurity remains higher in conflict and displacement-affected parts. Households and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the affected areas, and returnees in the liberated areas, remain the most vulnerable and food insecure.

## CIS IN ASIA<sup>2</sup>

### Winter wheat plantings close to last year's level

Planting of winter cereals, to be harvested between June and September 2017, was completed in November under generally favourable weather conditions and the area sown is estimated to be unchanged from last year's level. Overall prospects are good, however, in **Kazakhstan**, temperature swings in February are expected to have negatively affected the winter wheat quality in some areas of the country. The total area planted in the subregion is estimated to be close to last year. Planting of 2017 spring wheat and barley crops, which represent the majority of the annual production, will be sown later this year in May.

### Record cereal output in 2016, reflecting higher yields

FAO's latest estimate puts the 2016 total cereal production at a record level of 36.5 million tonnes, 5 percent above the 2015 good level. Wheat, which represents more than 60 percent of the total cereal output, is forecast at 27.4 million tonnes in 2016, 1.2 million tonnes above previous year's level. The increase is mainly due to improved yields following overall favourable weather conditions. Moreover, better yields compensated a contraction in plantings in some countries, which occurred following a shift to more profitable crops. Most of the increase in wheat production originates from **Kazakhstan**, where the total wheat output is estimated at 14.9 million tonnes, around 8 percent higher than in the previous year. However, the share of milling quality wheat is reported to be lower than last year, following heavy precipitations during spring. In **Turkmenistan**, wheat production increased sharply in 2016, where increased yields, reflecting beneficial weather, drove production upwards.

Similarly, in **Armenia**, **Georgia** and **Tajikistan**, wheat production is estimated to reach a new record in 2016, resulting from higher yields and a moderate increase in plantings. By contrast, wheat production is estimated to decline from the previous year's level in **Azerbaijan**. In **Kyrgyzstan**, the wheat output is down 7 percent from the 2015 level following a sharp reduction in plantings.

The 2016 coarse grains output is estimated to have increased by 5 percent on an annual basis, with most of the increase attributed to maize crop production.

### Total cereal exports in 2016/17 forecast to increase from last year's level

Total cereal exports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to rise by 10 percent on a yearly basis to 9.7 million tonnes, of which 8.8 million tonnes is wheat.

The increase is anticipated to come from higher wheat shipments from Kazakhstan, the main wheat exporter of the subregion, with exports forecast at 8 million tonnes, about 1 million tonnes above the previous year's volume. The expected increase is mainly driven by higher import demand for high-quality wheat and wheat flour produced in **Kazakhstan**.

The subregion's total cereal import requirement during 2016/17 is forecast slightly below last year's level, following good domestic outputs and large imports in the previous year that replenished stocks.

### Domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour stable, with the exception of some countries due to weaker currencies

Export prices of milling wheat in **Kazakhstan** have been relatively stable in recent months. However, at the end of February, prices

**Table 14. CIS in Asia cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Total cereals <sup>1</sup>			Change: 2016/2015 (%)
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	
<b>CIS in Asia</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Armenia	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.7
Azerbaijan	1.4	2.0	1.9	0.9	1.3	1.2	2.4	3.3	3.1	-4.6
Georgia	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	50.6
Kazakhstan	13.0	13.7	14.9	3.4	3.8	4.1	16.8	17.9	19.4	8.2
Kyrgyzstan	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.7	-5.5
Tajikistan	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.2	1.1	1.4	18.6
Turkmenistan	1.2	1.4	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.6	1.8	11.9
Uzbekistan	7.6	7.0	6.7	0.4	0.9	0.9	8.2	8.1	7.9	-2.7

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

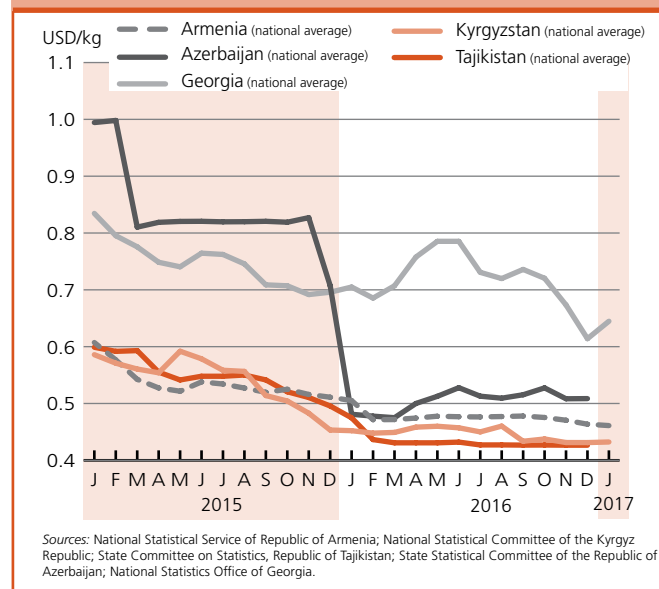
<sup>1</sup> Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

<sup>2</sup> Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained for the time being.

gained some support from reviving demand from key importers and increasing export prices in the Black Sea Region. Since then, prices were around 6 percent higher than a year earlier. In import dependent countries of the subregion, prices were generally stable but with some exceptions. In **Tajikistan**, domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour were generally unchanged over last month and down from a year earlier following the 2016 bumper crop and ample imports of wheat grain, which in 2016 were reportedly more than 15 percent higher than in the previous year. Similarly, in **Armenia**, adequate market supplies from the 2016 domestic harvest and imports contributed to keep retail prices of wheat flour virtually unchanged between November-January and down from a year earlier. In **Kyrgyzstan**, prices of wheat flour remained stable and were well below their values in January last year. The elimination of taxes on imported grain and flour in early 2016 together with some strengthening of the national currency during the year contributed to lower prices. In **Uzbekistan**, despite a strong depreciation of the local currency, wheat flour prices remained unchanged over the last three months since the Government regulated prices of main staple foods. By contrast, in **Georgia**, which is a highly import-dependent country, wheat flour prices rose significantly, mainly due to a weak national currency and the high import dependency of the country. In spite of a good domestic harvest

and imports in **Azerbaijan**, prices of wheat flour rose in January and were higher than a year earlier reflecting the continued depreciation of the local currency.

