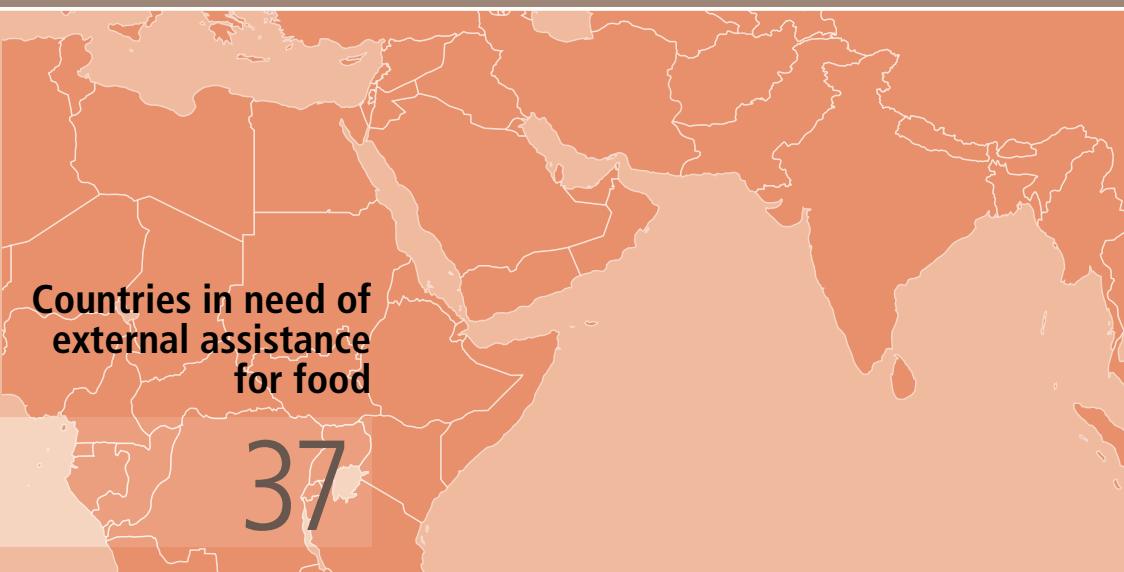




CROP PROSPECTS and FOOD SITUATION

Quarterly Global Report



COUNTRIES REQUIRING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD

FAO estimates that globally 37 countries are in need of external assistance for food. Persisting conflicts continue to be a key driver of severe food insecurity, with weather shocks intensifying the fragile conditions in some countries. Production shortfalls due to unfavourable weather have also adversely impacted food availability and access.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Asia | +0.4 |
| Africa | +12.5 |
| Central America and the Caribbean | -3.5 |
| South America | +25.3 |
| North America | -7.7 |
| Europe | +2.0 |
| Oceania | -37.3 |
| World | +0.6 |

WORLD Cereal production 2017 over 2016 (%)

+0.6

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

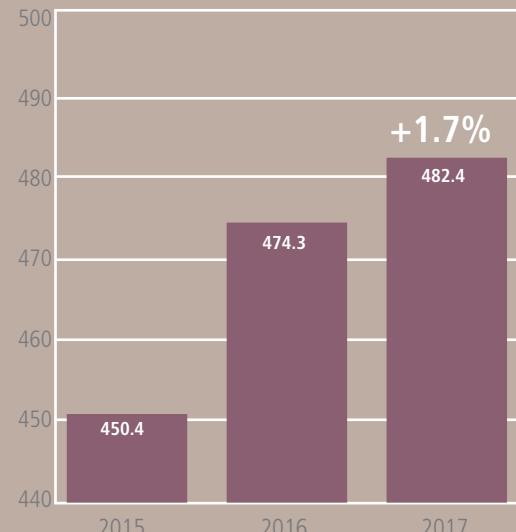
AFRICA Improved weather conditions in North and Southern Africa had triggered significant production recoveries, sharply cutting food insecure numbers, while drought conditions in parts of East Africa have curbed 2017 agricultural outputs and heightened food insecurity. The conflicts in northern Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan continue to severely impact food insecurity.

ASIA Famine continues to remain a high risk in Yemen due to the conflict, while critical food security conditions also prevail in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Production in the Far East is forecast to increase in 2017, mostly concerning a larger wheat harvest, while a lower output is estimated in CIS Asian countries.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN In South America, 2017 cereal outputs in Argentina and Brazil are estimated at record highs, while the impact of hurricanes is expected to result in lower agricultural outputs for the second season crops in the affected Caribbean countries, negatively impacting food security.

LOW-INCOME FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRIES Cereal production 2017 over 2016 (%)

+1.7



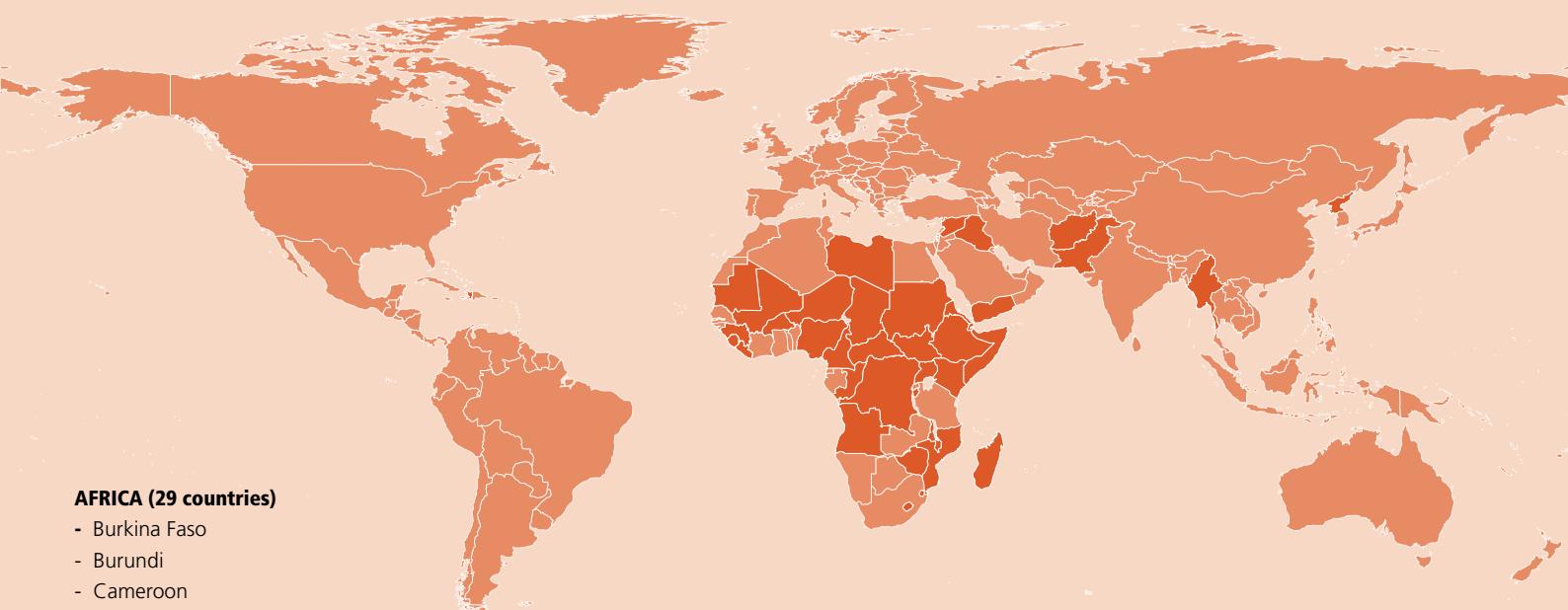
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COUNTRIES REQUIRING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD



AFRICA (29 countries)

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

ASIA (7 countries)

- Afghanistan
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Iraq
- Myanmar
- Pakistan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Yemen

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (1 country)

- Haiti

AFRICA (29 COUNTRIES)

EXCEPTIONAL SHORTFALL IN AGGREGATE FOOD PRODUCTION/ SUPPLIES

Central African Republic

Conflict, displacements and food supply constraints

- The internally displaced people caseload in October was estimated at about 602 000, 12 percent increase since June and almost 50 percent since January 2017. About 1.1 million people (30 percent of the total population) are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance for food.
- Food security conditions are expected to improve as newly-harvested crops become available for consumption. However, improvements are anticipated to be limited as reduced harvests in conflict-affected areas will not allow households to adequately replenish stocks and an earlier-than-usual onset of the lean season is anticipated.

WIDESPREAD LACK OF ACCESS

Burundi

Civil insecurity, economic downturn and localized crop production shortfalls

- Disruptions to markets, farming activities and livelihoods, coupled with limited humanitarian assistance and declining food import capacity, continue to seriously affect food security conditions. The areas most affected by food insecurity are the Imbo Plain in the west and the northern lowlands (Kirundo Province).

- About 2.6 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure.

Chad

Population displacements and civil insecurity

- Approximately 409 000 refugees, 174 000 IDPs, as well as an estimated 20 000 Chadian returnees, continue to add pressure on local food supplies, negatively affecting food security.
- Between October and December 2017, about 318 000 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

- About 7.7 million people are estimated to be in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis. The country hosts 102 000 refugees from the Central African Republic, 81 000 from South Sudan and 44 000 from Burundi, and as of November 2017, the IDP caseload was estimated at 4.1 million.
- Reduced plantings were reported in conflict-affected areas of Kasai and Tanganyika.

Djibouti

Impact of consecutive unfavourable rainy seasons on pastoral livelihoods

- About 197 000 people are severely food insecure, mainly concentrated in pastoral areas north of Obock City and in southeastern border areas, which were affected by consecutive unfavourable rainy seasons.

Eritrea

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

Ethiopia

Impact of drought on local livelihood systems

- Drought-affected second season crops and pastures in south and southeastern areas.
- Overall, an estimated 8.5 million people are food insecure. The area of critical concern is the Somali Region, where the food insecure caseload was estimated in September at 2.3 million (42 percent of the region's population).

Niger

Population displacements and civil insecurity

- More than 301 000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure.
- As of end-October, approximately 108 000 Nigerian and 57 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country.
- About 129 000 people, mostly in the southeastern region of Diffa, have been internally displaced due to fear of attacks as of October 2017.

Nigeria

Economic downturn, weakened currency, population displacements and severe civil insecurity in northern areas

- About 3.16 million people are estimated to be facing acute food insecurity and require urgent life-saving response and livelihood protection, including about 2 000 people in CH Phase 5: "Famine" (i.e. IPC "Catastrophe").
- Despite the above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2016, the weak currency, coupled with persisting civil conflict in northern states, has kept disrupted market activities and keep food prices at high levels.
- Approximately 1.7 million people have been internally displaced due to the insurgency in the northeastern region of the country.

South Sudan

Conflict, civil insecurity and severe economic downturn

- Despite sustained humanitarian assistance, food insecurity still affects large segments of the population. The number of severely food insecure people is estimated at 4.8 million, due to persisting insecurity, trade disruptions and high food prices.

SEVERE LOCALIZED FOOD INSECURITY**Burkina Faso**

Refugees putting strain on host communities

- Over 24 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country as of October 2017.
- About 133 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance.

Cameroon

Influx of refugees putting strain on host communities and displacements

- The number of refugees from the Central African Republic was estimated at 241 000 in October 2017. Insecurity along the borders with Nigeria also led to the internal displacement of 238 000 individuals.

Congo

Influx of refugees straining the already limited resources of host communities

- As of end-October 2017, about 50 000 refugees from the Central African Republic are sheltering in the country.

Guinea

Localized production shortfalls

- About 34 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance.

Kenya

Crop production and livestock affected by consecutive unfavourable rainy seasons

- About 2.6 million people are severely food insecure, mainly located in eastern, southeastern and coastal areas, following the negative impact of the poor 2016 "short-rains" and below-average 2017 "long-rains" on agricultural production and pastoral livelihoods.

Lesotho

Localized production shortfalls

- The number of food insecure is estimated at about 225 000 people in 2017/18, well below the previous year's caseload, reflecting an improved national cereal output and lower food prices. Conditions are expected to be stressed in late 2017 and early 2018 in southwestern areas, where dry spells adversely affected production, as households exhaust stocks and increase coping mechanisms.

Liberia

Localized production shortfalls and influx of refugees

- The country is hosting approximately 12 000 refugees as of September 2017, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire.
- About 29 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance.

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 are in short supply. Access to subsidized food among the affected population is limited.

Madagascar

Dry spells and impact of cyclones

- Rice production is estimated to have decreased to a well below-average level in 2017 due to dryness and the impact of cyclones, negatively impacting food availability.
- In southeastern areas, food security conditions worsened compared to the previous year, reflecting a decrease in agricultural production due to the above-mentioned weather shocks.

Malawi

Localized impact of weather shocks

- The number of food insecure decreased steeply to 0.86 million people, from 6.7 million in the previous year, reflecting an overall improved agricultural output in 2017. Food security conditions for the households affected by localized weather shocks, mostly located in the Southern Region, are expected to worsen during the peak of the lean season between January and March 2018.

Mali

Population displacements and civil insecurity in northern areas

- An estimated 58 600 people have been internally displaced in the country mostly residing in Timbuktu, the most affected region by civil insecurity.

Mauritania

Refugee caseload continues to put additional pressure on local food supplies

- As of end-October 2017, about 52 000 Malian refugees remain in Mbera camp

- in Hodh Ech Chargui, a southeastern region of Mauritania.
- Over 378 000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure.

Mozambique

Localized impact of floods and dry spells

- About 314 000 people are to be food insecure and require humanitarian assistance in 2017/18, down significantly from the year before reflecting the overall improved national agricultural output.
- Households facing stressed food security conditions are concentrated in the central provinces, mainly on account of weather shocks that adversely affected production.

Sierra Leone

Floods and localized production shortfalls

- Over 500 people died and thousands were displaced in mid-August following heavy rains and a massive landslide in and around the capital, Freetown.

Somalia

Conflict, civil insecurity and widespread drought conditions

- About 3.1 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 3.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly IDPs and host communities in conflict-affected areas.

Swaziland

Localized dry spells in southeastern parts

- About 159 000 people require food assistance, mostly concentrated in Lumombo Province, on account of dry spells that dampened agricultural production in these areas, stressing food security conditions. The number of food insecure is, however, down 75 percent on an annual basis, reflecting the overall larger cereal harvest in 2017.

Uganda

Below-average crop production

- About 0.4 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure due to the lingering effects of two consecutive seasons of reduced agricultural outputs in 2016.
- More than 1 million refugees from South Sudan are hosted in camps in the northwestern parts of the country and depend on humanitarian assistance.

Zimbabwe

Food access constraints

- An estimated 1.05 million rural people are expected to be food insecure during the peak of the lean season between January and March 2018, mostly concentrated in southern and western regions. This figure is, however, down 74 percent compared to the estimate for the same period in 2017 on account of significant improvements in the 2017 cereal production.
- Cash shortages continue to constrain food access.

ASIA (7 COUNTRIES)

EXCEPTIONAL SHORTFALL IN AGGREGATE FOOD PRODUCTION/SUPPLIES

Syrian Arab Republic

Civil conflict

- About 6.5 people million are food insecure and 4 million people are at risk of food insecurity.
- Although some international food assistance is being provided, Syrian refugees are also putting a strain on host communities in neighbouring countries.

WIDESPREAD LACK OF ACCESS

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Reduced agricultural output and economic downturn

- The 2017 main season is estimated to have decreased compared to last year's near-average level, due to water deficits.
- As a result, 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 latest IPC (March 2017), 17 million people are food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance, with an increase of 3 million from the previous IPC analysis of June 2016.

SEVERE LOCALIZED FOOD INSECURITY

Afghanistan

Continuing conflict and population displacement

- Almost 1.9 million people are severely food insecure and 5.7 million moderately food insecure.
- Over 630 000 people were displaced by the conflict in 2016, mostly in the hard-to-access areas. Between January and early November 2017, over 344 000 individuals have been forced from their homes.

Iraq

Civil conflict

- In the first half of 2017, about 922 000 people were internally displaced, mostly due to the military operations in Mosul, in addition to the 3 million people already displaced by November 2016.
- About 3.2 million people were in need of food security assistance in July 2017.

Myanmar

Conflict in parts of Kachin, Shan and resurgence of violence in Rakhine

- Since the resurgence of violence in August 2017 in the Rakhine State, an estimated 616 000 people have sought refuge in Bangladesh.

- According to OCHA, as of October, more than 800 000 refugees were hosted in Bangladesh. Most of these people rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

Pakistan

Population displacement and localized cereal production shortfalls

- 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 food insecurity and caused acute malnutrition.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (1 COUNTRY)

SEVERE LOCALIZED FOOD INSECURITY

Haiti

Recurrent droughts and hurricane damage

- As a result of the impact of recurring droughts in 2014 and 2016, coupled with the effects of hurricanes Matthew and Irma in 2016 and 2017, respectively, an estimated 1.32 million people are in need of food assistance.

Terminology

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.

