**FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY IN AFRICA (2004 – 2013)**

Agriculture is the main means by which food is produced in the world. This economic activity is known to be an important sector of the African economy. Africa has the building blocks – including a large population working in agriculture and abundant, fertile land – necessary to grow all of its own food and even produce a surplus. ([www.empowerafrica.com](http://www.empowerafrica.com)) The range of crops produced are varied from cereals, cash crops, beverages and livestock to fishing. This report looks at data from 2004 to 2013 on food production and supply in Africa. It will examine trends that can provide an understanding of food production and supply in Africa and provide actionable insights.

**Food Production**

Food production generally increased steadily from 663,006 Kilotons in 2004 to 872,571 Kilotons in 2013. The growth rate year on year was an average of 3% with the highest growth being from 2009 – 2010 (5%) and the lowest being from 2008 – 2009 (1%).

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Nigeria producing a total of 1,628,030 Kilotons for the period is the country with the highest total food production with Djibouti being the lowest producing country with a total of 666 Kilotons.

Chart, line chart

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From the food classes (i.e, Plant based and Animal based), 6.9 million Kilotons representing 91% of food produced is plant-based while 9% is animal based.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Food Class | Total Prod |
| Plant | 6,919,096 kt |
| Animal | 656,020 k |

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**Food Supply**

Food supply in Africa shows very little increase from 2004 to 2013 (from 107,740 Kilotons to 113,951 Kilotons respectively). Even though there is some increment in the food supply or consumption, the increase is insignificant and cannot be compared to the general increase in population numbers.

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Among the African countries, Egypt is seen to have the highest food supply of 34,580 Kilotons, closely followed by Tunisia with a total food supply of 33,055 Kilotons with Zambia recording the least food supply of 18,701 Kilotons.

Among the years, 2007 appeared to be period with the more evenly distributed with regards to food supply. The absence of outliers indicates that no country consumed excessively and not country consumed way below the average. A host of factors can be attributed to it. Additional data can be used to examine the cause of this.

Chart

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From the data, it can clearly be seen that food production is way above food supply of consumption. African government officials need to employ sustainable schemes to ensure food supply is improved in order to meet up with population growth.