Figure 8. Retail wheat flour prices in selected CIS in Asia countries





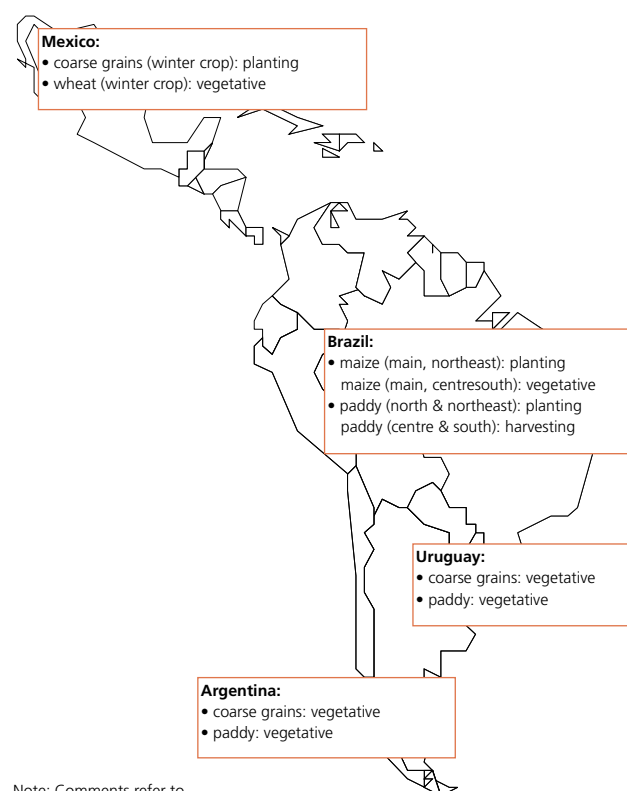
## CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Planting of the 2017 autumn/winter wheat crop anticipated to decline from a year earlier

In **Mexico**, virtually the only wheat producer in the subregion, planting of the 2017 autumn/winter crop concluded in January. Early official estimates point to a decline of 13 percent in the area sown compared to same season last year to about 0.5 million hectares. The decline mainly reflects good supplies from the bumper 2016 wheat output, which has been estimated at 3.9 million tonnes or almost 5 percent above its 2015 level.

### Maize production in 2016 estimated at a record level

The subregion's aggregate 2016 maize production has been estimated at 32.1 million tonnes (paddy equivalent), a record high. The bumper 2016 maize crop mainly reflects the good results in Mexico, the subregion's main producer accounting for 86 percent of the subregional maize output. In **Mexico**, the aggregate 2016 maize output has been estimated at a record of 27.6 million tonnes. Elsewhere in the subregion, the 2016 maize crop is estimated at 4.6 million tonnes, a bumper level and just below the record level obtained in 2013. The large output mainly reflects the dissipation of the El Niño phenomenon during the summer period of 2016 and good rainfall during the second season, which concluded in late December, resulting in good harvests in **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua**. In **Haiti**, 2016 cereal production has been estimated at an average level of 459 000 tonnes (paddy equivalent) significantly above the drought-reduced harvests of the past two seasons and at average levels. This estimate is significantly below the forecasts at the beginning of the season as a result of Hurricane



Note: Comments refer to situation as of March.

Matthew, which made landfall in the southwest of the country at the beginning of October and caused significant damage to the then-recently-planted cereal crops.

### White maize prices continued their decreasing trend in the December-February period

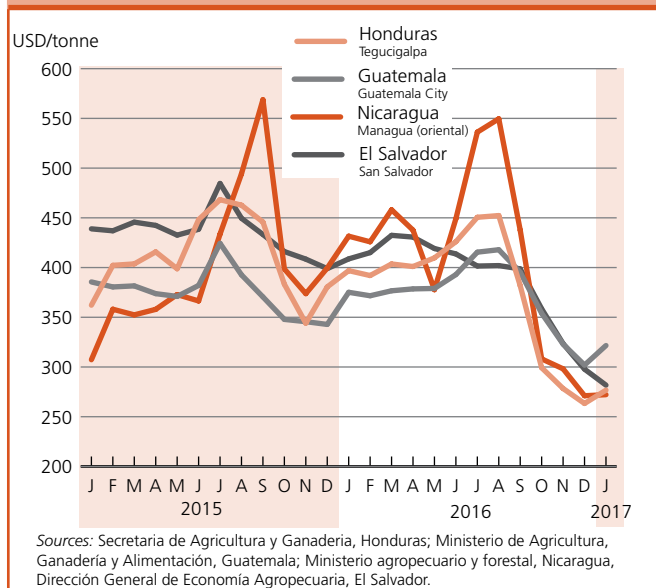
White maize prices continued their decreasing trend during the December-February period, particularly in **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua**. Prices are overall below their year-earlier levels, reflecting good market availabilities

Table 15. Latin America and Caribbean cereal production  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>Central America &amp; Caribbean</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>
El Salvador	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	16.7
Guatemala	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Honduras	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	39.4
Mexico	3.7	3.7	3.9	31.8	30.8	33.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	35.8	34.7	37.6	8.4
Nicaragua	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.9	22.0
<b>South America</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>137.9</b>	<b>148.2</b>	<b>128.0</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>187.0</b>	<b>194.9</b>	<b>178.4</b>	<b>-8.5</b>
Argentina	13.9	11.3	16.5	40.0	42.4	46.9	1.6	1.6	1.4	55.5	55.3	64.8	17.2
Brazil	6.3	5.5	6.7	82.9	88.2	65.8	12.1	12.4	10.6	101.3	106.1	83.1	-21.7

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

Figure 9. Wholesale white maize prices in selected countries in Central America



following a recovery in maize production in 2016 after two years of drought-reduced harvests. In **Mexico**, however, white maize prices remained significantly above their year-earlier levels, despite the record 2016 output, as an increase in transport costs and the weak local currency have sustained prices. In **Haiti**, prices increased strongly in the December-February period, reflecting the lower-than-anticipated maize meal output, due to the effects of Hurricane Matthew. In most markets, prices remained below their levels from a year earlier, but were more than 40 percent above in Les Cayes in the southeast of the country, an area severely impacted by the hurricane which reported significant losses of maize output.