* Unfavourable Production Prospects

Countries facing unfavourable crop production prospects are countries where forecasts point to a decrease in the cereal output compared to the five-year average, as a result of a reduction of the area planted and/or yields due to adverse weather conditions, plant pests and diseases, conflicts and other negative factors. This list does not include countries where production declines are mainly driven by deliberate/predetermined economic and/or policy decisions. (see *Regional Reviews* pages 12, 21).

2017

GLOBAL CEREAL OVERVIEW

Cereal Supply and Demand Overview¹

FAO cereal production forecast for 2017 raised sharply

FAO's forecast for global cereal production in 2017 now stands at 2 627 million tonnes, 16.8 million tonnes (0.6 percent) higher than last year's level, following a sharp month-on-month upward revision of 13.4 million tonnes. The bulk of the latest monthly revision concerns coarse grains, the production of which in 2017 is forecast at 1 371 million tonnes, up nearly 24 million tonnes (1.8 percent) from 2016 and some 11 million tonnes higher than it was anticipated in November. The increase from November is mostly driven by higher estimates for maize production in the United States of America, following positive revisions for yields, and in Indonesia, where production is now estimated at a record high as a result of a significant expansion in plantings. These increases more than compensated

for a cut to Ukraine's maize output. Global wheat production in 2017 has also been adjusted upwards since November, but by a lesser degree compared to coarse grains, mainly reflecting a higher-than-previous projected output in the European Union, which more than offset a lowering of production in Argentina. This year's world wheat output is currently forecast at 754.8 million tonnes, 1 percent lower than in 2016. World rice production in 2017 is forecast at 500.8 million tonnes, marginally below the 2016 record and the November forecast. Although evidence of greater weather-related crop losses lowered production forecasts for Bangladesh and Madagascar, these changes were mostly offset by improved crop prospects in Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines.

World cereal utilization adjusted upwards

World cereal utilization is forecast at 2 600 million tonnes, some 31 million tonnes (1.2 percent) higher than in 2016/17 and 6.4 million tonnes above the FAO

Table 1. World cereal production¹
(million tonnes)

| | 2015 | 2016 estimate | 2017 forecast | Change: 2017 over 2016 (%) |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Asia | 1 121.3 | 1 137.2 | 1 141.7 | 0.4 |
| Far East | 1 014.5 | 1 031.9 | 1 036.9 | 0.5 |
| Near East | 72.3 | 69.0 | 69.9 | 1.4 |
| CIS in Asia | 34.6 | 36.3 | 34.8 | -4.1 |
| Africa | 167.3 | 164.2 | 184.7 | 12.5 |
| North Africa | 38.3 | 29.6 | 36.3 | 22.9 |
| West Africa | 51.8 | 56.8 | 57.0 | 0.2 |
| Central Africa | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 10.3 |
| East Africa | 45.9 | 49.0 | 48.7 | -0.6 |
| Southern Africa | 26.8 | 24.7 | 38.2 | 54.6 |
| Central America and the Caribbean | 39.2 | 42.9 | 41.4 | -3.5 |
| South America | 186.3 | 173.6 | 217.5 | 25.3 |
| North America | 482.9 | 530.5 | 489.9 | -7.7 |
| Europe | 500.3 | 507.7 | 517.8 | 2.0 |
| European Union | 314.1 | 299.5 | 304.9 | 1.8 |
| CIS in Europe | 172.8 | 192.7 | 201.4 | 4.5 |
| Oceania | 36.9 | 53.9 | 33.8 | -37.3 |
| World | 2 534.3 | 2 610.0 | 2 626.7 | 0.6 |
| Developing countries | 1 458.0 | 1 462.1 | 1 522.3 | 4.1 |
| Developed countries | 1 076.3 | 1 147.8 | 1 104.4 | -3.8 |
| - wheat | 735.2 | 761.3 | 754.8 | -0.9 |
| - coarse grains | 1 308.1 | 1 347.5 | 1 371.1 | 1.8 |
| - rice (milled) | 491.0 | 501.1 | 500.8 | -0.1 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Includes rice in milled terms.

¹ Based on the FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief released on 7 December 2017.

November forecast. The increase from the previous month mostly reflects upward adjustments to overall consumption of coarse grains. The forecast for total utilization of coarse grains in 2017/18 has been raised on a monthly basis by almost 5 million, largely because of upward revisions to feed use of maize. Driven by large supplies and lower prices, total feed use of maize in 2017/18 is now pegged at 592 million tonnes, 4 million tonnes more than it was projected in November and nearly 14 million tonnes (2.3 percent) higher than in 2016/17. Wheat utilization in 2017/18 is forecast at 740 million tonnes, slightly higher than it was projected in November and 6 million tonnes (0.8 percent) above the 2016/17 estimated level. Food consumption of wheat is set to expand by 1.1 percent, to an all-time high of 504 million tonnes. World rice utilization is expected to expand by 1 percent on an annual basis in 2017/18 to 503 million tonnes. Food use remains foreseen to drive the projected growth, while somewhat tighter availabilities cause all other end-uses to edge down over the course of the season.

Cereal stocks surpassing last year's record

World cereal stocks are projected to reach a new high of 726 million tonnes, up as much as 22 million tonnes (3 percent) from their already high opening levels and 7 million tonnes above the November forecast. At this level, the world stocks-to-use ratio of cereals is projected at 27.3 percent, up slightly from 2016/17 and the highest since 2001/02. Global wheat stocks (ending in 2018) are forecast to hit an all-time high of 257 million tonnes, down slightly from the November forecast but still 13 million tonnes (5 percent) above their already high opening levels. The sharp increase from 2016/17 is mainly driven by large stock build-ups in China (Mainland) and the Russian Federation, more than offsetting drawdowns in North America. The

forecast of coarse grain inventories (ending in 2018) has been raised to a record level of around 299 million tonnes, up 7 million tonnes from November. The increase from last month reflects higher-than-earlier anticipated build-ups of maize stocks, particularly in the United States of America. Reflecting higher anticipated carry-overs in Bangladesh, India and Viet Nam, FAO's forecast of global rice inventories in 2018 has been raised by close to 1 million tonnes to 170.2 million tonnes. At this level, world carry-overs would stand 0.6 percent above their opening levels, as continued accumulations in China (Mainland) are anticipated to more than offset drawdowns in the major rice exporting countries.

Global cereal trade in 2017/18 nearly unchanged from 2016/17

International trade in all cereals in 2017/18 is forecast to approach 404 million tonnes, nearly unchanged from the previous season's record volume, with higher world trade in maize and rice compensating for lower shipments in barley and wheat. World trade in wheat in 2017/18 (July/June) is forecast at 175 million tonnes, down 2 million tonnes (1.1 percent) from 2016/17, with projected sharp declines in China (Mainland), India and Morocco more than offsetting higher imports by several countries. Global trade in coarse grains in 2017/18 (July/June) is forecast at just over 182 million tonnes, slightly down from November but still up 2.5 million tonnes (1.4 percent) from 2016/17. The decrease from last month reflects small downward adjustments to trade in barley and maize. World trade in rice in 2018 is now pegged at 46.2 million tonnes, up from a higher forecast of 45.9 million tonnes for 2017. Revisions to trade forecasts for both years mainly mirror expectations of higher exports by China (Mainland), Myanmar and, to a lesser extent, India.

Table 2. Basic facts of world cereal situation
(million tonnes)

| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 estimate | 2017/18 forecast | Change: 2017/18 over 2016/17 (%) |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Production¹ | 2 534.3 | 2 610.0 | 2 626.7 | 0.6 |
| Developing countries | 1 458.0 | 1 462.1 | 1 522.3 | 4.1 |
| Developed countries | 1 076.3 | 1 147.8 | 1 104.4 | -3.8 |
| Trade² | 392.6 | 404.1 | 403.6 | -0.1 |
| Developing countries | 129.7 | 115.3 | 134.1 | 16.3 |
| Developed countries | 263.0 | 288.8 | 269.6 | -6.7 |
| Utilization | 2 513.5 | 2 568.5 | 2 599.6 | 1.2 |
| Developing countries | 1 627.4 | 1 661.7 | 1 687.4 | 1.5 |
| Developed countries | 886.1 | 906.8 | 912.2 | 0.6 |
| Per caput cereal food use (kg per year) | 147.4 | 147.8 | 148.0 | 0.1 |
| Stocks³ | 667.0 | 704.0 | 725.8 | 3.1 |
| Developing countries | 493.7 | 502.5 | 524.0 | 4.3 |
| Developed countries | 173.3 | 201.6 | 201.7 | 0.1 |
| World stock-to-use ratio (%) | 25.9 | 27.1 | 27.0 | -0.3 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown and include rice in milled terms.

² For wheat and coarse grains, trade refers to exports based on July/June marketing season. For rice, trade refers to exports based on the calendar year of the second year shown.

³ Data are based on an aggregate of carryovers level at the end of national crop years and, therefore, do not represent world stock levels at any point in time.

LOW-INCOME FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRIES' FOOD SITUATION OVERVIEW²

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

| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 estimate | 2017/18 forecast | Change: 2017/18 over 2015/16 (%) |
|---|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cereal production¹ | 450.4 | 474.3 | 482.4 | 1.7 |
| <i>excluding India</i> | 220.7 | 228.0 | 231.3 | 1.5 |
| Utilization | 493.3 | 520.5 | 521.8 | 0.3 |
| Food use | 401.8 | 410.4 | 417.7 | 1.8 |
| <i>excluding India</i> | 208.8 | 214.8 | 220.0 | 2.4 |
| Per caput cereal food use (kg per year) | 145.8 | 146.4 | 146.4 | 0.0 |
| <i>excluding India</i> | 144.4 | 145.2 | 145.4 | 0.1 |
| Feed | 38.5 | 40.0 | 40.2 | 0.4 |
| <i>excluding India</i> | 24.0 | 24.7 | 24.5 | -0.7 |
| End of season stocks² | 84.6 | 79.4 | 81.8 | 3.1 |
| <i>excluding India</i> | 43.6 | 42.9 | 44.2 | 3.0 |

¹ Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.

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

Table 4. Cereal production¹ of LIFDCs
(million tonnes)

| | 2015 | 2016 estimate | 2017 forecast | Change: 2017 over 2016 (%) |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Africa (37 countries) | 111.2 | 118.2 | 121.7 | 2.9 |
| East Africa | 45.9 | 49.0 | 48.7 | -0.6 |
| Southern Africa | 9.1 | 8.3 | 11.5 | 38.1 |
| West Africa | 51.8 | 56.8 | 57.0 | 0.2 |
| Central Africa | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 10.5 |
| Asia (11 countries) | 338.3 | 354.9 | 359.6 | 1.3 |
| CIS in Asia | 10.9 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 0.2 |
| Far East | 317.5 | 335.8 | 340.6 | 1.4 |
| - India | 229.6 | 246.3 | 251.1 | 1.9 |
| Near East | 9.9 | 8.5 | 8.4 | -0.9 |
| Central America and the Caribbean (2 countries) | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.1 | -5.8 |
| Oceania (2 countries) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| LIFDC (52 countries) | 450.4 | 474.3 | 482.4 | 1.7 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Includes rice in milled terms.

Strong production gains in Far East Asia and Southern Africa push up 2017 LIFDC cereal output

The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries' (LIFDCs) 2017 aggregate cereal output is estimated at 482.4 million tonnes, nearly 8 million tonnes (1.7 percent) higher than 2016's level, with most of this year's growth pertaining to production upturns in Far East Asia and Southern Africa.

In Asia, cereal production in 2017 is forecast to rise by 1.3 percent compared to the previous year, mainly as a result of a near 5-million-tonne increase in India, the largest producing LIFDC, while Pakistan also registered a year-on-year increase of 1 million tonnes. These increases more than offset production falls in Bangladesh, where three episodes of severe floods resulted in a cut to the 2017 paddy output, and in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea due to insufficient rains

In the Near East, the agriculture sectors in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen continue to suffer significantly from the ongoing conflicts, with both countries harvesting below-average crops in 2017. However, in the Syrian Arab Republic, improved weather conditions helped to foster a slight year-on-year increase in 2017. In the CIS countries of Asia, production is estimated to remain unchanged on an annual basis and at an above average level.

² The inclusion of a country in the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group is based on three criteria: 1) the level of the annual per capita Gross National Income (GNI); 2) the net food trade position; and 3) self exclusion (when countries that meet the first two criteria request to be excluded from the category). The new (2016) list of the LIFDCs stands at 52 countries, two less than in 2015 list but with some changes. For full details see: www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc

In sub-Saharan Africa, strong production gains are estimated in Southern African on account of beneficial rains, except in Madagascar where prolonged dryness and cyclone damage have resulted in a sharp cut to the 2017 paddy output to a below-average level. In East Africa, unfavourable weather lowered outputs in Kenya and Somalia to below-average levels, while civil insecurity in South Sudan continued to restrain agricultural production. Aggregate production in West Africa in 2017 is nearly unchanged compared to the previous year, reflecting yearly production gains in coastal countries that offset declines in the Sahel countries, with the notable exception of Senegal that is forecast to register a record output.

In Central Africa, Cameroon is expected to register a moderate year-on-year production increase pushing the national 2017 harvest to an average level. Elsewhere, the impact of persisting insecurity in the Central African Republic has kept production in 2017 at a below-average level.

In Central America and the Caribbean, cereal production in Haiti is estimated to have fallen in 2017, following the impact of Hurricane Irma, which struck the country at the planting time for the autumn season crops.

Imports forecast to rise moderately in 2017/18

The projection for aggregate cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year stands at 65.1 million tonnes, marginally above the previous year's import level.

In sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for the bulk of the LIFDC imports, cereal shipments to Southern African countries are expected to be down sharply due to this year's production rebounds, notably in Zimbabwe, where imports are expected to fall by 1 million tonnes on a yearly basis. In East Africa, cereal imports are anticipated to rise in Kenya and South Sudan to compensate for smaller outputs in 2017. In West Africa imports are forecast to remain similar to the previous year, except in Senegal where the expected record output reduced import needs.

In Asia, the steep upturn in India's output resulted in a sizeable cut to the import forecast, while in Bangladesh imports are foreseen to increase by nearly 3 million tonnes, mostly related to rice, due to a reduction in this year's paddy output. In the Near East, the continuing conflicts continue to sustain high import needs.

Table 5. Cereal imports of LIFDCs
(thousand tonnes)

| | 2015/16 or 2016 Actual imports | Import forecast | 2016/17 or 2017 | | 2017/18 or 2018 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | | of which food aid | Import requirement ¹ | of which food aid | |
| Africa (37 countries) | 32 906 | 34 593 | 984 | 34 418 | 929 | |
| East Africa | 10 871 | 11 119 | 599 | 11 333 | 623 | |
| Southern Africa | 3 146 | 3 803 | 93 | 2 749 | 15 | |
| West Africa | 17 007 | 17 492 | 134 | 18 046 | 134 | |
| Central Africa | 1 882 | 2 179 | 157 | 2 291 | 157 | |
| Asia (11 countries) | 22 616 | 28 520 | 713 | 29 029 | 713 | |
| CIS in Asia | 4 560 | 4 471 | 1 | 4 411 | 1 | |
| Far East | 8 054 | 13 926 | 102 | 13 966 | 102 | |
| Near East | 10 002 | 10 122 | 610 | 10 652 | 610 | |
| Central America and the Caribbean (2 countries) | 1 267 | 1 339 | 10 | 1 214 | 10 | |
| Oceania (2 countries) | 481 | 470 | 0 | 484 | 0 | |
| LIFDC (52 countries) | 57 270 | 64 922 | 1 707 | 65 146 | 1 652 | |

