



Maize Overview

Maize in Afghanistan

Maize is the third most important cereal crop in Afghanistan (after wheat and barley). Grown throughout the country and in different ecological zones, maize is used for both human and animal consumption. Maize is cultivated extensively in Paktia and Nangarhar provinces. Production for 2012 is predicted at 310,000 ton from 141,000 ha at a relatively low average yield of 2.2 t/ha.



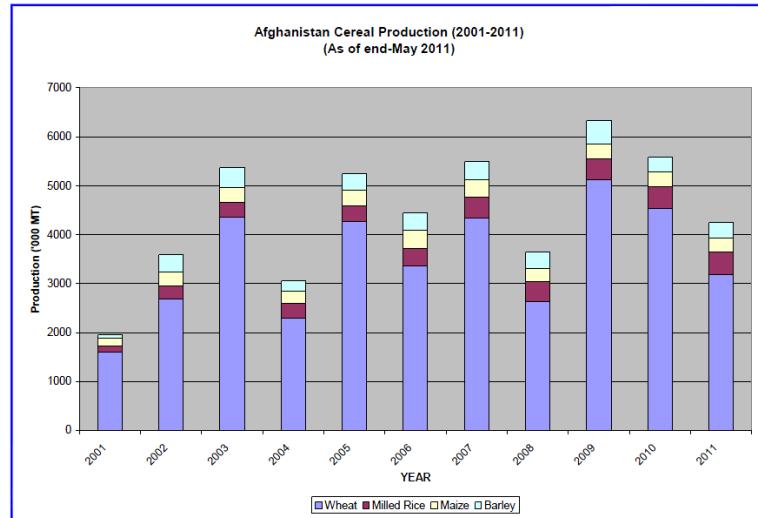
Maize in Afghanistan (Photo Idea-New)

Overview of Maize production

- Planting seasons.** Maize is usually planted at the end of spring and in summer after the harvesting of the first crop (often wheat and legumes).
- Water management.** Maize is mostly irrigated.
- Human versus animal use.**
Farmers cultivate maize mainly for animal feed while some people use maize to make bread.
- Varieties and seed** The Ministry of Agriculture is collaborating with CIMMYT, FAO and others to release new varieties of maize with higher yields and greater disease resistance.

Maize production problems

Drought has a significant effect on maize production in Afghanistan especially where irrigation infrastructure is limiting. Access to improved seed and the high price of inputs (especially fertilizer) are problems limiting maize production.



Agriculture prospective report, MAIL 2011.
Wheat dominates cereal production

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Reference: Agriculture prospects report, MAIL 2011 and 2012

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