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Maize output for 2017 forecast to remain at high levels as a result of increased sowings in Argentina and Brazil

The sowing period of the 2017 maize crop concluded in mid-January in most of the subregion and preliminary estimates point to larger plantings, particularly in Argentina and Brazil which together account for 90 percent of the subregional maize output. In **Argentina**, despite heavy rains at the beginning of the sowing period, the area planted increased some 5 percent from last year's record level to 7.25 million hectares. The increase in plantings mainly reflects high domestic prices as a result of strong export demand as Argentinean maize has become more competitive due to the strong depreciation of the local currency. Assuming the

rest of the season continues to develop normally, production of the 2017 maize crop, to be harvested from March, is anticipated at above last year's record level. In **Brazil**, planting of the second season "*de safrinha*" 2017 maize crop is virtually concluded and preliminary official estimates point to an increase in aggregate (first and second season) sowings of 3.4 percent to 16.6 million hectares. As a result, the maize output for 2017 is anticipated to recover strongly from last year's drought-reduced level. By contrast, in **Bolivia**, prospects for the 2017 crop are uncertain. Planting of the 2017 summer crop concluded in December. Although official data on plantings are not yet available, mostly below-average precipitation levels during the planting period have likely reduced sowings, particularly in the department of Santa Cruz, which accounts for more than half of the national output. Compounding the effects of the dry weather in early February, a severe locust infestation affected parts of Santa Cruz Department, while other areas are also under threat from a further advance of the pest. In response, the Government has declared a state of emergency in the region and has begun to fumigate and provide farmers with access to pesticides. In **Chile** and **Ecuador**, planting of the 2017 maize crop concluded between December and January, respectively, no official estimates are yet available but good weather conditions and prevailing high prices are anticipated to support increased sowings.

### Cereal production in 2016 remained at a high level, despite drought-reduced outputs in several countries

FAO estimates the 2016 cereal output at about 171 million tonnes, below the record level of the previous year, mainly reflecting lower cereal output in Brazil, but still significantly above the subregional average. The contraction in cereal production in **Brazil**, due to prolonged drought conditions that affected crops throughout the year, was partly offset by the record output in **Argentina** for both wheat and maize as a result of record sowing levels spurred by high prices and strong export demand. Elsewhere in the subregion, drought conditions and pest infestations sharply reduced cereal outputs, particularly for maize, in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, **Ecuador** and **Venezuela**. In **Chile** and **Paraguay**, sharp reductions in plantings, reflecting low commodity prices and higher production costs, reduced 2016 cereal outputs. In **Colombia**, the 2016 cereal output increased moderately reflecting the good rice and maize harvests.

### Cereal exports in 2016/17 remained high, despite drought-reduced crops

The latest estimate for the subregion's aggregate cereal exports in the 2016/17 marketing year, the bulk of which is maize, points to an 18 percent contraction from last year's record level, with exports reaching 62 million tonnes. The downward revision mainly reflects

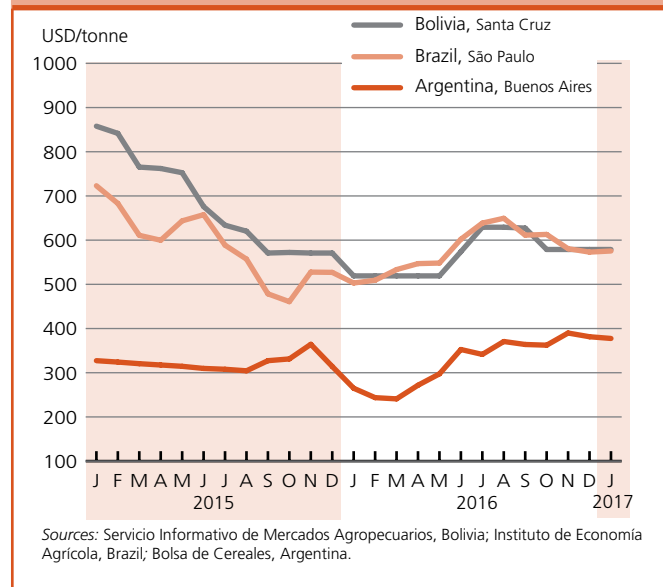
lower maize exports from **Brazil** during the 2016/17 marketing year (March/February), which are estimated at 48 percent below last year's level reflecting low domestic availabilities. By contrast, in **Argentina**, maize exports in the 2016/17 marketing year (March/February) are estimated at a record level of 24 million tonnes. This estimate is largely underpinned by the removal of export restrictions and ample availabilities from this year's record maize crop. Subregional wheat exports are anticipated to remain close to the previous year's level reflecting the record 2016 crop in Argentina, which accounts for about 80 percent of the subregion's exports.

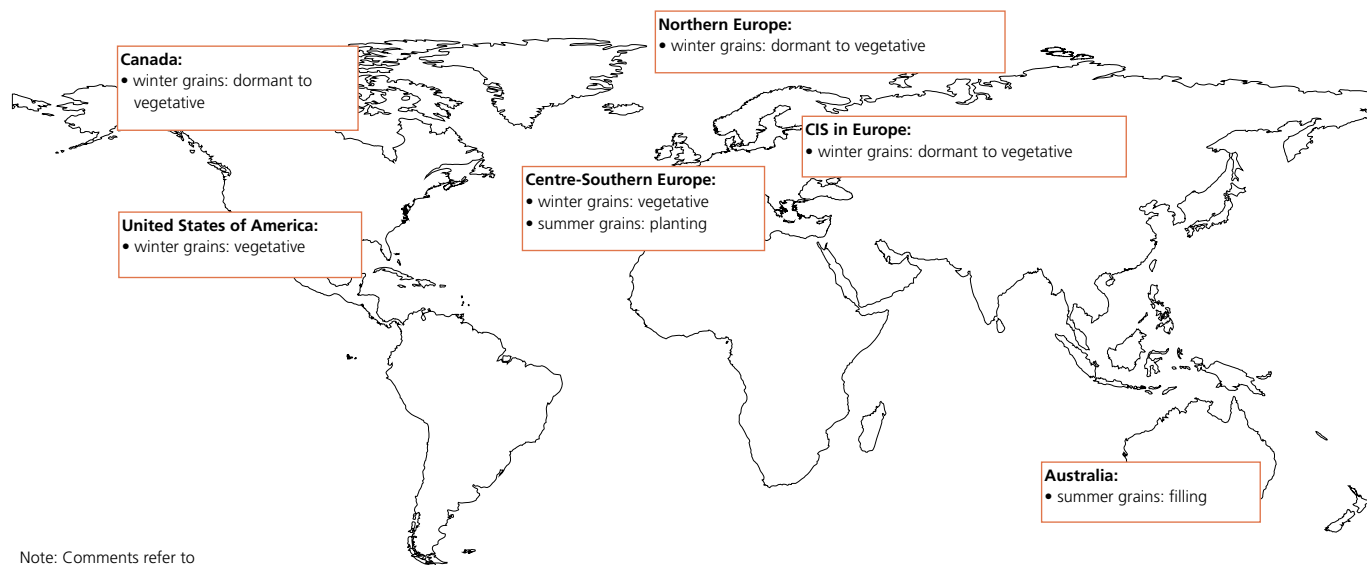
### Cereal prices mostly declined in the December-February period pressured by high import levels