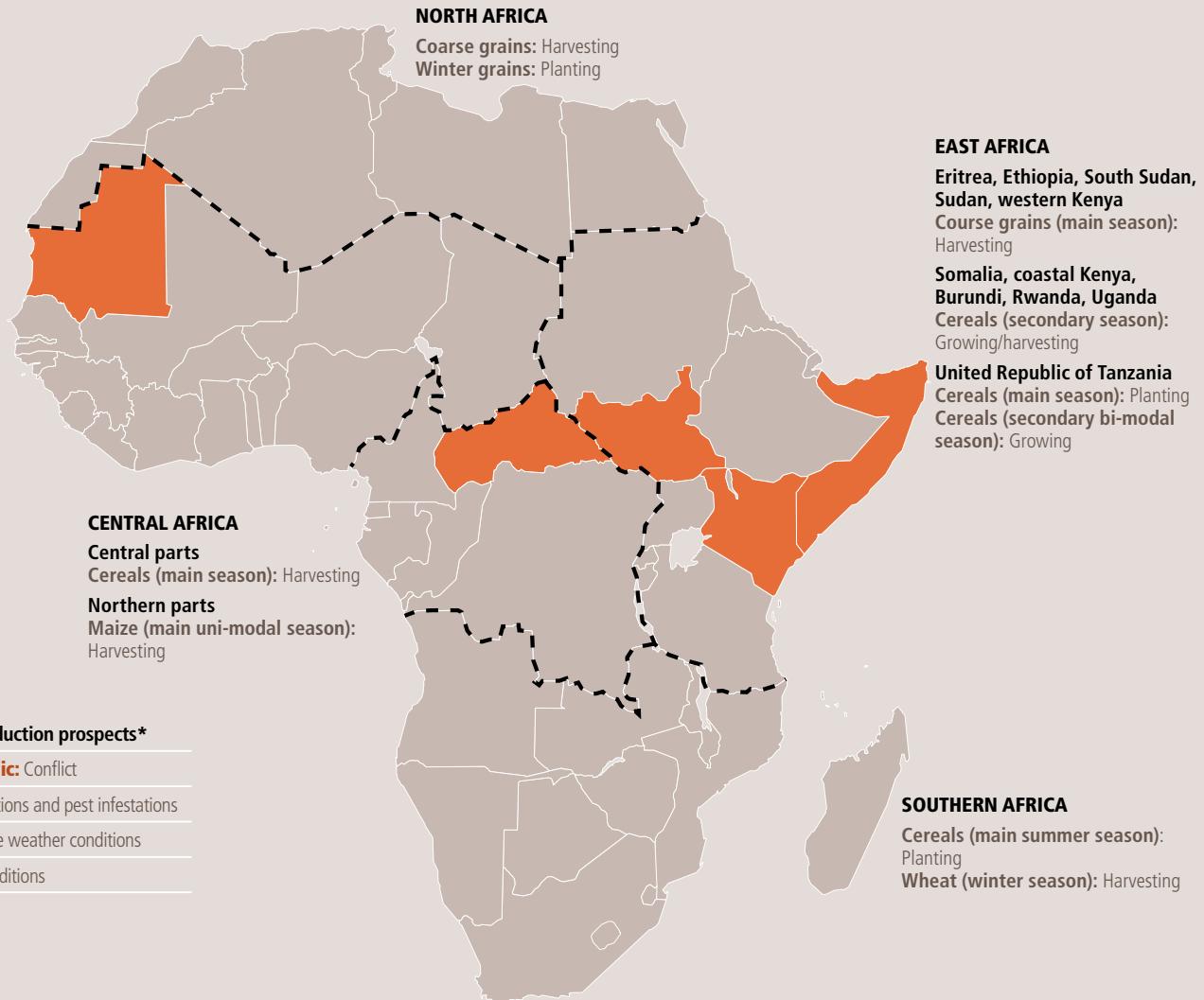
Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

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

REGIONAL REVIEWS

AFRICA

Note: Situation as of November/December
 Subregional borders



Africa Production Overview

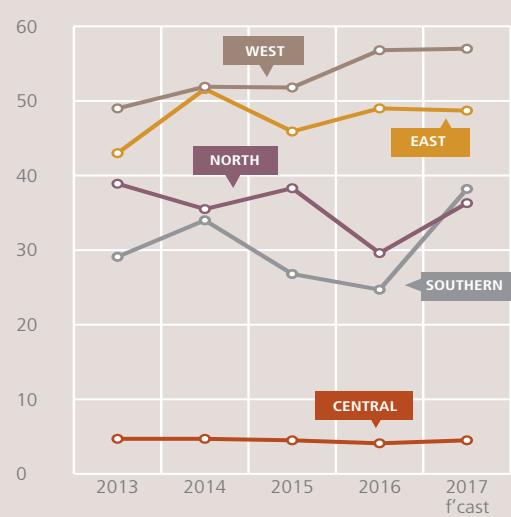
Cereal production in Africa is forecast to increase to 184.7 million tonnes in 2017, 17 million tonnes above the previous five-year average and almost 13 percent higher than in 2016. Most of the year-on-year upturn stems from production rebounds in North and Southern Africa, reflecting beneficial rains compared to the dry weather reduced outputs in 2016.

In West Africa, the 2017 cereal production is set to remain nearly unchanged compared to the above-average level of 2016. This reflects good results in coastal countries that were offset by moderate reductions in some of the Sahel countries.

In East Africa, lower expected outputs in Kenya and Somalia, following poor seasonal rain, are foreseen to result in a slightly-reduced aggregate cereal production in 2017 compared to the good level obtained in 2016. However, the subregional output is still forecast to remain above average, mainly as a result of the good harvests elsewhere in the subregion.

In Central Africa, despite persisting civil insecurity in some parts that continues to impede agricultural activities, generally good weather is estimated to have led to a small increase in the aggregate cereal output in 2017.

Cereal production
(million tonnes)



NORTH AFRICA



Mixed planting conditions for 2018 winter crops

Overall, improved weather conditions resulted in an increased 2017 cereal output compared to the previous year's level. FAO estimates the subregion's aggregate wheat output at about 19.5 million tonnes, about 30 percent more than last year's weather reduced production and slightly above the previous five-year average. The subregional barley production is estimated at 4.1 million tonnes, almost double the output of the previous year and slightly above average. The maize output, primarily produced in Egypt, is estimated at 7.3 million tonnes, virtually unchanged on a yearly basis and about 6 percent below the previous five-year average.

In **Morocco**, the 2017 wheat production is estimated at 7.1 million tonnes, a significant rebound on last year's drought-affected output of only 2.7 million tonnes and one-third more than the previous five-year average. In **Tunisia**, at 1.1 million tonnes, the 2017 wheat production is 18 percent higher than the previous year's drought-affected output and on par with the previous five-year average. By contrast, cereal production in **Algeria** recovered only slightly compared to 2016's level due to prevailing hot and dry weather conditions, and the

national output still remains 17 percent below average. Cereal production in **Egypt**, which produces the bulk of the subregional cereal output, mostly on irrigated lands, is expected to be on par with last year and the five-year average.

Despite the slightly above-average 2017 harvest, the subregion's aggregate cereal import requirement (of which wheat accounts for about 60 percent) for the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) is estimated at 49 million tonnes. This is a similar volume to the previous year and some 12 percent above the previous five-year average, as countries are likely to take advantage of the abundant global supplies to rebuild their stocks.

High levels of food inflation persist in Egypt and Libya, but rates remain relatively stable elsewhere

The annual food price inflation rates in September 2017 ranged from -1 percent in **Morocco** to 41 percent in **Egypt**. The inflation rate in **Egypt**, down from its peak of 44 percent in April 2017, remains very high and is mostly driven by the impacts of currency liberalization in November 2016, higher domestic fuel prices that have pushed up distribution costs and supply bottlenecks. A relatively moderate food price inflation rate of 6.7 percent was reported in **Algeria** (an increase from 4.7 percent in August 2017) and 7.2 percent in **Tunisia** (an increase from 6 percent in August 2017). In **Libya**, food inflation eased from the record level of 37 percent in May 2017 to 33 percent in September 2017, but remains supported by insecurity-induced supply chain disruptions and shortages of foreign currencies.

WEST AFRICA



Record 2017 cereal harvest expected in coastal countries

Harvesting of the 2017 coarse grains crops is nearly complete in the Sahel, while in coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea harvesting of the second season cereal crops began in November and is still ongoing. In coastal countries, preliminary forecasts point to an above-average cereal output in 2017, following beneficial and well-distributed rains across the main producing areas. Record cereal outputs are forecast in **Benin**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Ghana** and **Guinea**, while a near-record production is expected in **Nigeria**, **Sierra Leone** and **Togo**. In **Liberia**, an average harvest is forecast. In **Nigeria**, the Boko Haram conflict and large-scale population displacements continued to have an adverse impact on the agricultural sector in the northeast. However, the decline in production in the northeast was offset by favourable weather conditions and increased production in the states not affected by the conflict. As a result production in 2017 is estimated to be almost unchanged compared to 2016 record high. Overall, the 2017 aggregate cereal production of the eight coastal countries is estimated at around 38 million tonnes, similar to the good harvest in 2016 and 12 percent above the five-year average.

Table 6. North Africa cereal production

(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | | Coarse grains | | | Rice (paddy) | | | Total cereals | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| North Africa | 20.9 | 15.0 | 19.5 | 13.3 | 10.2 | 12.4 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 40.2 | 31.5 | 38.3 | 21.5 |
| Algeria | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 4.6 |
| Egypt | 9.0 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 22.7 | 23.1 | 23.1 | 0.1 |
| Morocco | 8.0 | 2.7 | 7.1 | 3.7 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 11.8 | 3.6 | 9.9 | 177.9 |
| Tunisia | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 24.6 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

In the Sahel, despite significant localized flooding, rains have been generally favourable since the beginning of the growing season. A record cereal output is forecast in **Mali** and **Senegal** while above-average harvests are anticipated in **Chad** and **Niger**. The 2017 aggregate cereal production of the eight Sahel countries is estimated at around 24.6 million tonnes, similar to the 2016 record level and 11 percent above average.

Despite the damage caused by the floods and the impact of Fall Armyworm infestations in localized areas, the aggregate cereal harvest in *West Africa* is expected to set another record, slightly above the 2016 output and about 9 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Cereal prices stable or declining following seasonal trends, but higher than in 2016 in many countries

Prices of coarse grains followed seasonal declines in most countries of the subregion, reflecting increased supplies from the 2017 harvests. Prices, however, remain generally above their year-earlier levels. In **Niger**, prices of coarse grains exhibited seasonal declines in September and October, but saw an uptick in November reflecting the strong demand by institutions and merchants. In **Burkina Faso**, increased availabilities from the ongoing harvest halted the upward trends of millet and sorghum prices in the previous months. Prices of coarse grains in **Chad** also declined across markets in September, but the ongoing conflict in the northeast of **Nigeria** kept prices higher in central and southwestern areas of the country. In **Mali**, price movements showed variations across markets, but are generally well above their year-earlier levels due to

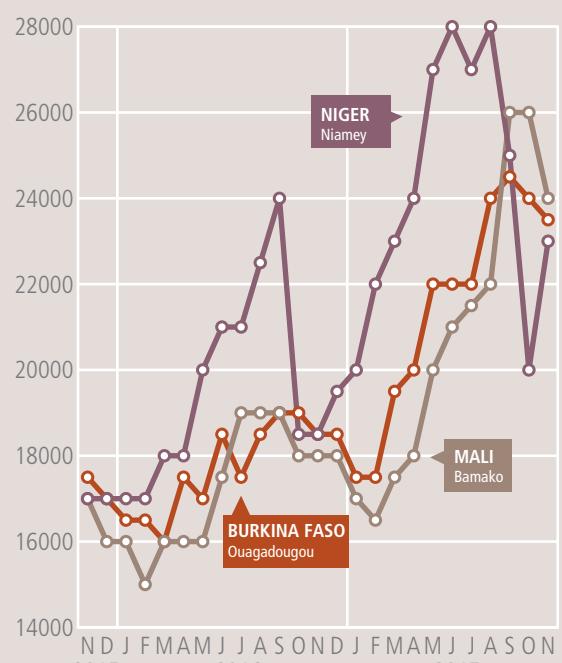
the civil insecurity situation in parts of the country as well as strong demand from the food deficit areas within and from neighbouring countries.

In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, similar developments were observed. Prices of maize in **Ghana** and **Togo** generally declined, reflecting increased supplies from the new 2017 harvest. In **Nigeria**, prices of coarse grains declined in most markets or remained relatively stable in September, reflecting the start of the new harvest. However, despite the generally favourable 2017 crop prospects in the key producing regions of the north, the weak currency and civil insecurity, which continues to disrupt market activities, kept prices at high levels. The depreciation of the Nigerian naira also continued to affect prices and trade flows. The weaker currency has resulted in increased exports to neighbouring countries, exerting significant pressure on food availability in local markets. At the same time, it has increased fuel and input costs, reducing imports from neighbouring countries and consequently affecting households' income and food security in the Sahelian countries that usually export livestock and cash crops to Nigeria.

Food security affected by civil insecurity

In spite of two consecutive years of bumper harvests and the positive prospects for the 2017 aggregate production, the humanitarian situation remains critical in

Millet prices in selected West African markets (CFA Franc BCEAO (XOF)/100kg)



Source: Afrique Verte.

many countries of the subregion, mainly due to the continuing civil conflict in northern **Nigeria**, which has resulted in large population displacements, both internally and in the neighbouring countries of **Cameroon**, **Chad** and **Niger**. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of internally displaced people in the Lake Chad Basin region is estimated at over 2.3 million as of October 2017, including new waves of displacements reflecting the volatile security situation. The conflict has also caused widespread disruption to agricultural and marketing activities in the Lake Chad area, further deteriorating the food security situation.

Table 7. West Africa cereal production (million tonnes)

| | Coarse grains | | Rice (paddy) | | Total cereals ¹ | | | | Change: 2017/2016 (%) | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------|----------------------------|-------------|------|-------------|-----------------------|------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | |
| West Africa | 42.6 | 46.9 | 46.5 | 14.4 | 15.4 | 16.3 | 57.1 | 62.4 | 62.9 | 0.7 |
| Burkina Faso | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 4.4 | -3.2 |
| Chad | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.8 | -3.9 |
| Ghana | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 13.3 |
| Mali | 5.7 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 8.1 | 8.8 | 9.0 | 2.0 |
| Niger | 5.2 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 5.5 | -6.9 |
| Nigeria | 16.8 | 19.4 | 19.0 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.4 | 21.6 | 24.4 | 24.4 | 0.0 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Across the 17 countries of Sahel and West Africa, and estimated 5.2 million individuals are severely food insecure, including about 2 000 people in CH Phase 5: "Famine" (i.e. IPC "Catastrophe") in **Nigeria**. The number of refugees and returnees in **Chad** has also increased due to the civil conflict in the Sudan, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Libya. Overall, about 409 000 refugees, the majority from the Sudan and the Central African Republic, are estimated to be living in the country, while about 174 000 Chadians are internally displaced. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food security situation, aggravated by a combination of falling oil production volumes and a continued decline in international prices in recent years, which led to a reduction in the Chadian Government's social protection schemes, negatively affecting vulnerable households' access to food.

CENTRAL AFRICA



Average to below-average 2017 cereal production prospects due to persisting civil insecurity in some countries

In the **Central African Republic** and in **Cameroon**, harvesting of the bulk of the 2017 cereal crops was concluded in October, while the harvesting of the secondary season crops in some southern

bi-modal rainfall areas has recently started. In **Gabon**, **the Congo** and in northern bi-modal rainfall areas of **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, harvesting of the 2017 main maize crop is well underway. In central bi-modal rainfall areas of **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, crops will be gathered in early 2018, while in the southernmost uni-modal rainfall areas, planting of the maize crop, for harvest from March 2018, is currently underway.

In **the Central African Republic**, despite favourable weather conditions, agricultural operations continued to be severely affected by the widespread conflict, which has resulted in large-scale population displacements, input shortages and depletion of households' productive assets. Consequently, a reduced agricultural output for the fifth consecutive year is expected in 2017. In **Cameroon**, as a result of generally beneficial weather, national cereal production is estimated to have increased to an average level. However, in the Far North Region, agricultural operations continued to be severely affected by civil unrest, which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014 and resulted in population displacements, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate due to the recurrent climatic shocks. Consequently, the resilience capacity of a large number of households has been eroded and a third consecutive year of a reduced cereal harvest is expected in the region. In **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, according to remote sensing analysis, vegetation conditions are favourable in most cropping areas following adequate precipitations. However, crop production shortfalls are expected in conflict-affected areas of Kasai and Tanganyika provinces

as well as in North Kivu and Katanga provinces, where Fall Armyworm outbreaks have also been reported. In **the Congo**, crops benefitted from a timely onset of seasonal rains in October, while in **Gabon** some cropping areas experienced dry weather conditions, which delayed planting operations. In both countries, the bulk of the national cereal requirement is met through imports. Overall, FAO's forecast for the subregional cereal output in 2017 stands at 4.7 million tonnes, 10 percent above last year's level and similar to the previous five-year average.

Hyperinflation and market disruptions severely constrain food access in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the annual inflation rate has surged to 42 percent in 2017 from 18 percent in 2016, reflecting declining export revenues, owing to low international prices of minerals, combined with high Government spending. In addition, the ongoing conflict in the Kasai and Tanganyika regions continued to disrupt food trade and markets and put additional upward pressure on food prices in recent months. In **Cameroon**, **the Congo** and **Gabon**, inflation rates were mostly stable in 2017 and below the convergence rate of 3 percent set by the "Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale". In **the Central African Republic**, the inflation rate is estimated to have fallen to 3.7 percent in 2017 from 4.6 percent last year. However, the persisting and widespread insecurity situation has continued to cause trade and marketing disruptions, triggering food price spikes and constraining food access for vulnerable households.

