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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- An above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2015
- Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year (July/June) forecast to decline
- Food insecurity persists in rural areas

Above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 monsoon season cereal crops (rice, maize and millet) was completed in December. FAO's latest estimate for the 2015 aggregate cereal production stands at 183 900 tonnes, 2 percent above last year's above-average level. Most of this increase reflects a larger maize output, which is estimated at 81 000 tonnes, 4 percent up from the 2014 harvest. The 2015 rice production is estimated to have increased slightly to 78 000 tonnes.

Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year (July/June) forecast to decline

Total cereal imports in the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to contract by 8 percent to 79 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting the good 2015 harvests. Imports consist mainly of rice and wheat, which are forecast at 70 000 and 6 000 tonnes, respectively.

Food insecurity persists in rural areas

Food insecurity persists mostly in rural areas, with higher concentrations in the eastern and southern parts of the country. UNHCR indicates that as of November 2015 around 18 000 refugees from Bhutan are still living in refugee camps in eastern Nepal.

Bhutan

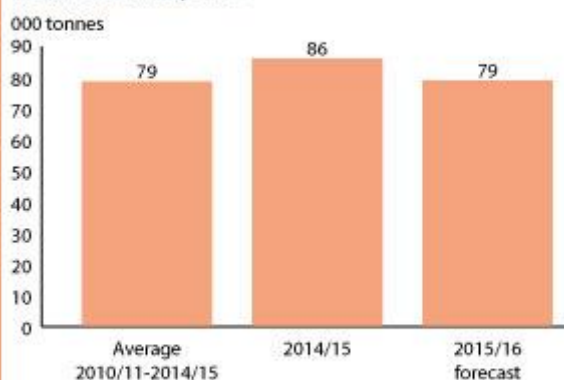
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	77	77	78	1
Maize	75	78	81	4
Millet	6	7	7	0
Others	16	18	18	0
Total	175	180	184	2

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

Bhutan

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