In the December-February period, prices for wheat and wheat flour followed mixed trends in the subregion. In **Argentina**, the weak currency and high export demand has sustained an increasing price trend for both wheat and wheat flour. Price quotations for wheat and wheat flour were significantly above their levels for the same period a year earlier. By contrast, in **Brazil**, high import levels boosted domestic supplies and have resulted in relative price stability during the December-February period, with prices well below the same period a year earlier. In **Bolivia**, increased wheat flour imports maintained stable prices in most markets, but in main market, Santa Cruz, prices remained above their levels of a year earlier, reflecting the tight supply situation. By contrast, in the main importers, **Chile**, **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Peru**, wheat and wheat flour prices either declined or were unchanged during the December-February period and below their levels from the same period last year as imports continue to supply the local markets. Generally, maize prices have recently declined in the subregion, with the exceptions of

**Chile** and **Ecuador**, where reduced 2016 outputs continued to sustain prices at a high level. In **Argentina**, prices declined in the December-February period reflecting an appreciation of the local currency and a seasonal slowdown in export demand, as most countries in the subregion will begin to harvest maize in March. In **Brazil** and **Colombia**, maize imports pressured prices downward during the December-February period and maintained them below their levels from a year earlier. In **Bolivia**, while maize prices declined or remained unchanged in the main markets, prices remained significantly above their year-earlier levels pressured by the reduced 2016 maize crop and uncertainty about the 2017 crop.

Figure 10. Wholesale wheat flour prices in selected countries in South America





Note: Comments refer to situation as of March.

## NORTH AMERICA

### United States of America winter wheat plantings lowest in more than 100 hundred years

In the **United States of America**, latest official estimates put the area sown to winter wheat for the 2017 harvest at just some 13 million hectares, 10 percent down from the previous year and the lowest level in 108 years. Furthermore, although the condition of the crop is reported to have improved somewhat in January, it is nevertheless generally lower than in the previous year implying that winter abandonment could increase. For spring wheat, factors such

as the survival rate of winter crops, weather conditions at planting time and developments in price prospects relative to other crops will all influence the planted area. At this early stage, based on the area and current condition of the winter crop and assuming a normal spring crop season, the country's aggregate wheat output in 2017 is tentatively forecast at 50 million tonnes, 20 percent down from the previous year's above-average output. In **Canada**, conditions for the minor winter wheat crop are generally favourable. The main crop will be sown later this spring and plantings are expected to decline. With yields likely to decline also from the above-average levels of last year, 2017 output is tentatively forecast at about 29 million tonnes, which would be 10 percent down from 2016.

**Table 16. North America, Europe and Oceania cereal production**  
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	2014	2015	2016 estim.	Change: 2016/2015 (%)
<b>North America</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>399.6</b>	<b>393.1</b>	<b>428.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>494.3</b>	<b>485.5</b>	<b>533.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>
Canada	29.4	27.6	31.7	22.1	25.7	25.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.5	53.3	57.5	7.9
United States	55.1	56.1	62.9	377.6	367.3	402.9	10.1	8.8	10.2	442.8	432.2	475.9	10.1
<b>Europe</b>	<b>249.0</b>	<b>256.7</b>	<b>252.1</b>	<b>272.2</b>	<b>239.3</b>	<b>251.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>525.2</b>	<b>500.3</b>	<b>508.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Belarus	2.9	2.9	2.9	6.1	5.7	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	8.6	9.0	4.9
European Union	157.1	160.5	144.5	171.7	151.0	154.2	2.9	3.0	3.0	331.7	314.5	301.7	-4.1
Russian Federation	59.7	61.8	73.3	42.4	39.5	41.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	103.1	102.4	116.1	13.4
Serbia	2.3	2.4	2.4	7.7	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	8.3	8.3	0.5
Ukraine	24.1	26.5	26.0	39.7	33.4	39.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	63.8	60.0	65.4	9.0
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>40.8</b>
Australia	23.7	24.2	35.1	11.7	12.9	18.1	0.8	0.7	0.3	36.3	37.7	53.5	41.7

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

## EUROPE

**European Union**

In the **European Union**, the wheat area for the 2017 harvest may be up marginally from the previous year but no significant change is expected. However, yields are expected to recover somewhat from the relatively low levels of last year and, at this early stage, a 4 percent increase in the wheat output in 2017 to 150 million tonnes is tentatively forecast.

### CIS in Europe

#### Prospects for the 2017 winter cereal crops are mixed

The 2017 winter crops are at dormant stage over much of the subregion now. In **the Russian Federation**, dry weather conditions in August caused some planting delays of winter cereal crops for harvest in the summer 2017. However, by mid-October, delays have been overcome and the total area under winter cereals was reported to have reached 17.4 million hectares, around 7 percent more than in 2016. Although 2016/17 winter temperatures have been lower than a year ago, the snow coverage is sufficient in most areas to protect crops. Only 4 percent of the total planted crop is reported to be in bad condition, which is much lower proportion than in last year. Considering very good conditions of the winter crop and assuming favourable weather conditions during the crop development period, the Russian Federation's total wheat production is forecast at 74 million tonnes, slightly above the record of last year. In **Ukraine**, excessive precipitations during October-November delayed winter plantings that consequently lasted until mid-November. The planted area under winter cereals is reported to be 6.1 million hectares, down 1 percent from the previous year. By mid-February, around 80 percent of the plantings were reported to be in good or fair conditions. Assuming that spring output will partially compensate for the projected decrease in the winter season's production, FAO's early forecast puts the 2017 wheat output in Ukraine at 25 million tonnes, a 4 percent decline from the previous year's level. In **the Republic of Moldova** and **Belarus**, dry weather conditions during autumn delayed planting operations. However, weather conditions during the winter were satisfactory for the survival of winter crops.