Table 8. Central Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

| | Coarse grains | | | Rice (paddy) | | | Total cereals ¹ | | | | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------|--------------------------|
| | 2015 estim. | 2016 f'cast | 2017 f'cast | 2015 estim. | 2016 f'cast | 2017 f'cast | 2015 estim. | 2016 f'cast | 2017 f'cast | | |
| Central Africa | 4.1 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 9.9 | |
| Cameroon | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 13.7 | |
| Central African Republic | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 4.9 | |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Conflicts intensified in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo worsening food security conditions

In the Central African Republic, food availability and access have been severely affected by the widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities due to an increase in violent clashes and inter-communal tensions. As a result, the IDP caseload as of October 2017 is estimated at about 602 000, a 12 percent increase since the end of June and almost 50 percent higher than January 2017. Four consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, have resulted in a critical food security situation across the country. In addition, the diets of most households have deteriorated in terms of quantity and quality of the food intake. Based on the latest IPC analysis, valid for the period February to May 2017, about 1.1 million people (30 percent of the surveyed population) were estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3: "Crisis" and 4: "Emergency"). Conditions are now expected to improve as newly-harvested crops have become available for consumption. However, these improvements are likely to be limited and short-lived as the reduced harvests in the conflict-affected areas will not allow households to adequately replenish their stocks and an earlier-than-usual onset of the lean season is anticipated.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the humanitarian crisis in the Kasai Region and the extension of inter-communal conflicts in the

Tanganyika Region as well as in the eastern part of the country, are the key drivers causing a worsening of the food insecurity situation. Since September 2016, the Kasai Region has been facing a major humanitarian crisis and the conflict has caused the displacement of about 1.4 million people. As of November 2017, the total IDP caseload in the country was estimated at 4.1 million. A significant portion of IDPs are hosted by local communities, putting added strain on their limited resources with the high risk to further push them into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. According to the latest IPC, valid for the period from June to December 2017, about 7.7 million people (11 percent of the total population) are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). In Cameroon, the food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions is dire, due mostly to the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, as well as the increasing civil insecurity. In the Far North Region, the impact of the Boko Haram armed forces on civil insecurity has resulted in the displacement of about 238 000 Cameroonian refugees and an influx of about 90 000 refugees from Nigeria. Furthermore, the resurgence of violence in the Central Africa Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country in recent months. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamawa regions, putting added strain on their limited resources. The total number of refugees from the Central African Republic residing in the country is estimated at about 241 000 people.

EAST AFRICA



Above-average 2017 subregional cereal output expected despite reduced harvests in Kenya and Somalia

In central and northern parts of the subregion, harvesting of the 2017 main season cereal crops is well underway. In Ethiopia, production prospects for the main "meher" season crops are generally favourable in key western growing areas of western Oromia, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions. However, lower yields are expected in the lowlands of central and eastern Oromia Region and in SNNPR, where "kiremt" rains had a late onset and an erratic distribution. In addition, a substantial delay of the 2017 "belg" harvest in SNNPR delayed the planting of "meher" crops and, as the period for crop development was shortened, farmers were forced to reduce plantings of long cycle, high-yielding maize, sorghum and millet. In the Sudan, above-average rains from August to October in Kassala State, southern parts of North Darfur State and northern parts of North Kordofan and Gadarif states eased moisture deficits and lifted crop production prospects, following

Table 9. East Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | | Coarse grains | | | Total cereals ¹ | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| East Africa | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 38.1 | 41.0 | 40.8 | 47.1 | 50.4 | 50.0 | -0.8 |
| Ethiopia | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 18.8 | 19.0 | 18.9 | 23.1 | 23.4 | 23.3 | -0.4 |
| Kenya | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 3.8 | -5.7 |
| Sudan | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 2.9 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 3.4 | 7.9 | 7.5 | -6.0 |
| Uganda | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 4.7 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 10.3 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 2.4 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

the impact of early season dryness. Overall, national cereal production is expected at an above average level, reflecting generally beneficial seasonal rains in key producing areas. An ongoing nationwide Government-led crop assessment, with FAO technical support, will provide detailed production estimates in early 2018. In northern and central uni-modal rainfall areas of **South Sudan**, weather conditions have been generally favourable. However, agricultural activities continue to be disrupted by protracted and widespread insecurity, which is constraining access to fields and continues to cause large-scale displacement of people and damage to households' productive assets. National 2017 crop production estimates will be provided by a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) currently deployed in the country.

In the main growing areas of Rift Valley and Western provinces of **Kenya**, the "long-rains" were characterized by a late onset and a prolonged dry spell in June, which caused moisture stress and crop wilting. Improved rainfall between July and September partly offset the moisture deficits, however, some damage to the maize crop was irreversible. In addition, unseasonal rainfall in October and early November hampered harvesting and drying operations, causing further crop losses. As a result, the major "long-rains" maize output is forecast at about 25 percent below average. In Eritrea, seasonal rains were generally above average, but with an erratic temporal distribution. This had a negative impact on vegetation conditions in some central and western areas.

In southern parts of the subregion, harvesting of the 2017 second season cereal crops has recently started in bi-modal rainfall areas of **South Sudan** and **Uganda**, while in northeastern bi-modal rainfall areas of **the United Republic of Tanzania**, central and southern **Somalia** and southeastern and coastal lowlands of **Kenya**, crops will be gathered in early 2018. So far, precipitation in the October-December rainy season has been erratic both spatially and temporally in several cropping areas of the subregion, with a negative impact on crop establishment and development. In central and southern **Somalia** and southeastern **Kenya**, the rainy season has been characterized by severe dryness since October, with only one dekad of heavy rains in early November. In **Somalia**, as "deyr"

rains normally subside by early December, a recovery of the crops is very unlikely and production prospects are unfavourable. This is therefore expected to result in a fourth consecutive reduced harvest, with the 2017 coarse grains output forecast to be about 30 percent below average. In **Kenya**, by contrast, where the "short-rains" are expected to continue well into December, some crop recovery might still be possible if favourable rains return. In southern bi-modal rainfall areas of **South Sudan**, seasonal rains were adequate in all former Equatoria states. However, crop production is expected to be well below-average and lower than the already poor 2016 output, as the ongoing conflict continued to cause massive displacements. In bi-modal rainfall areas of **the United Republic of Tanzania**, "vuli" rains had a timely onset, which benefited land preparation and planting activities. In central and southern bi-modal rainfall areas of **Uganda**, above-average rains throughout the country are expected to result in a favourable second season harvest. In **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, harvesting of the 2018A season crops has recently started and overall production prospects are favourable owing to adequate cumulative rainfall amounts in most cropping areas.

Fall Armyworm infestations in parts of western and southeastern **Kenya**, southern and western **Ethiopia**, **South Sudan**, **Uganda**, **Rwanda**, **Burundi** and **the United Republic of Tanzania** have constrained yields especially where appropriate control measures have not been implemented, notably in **South Sudan**, where the ongoing conflict has often prevented the treatment of infested crops.

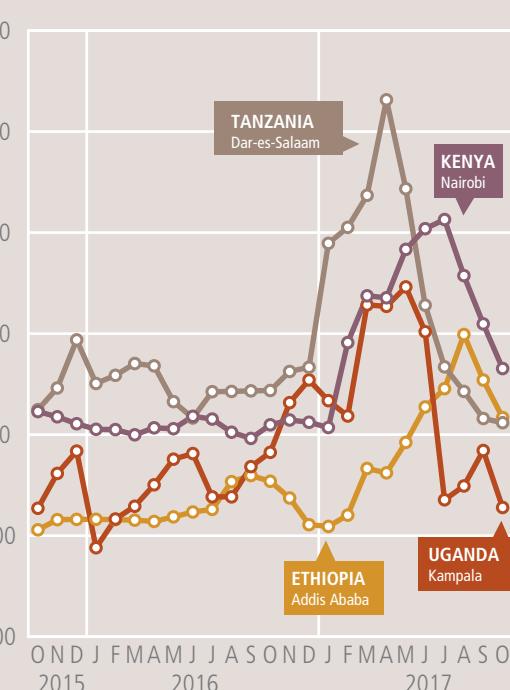
FAO's preliminary estimate of the subregion's 2017 aggregate cereal output, including a forecast for the second season harvests to be gathered early next year in southern and central **Somalia** ("deyr"), southern and coastal lowlands of **Kenya** ("short-rains") and the northeastern **United Republic of Tanzania** ("vuli"), stands at about 50 million tonnes, similar to last year's output and 5 percent above the previous five-year average.

Prolonged drought conditions have severely affected pasture and water availability in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the subregion, due to the erratic rains between October and December. Although the cumulative rainfall levels were generally average to above average, the rains have not yet been sufficient to offset the moisture deficits accumulated over more than one year of dryness and vegetation conditions are still very poor in several areas. The most severe forage and water deficits are in southeastern **Ethiopia**, southern and central **Somalia** and northern and eastern **Kenya**, resulting in extremely poor livestock body conditions, high animal mortality rates and a decline of milk production to record low levels.

Prices of coarse grains declining but still at high levels in several countries

After reaching record levels in mid-2017, prices of coarse grains declined seasonally in recent months in several countries of the subregion as newly harvested crops increased market supplies. However, prices in October were still at high levels in **South Sudan**, **Ethiopia**, **Somalia** and **the Sudan**. In **Uganda** and **the United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize decreased between May and October by 40-50 percent from their record highs as newly harvested crops increased supplies,

Maize prices in selected East African markets (USD/tonne)



Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network; Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise.

generally reverting to their year-earlier levels. In **the United Republic of Tanzania**, reduced exports following a maize export ban introduced in June contributed to price declines. Similarly, in **Kenya**, maize prices decreased by 25-45 percent between May and October. However, prices in October remained up to 16 percent higher than one year earlier due to tight domestic supplies, despite sustained imports and the introduction of a new price subsidy programme for maize grain imports and domestic maize flour products. In **the Sudan**, prices of locally-produced sorghum and millet increased between July and September by up to 30 and 45 percent, respectively, as seasonal patterns were compounded by market disruptions caused by floods. Subsequently, they declined in October by 5-20 percent with the beginning of the 2017 harvest. However, October prices were still 10-40 percent above their year-earlier levels in most markets, mainly due to high production and transportation costs, as well as poor crop performance in some areas. Higher year-on-year increases were reported in the markets located in the conflict-affected areas of Darfur and South Kordofan states. In **South Sudan**, prices of maize and sorghum declined between June and October by 10-15 percent, following the first season harvest in southern bi-modal rainfall areas and the establishment of a trading company by the Government selling basic food commodities at subsidized prices. October prices of coarse grains, however, remained about 70 percent above the high levels recorded one year earlier, driven by widespread insecurity, a tight supply situation, hyperinflation and the significant depreciation of the local currency. In **Somalia**, prices of sorghum and maize declined by 10-35 percent between August and October as a result of the improved market availabilities from the 2017 "gu" harvest. However, they remained up to 55 percent higher than one year earlier due to the tight supply situation owing to consecutive reduced harvests. In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize surged between January and September, doubling, on average, in all monitored markets and reaching record highs, as seasonal increases were compounded by the poor performance of the "belg" harvest and sustained exports to Kenya. Subsequently, prices of maize levelled off or began to decline in October with the start of the "meher" harvest, but remained up to 55 percent higher than one year earlier.

Dire food insecurity situation persists in southeastern Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan

The lean season is over in most crop-producing areas and food security conditions are gradually improving as newly-harvested main season crops become available for consumption. However, improvements will be limited and short-lived in **South Sudan** and **Somalia** as reduced harvests will not allow households to adequately replenish stocks and an earlier-than-usual onset of the lean season is therefore anticipated. Currently, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the subregion is estimated at 25.4 million, 2.7 million less than in September, when it reached a record high 28 million, but still 20 percent higher than one year earlier. In **Ethiopia**, the food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2017, with the estimated number of food insecure people increasing from 5.6 million in December 2016 to 8.5 million in August 2017, due to prolonged drought conditions severely affecting pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods in southeastern areas. The area of critical concern is the Somali Region, where the food insecure caseload was estimated in September at 2.3 million (42 percent of the region's population), the highest since 2011. In southern Liben, Afder, Shabelle, Korahe and Doolo districts, severe drought conditions since October 2016 resulted in consecutive crop failures and in extensive and widespread livestock losses. These conditions have put vulnerable households at a high risk of extreme food insecurity, and continued livelihood support and food aid distributions are essential to avert a crisis situation. In **Somalia**, the risk of famine continues in several areas and it has been prevented so far essentially due to the delivery of large-scale humanitarian assistance. According to the latest multi-agency assessment, about 3.1 million people (one-quarter of total population) are currently estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3: "Crisis" and 4: "Emergency"). This caseload is almost three times the estimate of one year earlier, reflecting the dramatic impact on local livelihoods of consecutive poor rainy seasons. The areas of major concern are central Bay, Bakool, Hiran and Galgadud regions and northern Sanag and Sool regions, where 40-50 percent of the population is severely food insecure. In **South Sudan**, about 4.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure, 20 percent less than the record high reached in

September, as newly harvested crops from the 2017 harvest increased food availability, but 45 percent of the total population still faces severe food insecurity. Notably, the IPC Phase 4: "Emergency" caseload is twice the estimate of one year earlier as food availability and access continues to be severely constrained by widespread violence, large scale displacements, high food prices, market disruptions and limited income-earning opportunities. The areas of major concern are former Jonglei and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, where over 60 percent of the population faces "Crisis", "Emergency" and "Catastrophe" levels of food insecurity. In particular, people facing extreme food insecurity conditions are located in Ayod County in the former Jonglei State and in Wau County in former Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

SOUTHERN AFRICA



Weather forecasts point to generally favourable rainfall conditions for the 2018 cereal crops

Land preparation for and planting of the 2018 cereal crops is underway across the subregion. Light rains were received in October, marking the start of the rainy season, followed by increased precipitation in November that was conducive for cereal planting and early crop development. However, there was a delayed onset of seasonal rains in parts of Lesotho and South Africa, which may result in a shortening of the normal growing period for cereal crops.

For the remainder of the cropping season, with the 2018 harvest expected to begin in April, weather forecasts point to mixed rainfall levels. In southern parts, including **Botswana**, southern **Mozambique**, **South Africa** and **Zimbabwe**, there is a higher probability of average to below-average rains, while forecasts point to an increased likelihood of

above-average rains in northern countries. However, it should be noted that below-average rains would not directly imply insufficient precipitation levels for crop needs. Most parts of the subregion, except some areas in southeastern regions, particularly near the coast, receive average seasonal rainfall volumes that are more than sufficient to satisfy crop requirements for maize, the principal cereal crop and food staple, and therefore below-average rains may still be satisfactory to meet crop requirements.

In **South Africa**, preliminary indications point to a 6 percent year-on-year contraction for maize sowings for the 2018 crop, reflecting a decrease for white maize, the main food staple, which is projected to more than offset an expansion in yellow maize sowings, primarily used as animal feed. The foreseen decline in white maize plantings would mostly result from lower grain prices and significant subregional white maize supplies that curbed demand for South African grains compared to previous years. Elsewhere in the subregion, although official estimates on cereal plantings will only be available early next year, initial expectations point to a similar area planted compared to the previous year for communal and subsistence farmers. This reflects generally favourable access to agricultural inputs, including seeds and fertilizers, due to continued support by governmental input subsidy programmes, notably in **Malawi** and **Zambia**, and good availability of seeds from the bumper harvests of 2017. For the larger-scale commercial farmers, there is likely to be a shift away from maize cultivation to more profitable crops, on account of the lower maize grain prices.

Record cereal outputs in 2017

The subregional 2017 output is estimated at about 39.4 million tonnes, well above the previous five-year average and 13.3 million tonnes (51 percent) higher than the drought-reduced 2016 output. Most of the increase is reflective of a larger maize harvest, with a smaller production increase estimated for sorghum. The main driver behind the maize production upturn was favourable weather conditions that boosted yields and resulted in an increased area harvested. Almost all countries registered production increases in 2017, with the largest absolute increases in **South Africa** and **Zimbabwe**, while significant production gains were also estimated in **Malawi** and **Zambia**, with the latter registering a record cereal output. Although weather shocks were generally limited, **Madagascar** experienced a prolonged dry spell and a cyclone in early 2017, which combined to cause a sharp cut to the national rice output, the country's principal food staple. As a result, the domestic rice output is estimated to be about 20 percent below the average.

The subregional 2017 winter wheat production is estimated to have fallen, mainly reflective of a reduced output in **South Africa** due to drier conditions in the main producing areas.

Import requirements significantly down due to bumper outputs in 2017

As a result of the bumper and record cereal outputs in 2017, the overall supply situation in the 2017/18 marketing year is favourable. The increased domestic outputs enabled countries to replenish their inventories and closing stocks in 2017/18 are forecast at

above-average levels, compared to the well below-average levels in the previous year.

As for trade, aggregate maize imports in 2017/18 are expected to fall below 1 million tonnes, compared to an average level of 2.4 million tonnes and the 4.5 million tonnes imported in the previous year. Most of the yearly decline reflects a cut in **South Africa's** import needs, which are now forecast at negligible levels compared to the 2.2 million tonnes imported in 2016/17. Significantly smaller import requirements are also estimated in **Malawi** and **Zimbabwe**, reflecting their larger domestic harvests in 2017. However, in **Madagascar** imports of rice are forecast to increase to a well above-average level as the country seeks to boost its supplies following a sharp drop in this year's output.

