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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near normal rains recorded for the early season winter crops
- Despite floods in parts, higher aggregate cereal harvest estimated for 2011
- Cereal import requirements remain high but are estimated to fall in 2011/12
- More than 3 million vulnerable people are estimated to face food deficit as chronic food insecurity continues throughout the country

Near normal rains recorded for the early season winter crops

Planting of the 2011/12 early season crops, mainly wheat, barley and potatoes, was completed by December. Following favourable rains at the very start of the 2011/12 agricultural season, a period of below- average rains followed from late November to January. Production of early season crops amounts to less than ten percent of the annual total cereal and potatoes (in cereal equivalent) production.

Despite floods in parts, higher aggregate cereal harvest estimated for 2011

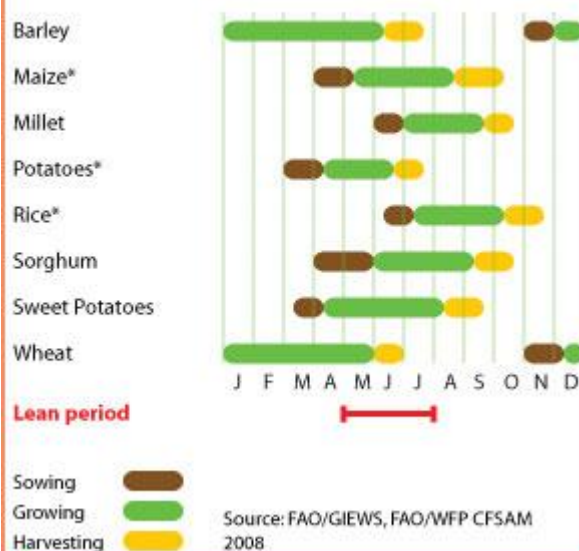
According to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report published in November, a total of about 5.5 million tonnes of staple food (cereals, soybeans and potatoes in cereal equivalent) production from cooperative farms, individual plots on sloping land and household gardens for 2011/12 is expected. This includes estimates for the 2011 main season harvest (rice in paddy terms) and forecast for the 2012 early season crops. This is about 8.5 percent higher than the revised and near normal production in 2010/11, reflecting higher plantings and yields. When paddy is converted to milled rice and potatoes and soybeans to cereal equivalent, the above total production comes to 4.66 million tonnes.

Despite the July-August floods, which affected paddy crop and the subsequent typhoons which particularly impacted the maize crop mainly in North and South Hwanghae, two of the important grain producing provinces in the country, higher use of fertilizer, and other inputs such as diesel and electricity, resulted in the improved harvest.

Cereal import requirements remain high but are estimated to fall in 2011/12

Given the Mission's estimate of total cereal utilization of 5.4 million tonnes, the total cereal import requirements for the 2011/12 marketing year (November/October) are calculated at 739 000 tonnes, substantially below the 2010/11 estimate of 1.086 million tonnes provided by the Rapid Security Assessment (RFSa). The Government currently plans to import 325 000 tonnes of cereals for

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

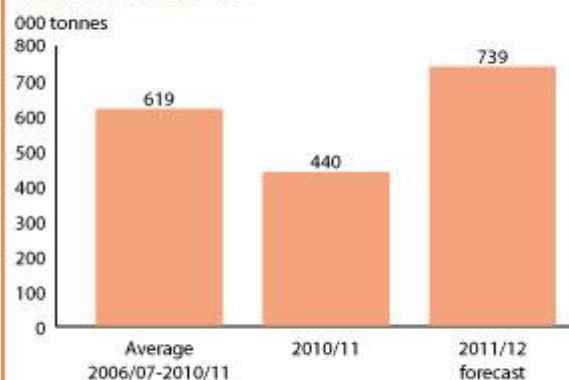


Democratic People's Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 226	2 426	2 479	2
Maize	1 711	1 858	2 032	9
Wheat	145	83	127	53
Others	138	55	104	89
Total	4 220	4 422	4 742	7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Democratic People's Republic of Korea Total cereal imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

the upcoming marketing year. Consequently, the Mission estimates an uncovered food deficit of 414 000 tonnes for the 2011/12 marketing year.

More than 3 million vulnerable people are estimated to face food deficit as chronic food insecurity continues throughout the country

The FAOWFP mission had concluded that 3 million vulnerable people, mainly living in the five most food-insecure provinces of Ryanggang, Chagang, North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong and Kangwon, are in urgent need of international food assistance, due to an inadequate food production and commercial imports. The mission recommended provision of 120 000 tonnes, in cereal equivalent, of fortified blended food, fortified biscuits, and other high protein food commodities for distribution to the most vulnerable including children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly without support.

In order to improve food security in the short to medium term, the Mission also recommended national and international support for - (i) inputs, in particular plastic sheets and seeds for the early crops wheat, barley and potatoes, (ii) support for conservation agriculture (CA) and (iii) general assistance to private household garden production.