### Aggregate cereal output reached a new record in 2016

FAO puts the subregional 2016 aggregate cereal production at a record high of 193 million tonnes, an increase of 12 percent over the already high level of last year. The estimated increase is mainly

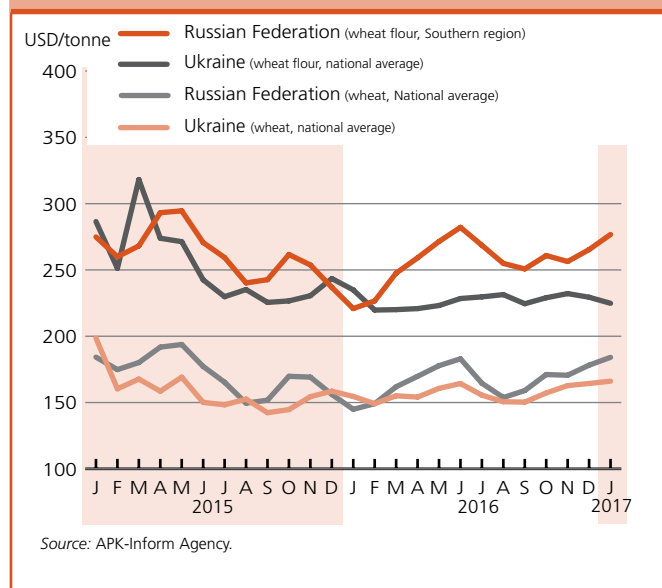
on account of well-above the average subregional wheat output, which in 2016 is set at 103.5 million tonnes. Most of the increase occurred in **the Russian Federation**, which harvested a record crop of 73 million tonnes in 2016. This output has more than offset the decline in wheat production in **Ukraine**, estimated at 26 million tonnes, 2 percent down from the previous year, attributed to slight a reduction in the area planted.

Maize production in the subregion is also estimated to rise by 16 percent to 44 million tonnes. Most of this increase originated from **Ukraine**, where the maize production was estimated at 28 million tonnes, mainly due to higher yields. Barley production is set higher than the previous year at around 30 million tonnes, on the back of higher harvests in Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

### Cereal exports are estimated at record level in 2016/17

Despite recent downward revisions due to a reduced forecast for wheat exports in **the Russian Federation**, subregional cereal exports are still projected to reach a new record of 78 million tonnes in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June), following higher shipments of wheat and maize. Most of the annual increase in wheat exports comes from the Russian Federation, where shipments are expected at a record level of 28.5 million tonnes. This would put the country at the leading position among wheat exporters. The increase in maize shipments is expected to mostly originate from **Ukraine**, where exports are set at 19.2 million tonnes, slightly below the record of 2013/14. By

Figure 11. Wholesale wheat and wheat flour prices in Russian Federation and Ukraine



contrast, subregional barley exports are estimated to decline by 2 percent and are set at 8.6 million tonnes in 2016/17.

### Domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour increased due to shortage of milling quality wheat and weak local currencies

Despite a record crop production obtained in the subregion, export prices of milling wheat in **the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine** increased over the past three months, supported by shortages of high quality milling wheat and trends in global markets.

Domestic prices of wheat declined slightly over the last three months in **the Russian Federation** on account of the record wheat output and a stable Rouble. Wheat prices in February 2017 were 7 percent down on a yearly basis. By contrast, in **Ukraine**, they increased by 12 percent since November following year-on-year declines in local production and a sharp devaluation of the national currency. Similarly, in **Belarus** prices of wheat flour increased in recent months, mainly following a further depreciation of the local currency. In **the Republic of Moldova**, wheat flour prices remained stable in January, but at high levels reflecting the reduced domestic output.

## OCEANIA

### Australia reaps record 2016 winter grain crop

The recently-completed 2016 wheat harvest in **Australia** is officially estimated at a record 35.1 million tonnes, some 45 percent up from the previous year's crop reflecting generally favourable seasonal conditions. Barley production also rose to a record high of 13.4 million tonnes, 56 percent up from the previous year's crop. Regarding the 2017 summer coarse grains, sowing is mostly complete. The area planted to sorghum is officially forecast to be down by 35 percent, mostly because of larger areas dedicated to growing cotton, for which irrigation supplies are plentiful and returns are expected to be higher. With yields expected to be constrained by unfavourable dry conditions that have set-in in the main growing areas in the past three months, production is forecast to fall by 41 percent to 1.2 million tonnes. However, for the irrigated rice crop, the area planted is estimated to be almost four times higher for the 2017 harvest and production is forecast to increase to 870 000 tonnes from 250 000 tonnes in 2016.

Early indications for the 2017 wheat crop, which will be planted from April to June, point towards some decline after the record output of 2016.



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Table A1. Global cereal supply and demand indicators

	Average 2009/10 - 2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>1. Ratio of world stocks to utilization (%)</b>						
Wheat	27.7	24.8	25.9	29.1	30.4	32.4
Coarse grains	17.7	15.7	18.2	20.8	19.8	19.5
Rice	31.5	33.5	35.1	35.3	34.3	33.8
Total cereals	23.4	21.8	23.7	26.0	25.7	25.9
<b>2. Ratio of major grain exporters' supplies to normal market requirements (%)</b>						
	118.1	108.2	121.6	123.2	122.6	121.8
<b>3. Ratio of major exporters' stocks to their total disappearance (%)</b>						
Wheat	18.3	14.3	14.6	16.8	16.9	19.2
Coarse grains	11.4	8.2	10.5	13.4	11.7	13.2
Rice	25.0	27.8	28.9	24.2	19.3	18.6
Total cereals	18.3	16.8	18.0	18.1	16.0	17.0
	Annual trend growth rate 2006-2015	2012	Change from previous year			2016
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>4. Changes in world cereal production (%)</b>						
	2.6	-2.1	9.8	1.8	-1.2	2.6
<b>5. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs (%)</b>						
	2.1	4.0	0.6	3.2	-5.3	5.2
<b>6. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs less India (%)</b>						
	2.7	6.0	-0.5	7.0	-4.3	3.4
	Average 2010-2014	2013	Change from previous year (%)			2017*
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
<b>7. Selected cereal price indices:</b>						
Wheat	191.2	-4.9	-6.6	-20.5	-13.0	1.2
Maize	232.8	-12.9	-25.8	-11.8	-6.4	0.4
Rice	233.9	0.8	0.8	-10.5	-8.1	-2.1

Notes:

Utilization is defined as the sum of food use, feed and other uses.

Cereals refer to wheat, coarse grains and rice; grains refer to wheat and coarse grains.