Subregional maize exports are forecast to increase in 2017/18 to an above-average level of 3.3 million tonnes. Almost all of this year-on-year growth pertains to a larger forecast in **South Africa**, the main exporter in the subregion, which is expected to ship about 2.5 million tonnes of maize in 2017/18, an above average level and 1.7 million tonnes higher than the previous year. Prevailing low South African grain prices are helping to facilitate increased exports, with prices of maize trending close to their export parity levels. The bulk of this volume is anticipated to be delivered to countries outside of *Southern Africa*, with only about 0.6 million tonnes forecast to be traded within the subregion. In 2017, **Malawi** and **Zambia** reversed their bans on maize exports, prompted by favourable domestic supplies. Both countries are expected to export near-average volumes, mostly trading with neighbouring countries,

Table 10. Southern Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | | Coarse grains | | | Rice (paddy) | | | Total cereals | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| Southern Africa | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 22.2 | 19.6 | 33.8 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 28.2 | 26.1 | 39.4 | 50.9 |
| - excl. South Africa | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 15.8 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 19.9 | 28.3 |
| Madagascar | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.4 | -18.1 |
| Malawi | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.7 | 46.8 |
| Mozambique | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 18.2 |
| South Africa | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 11.1 | 8.7 | 18.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.6 | 10.6 | 19.5 | 83.7 |
| Zambia | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 23.6 |
| Zimbabwe | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 298.9 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

including the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Prices of maize well down on year-earlier levels

Prices of maize continued to remain below their year-earlier levels, pressured down by abundant national supplies. In **South Africa**, wholesale prices of maize have strengthened slightly over the preceding months since August, mostly reflecting expectations of a contraction in plantings for the 2018 crop, while a weakening of the national currency also applied some upward pressure. However, abundant availabilities from the record 2017 output have maintained lower year-on-year price levels. As for wheat, prices were slightly higher compared to their year-earlier values as dry weather conditions in the largest producing province are expected to result in a cut in this year's national output. In **Malawi**, **Mozambique** and **Zambia**, prices of maize grain continued to decline reflecting domestic maize surpluses in 2017/18. In **Zimbabwe**, maize-meal price declines have persisted since last May, with just a small increase for maize grain prices in September, consistent with seasonal trends. Prices of both maize meal and grain were well below their year-earlier values as of October, on account of the large domestic supplies. In **Namibia** and **Swaziland**, prices followed mixed trends, but remained overall well down on a yearly basis as of September, largely reflecting lower import prices. In **Madagascar**, prices of the main

staple, rice, were up on their year-earlier values, reflecting the impact of the dry weather-reduced harvest in 2017 and overall tight supplies, although large import volumes partially contained supply pressure, limiting further price increases.

Number of food insecure sharply reduced in 2017/18

As the peak of the lean season is approaching (January-March), the food security situation is likely to worsen for the most vulnerable households as their food supplies tighten. However, there is a significant reduction in the overall number of people who require food assistance in the subregion compared to last year's high caseload, due to the increased national agricultural outputs and prevailing lower prices.

At the aggregate level, excluding Angola³ and South Africa⁴, estimates from the Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VACs) indicate that the estimated number of food insecure people in 2017/18 has fallen by 75 percent to 4.3 million. Most of this decrease concerns reduced numbers in **Malawi** (down 5.8 million), **Mozambique** (down 1.7 million) and **Zimbabwe** (down 3 million). In **Madagascar**, the impact of Cyclone Ewano in March 2017 and a below-average rice

White maize prices in selected Southern African markets
(USD/kg)



* Wholesale prices, all others retail prices

Sources: Central Statistical Office, Zambia; Sistema De Informação De Mercados Agrícolas De Moçambique, Mozambique; SAFEX Agricultural Products Division, South Africa.

harvest at the national level, have adversely affected food insecurity in southeastern areas of the country and in parts of the centre where the dry period was most intense. However, food security conditions improved slightly in the previously drought-stricken southern regions following a small recovery in cereal harvests in 2017.

³ Official estimates for 2017 are not yet available.

⁴ Food security figures are not directly comparable with other countries' numbers.

REGIONAL REVIEWS

ASIA

Note: Situation as of November/December

— Subregional borders

CIS IN ASIA

Wheat (winter season): Planting



NEAR EAST ASIA

Coarse grains (winter season):
Planting to establishment

FAR EAST ASIA

China (Mainland)

Rice (late double season): Harvesting
Wheat (winter season): Planting

Southeastern Far East Asia

Maize and rice (secondary season):
Planting
Rice (main season): Harvesting

Unfavourable 2017 production prospects*

Bangladesh: Flooding

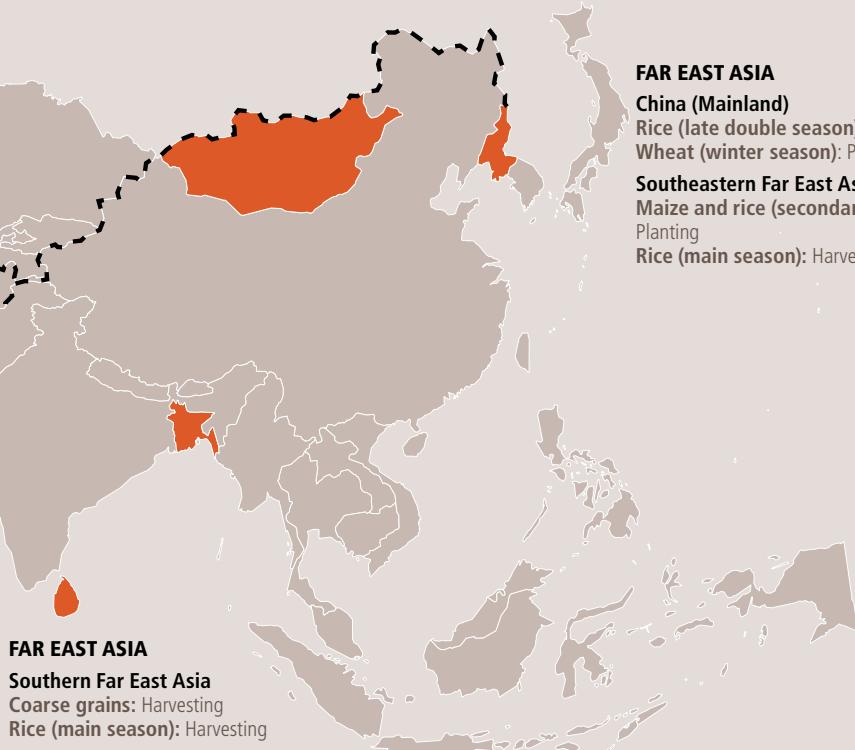
Democratic People's Republic of Korea:
Insufficient rains

Mongolia: Drought

Sri Lanka: Drought

Syrian Arab Republic: Conflict

* See terminology (page 7)



FAR EAST ASIA

Southern Far East Asia

Coarse grains: Harvesting
Rice (main season): Harvesting

India

Coarse grains and rice (kharif season): Harvesting
Maize and wheat (rabi season): Planting

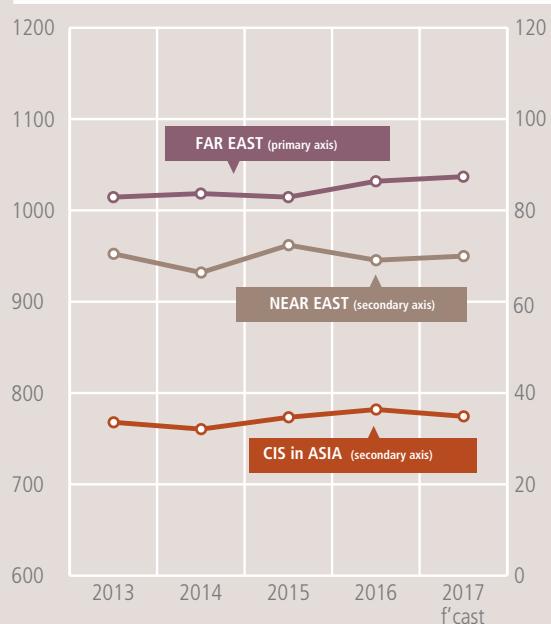
Asia Production Overview

In Asia, cereal production in 2017 is forecast at 1 142 million tonnes, about 4.5 million tonnes (0.4 percent) higher than 2016's good output and well above average. Most of the increase reflects gains in the Far East, where a 7.6-million-tonne increase in the subregional wheat production offset reductions for coarse grains and paddy outputs.

A production upturn is also estimated in the Near East on account of overall favourable weather. However, conflicts continued to severely impair agricultural productive capacities in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, keeping cereal production in 2017 at below-average levels.

In the CIS countries of Asia, production is estimated to be above average but down from the bumper high of last year after yields returned to average levels.

Cereal production
(million tonnes)



FAR EAST**Aggregate cereal production in 2017 to marginally surpass the record level of 2017**

In Northern Hemisphere countries, harvesting of the 2017 main season rice and maize crops is well advanced and planting of the 2017/18 winter wheat and secondary rice crops is underway. Countries along or south of the Equator have almost completed the harvesting of 2017 secondary paddy and maize crops, and are currently planting the 2018 main crops.

The subregional aggregate cereal output in 2017 is forecast at 1 265 million tonnes (rice in paddy equivalent), which would represent a marginal increase compared to the 2016 bumper level and a new record high.

Production of paddy rice, the major staple in the subregion, is estimated at 677.1 million tonnes, slightly below last year's bumper level but above the five-year average. In **India**, the 2017 main "kharif" crop is expected to decline marginally due to less than ideal growing conditions this season, namely floods in the northeastern and northwestern states of the country and insufficient rains in southern and central regions. Reflecting the expected decrease in

the 2017 "kharif" main season output and assuming an average 2017 "rabi" crop, the 2017 aggregate rice production is forecast at 164.2 million tonnes (109.5 million tonnes, milled basis), which is slightly below last year's record level. In **Bangladesh**, three episodes of severe flash floods during 2017 affected large areas of the country, particularly the northern districts, causing losses to the two main "boro" and "aman" crops, which together account for more than 90 percent of the total annual output. As a result, the 2017 aggregate paddy output is now forecast at 50.8 million tonnes, 3 percent below the 2016 output and a five-year low. Similarly, smaller paddy harvests are forecast in **Sri Lanka** and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, following prolonged dry conditions during the cropping season, and in **Viet Nam**

and **Nepal** mostly due to erratic rains or floods. In **the Republic of Korea**, 2017 paddy output is estimated at 5.3 million tonnes, about 6 percent less than the output obtained in 2016 due to a reduction in both plantings and yields. By contrast, overall favourable weather conditions and area expansions are anticipated to boost paddy output in **Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Pakistan** and **Timor-Leste**. A favourable outcome is also anticipated for **Thailand**, notwithstanding some flooding problems.

The subregion's 2017 aggregate maize production is forecast at 299.2 million tonnes, slightly below last year's record level. The year-on-year decrease reflects a 7.2-million-tonne (or 3 percent) decline in **China (Mainland)**, driven by area cuts, as farmers gradually shift away from maize cultivation to more profitable crops, in particular soybeans, in response to the Government's decision to remove the Minimum Support Price for maize. By contrast, the maize output is forecast at a record level of 25 million tonnes in **Indonesia**, mostly reflecting an expansion in plantings supported by higher demand from the feed industry. Similarly, maize production is expected to increase in **Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan** and **Timor-Leste**, due to favourable weather conditions.

The subregion's 2017 aggregate wheat production, with crops already harvested in the first part of the year, is estimated at

Table 11. Far East cereal production
(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | | Coarse grains | | | Rice (paddy) | | | Total cereals | | | |
|-------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| Far East | 246.6 | 251.3 | 258.9 | 327.2 | 330.7 | 328.7 | 663.8 | 677.8 | 677.1 | 1 237.5 | 1 259.7 | 1 264.7 | 0.4 |
| Bangladesh | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 52.5 | 52.1 | 50.8 | 56.4 | 56.3 | 55.3 | -1.9 |
| Cambodia | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 9.3 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 9.7 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 3.1 |
| China (Mainland) | 130.2 | 128.8 | 130.2 | 234.1 | 229.3 | 222.6 | 209.8 | 208.7 | 208.5 | 574.1 | 566.8 | 561.4 | -1.0 |
| India | 86.5 | 92.3 | 98.4 | 38.7 | 43.9 | 43.2 | 156.6 | 165.2 | 164.2 | 281.8 | 301.4 | 305.8 | 1.5 |
| Japan | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 11.7 | 11.6 | 11.4 | -2.1 |
| Myanmar | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 27.7 | 28.6 | 29.5 | 29.7 | 30.7 | 31.7 | 3.0 |
| Nepal | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 4.3 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 8.8 | 9.6 | 9.3 | -2.9 |
| Pakistan | 25.1 | 25.5 | 25.8 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 11.0 | 40.9 | 41.9 | 43.1 | 3.0 |
| Philippines | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 17.5 | 18.5 | 19.6 | 24.4 | 26.6 | 27.6 | 3.5 |
| Republic of Korea | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.5 | -5.8 |
| Thailand | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 27.4 | 32.6 | 33.7 | 32.2 | 37.3 | 38.4 | 2.9 |
| Viet Nam | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 45.1 | 43.6 | 43.3 | 50.4 | 48.8 | 48.5 | -0.7 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

258.9 million tonnes, a 3 percent increase compared to the 2016 bumper level. Most of the countries gathered bumper crops, with the exception of **Mongolia**, where a severe drought during the summer months affected large areas sown with wheat. The latest official estimates put the 2017 wheat output at about 231 000 tonnes, almost half of last year's high level and more than 40 percent lower than the average of the previous five years. An FAO/WFP Rapid Assessment Mission visited Mongolia from 15 to 28 October 2017 to evaluate agricultural production in 2017, including crop production and livestock conditions. The report is expected to be released before the end of the year and will provide more details on the prevailing agricultural situation.

Planting prospects for the 2018 wheat crop are generally favourable

Planting of the largely irrigated winter 2018 wheat crop, for harvest next year, is currently underway in most countries of the subregion. In **China (Mainland)**, weather conditions so far have been generally favourable in the main producing areas located in the central and northern parts of the country, benefiting fieldwork and establishment of the earliest planted crops. In **India**, the early official target is set at 97.5 million tonnes, slightly below last year's all time high but still the second best on record. In **Pakistan**, some concerns exist for the 2018 wheat crop due to below-average rains since August, which reduced irrigation availabilities in the major reservoirs.

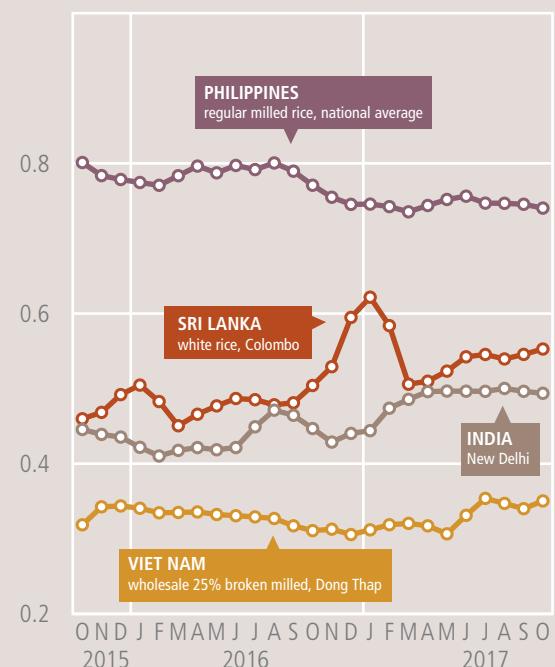
Subregional cereal imports to decrease marginally, while exports to increase in the 2017/18 marketing year

Given the expected increase in the subregional 2017/18 cereal output, aggregate cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year are forecast to decrease by 3 percent from last year's record level to 128 million tonnes, but still remain well above the previous five year average. The bulk of the year-on-year decrease reflects lower demand for cereals from **China**

(Mainland), mainly wheat, due to high stock levels obtained from successive bumper harvests, and barley and sorghum for feed, resulting from the Government's efforts to lower the large national maize inventories. Similarly, lower demand for wheat from **Thailand**, on account of the Government's decision to restrict imports of feed wheat, as well as maize from **Viet Nam**, also contributed to the year-on-year decrease in imports.

Exports of cereals in the subregion consist mostly of rice. In 2017, aggregate rice exports are forecast to increase by 13 percent to approximately 38 million

Rice retail prices in selected Far East countries (USD/kg)



Sources: Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India; Bureau of Agriculture Statistics, the Philippines; Agroinfo, Viet Nam.

tonnes, mostly owing to a recovery in deliveries from the subregion's main exporters **India**, **Thailand** and **Viet Nam**.

