

Reference Date: 17-February-2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Prospects for 2016 wheat crop are favourable
- Rice production in 2015 estimated down from 2014's average level
- Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year forecast close to average levels

### Prospects for 2016 wheat crop are favourable

Planting of the 2016 **wheat** crop was completed last November. Favourable weather, overall, since the start of the season benefitted planting operations and early crop development. Assuming yields return closer to average, after the record highs in 2015, FAO tentatively forecasts a drop in the 2016 wheat production to about 860 000 tonnes from the previous year's high level.

### Rice production in 2015 estimated down from 2014's average level

FAO's latest estimate puts 2015 **paddy** output at 10.2 million tonnes, down 5 percent from the 2014 average level. The decline mostly reflects a reduction in the paddy area, in response to reduced prices.

The 2015, mostly irrigated, **wheat** crop is officially estimated at 996 000 tonnes, 17 percent above 2014's good output, reflecting record yields resulting from particularly favourable weather during the growing season.

### Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year (April/March) forecast close to average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2015/16 marketing year (April/March) are forecast close to average levels of 24 million tonnes, covering approximately 60 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Of the total, the bulk is accounted for by maize (15.2 million tonnes), which is not produced domestically and wheat (5.4 million tonnes), while an average amount of rice imports (700 000 tonnes) are also expected.

### Japan

#### Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	10 770	10 774	10 203	-5
Wheat	768	852	996	17
Barley	172	170	177	4
Others	28	28	28	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 737</b>	<b>11 824</b>	<b>11 404</b>	<b>-4</b>

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

### Japan

#### Total cereal production and imports



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