Major wheat exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major coarse grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

Normal market requirements for major grain exporters are defined as the average of domestic utilization plus exports in the three preceding seasons.

Disappearance is defined as domestic utilization plus exports for any given season.

Price indices: The Wheat Price Index has been constructed based on the IGC Wheat Price Index, rebased to 2002-2004=100; for maize, the U.S. maize No.2 Yellow (delivered U.S. Gulf ports) with base 2002-2004=100; for rice, the FAO Rice Price Index, 2002-2004=100, is based on 16 rice export quotations.

\*January-February average.

**Table A2. World cereal stocks<sup>1</sup>**  
(million tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 estimate	2017 forecast
<b>TOTAL CEREALS</b>	<b>551.3</b>	<b>530.1</b>	<b>591.7</b>	<b>655.1</b>	<b>661.5</b>	<b>678.2</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>196.8</b>	<b>172.2</b>	<b>182.7</b>	<b>207.7</b>	<b>224.7</b>	<b>239.6</b>
held by:						
- main exporters <sup>2</sup>	69.5	49.3	53.7	63.3	65.8	78.1
- others	127.3	122.9	129.0	144.4	158.9	161.5
<b>Coarse grains</b>	<b>208.0</b>	<b>196.5</b>	<b>236.2</b>	<b>272.6</b>	<b>265.6</b>	<b>266.9</b>
held by:						
- main exporters <sup>2</sup>	74.5	55.1	81.0	104.4	92.9	106.0
- others	133.5	141.4	155.2	168.2	172.7	160.9
<b>Rice (milled basis)</b>	<b>146.5</b>	<b>161.4</b>	<b>172.8</b>	<b>174.7</b>	<b>171.2</b>	<b>171.7</b>
held by:						
- main exporters <sup>2</sup>	41.3	46.6	49.5	43.3	34.0	32.5
- others	105.2	114.8	123.3	131.4	137.2	139.2
<b>Developed countries</b>	<b>154.9</b>	<b>119.3</b>	<b>140.6</b>	<b>168.7</b>	<b>169.4</b>	<b>200.4</b>
Australia	9.0	6.6	5.9	6.4	6.9	12.6
Canada	9.4	8.2	15.1	10.4	9.9	11.9
European Union	32.6	24.4	31.5	39.2	36.4	31.7
Japan	5.5	6.2	5.6	5.2	5.0	4.9
Russian Federation	15.9	6.7	6.8	8.6	6.9	14.2
South Africa	2.6	2.5	1.7	3.3	3.6	2.2
Ukraine	10.6	6.1	8.9	10.7	6.5	6.7
United States	49.3	44.2	51.4	69.0	76.1	95.5
<b>Developing countries</b>	<b>396.3</b>	<b>410.8</b>	<b>451.1</b>	<b>486.4</b>	<b>492.1</b>	<b>477.9</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>330.1</b>	<b>353.5</b>	<b>378.0</b>	<b>399.2</b>	<b>407.7</b>	<b>399.1</b>
China	198.0	216.7	238.5	257.4	279.9	282.8
India	50.4	52.2	49.9	48.5	40.3	35.4
Indonesia	10.5	11.2	10.9	9.9	9.6	9.4
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1.5	3.6	3.5	6.6	6.4	5.9
Korea, Republic of	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.6
Pakistan	6.0	4.2	4.8	6.2	5.2	4.7
Philippines	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.9	3.6	3.8
Syrian Arab Republic	3.5	2.6	2.2	1.4	1.6	0.9
Turkey	4.5	4.6	5.7	5.1	5.0	3.4
<b>Africa</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>40.9</b>
Algeria	3.1	3.5	5.1	5.4	6.2	5.8
Egypt	7.9	5.5	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.2
Ethiopia	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.7	2.8	2.8
Morocco	4.8	3.4	5.5	5.2	8.9	5.9
Nigeria	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.2
Tunisia	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.9
<b>Central America</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Mexico	2.3	2.6	3.3	3.6	4.6	6.2
<b>South America</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>
Argentina	4.8	2.1	5.8	10.3	7.9	9.5
Brazil	9.5	6.1	12.0	15.2	9.9	5.3

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

<sup>1</sup> Stocks data are based on an aggregate of carryovers at the end of national crop years and do not represent world stock levels at any point in time.

<sup>2</sup> Major wheat exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major coarse grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

**Table A3. Selected international prices of wheat and coarse grains**  
(USD/tonne)

	Wheat			Maize		Sorghum
	US No.2 Hard Red Winter Ord. Prot. <sup>1</sup>	US Soft Red Winter No.2 <sup>2</sup>	Argentina Trigo Pan <sup>3</sup>	US No.2 Yellow <sup>2</sup>	Argentina <sup>3</sup>	US No.2 Yellow <sup>2</sup>
<b>Annual (July/June)</b>						
2003/04	161	149	154	115	109	118
2004/05	154	138	123	97	90	99
2005/06	175	138	138	104	101	108
2006/07	212	176	188	150	145	155
2007/08	361	311	318	200	192	206
2008/09	270	201	234	188	180	170
2009/10	209	185	224	160	168	165
2010/11	316	289	311	254	260	248
2011/12	300	256	264	281	269	264
2012/13	348	310	336	311	278	281
2013/14	318	265	335	217	219	218
2014/15	266	221	246	173	177	210
2015/16	211	194	208	166	170	174
<b>Monthly</b>						
2015 - February	252	221	241	174	178	230
2015 - March	250	219	228	173	169	226
2015 - April	239	209	225	172	168	223
2015 - May	231	199	228	166	168	217
2015 - June	242	211	226	170	173	224
2015 - July	238	208	229	179	176	223
2015 - August	216	190	227	163	160	180
2015 - September	218	195	223	166	161	177
2015 - October	221	208	223	172	164	182
2015 - November	211	201	210	166	167	173
2015 - December	212	191	193	164	166	170
2016 - January	213	192	194	161	161	165
2016 - February	205	189	194	160	167	165
2016 - March	207	189	192	159	163	161
2016 - April	201	193	199	164	170	162
2016 - May	193	189	202	169	187	153
2016 - June	198	186	210	181	197	170
2016 - July	188	168	210	161	179	147
2016 - August	188	157	215	150	177	140
2016 - September	188	158	201	148	170	141
2016 - October	193	164	184	152	174	146
2016 - November	191	167	176	152	178	143
2016 - December	187	162	168	154	181	154
2017 - January	201	173	177	159	183	155
2017 - February	210	180	186	163	179	157

Sources: International Grains Council and USDA.