Domestic prices of rice showed mixed trends in recent months, while wheat prices were generally stable

Prices of domestic rice, in local currencies, followed mixed trends in recent months. In **Viet Nam**, after two months of slight

Table 12. Far East cereal production and anticipated trade in 2017/18¹
(thousand tonnes)

| | Avg 5-yr (2012/13 to 2016/17) | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2017/18 over 2016/17 (%) | 2017/18 over 5-yr avg (%) |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Coarse grains | | | | | |
| Exports | 4 614 | 3 068 | 2 948 | -3.9 | -36.1 |
| Imports | 60 396 | 62 886 | 60 636 | -3.6 | 0.4 |
| Production | 322 620 | 330 686 | 328 719 | -0.6 | 1.9 |
| Rice (milled) | | | | | |
| Exports | 35 670 | 37 908 | 38 267 | 0.9 | 7.3 |
| Imports | 13 967 | 14 554 | 14 330 | -1.5 | 2.6 |
| Production | 443 708 | 449 954 | 449 306 | -0.1 | 1.3 |
| Wheat | | | | | |
| Exports | 5 306 | 2 178 | 2 160 | -0.8 | -59.3 |
| Imports | 43 569 | 56 712 | 51 663 | -8.9 | 18.6 |
| Production | 247 695 | 251 277 | 258 919 | 3.0 | 4.5 |

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

Wheat and wheat flour retail prices in selected Far East countries (USD/kg)



Sources: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India; Management Information System and Monitoring, Bangladesh; National Bureau of Statistics of China.

decreases, rice prices strengthened in October due to concerns about the impact of heavy rains and floods on winter crops in northern-producing areas of the country. Similarly, in **India** and **Myanmar**, rice prices increased in the October-November period just before the 2017 main "kharif" harvest. By contrast, in **Thailand**, rice prices decreased moderately in recent months due to a slowdown in export demand, while expectations of a good 2017 crop also weighed down prices. In **China (Mainland)**, **the Philippines** and

Indonesia, rice prices were generally stable as a result of adequate market supplies from the 2017 harvests. In **Sri Lanka**, rice prices have been increasing since March 2017 and were well above their year earlier levels in October underpinned by production shortfalls. In **Bangladesh**, prices of rice decreased significantly in October from the record highs reached in the previous month, mostly reflecting increased imports. This latest decrease followed steady increases in rice prices in the country since mid 2016 due to reduced output and lower imports last year, combined with production losses caused by severe flooding problems in 2017.

Wheat prices remained relatively stable in recent months in most countries.

They were stable and lower than a year earlier in **India**

and **Pakistan**, reflecting good market supplies from the 2017 bumper outputs. Similarly, adequate market availabilities kept prices unchanged in **China (Mainland)**, **Indonesia** and **Sri Lanka**. The only exception is **Bangladesh**, where prices have increased strongly in recent months and were almost 20 percent above their year-earlier levels on account of stronger domestic demand due to a substitution effect, as consumers switched from rice to purchasing cheaper wheat flour products.

NEAR EAST



Planting of 2018 winter crops is underway

Land preparation and planting of the 2018 winter cereal crops are proceeding under generally favourable weather conditions. Rains at the beginning of November reduced moisture deficits following early season dryness in central **Turkey**, northern **Iraq** and northern **Islamic Republic of Iran**, while above-average temperatures in Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran encouraged early crop development. In **the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen**, conflict continues to endanger agricultural production.

Despite a slightly above-average 2017 cereal output gathered in major producing countries, above-average imports are forecast

Aggregate wheat production in the subregion is estimated at about 45.6 million tonnes, slightly exceeding last year's output as well as the previous five-year average. Total cereal production in 2017 is forecast at a slightly above-average level of 71.5 million tonnes. At the subregional level, cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are

Table 13. Near East cereal production
(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | Coarse grains | | Rice (paddy) | | | Total cereals | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| Near East | 46.3 | 44.9 | 45.6 | 23.4 | 21.5 | 21.6 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 73.7 | 70.5 | 71.5 | 1.4 |
| Afghanistan | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.5 | -5.3 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 11.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 18.3 | 19.9 | 20.2 | 1.3 |
| Iraq | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.5 | -5.0 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 2.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 10.0 |
| Turkey | 22.6 | 20.6 | 21.6 | 15.1 | 13.8 | 13.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 38.6 | 35.3 | 36.4 | 3.3 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

estimated at just under 69 million tonnes, about 3.5 million tonnes more than in the previous year and 8 percent above the last five-year average. Imports of coarse grains to the subregion are forecast to be 13 percent above the previous five-year average, supported by strong demand for animal feed in most Arab countries.

Yemen remains at high risk of localized famine; civil unrest affects food security of large numbers of people

In **Yemen**, according to the latest IPC, carried out in March 2017, about 17 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency" and require urgent humanitarian assistance. This corresponds to 60 percent of the total Yemeni population. The closure of maritime ports in November 2017 disrupted trade flows, threatening the continuity of market supplies. Repeated closures of key ports are likely to further worsen the food security situation, increasing the risk of famine conditions (IPC Phase 5) in some parts of the country. Further adding to the serious food insecurity situation, the total number of suspected cholera cases exceeded 860 000 as of October 2017, since the outbreak began to spread rapidly at the end of April.

In the **Syrian Arab Republic**, as of September 2017, some 6.5 million people were faced with large food consumption gaps or accelerated depletion of live hood assets. About 4 million people are at risk of food insecurity.

In **Afghanistan**, almost 1.9 million people were considered to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") and 5.7 million moderately food insecure (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis") between August and November 2017, an increase from 4.3 million people who were in IPC Phases 3 and 4 between July and December 2016.

CIS IN ASIA⁵



No major changes in 2018 winter cereal plantings

In **Kazakhstan**, the main producer of the subregion, excessive precipitations and night frosts in October raised concerns over the winter crops that were planted from September. However, favourable weather in November improved crop conditions and the total area planted is estimated to be close to the previous year's level. Elsewhere in the subregion, planting of the winter cereal crops is almost complete under generally favourable weather conditions.

Aggregate cereal output in 2017 estimated to be close to previous year's high level

Harvesting of the 2017 cereal crops is complete and the aggregate output is estimated at 35 million tonnes, down 1.5 million tonnes from the record high of the previous year, but still well above average. Most of this year-on-year decline results from a reduction in the 2017 wheat output, estimated at 26 million tonnes, 5 percent below the 2016 level. This decrease continues a recent trend, where the share of wheat in the subregional cereal output has declined from 81 percent in 2012 to 74 percent in 2017 as a result of farmers' decisions to switch to more profitable crops.

In **Kazakhstan**, aggregate cereal production is estimated at 18.6 million tonnes in 2017, down 7 percent from 2016, but still well above the five-year average. The wheat output, which accounts, on average, for more than 70 percent of the total cereal production, is estimated at 13.9 million tonnes, 7 percent below the high level of last year, but the quality of the wheat crop is reported to be better. The decline in production is mainly due to a reduction in the area planted following the implementation of the Government's Programme for 2017-2021, which targets a decrease in wheat plantings from 12.4 million hectares to 10.1 million hectares in favour of more profitable oil crops. Under the programme, the Government stopped issuing subsidized credits for wheat production at the beginning of 2017.

Table 14. CIS in Asia cereal production

(million tonnes)

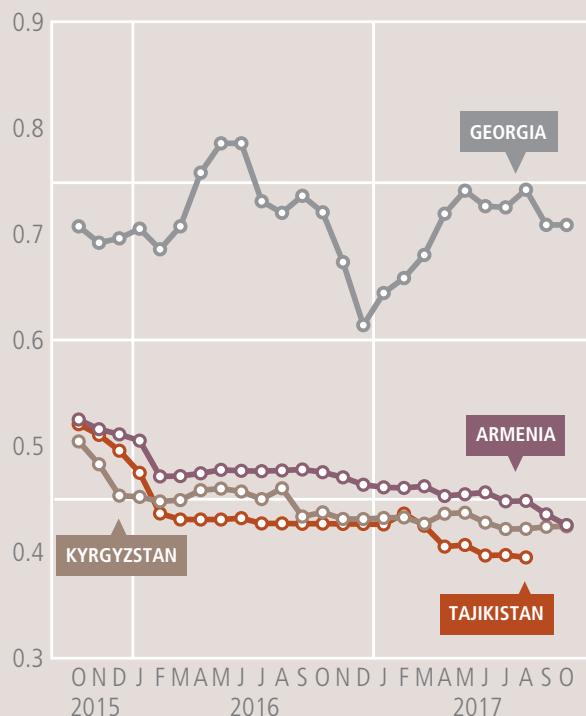
| | Wheat | | | Coarse grains | | | Total cereals ¹ | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| CIS in Asia | 26.2 | 27.3 | 26.1 | 7.8 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 34.8 | 36.6 | 35.1 | -4.1 |
| Armenia | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | -3.1 |
| Azerbaijan | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.9 | -4.0 |
| Georgia | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | -1.9 |
| Kazakhstan | 13.7 | 15.0 | 13.9 | 3.8 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 17.9 | 20.0 | 18.6 | -6.8 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.8 |
| Tajikistan | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Turkmenistan | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | -0.1 |
| Uzbekistan | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | -0.5 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

¹ Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

⁵ Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained for the time being.

Retail wheat flour prices in selected CIS in Asia countries (national averages) (USD/kg)



Source: National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia; National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic; State Committee on Statistics, Republic of Tajikistan; National Statistics Office of Georgia.

In **Georgia**, total 2017 cereal production is estimated to be slightly below the 2016 above-average output. Wheat production is estimated at 120 000 tonnes, while maize production, which on average accounts for more than 50 percent of the total grains output, is estimated to have increased slightly from last year to 250 000 tonnes. The recent outbreak of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) or *Halyomorpha halys*, severely affected hazelnut plantations in western parts of the country and is raising serious concerns for maize and other vegetable crops to be cultivated in 2018.

In **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan**, 2017 cereal outputs are estimated to have fallen on an annual basis, but still remained above the five-year averages.

In **Turkmenistan**, the planted area remained at the same level of last year (760 000 hectares) and weather conditions were favourable during the growing period. As a result, the 2017 wheat output is estimated at 1.6 million tonnes, unchanged from last year's above-average production. At this level, the country will be able to meet the expected domestic utilization requirements for wheat (except for high quality wheat, which is usually satisfied with imports). Similarly, in **Uzbekistan**, aggregate cereal production is expected to be close to the previous year's level.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, wheat production is estimated at 657 000 tonnes, a decline of 5 percent compared to the previous year, mostly resulting from a reduced area planted, as farmers switched to export-oriented crops such as rice, sugar beet, cotton, beans and tobacco as well as fodder crops.

By contrast, in **Tajikistan**, wheat production increased by 7 percent to an estimated 850 000 tonnes in 2017. The increase is mainly due to adequate precipitations during the season; more than 40 percent of the total wheat production depends on rainfall, while the rest of the wheat area is irrigated.

Cereal exports forecast to decline in 2017/18, while import requirements estimated to be close to the previous year's level

The total subregional exports in 2017/18 (July/June) are forecast to decline on account of expected smaller wheat shipments from **Kazakhstan**, the main exporter of the subregion. The forecast

reduction in exports from Kazakhstan mainly stems from decreased demand from the Russian Federation and Islamic Republic of Iran, the country's principal buyers of high-quality milling wheat, reflecting their good domestic harvests. As a result, wheat shipments from Kazakhstan are tentatively forecast at 7.3 million tonnes, 200 000 tonnes below the 2016 level.

Total subregional imports are expected to be slightly higher in the 2017/18 marketing year as a result of smaller domestic outputs of wheat.

Domestic wheat flour prices showed mixed trends

In **Kazakhstan**, export prices of wheat flour remained unchanged over the last six months on lower trade activity. Domestic wholesale prices in Kazakhstan started to decline, pressured by ample domestic availabilities, while reduced export demand also contributed to the decreases.

In the import-dependent countries of the subregion, wheat flour prices declined over the preceding six months and were below the previous year's levels in **Kyrgyzstan** and **Armenia**, reflecting good domestic outputs. By contrast, wheat prices increased by 2 percent in **Georgia** and **Belarus** and were generally higher than a year earlier on account of high milling costs and weakening currencies. Similarly, in **Azerbaijan**, prices of locally-produced wheat flour increased over last six months and were more than 20 percent higher than in the corresponding period last year. In **Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**, prices of wheat flour remained stable.

In some countries of the subregion, prices of potatoes showed atypical increases in the October-November period and were generally higher than a year earlier, due to the reduced subregional 2017 output. In **Kazakhstan**, average potato prices increased unseasonably and at a steep rate in October, and were more than 50 percent higher than a year earlier as a result of the poor 2017 harvest. Prices of potatoes also rose in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

REGIONAL REVIEWS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mexico

Maize and rice (summer season): Harvesting
Wheat (winter season): Planting

Central America

Maize (second season): Harvesting

Note: Situation as of November/December

— Subregional borders

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil, Argentina

Coarse grains: Planting
Wheat (winter season): Harvesting

Latin America and the Caribbean Production Overview

Aggregate cereal production in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017 is forecast at 259 million tonnes, a sharp 20 percent increase compared to the average output in 2016. Most of this year's production gain pertains to record maize outputs in the South American countries of Argentina and Brazil.

In Central America and the Caribbean, despite a moderate year-on-year decline in the largest cereal-producing country, Mexico, the aggregate cereal output is estimated to remain above average. However, in the Caribbean islands, the impact of dry weather and hurricanes are expected to have caused a decline in production in the affected areas.

Cereal production
(million tonnes)



CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Wheat plantings for 2018 autumn/winter season to remain close last year's levels

In **Mexico**, plantings of the 2018 autumn/winter wheat crop, to be harvested from May, are anticipated to contract marginally by 1.5 percent, compared to the same season in the previous year, to 590 000 hectares.

In **Mexico**, planting of the 2018 autumn/winter maize, to be harvested from April, is underway. According to official forecasts, plantings are expected to reach 1.26 million hectares during the season, some 5 percent above the same season last year.

Maize production in 2017 expected at an above-average level

FAO's forecast for the subregion's aggregate 2017 maize production was recently revised upwards to 29.7 million tonnes. At its current level, it is still below last year's record, but remains well above the previous five-year average. The revision reflects slightly better-than-expected outputs in **Guatemala**, **El Salvador**, **Nicaragua** and **Honduras**.

With the harvest of the spring/summer crop virtually concluded, the 2017 maize output

in **Mexico** is estimated at 26 million tonnes, significantly below its record output from a year earlier but well above the country's five year average. In addition, FAO estimates the 2017 wheat crop at 3.6 million tonnes, well above the previous five-year average, mainly reflecting an increase in the area sown.

Elsewhere in the subregion, the main "de primera" maize season harvest concluded in October with higher-than-expected yields. As a result, FAO raised the aggregate maize production estimate for 2017, excluding Mexico, to 3.7 million tonnes, reflecting the good outcomes of

the "de primera" season. In **Haiti**, however, maize production in 2017 still remains uncertain. Output for the main "printemp" season, which normally accounts for about 60 percent of Haiti's total output, is anticipated to be below 2016's level as yields were adversely impacted by prolonged dry conditions between June and July. In addition, planting operations of the second season maize crop were impacted by Hurricane Irma in September, particularly in the north and centre of the country, negatively weighing on production prospects.

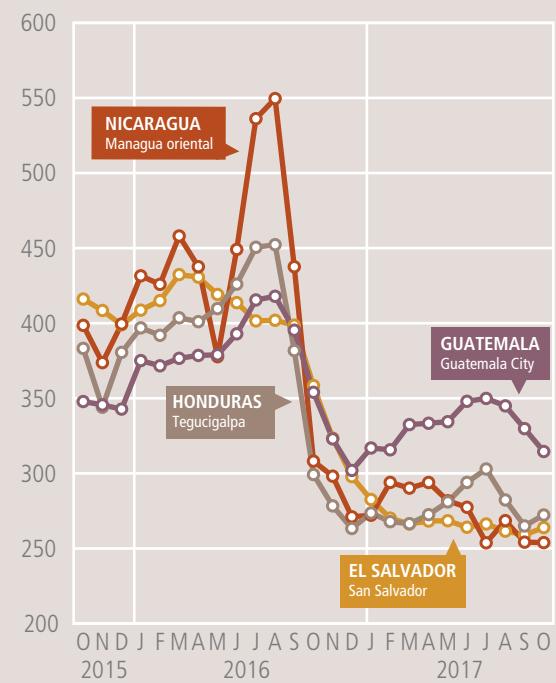
White maize prices pressured downward by good harvest outcomes

In most countries, pressured by favourable supplies following the good harvests in August, maize prices continued their downward trend during the August-October period and were significantly below their year-earlier levels as

a result. From August to October, prices declined between 3 and 8 percent in **Guatemala**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**. By contrast, in **El Salvador** and **Mexico**, prices were quite stable during the same period. In the main importer, **Costa Rica**, prices increased from August to October and remained above their year-earlier levels reflecting tight supplies in the local markets. In the **Caribbean**, prices followed mixed trends, decreasing sharply in **the Dominican Republic**, pressured by the recent harvest and increasing in **Haiti** as a consequence of the lower output and uncertainty about maize supplies.

