

Reference Date: 31-July-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Severe dry spell in southwest and central provinces threatens 2012 crop production
- Cereal import requirements for 2011/12 (November/October) are expected to be revised upwards
- More than 3 million vulnerable people are estimated to face food deficit as chronic food insecurity continues throughout the country

### Severe dry spell in southwest and central provinces threatens 2012 crop production

Harvesting of the 2012 “early season” cereal crops (mainly wheat, barley and potatoes), was completed by mid-July. The main season maize and other coarse grains, sown from April onwards, are currently at the critical growing stage.

The country received generally favourable rains from November to mid-April, which benefited development of “early season” crops. However, a prolonged dry spell since the first dekad of May stretching for five dekads affected crops when they were at the maturing stage resulting in crop losses and low yields. The dry spell has also negatively affected the 2012 maize crop of the “main season” in the largest crop producing provinces, namely North Hwanghae, South Hwanghae, North Pyongan, South Pyongan, and farmed areas of Pyongyang City.

The insufficient rains and shortages in irrigation supplies resulted also in delayed planting of the 2012 “main season” rice crop. Although above normal rains from the second dekad of June over the main crop producing areas provided relief to crops and allowed rice transplanting to take place, the late start of the planting period may have an effect on potential yields.

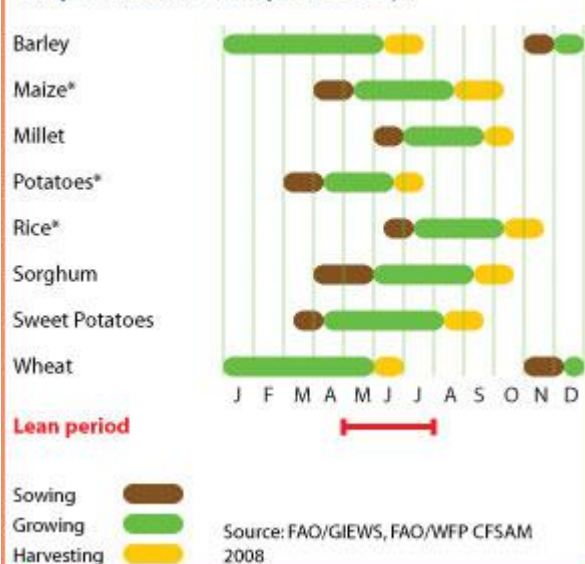
A detailed assessment of the full extent of the crop damage is not yet available but preliminary official estimates indicate that, as of end of June, some 287 896 hectares of cropland have been affected by the dry spell. This represents about 20 percent of total national area cultivated to food crops, including cereals, potatoes and soybeans.

An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) will visit the country in late September to estimate the 2012 food production and import requirements for 2012/13 (November/October), including food aid.

### Cereal import requirements for 2011/12 are expected to be revised upwards

Total cereal import requirements for 2011/12 marketing year (November/October), prior to the current dry spell, were estimated by the 2011 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) at 739 000 tonnes based on the forecast of 2012 “early season” crops at 500 000 tonnes. Any drop in production is likely to

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

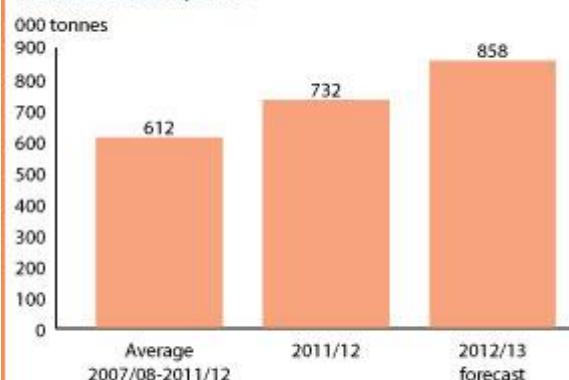


### Democratic People's Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 226	2 479	2 300	-7
Maize	1 705	1 935	1 776	-8
Wheat	131	127	118	-7
Others	122	104	106	2
Total	4 183	4 645	4 300	-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

add to the shortfall of food supplies and worsen food insecurity in the country. As of mid-June, total commercial imports into the country are estimated at 329 000 tonnes, primarily rice from China and maize from Ukraine, Argentina and the EU. Only 83 500 tonnes of food aid, in total, has been received in the current marketing year. More imports, commercial or food aid, would be required during the next three lean months, until the harvest of the main season in October-November, to help maintain the food rations through the public distribution system.

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

The 2011 FAO/WFP mission 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 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.