<sup>1</sup> Delivered United States f.o.b. Gulf.

<sup>2</sup> Delivered United States Gulf.

<sup>3</sup> Up River f.o.b.

**Table A4a. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 or 2016 estimates**  
(thousand tonnes)

	Marketing year	2014/15 or 2015			2015/16 or 2016	
		Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements (excl. re-exports)	Imports position <sup>2</sup> (commercial and aid)
<b>AFRICA</b>		<b>31 291.3</b>	<b>1 034.9</b>	<b>32 326.2</b>	<b>32 161.0</b>	<b>23 197.7</b>
<b>East Africa</b>		<b>9 898.1</b>	<b>560.9</b>	<b>10 459.0</b>	<b>10 685.8</b>	<b>7 056.5</b>
Burundi	Jan/Dec	147.4	3.0	150.4	164.9	46.4
Comoros	Jan/Dec	70.0	0.0	70.0	56.0	22.6
Djibouti	Jan/Dec	217.0	3.5	220.5	231.0	580.4
Eritrea	Jan/Dec	427.0	0.0	427.0	437.3	10.0
Ethiopia	Jan/Dec	1 700.0	111.5	1 811.5	1 620.0	1 386.9
Kenya	Oct/Sep	2 640.5	94.6	2 735.1	2 512.6	1 962.4
Rwanda	Jan/Dec	126.2	2.6	128.8	116.0	59.5
Somalia	Aug/Jul	590.0	58.0	648.0	730.0	351.9
South Sudan	Nov/Oct	n.a.	n.a.	545.0	535.0	n.a.
Sudan	Nov/Oct	1 955.9	257.3	2 213.2	2 835.0	1 491.0
Uganda	Jan/Dec	317.4	20.8	338.2	498.0	280.0
United Republic of Tanzania	Jun/May	1 161.7	9.6	1 171.3	950.0	865.4
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>2 662.1</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>2 717.6</b>	<b>2 891.3</b>	<b>2 416.2</b>
Lesotho	Apr/Mar	226.5	5.0	231.5	192.0	70.3
Madagascar	Apr/Mar	543.7	7.4	551.1	492.8	170.6
Malawi	Apr/Mar	117.0	13.2	130.2	258.8	336.6
Mozambique	Apr/Mar	1 266.8	22.2	1 289.0	1 003.0	1 099.6
Zimbabwe	Apr/Mar	508.1	7.7	515.8	944.7	739.1
<b>West Africa</b>		<b>16 977.4</b>	<b>269.2</b>	<b>17 246.6</b>	<b>16 813.8</b>	<b>12 464.4</b>
<b>Coastal Countries</b>		<b>12 872.5</b>	<b>146.3</b>	<b>13 018.8</b>	<b>12 610.8</b>	<b>9 510.4</b>
Benin	Jan/Dec	361.0	6.0	367.0	387.0	1 530.1
Côte d'Ivoire	Jan/Dec	1 889.7	3.5	1 893.2	1 940.0	1 622.6
Ghana	Jan/Dec	1 090.3	7.8	1 098.1	1 451.0	1 310.3
Guinea	Jan/Dec	610.5	16.5	627.0	912.5	522.3
Liberia	Jan/Dec	275.0	77.0	352.0	285.2	233.1
Nigeria	Jan/Dec	8 020.0	0.0	8 020.0	7 050.0	3 996.7
Sierra Leone	Jan/Dec	351.0	35.0	386.0	266.0	133.1
Togo	Jan/Dec	275.0	0.5	275.5	319.1	162.2
<b>Sahelian Countries</b>		<b>4 104.9</b>	<b>122.9</b>	<b>4 227.8</b>	<b>4 203.0</b>	<b>2 954.1</b>
Burkina Faso	Nov/Oct	479.0	6.0	485.0	573.0	160.8
Chad	Nov/Oct	104.0	40.6	144.6	151.7	72.6
Gambia	Nov/Oct	141.0	11.5	152.5	209.8	163.3
Guinea-Bissau	Nov/Oct	88.0	6.3	94.3	134.3	12.1
Mali	Nov/Oct	366.2	9.7	375.9	399.2	284.9
Mauritania	Nov/Oct	514.5	10.0	524.5	459.0	509.9
Niger	Nov/Oct	468.2	36.8	505.0	526.0	148.3
Senegal	Nov/Oct	1 944.0	2.0	1 946.0	1 750.0	1 602.3
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>1 753.7</b>	<b>149.3</b>	<b>1 903.0</b>	<b>1 770.1</b>	<b>1 260.6</b>
Cameroon	Jan/Dec	1 016.6	2.0	1 018.6	887.0	964.7
Central African Republic	Jan/Dec	52.0	23.0	75.0	75.0	14.6
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Jan/Dec	669.7	120.3	790.0	790.0	271.9
Sao Tome and Principe	Jan/Dec	15.4	4.0	19.4	18.1	9.5

Source: FAO

<sup>1</sup> The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011); for full details see <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc>

<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on available information as of February 2017.