Wholesale white maize prices in selected countries in Central America

(USD/tonne)



Sources: Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, Honduras; Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Guatemala; Ministerio agropecuario y forestal, Nicaragua, Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, El Salvador.

Table 15. Latin America and the Caribbean cereal production

(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | Coarse grains | | Rice (paddy) | | Total cereals | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| Central America & Caribbean | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 33.9 | 37.2 | 35.9 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 40.2 | 44.0 | 42.5 | -3.4 |
| El Salvador | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| Guatemala | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.8 |
| Honduras | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 88.8 |
| Mexico | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 30.8 | 33.5 | 31.9 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 34.7 | 37.6 | 35.8 | -5.0 |
| Nicaragua | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | -4.7 |
| South America | 21.1 | 29.2 | 26.5 | 147.8 | 128.3 | 173.7 | 25.7 | 23.6 | 25.5 | 194.6 | 181.2 | 225.7 | 24.6 |
| Argentina | 11.3 | 18.4 | 18.0 | 42.5 | 47.0 | 55.7 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 55.3 | 66.8 | 75.0 | 12.3 |
| Brazil | 5.5 | 6.7 | 5.5 | 88.2 | 65.8 | 102.3 | 12.4 | 10.6 | 12.3 | 106.1 | 83.1 | 120.1 | 44.5 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

SOUTH AMERICA



Planting of 2018 nearly concluded under generally favourable weather conditions

Planting of the 2018 maize crop is well advanced in the subregion. In **Argentina** plantings of the 2018 crop are forecast to increase 3.7 percent from 2016 to 8.8 million hectares. In **Brazil** plantings for the first season crop are forecast at close to 5 million hectares, some 10 percent below last year's level. The decline mainly reflects lower prices and ample availabilities. Elsewhere in the subregion, while no information on plantings are yet available, weather conditions have been favourable.

Cereal output for 2017 estimated at a record level, reflecting bumper maize outputs in Argentina and Brazil

The 2017 maize output in South America is estimated by FAO at a record 162.5 million tonnes, reflecting the bumper production obtained in both **Argentina** (49.5 million tonnes) and **Brazil** (99.4 million tonnes) following record plantings. Average to slightly above-average maize outputs are estimated in **Colombia**, **Ecuador**, **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** and **Peru**. By contrast, in **Chile**, the 2017 maize harvest is estimated to be 7 percent below last year's level as a result of lower plantings due to low prices.

The harvest of the 2017 wheat crop is virtually concluded in most countries

of the subregion. FAO estimates 2017 wheat output at 26.5 million tonnes, some 9.2 percent below last year's record level, mainly reflecting lower outputs in **Argentina** and **Brazil** due to a contraction in plantings. In **Paraguay**, wheat production is estimated at 700 000 tonnes, the lowest level registered in the last ten years. The decline mainly reflects reduced sowings due to declining returns for wheat, with prices of wheat pressured downwards by ample availabilities in regional and international markets. However, at this level, the 2017 wheat output would still more than cover domestic utilization. In **Chile**, the wheat output is anticipated to also decline to 1.2 million tonnes, or 31 percent below the 2016 level, mostly resting on lower plantings. By contrast, in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, wheat production is anticipated to strongly recover from the drought-reduced levels of the previous year reaching 233 000 tonnes, some 29 percent above the 2016 level, but still below the country's five-year average.

Cereal exports in 2017/18 expected at record levels

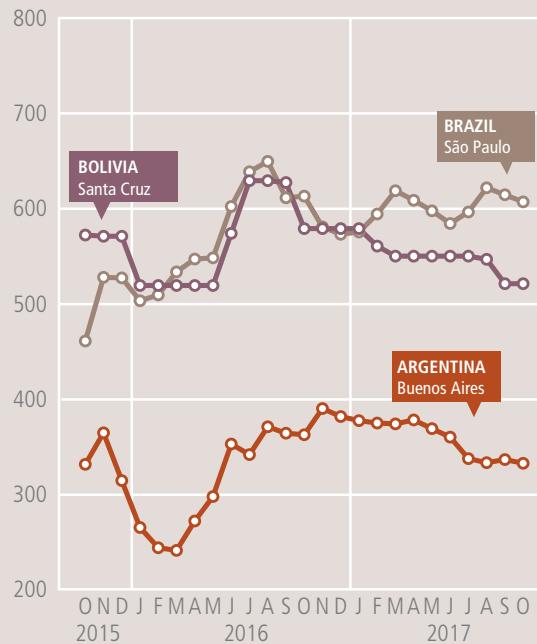
Cereal exports in the 2017/18 marketing year (March/February) are forecast at a record 77 million tonnes, mainly reflecting increased maize deliveries from Argentina and Brazil as a result of their bumper 2017 crops and weak local currencies, which have increased competitiveness of local grains in the international market. Maize exports are forecast to reach about 60 million tonnes, with 95 percent of these deliveries coming from Argentina and Brazil, while wheat exports are forecast at 12.5 million tonnes, with almost 90 percent originating from Argentina.

Wheat prices pressured downward with new harvest, maize prices increase seasonally

In **Argentina**, prices of wheat during the August-October

period declined moderately as ample availabilities and good prospects for the 2017 harvest pressured prices downward. However, prices remained above their levels of a year earlier reflecting strong export demand. In **Brazil**, wheat prices also declined during the same period and were lower than their levels of a year earlier. In the main importing countries of **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, **Chile** and **Peru**, wheat prices were generally stable or declined during the last months. With respect to yellow maize, prices in **Argentina** and **Brazil** increased during the August-October period reflecting high export demand, but were still below year-earlier levels on account of the ample supplies from this year's record output. Elsewhere in the subregion, seasonal factors pressured prices upwards during the August-to-October period, but ample availabilities from the recent harvests and imports generally maintained prices below their levels in 2016.

Wholesale wheat flour prices in selected countries in South America (USD/tonne)



Sources: Servicio Informativo de Mercados Agropecuarios, Bolivia; Instituto de Economía Agrícola, Brazil; Bolsa de Cereales, Argentina.

REGIONAL REVIEWS

NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND OCEANIA

Note: Situation as of November/December.



North America, Europe and Oceania Production Overview

In North America, cereal production in 2017 is expected to decline by nearly 8 percent to about 492 million tonnes. The reduction would mostly rest on large cuts to wheat outputs in Canada and the United States of America, which is also forecast to register a sizeable decrease in maize production.

In Europe, an upturn in yields pushed the European Union's output up to 306 million tonnes, while in CIS countries the aggregate cereal output is estimated at a record level in 2017, mainly reflecting larger wheat and barley harvests that are expected to more than offset a reduction in maize production.

In Oceania, dryness during the winter months in Australia is expected to foster a significant cut to wheat production compared to the record high of 2016, with the overall cereal output falling to a below-average level.

Cereal production
(million tonnes)



NORTH AMERICA



Early indicators point to a reduction in 2018 winter wheat plantings

In the United States of America, by late November winter wheat plantings for harvest in 2018 were virtually complete, after drier weather conditions in key-producing states during September had slowed the pace of sowings compared with the previous year; around 58 percent of the planted crops were rated as good to excellent by the end of November. Reflecting lower prices and consequently an expected reduction in profits, early indications suggest that the winter wheat sown area is likely to fall to an all-time low.

Regarding coarse grains production in 2017, improved weather conditions in the latter part of the season resulted in higher-than-expected yields. The latest official estimate for the 2017 maize output was recently revised up, but at 370.3 million tonnes still remains 4 percent down from the previous year. The year-on-year decrease stems from a contraction in plantings that more than offset higher yields. Overall, aggregate 2017 cereal production in the United States of America is estimated at 439.2 million tonnes.

In Canada, plantings for the 2018 minor winter wheat crop are projected to be lower than average, which would mostly result from reduced prices and limited export opportunities. For 2017, wheat production is estimated at a below-average level of 27.1 million tonnes, about 15 percent down from the bumper output of 2016, with both a reduction in plantings and yields contributing to the contraction. By contrast, the 2017 maize output is estimated at a record high of 14.3 million tonnes, reflecting above-average yields and a larger planted area.

in northern countries impeded sowing operations, also contributing to the reduced expectations.

The European Union's cereal output in 2017 is estimated at a near-average level of 306 million tonnes, about 2 percent more than the previous year. The year-on-year increase is mainly due to higher yields. Moreover, the generally favourable weather also improved the quality of the wheat crop compared to 2016 in most countries, except Germany and Poland, where rains at harvest time adversely affected crop quality.

EUROPE



EUROPEAN UNION

Plantings for 2018 winter cereal crop projected to decline

As of late November, planting of the 2018 winter cereal crops is virtually complete throughout the European Union. Preliminary indications suggest that 2018 wheat sowings will be below the 23.7 million hectares planted in the previous year mainly as a consequence of low prices, while wetter conditions

CIS IN EUROPE

Winter cereal plantings in 2018 slightly down from last year's levels

Planting of winter cereals for harvest in 2018 was virtually complete by the end of November and the total area planted is estimated to be slightly below the previous year's level.

In the Russian Federation, 17.4 million hectares were officially reported to have been planted under winter cereals (mainly wheat) as of late November. This is slightly below the previous year's level of 17.8 million hectares. Although dry weather conditions during the start of season from September helped maintain a high pace of plantings, it also resulted in below-average crop conditions in most areas as of October. However, timely rains at the beginning of

Table 16. North America, Europe and Oceania cereal production

(million tonnes)

| | Wheat | | Coarse grains | | Rice (paddy) | | Total cereals | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | 2015 | 2016 estim. | 2017 f'cast | Change: 2017/2016 (%) |
| North America | 83.7 | 94.6 | 74.5 | 393.1 | 428.8 | 409.7 | 8.8 | 10.2 | 8.1 | 485.5 | 533.6 | 492.3 | -7.7 |
| Canada | 27.6 | 31.7 | 27.1 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 26.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 53.3 | 57.6 | 53.2 | -7.7 |
| United States of America | 56.1 | 62.8 | 47.4 | 367.3 | 402.9 | 383.7 | 8.8 | 10.2 | 8.1 | 432.2 | 475.9 | 439.2 | -7.7 |
| Europe | 257.0 | 252.1 | 270.7 | 240.8 | 253.0 | 244.5 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 501.9 | 509.3 | 519.4 | 2.0 |
| Belarus | 2.9 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.6 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 9.9 |
| European Union | 160.5 | 144.5 | 152.0 | 151.8 | 153.2 | 151.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 315.3 | 300.7 | 306.1 | 1.8 |
| Russian Federation | 61.8 | 73.3 | 84.0 | 39.5 | 43.4 | 44.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 102.4 | 117.7 | 129.0 | 9.6 |
| Serbia | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 9.0 | 10.9 | 6.9 | -36.5 |
| Ukraine | 26.5 | 26.0 | 26.6 | 33.4 | 39.4 | 35.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 60.0 | 65.5 | 62.3 | -4.9 |
| Oceania | 22.6 | 35.3 | 21.9 | 13.8 | 18.3 | 11.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 37.1 | 54.0 | 34.0 | -36.9 |
| Australia | 22.3 | 35.0 | 21.6 | 13.3 | 17.8 | 10.7 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 36.2 | 53.1 | 33.2 | -37.5 |

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

November improved conditions in the main growing areas in the south. In **Ukraine**, the area sown to cereals is officially estimated at 7.2 million hectares, with 6.1 million hectares under wheat, slightly below the previous year's level. Plantings started under dry weather conditions at the end of August, however rains in October helped to replenish soil moisture to above-average levels, supporting crop establishment.

In **Belarus**, the area planted is officially estimated at about 1.28 million hectares, 4 percent below the 1.32 million hectares planted in the previous year. Excessive rains in September-October delayed plantings and slowed down crop emergence. In the Republic of Moldova, the total area planted with winter cereals is estimated to be close to average. Weather conditions during the planting period were favourable for early crop development.

Record cereal output estimated in 2017

The subregional 2017 aggregate cereal output is estimated at 202 million tonnes, 5 percent up from the already high level of 2016. The year-on-year rise is mainly due to larger wheat and barley outputs, which more than offset a decline in maize production.

In **the Russian Federation**, an all-time-high cereal crop was harvested in 2017. Latest official estimates puts the aggregate cereal output at 129 million tonnes, 10 percent higher than the bumper harvest of last year. The estimated increase is mainly due to favourable weather during the growing season that boosted yields; wheat and barley yields were estimated to have increased by 14 and 17 percent, respectively, compared to the previous year. The wheat output is estimated at 84 million tonnes, up 15 percent from the record level of 2016, and the share of milling quality wheat is also reported to be higher than the previous year's proportion. Wheat production has been steadily increasing over the past few years, supported by government and private investments.

Similarly, barley production is estimated to have increased by 15 percent to 21 million tonnes. By contrast, after several downward revisions since the beginning of the season, maize production is estimated at 14 million tonnes, 9 percent below the previous year's record high but still above average. The reduction is mostly on account of excessive rains at the end of the growing season that negatively affected yields, more than offsetting a year-on-year increase in plantings.

The 2017 cereal harvest in **Ukraine** is estimated to be have decreased by 5 percent to 62 million tonnes which, however, is still above the previous five-year average. The reduction reflects a smaller maize output, estimated at 25.5 million tonnes, about 9 percent below the high level of the previous year, due to excessive precipitations during the harvest period that lowered yields by more than 10 percent. Following a 3 percent increase in plantings, wheat production is estimated at 26.5 million tonnes, slightly above the high level of the previous year and well above the five-year average. By contrast, the barley output is estimated to have fallen by 11 percent to 8.4 million tonnes, mainly on account of reduced plantings.

In **the Republic of Moldova**, the aggregate grain output is estimated at 2.7 million tonnes, just 5 percent below the bumper level of the previous year. Wheat production is estimated to be close to the record level of 2016 at 1.2 million tonnes, with favourable weather raising yields.

In **Belarus**, harvesting of the majority of the cereal crops had finished by the beginning of September, with only maize and buckwheat harvested in October-November. FAO's latest estimate points to a 10 percent increase in cereal production from the below-average 2016 level to 7.8 million tonnes, following a return to average yields. Of this total, wheat production is estimated at 2.8 million tonnes, 18 percent higher than the below-average 2016 level. Similarly, barley production rebounded

from the low level of the previous year to 1.4 million tonnes, based on an increased area planted and higher yields. By contrast, maize production declined by 19 percent to 600 000 tonnes stemming from a decrease in the area planted and lower yields.

Total cereal exports forecast to reach a new record high in 2017/18

Subregional aggregate cereal exports are expected to hit a new record high of 84 million tonnes in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June), almost 2 million tonnes above the already high level of 2016/17. This increase is mainly attributed to the expectations of increased shipments of wheat from the Russian Federation, where wheat exports are forecast at 33.2 million tonnes (including wheat flour in grain equivalent). The projected increase rests on assumptions of high export availability in the country and a weak national currency.

In **Ukraine**, aggregate cereal exports are expected to decline by almost 10 percent to 40 million tonnes, resting on smaller domestic production and increased competition with the Russian Federation for wheat markets. Wheat shipments from the country are expected to decline by 9 percent to 16.5 million tonnes and, due to lower domestic production, maize and barley exports are also projected to fall by 8 and 12 percent, respectively.

Underpinned by increased demand, export prices rose slightly

In **the Russian Federation**, strong import demand, particularly from Egypt, more than offset the downward pressure from the record 2017 output and underpinned an increase in wheat export prices. The abundant local supplies, however, continued to pressure domestic prices of wheat grain and wheat flour, which were almost 20 percent below their 2016 levels. By contrast, in **Ukraine**, wholesale prices of wheat increased in the preceding months, supported by strong demand for high quality wheat from both traders and processors.

Wheat export prices in Russian Federation and Ukraine (USD/tonne)



Source: International Grains Council.

In **Belarus**, wheat flour prices continued to increase during the second half of 2017 and, as of October, were overall higher than a year earlier, mostly resulting from a weaker national currency. In **the Republic of Moldova**, prices were stable or declined reflecting good domestic harvests this year.

Prices of potatoes, an important basic staple in the subregion, were up on their year-earlier levels in the main producing and exporting countries. In **the Russian Federation**, prices in November were 9 percent higher than at the same time last year, driven by reduced supplies following the sharply reduced output in 2017. In Belarus, the main exporter of the subregion, following an increase in October, prices were more than 60 percent higher than their year-earlier values.

