

Reference Date: 20-November-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite localised dry spell and floods in the country improved harvest of 2012 main season food crops is estimated
- Cereal import requirements for 2012/13 (November/October) are estimated to be the lowest in several years but still remain fairly high at 507 000 tonnes
- About 2.8 million vulnerable people are estimated to face severe food insecurity situated mainly in the northeast provinces of the country

Despite localized dry spell and floods in the country improved harvest of the 2012 main season food crops is estimated

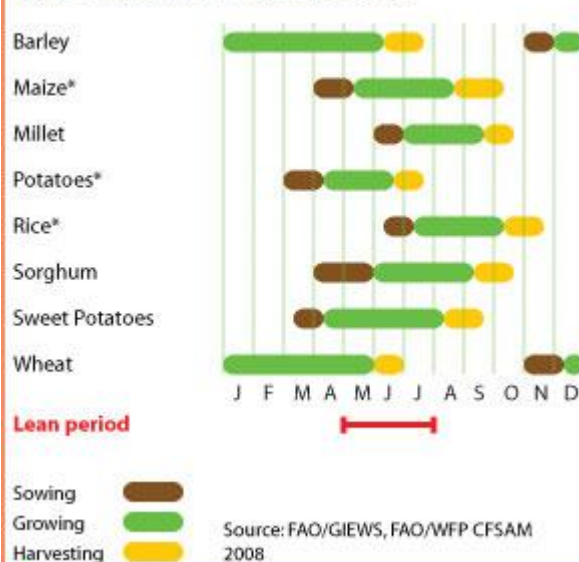
Harvesting of the 2012 main season crops (mainly rice, maize, potatoes and soybeans) is completed. The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) visited all nine agricultural provinces of the country from 24 September to 8 October 2012 and concluded that the staple food production in 2012/13 is estimated to increase by about 10 percent over the revised above-normal production in 2011/12 reflecting improved yields. The impact of the prolonged dry spell in the first half of the season was largely mitigated by increased irrigation efforts including mass mobilization of people to water maize plants. Similar to the year before, localized flooding in July-August caused some damage to paddy crop in the main grain producing provinces. However, timely availability of key inputs and an increase in the official procurement prices resulted in an overall increase in the main season crop harvest. Soybean production, on the other hand, decreased this year by over 30 percent, primarily due to the dry spell.

In order to improve food security in the short to medium term, the Mission also recommended national and international support for: (i) increased production of protein commodities, namely soybean cultivation and fish pond development, (ii) revitalization of the double-cropping programme by providing inputs (e.g. seeds and fertilizer for the early crops wheat, barley and potatoes), improved mechanization and sufficient incentives to cooperative farms, and (iii) general assistance for household garden production. In the medium to longer term, adoption of incentive system through relevant changes in agricultural marketing would help elevate production and improve the country's food security.

Cereal import requirements for 2012/13 are estimated to be the lowest in several years but still remain over half a million tonne mark

Based on the Mission's estimate of total utilization needs of 5.43 million tonnes of cereal equivalent (rice in milled terms), the Mission estimates cereal import requirement of 507 000 tonnes for the 2012/13 marketing year (November/October). Assuming the official target of 300 000 tonnes of food imports, the Mission estimates an

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



Democratic People's Republic of Korea **Cereal production**

	2007-2011 average	2011*	2012* forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 226	2 477	2 681	8
Maize	1 705	1 935	2 285	18
Wheat	115	49	112	129
Others	115	70	107	53
Total	4 161	4 531	5 185	14

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

*Includes a small amount of early season crops (wheat, barley and potatoes) harvested in the following year; i.e. 2012 refers to production in 2012/13.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

uncovered food deficit of 207 000 tonnes for the 2012/13 marketing year. This food gap is the narrowest in many years mainly due to the improved harvests.

Some 2.8 million vulnerable people are estimated to face severe food insecurity in the northeast provinces of the country

The Mission found that the acute malnutrition rates have improved this year due to better food rations and a consistent food assistance pipeline but the chronic under-nutrition remains a public health problem. The Mission therefore recommended that international support be focused on expanding and developing nutrition programmes specifically targeted to about 2.8 million vulnerable people (children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and disabled or chronic ill) in five provinces in the North-East of the country.