**Table A4b. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 or 2016 estimates**  
(thousand tonnes)

	Marketing year	2014/15 or 2015			2015/16 or 2016	
		Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements (excl. re-exports)	Imports position <sup>2</sup> (commercial and aid)
<b>ASIA</b>		<b>19 106.8</b>	<b>493.9</b>	<b>19 600.7</b>	<b>22 717.2</b>	<b>19 610.2</b>
<b>Cis in Asia</b>		<b>4 137.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4 138.3</b>	<b>4 510.2</b>	<b>3 869.8</b>
Kyrgyzstan	Jul/Jun	570.8	0.3	571.1	515.2	42.6
Tajikistan	Jul/Jun	1 082.0	0.2	1 082.2	1 089.0	1 102.9
Uzbekistan	Jul/Jun	2 485.0	0.0	2 485.0	2 906.0	2 724.4
<b>Far East</b>		<b>6 309.2</b>	<b>146.2</b>	<b>6 455.4</b>	<b>8 035.0</b>	<b>10 225.9</b>
Bangladesh	Jul/Jun	5 271.0	15.0	5 286.0	5 329.6	4 657.1
Bhutan	Jul/Jun	90.4	1.0	91.4	73.0	16.8
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Nov/Oct	309.5	100.2	409.7	694.0	164.6
India	Apr/Mar	38.7	0.0	38.7	724.2	4 809.1
Mongolia	Oct/Sep	67.8	0.0	67.8	243.4	233.0
Nepal	Jul/Jun	531.8	30.0	561.8	970.8	345.3
<b>Near East</b>		<b>8 659.8</b>	<b>347.2</b>	<b>9 007.0</b>	<b>10 172.0</b>	<b>5 514.5</b>
Afghanistan	Jul/Jun	2 161.0	16.0	2 177.0	2 832.0	1 917.6
Syrian Arab Republic	Jul/Jun	2 278.8	281.2	2 560.0	2 940.0	825.5
Yemen	Jan/Dec	4 220.0	50.0	4 270.0	4 400.0	2 771.4
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>		<b>1 896.5</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>1 972.9</b>	<b>2 253.1</b>	<b>1 822.6</b>
Haiti	Jul/Jun	580.0	68.1	648.1	674.1	510.6
Honduras	Jul/Jun	869.4	5.5	874.9	1 014.0	959.5
Nicaragua	Jul/Jun	447.1	2.8	449.9	565.0	352.5
<b>OCEANIA</b>		<b>472.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>472.6</b>	<b>480.6</b>	<b>326.6</b>
Papua New Guinea	Jan/Dec	415.2	0.0	415.2	420.2	310.3
Solomon Islands	Jan/Dec	57.4	0.0	57.4	60.4	16.3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>52 767.2</b>	<b>1 605.2</b>	<b>54 372.4</b>	<b>57 611.9</b>	<b>44 957.1</b>

Source: FAO

<sup>1</sup> The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011); for full details see <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc>

<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on available information as of February 2017.



**Table A5. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries<sup>1</sup>, 2016/17 estimates\***  
(thousand tonnes)

Marketing year	2015/16 Actual imports			2016/17		
	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements (excl. re-exports)	Imports position <sup>2</sup> (commercial and aid)	
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>13 251.5</b>	<b>430.4</b>	<b>14 656.9</b>	<b>16 148.9</b>	<b>1 956.0</b>	
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>6 306.2</b>	<b>281.4</b>	<b>7 562.6</b>	<b>7 679.6</b>	<b>866.9</b>	
Kenya	Oct/Sep	2 432.6	80.0	2 512.6	3 125.0	110.4
Somalia	Aug/Jul	540.0	190.0	730.0	720.0	0.0
United Republic of Tanzania	Jun/May	938.6	11.4	950.0	1 007.6	563.8
South Sudan	Nov/Oct	n.a.	n.a.	535.0	560.0	n.a.
Sudan	Nov/Oct	2 395.0	440.0	2 835.0	2 267.0	192.7
<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>2 854.6</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>2 891.3</b>	<b>4 090.7</b>	<b>1 089.1</b>	
Lesotho	Apr/Mar	187.0	5.0	192.0	283.0	100.9
Madagascar	Apr/Mar	472.7	20.1	492.8	445.7	5.9
Malawi	Apr/Mar	255.0	3.8	258.8	816.0	77.5
Mozambique	Apr/Mar	1 002.0	1.0	1 003.0	1 231.0	663.9
Zimbabwe	Apr/Mar	937.9	6.8	944.7	1 315.0	241.0
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>4 090.7</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>4 203.0</b>	<b>4 378.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
<b>Sahelian Countries</b>	<b>4 090.7</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>4 203.0</b>	<b>4 378.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
Burkina Faso	Nov/Oct	568.0	5.0	573.0	603.0	0.0
Chad	Nov/Oct	111.0	40.7	151.7	164.6	0.0
Gambia	Nov/Oct	208.3	1.5	209.8	213.5	0.0
Guinea-Bissau	Nov/Oct	129.8	4.5	134.3	124.3	0.0
Mali	Nov/Oct	399.2	0.0	399.2	381.2	0.0
Mauritania	Nov/Oct	449.5	9.5	459.0	494.0	0.0
Niger	Nov/Oct	483.3	42.7	526.0	568.0	0.0
Senegal	Nov/Oct	1 741.6	8.4	1 750.0	1 830.0	0.0
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>17 728.9</b>	<b>588.3</b>	<b>18 317.2</b>	<b>19 994.9</b>	<b>7 796.3</b>	
<b>CIS in Asia</b>	<b>4 509.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4 510.2</b>	<b>4 241.2</b>	<b>1 699.8</b>	
Kyrgyzstan	Jul/Jun	514.2	1.0	515.2	572.2	0.8
Tajikistan	Jul/Jun	1 089.0	0.0	1 089.0	932.0	474.5
Uzbekistan	Jul/Jun	2 906.0	0.0	2 906.0	2 737.0	1 224.5
<b>Far East</b>	<b>7 834.4</b>	<b>200.6</b>	<b>8 035.0</b>	<b>9 861.7</b>	<b>4 946.4</b>	
Bangladesh	Jul/Jun	5 243.6	86.0	5 329.6	5 475.0	3 024.8
Bhutan	Jul/Jun	72.0	1.0	73.0	78.0	0.0
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Nov/Oct	581.9	112.1	694.0	420.1	7.5
India	Apr/Mar	724.2	0.0	724.2	3 056.0	1 899.7
Mongolia	Oct/Sep	243.4	0.0	243.4	80.8	0.0
Nepal	Jul/Jun	969.3	1.5	970.8	751.8	14.4
<b>Near East</b>	<b>5 385.3</b>	<b>386.7</b>	<b>5 772.0</b>	<b>5 892.0</b>	<b>1 150.1</b>	
Afghanistan	Jul/Jun	2 732.0	100.0	2 832.0	2 932.0	1 068.1
Syrian Arab Republic	Jul/Jun	2 653.3	286.7	2 940.0	2 960.0	82.0
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA</b>	<b>2 216.5</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>2 253.1</b>	<b>2 065.1</b>	<b>679.0</b>	
Haiti	Jul/Jun	641.0	33.1	674.1	665.1	72.2
Honduras	Jul/Jun	1 013.5	0.5	1 014.0	865.0	370.4
Nicaragua	Jul/Jun	562.0	3.0	565.0	535.0	236.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33 196.9</b>	<b>1 055.3</b>	<b>35 227.2</b>	<b>38 208.9</b>	<b>10 431.3</b>	

Source: FAO

\* Countries included in this table are only those that have entered the new marketing year.

<sup>1</sup> The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011); for full details see <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc>

<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on available information as of February 2017.

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