OCEANIA



Wheat production in 2017 is forecast to decrease from last year's record high

In **Australia**, wheat production in 2017 is foreseen to fall, following the previous year's exceptionally high level. Current estimates put the 2017 wheat output at 21.6 million tonnes, 38 percent down on a yearly basis and more than 15 percent below the five-year average. Much of the decline rests on lower yields due to dryness in the winter months, between May and June, while an expected contraction in the harvested area has also reduced production expectations.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX

Table A1. Global cereal supply and demand indicators

| | Average 2010/11 - 2014/15 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ratio of world stocks to utilization (%) | | | | | | |
| Wheat | 27.6 | 26.1 | 28.8 | 30.4 | 33.0 | 34.2 |
| Coarse grains | 18.4 | 18.6 | 21.6 | 20.7 | 21.4 | 21.4 |
| Rice | 31.5 | 33.9 | 34.3 | 33.6 | 33.6 | 33.3 |
| Total cereals | 23.7 | 23.7 | 26.1 | 26.0 | 27.1 | 27.3 |
| Ratio of major grain exporters' supplies to market requirements (%)¹ | 117.7 | 121.9 | 123.6 | 122.9 | 121.7 | 120.1 |
| Ratio of major exporters' stocks to their total disappearance (%)² | | | | | | |
| Wheat | 17.1 | 14.9 | 16.7 | 16.1 | 18.4 | 16.9 |
| Coarse grains | 11.1 | 10.7 | 14.1 | 11.9 | 13.6 | 15.4 |
| Rice | 25.5 | 28.9 | 24.5 | 19.5 | 18.7 | 17.3 |
| Total cereals | 17.9 | 18.2 | 18.4 | 15.8 | 16.9 | 16.5 |
| Annual trend growth rate 2007-2016 | | | | | | |
| Changes in world cereal production (%) | 2.3 | 9.9 | 1.8 | -1.3 | 3.0 | 0.6 |
| Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs (%) | 2.3 | 1.2 | 3.4 | -5.0 | 5.3 | 1.7 |
| Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs less India (%) | 3.1 | 1.0 | 6.7 | -3.8 | 3.3 | 1.5 |
| Average 2010-2014 | | | | | | |
| Change from previous year (%) | | | | | | |
| Selected cereal price indices³ | | | | | | |
| Wheat | 191.2 | -4.9 | -6.6 | -20.5 | -13.0 | 6.3 |
| Maize | 232.8 | -12.9 | -25.8 | -11.8 | -6.4 | -3.1 |
| Rice | 233.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | -10.5 | -8.1 | 5.7 |

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 (barley, maize, millet, sorghum and cereals NES).

¹ 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.

² Disappearance is defined as domestic utilization plus exports for any given season.

³ 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-November average.

Table A2. World cereal stocks¹

(million tonnes)

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 estimate | 2018 forecast |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL CEREALS | 532.6 | 594.1 | 656.1 | 667.0 | 704.0 | 725.8 |
| Wheat | 175.0 | 186.9 | 204.7 | 223.0 | 244.4 | 257.0 |
| held by: | | | | | | |
| - main exporters ² | 49.0 | 54.5 | 63.2 | 62.8 | 74.3 | 68.5 |
| - others | 126.0 | 132.4 | 141.5 | 160.2 | 170.1 | 188.5 |
| Coarse grains | 200.9 | 241.0 | 282.6 | 276.7 | 290.6 | 298.6 |
| held by: | | | | | | |
| - main exporters ² | 57.3 | 82.1 | 109.3 | 94.8 | 109.4 | 125.6 |
| - others | 143.6 | 158.9 | 173.3 | 181.9 | 181.2 | 173.0 |
| Rice (milled basis) | 156.7 | 166.2 | 168.7 | 167.3 | 169.1 | 170.2 |
| held by: | | | | | | |
| - main exporters ² | 46.6 | 49.6 | 43.5 | 34.3 | 33.1 | 30.6 |
| - others | 110.1 | 116.6 | 125.2 | 133.0 | 136.0 | 139.6 |
| Developed countries | 120.4 | 144.5 | 173.8 | 173.3 | 201.6 | 201.7 |
| Australia | 6.7 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 5.6 | 9.7 | 6.1 |
| Canada | 8.2 | 15.1 | 10.4 | 9.9 | 12.1 | 10.0 |
| European Union | 24.3 | 32.7 | 40.1 | 36.4 | 32.7 | 30.8 |
| Japan | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 6.8 |
| Russian Federation | 6.4 | 6.7 | 9.4 | 7.9 | 15.8 | 23.4 |
| South Africa | 2.5 | 1.7 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 1.8 | 5.1 |
| Ukraine | 5.8 | 9.1 | 10.6 | 7.1 | 5.4 | 5.1 |
| United States of America | 44.2 | 51.4 | 69.0 | 76.1 | 95.8 | 91.9 |
| Developing countries | 412.2 | 449.6 | 482.3 | 493.7 | 502.5 | 524.0 |
| Asia | 351.3 | 374.8 | 390.2 | 406.4 | 415.1 | 417.7 |
| China | 214.4 | 235.4 | 248.2 | 277.6 | 297.0 | 300.7 |
| India | 52.2 | 50.0 | 48.9 | 41.0 | 36.4 | 37.6 |
| Indonesia | 11.2 | 10.9 | 9.9 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 9.4 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 3.6 | 3.4 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| Korea, Republic of | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 |
| Pakistan | 4.3 | 4.7 | 5.9 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 3.9 |
| Philippines | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.9 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 2.6 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 1.0 |
| Turkey | 4.6 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 3.1 | 3.5 |
| Africa | 33.1 | 35.3 | 39.8 | 42.2 | 37.8 | 39.7 |
| Algeria | 2.2 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| Egypt | 5.3 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 5.7 |
| Ethiopia | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.6 |
| Morocco | 3.4 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 7.3 |
| Nigeria | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Tunisia | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| Central America | 6.3 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 10.0 | 13.0 | 13.3 |
| Mexico | 2.6 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 4.6 | 7.2 | 7.7 |
| South America | 21.1 | 31.7 | 43.6 | 34.7 | 36.2 | 52.9 |
| Argentina | 2.1 | 5.8 | 10.6 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 11.1 |
| Brazil | 8.6 | 12.5 | 17.5 | 9.9 | 8.4 | 19.5 |

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

¹ 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.² 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. Protein ¹ | US Soft Red Winter No.2 ² | Argentina Trigo Pan ³ | US No.2 Yellow ² | Argentina ³ | US No.2 Yellow ² |
| Annual (July/June) | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 2016/17 | 197 | 170 | 190 | 156 | 172 | 151 |
| Monthly | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 2017 - March | 198 | 176 | 191 | 159 | 163 | 150 |
| 2017 - April | 191 | 173 | 189 | 157 | 164 | 150 |
| 2017 - May | 200 | 175 | 189 | 158 | 161 | 158 |
| 2017 - June | 226 | 182 | 190 | 158 | 155 | 164 |
| 2017 - July | 240 | 206 | 193 | 159 | 150 | 173 |
| 2017 - August | 201 | 173 | 190 | 148 | 149 | 170 |
| 2017 - September | 215 | 176 | 181 | 147 | 149 | 169 |
| 2017 - October | 214 | 177 | 182 | 148 | 149 | 171 |
| 2017 - November | 220 | 176 | 179 | 148 | 150 | 167 |

Sources: International Grains Council and USDA.

¹ Delivered United States f.o.b. Gulf.² Delivered United States Gulf.³ Up River f.o.b.

Table A4a. Estimated cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries¹ in 2016/17 or 2017
(thousand tonnes)

| | Marketing year | 2015/16 or 2016 | | | 2016/17 or 2017 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | Commercial purchases | Food aid | Total imports (commercial and aid) | Total import requirements (excl. re-exports) |
| AFRICA | | 31 695.8 | 1 210.5 | 32 906.3 | 34 592.8 |
| East Africa | | 10 023.7 | 847.7 | 10 871.4 | 11 118.8 |
| Burundi | Jan/Dec | 149.7 | 15.2 | 164.9 | 182.0 |
| Comoros | Jan/Dec | 51.0 | 0.0 | 51.0 | 46.0 |
| Djibouti | Jan/Dec | 78.9 | 4.1 | 83.0 | 85.0 |
| Eritrea | Jan/Dec | 437.3 | 0.0 | 437.3 | 448.2 |
| Ethiopia | Jan/Dec | 1 566.0 | 104.0 | 1 670.0 | 1 600.0 |
| Kenya | Oct/Sept | 2 620.0 | 80.0 | 2 700.0 | 3 300.0 |
| Rwanda | Jan/Dec | 165.0 | 0.0 | 165.0 | 175.0 |
| Somalia | Aug/Jul | 610.0 | 170.0 | 780.0 | 910.0 |
| South Sudan | Nov/Oct | n.a. | n.a. | 535.0 | 560.0 |
| Sudan | Nov/Oct | 2 395.0 | 440.0 | 2 835.0 | 2 267.0 |
| Uganda | Jan/Dec | 482.2 | 23.0 | 505.2 | 518.0 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | Jun/May | 933.6 | 11.4 | 945.0 | 1 027.6 |
| Southern Africa | | 3 102.8 | 43.0 | 3 145.8 | 3 802.6 |
| Lesotho | Apr/Mar | 197.0 | 5.0 | 202.0 | 263.0 |
| Madagascar | Apr/Mar | 400.9 | 19.3 | 420.2 | 448.1 |
| Malawi | Apr/Mar | 330.0 | 3.8 | 333.8 | 516.0 |
| Mozambique | Apr/Mar | 1 237.0 | 1.3 | 1 238.3 | 1 296.0 |
| Zimbabwe | Apr/Mar | 937.9 | 13.6 | 951.5 | 1 279.5 |
| West Africa | | 16 843.3 | 163.4 | 17 006.7 | 17 492.1 |
| Coastal Countries | | 12 620.0 | 43.7 | 12 663.7 | 12 738.5 |
| Benin | Jan/Dec | 391.3 | 5.7 | 397.0 | 467.0 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Jan/Dec | 1 915.2 | 4.8 | 1 920.0 | 1 990.5 |
| Ghana | Jan/Dec | 1 437.0 | 5.0 | 1 442.0 | 1 310.0 |
| Guinea | Jan/Dec | 907.0 | 5.5 | 912.5 | 857.5 |
| Liberia | Jan/Dec | 343.0 | 12.2 | 355.2 | 442.0 |
| Nigeria | Jan/Dec | 7 050.0 | 0.0 | 7 050.0 | 7 030.0 |
| Sierra Leone | Jan/Dec | 257.9 | 10.0 | 267.9 | 406.0 |
| Togo | Jan/Dec | 318.6 | 0.5 | 319.1 | 235.5 |
| Sahelian Countries | | 4 223.3 | 119.7 | 4 343.0 | 4 753.6 |
| Burkina Faso | Nov/Oct | 683.0 | 10.0 | 693.0 | 653.0 |
| Chad | Nov/Oct | 101.0 | 40.7 | 141.7 | 159.6 |
| Gambia | Nov/Oct | 203.3 | 1.5 | 204.8 | 208.5 |
| Guinea-Bissau | Nov/Oct | 109.8 | 4.5 | 114.3 | 124.3 |
| Mali | Nov/Oct | 479.3 | 0.0 | 479.3 | 451.2 |
| Mauritania | Nov/Oct | 436.0 | 12.9 | 448.9 | 474.0 |
| Niger | Nov/Oct | 483.3 | 42.7 | 526.0 | 578.0 |
| Senegal | Nov/Oct | 1 727.6 | 7.4 | 1 735.0 | 2 105.0 |
| Central Africa | | 1 726.0 | 156.4 | 1 882.4 | 2 179.3 |
| Cameroon | Jan/Dec | 1 019.0 | 10.0 | 1 029.0 | 1 215.0 |
| Central African Republic | Jan/Dec | 52.9 | 22.1 | 75.0 | 76.0 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Jan/Dec | 640.0 | 120.3 | 760.3 | 870.0 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | Jan/Dec | 14.1 | 4.0 | 18.1 | 18.3 |

Source: FAO

¹ 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>

Table A4b. Estimated cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries¹ in 2016/17 or 2017
(thousand tonnes)

| | Marketing year | 2015/16 or 2016 | | | 2016/17 or 2017 |
|--|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | Commercial purchases | Food aid | Total imports (commercial and aid) | Total import requirements (excl. re-exports) |
| ASIA | | 21 814.2 | 802.3 | 22 616.5 | 28 519.6 |
| Cis in Asia | | 4 559.2 | 1.0 | 4 560.2 | 4 471.2 |
| Kyrgyzstan | Jul/Jun | 514.2 | 1.0 | 515.2 | 572.2 |
| Tajikistan | Jul/Jun | 1 139.0 | 0.0 | 1 139.0 | 1 147.0 |
| Uzbekistan | Jul/Jun | 2 906.0 | 0.0 | 2 906.0 | 2 752.0 |
| Far East | | 7 854.7 | 199.6 | 8 054.3 | 13 926.4 |
| Bangladesh | Jul/Jun | 5 393.6 | 86.0 | 5 479.6 | 6 506.5 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea ² | Nov/Oct | 572.9 | 112.1 | 685.0 | 458.0 |
| India | Apr/Mar | 724.2 | 0.0 | 724.2 | 5 807.3 |
| Nepal | Jul/Jun | 929.3 | 1.5 | 930.8 | 921.8 |
| Pakistan | May/Apr | 234.7 | 0.0 | 234.7 | 232.8 |
| Near East | | 9 400.3 | 601.7 | 10 002.0 | 10 122.0 |
| Afghanistan | Jul/Jun | 2 692.0 | 100.0 | 2 792.0 | 2 982.0 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Jul/Jun | 2 573.3 | 286.7 | 2 860.0 | 2 870.0 |
| Yemen | Jan/Dec | 4 135.0 | 215.0 | 4 350.0 | 4 270.0 |
| CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | | 1 233.8 | 33.2 | 1 267.0 | 1 339.0 |
| Haiti | Jul/Jun | 638.2 | 33.1 | 671.3 | 776.0 |
| Nicaragua | Jul/Jun | 595.6 | 0.1 | 595.7 | 563.0 |
| OCEANIA | | 480.6 | 0.0 | 480.6 | 470.2 |
| Papua New Guinea | Jan/Dec | 420.2 | 0.0 | 420.2 | 420.2 |
| Solomon Islands | Jan/Dec | 60.4 | 0.0 | 60.4 | 50.0 |
| TOTAL | | 55 224.4 | 2 046.0 | 57 270.4 | 64 921.6 |

Source: FAO

¹ 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>

² Please see GIEWS Special Alert for further details

Table A5. Estimated cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries¹ in 2017/18*

(thousand tonnes)

| | Marketing year | 2016/17 | | 2017/18 |
|--|----------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | Commercial purchases | Food aid | Total imports (commercial and aid) |
| AFRICA | | 8 686.0 | 354.2 | 9 040.2 |
| Eastern Africa | | 4 976.6 | 261.0 | 5 237.6 |
| Kenya | Oct/Sep | 3 220.0 | 80.0 | 3 300.0 |
| Somalia | Aug/Jul | 740.0 | 170.0 | 910.0 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | Jun/May | 1 016.6 | 11.0 | 1 027.6 |
| Southern Africa | | 3 709.4 | 93.2 | 3 802.6 |
| Lesotho | Apr/Mar | 249.0 | 14.0 | 263.0 |
| Madagascar | Apr/Mar | 431.0 | 17.1 | 448.1 |
| Malawi | Apr/Mar | 510.0 | 6.0 | 516.0 |
| Mozambique | Apr/Mar | 1 295.0 | 1.0 | 1 296.0 |
| Zimbabwe | Apr/Mar | 1 224.4 | 55.1 | 1 279.5 |
| ASIA | | 23 398.6 | 393.0 | 23 791.6 |
| CIS in Asia | | 4 470.2 | 1.0 | 4 471.2 |
| Kyrgyzstan | Jul/Jun | 571.2 | 1.0 | 572.2 |
| Tajikistan | Jul/Jun | 1 147.0 | 0.0 | 1 147.0 |
| Uzbekistan | Jul/Jun | 2 752.0 | 0.0 | 2 752.0 |
| Far East | | 13 466.4 | 2.0 | 13 468.4 |
| Bangladesh | Jul/Jun | 6 506.5 | 0.0 | 6 506.5 |
| India | Apr/Mar | 5 807.3 | 0.0 | 5 807.3 |
| Nepal | Jul/Jun | 919.8 | 2.0 | 921.8 |
| Pakistan | May/April | 232.8 | 0.0 | 232.8 |
| Near East | | 5 462.0 | 390.0 | 5 852.0 |
| Afghanistan | Jul/Jun | 2 882.0 | 100.0 | 2 982.0 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Jul/Jun | 2 580.0 | 290.0 | 2 870.0 |
| CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | | 1 325.9 | 13.1 | 1 339.0 |
| Haiti | Jul/Jun | 765.9 | 10.1 | 776.0 |
| Nicaragua | Jul/Jun | 560.0 | 3.0 | 563.0 |
| TOTAL | | 33 410.5 | 760.3 | 34 170.8 |
| | | | | 29 996.1 |

Source: FAO

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

¹ 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>

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Crop Prospects and Food Situation is published by the Trade and Markets Division of FAO under the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS). It is published four times a year and focuses on developments affecting the food situation of developing countries and the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in particular. The report provides a review of the food situation by geographic region, a section dedicated to the LIFDCs and a list of countries requiring external assistance for food. It also includes a global cereal supply and demand overview to complement the biannual analysis in the **Food Outlook** publication. **Crop Prospects and Food Situation** is available in English, French and Spanish in electronic format.

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