

Reference Date: 14-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of the 2014 main season rice crop began amid dry conditions
- The 2013 rice production unchanged from 2012
- Slightly higher cereal exports forecast for 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)
- Price of rice generally stable but at high levels
- Food insecurity concerns remain in some areas

Planting of the 2014 main season rice crop began amid dry conditions

Planting of the 2014 main (wet) season rice crop, which accounts for about 80 percent of annual production, has just started and will continue until late June. Remote-sensed data indicate that localized areas in central and southeastern parts of the country show low soil moisture, following below-average rains in previous weeks, which hindered somewhat land preparation. However, assuming that weather conditions improve and relatively high prices boost plantings of the current main season, FAO tentatively forecasts the aggregate 2014 rice production (including the ongoing 2014 main and the 2014/15 secondary seasons) to increase 4 percent from last year to 29 million tonnes, but still remains below the average level.

FAO's latest estimates put the 2014 maize production, harvested by mid-April, at a record level of 1.8 million tonnes, 3 percent up from the 2013 bumper crop. This reflects a slight expansion in planted area, in response to higher demand from the domestic feed industry and from neighbouring China, as well as higher yields, following favourable rainfall and adequate input supply during the growing season.

The 2013 rice production unchanged from 2012

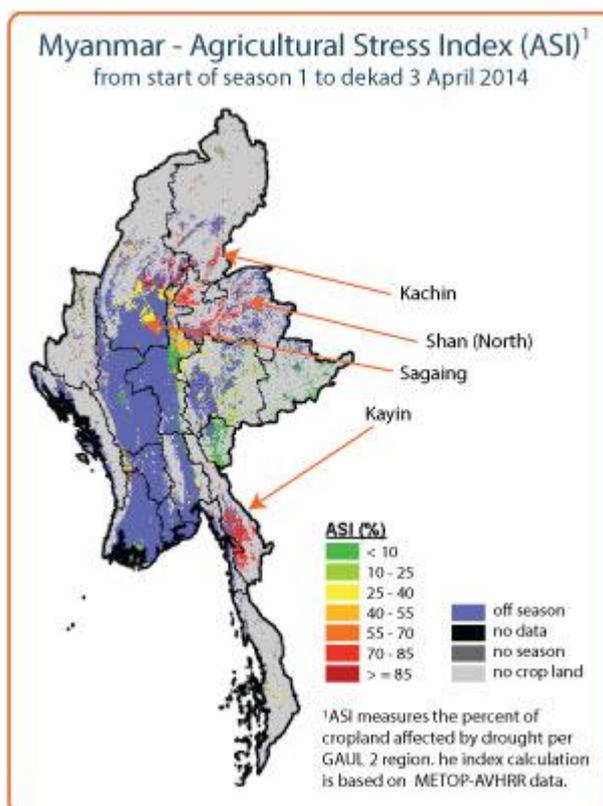
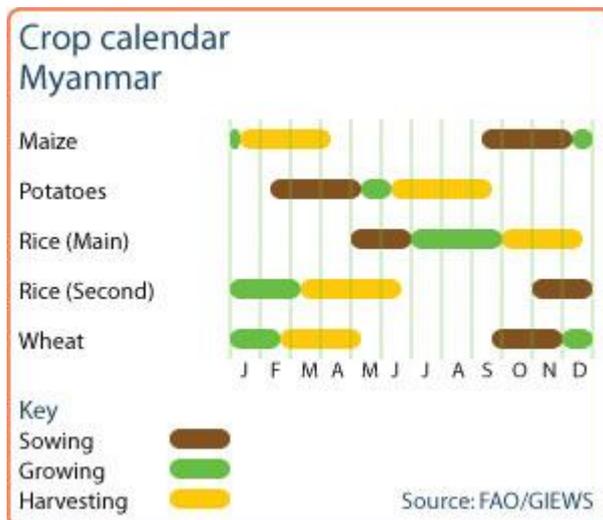
FAO's latest estimates point to an aggregate 2013 paddy output (including the 2013 main season, harvested by mid-December 2013, and the ongoing 2013/14 secondary season) of 28 000 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the 2012 level. The localized flooding, as a result of torrential rains between July and October, negatively impacted crop production in parts of the country.

Slightly higher cereal exports forecast for 2013/14 marketing year (July/June)

Cereal exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes (comprising rice about 550 000 and maize about 600 000 tonnes), slightly higher than the above-average level of the previous year. Overall, the total cereal import requirements (mainly including wheat crop) for 2013/14 are forecast at 295 000 tonnes, some 5 percent below the 2012/13 levels, due to higher domestic wheat consumption.

Price of rice generally stable but at high levels

The wholesale prices of *Emata* rice, the most commonly consumed variety, remained relatively stable in April, after marked increases in



previous months, and were around their high levels of a year-earlier. The arrival of the new 2013/14 secondary season crop in the market, partly offset the upward pressure from the reduced 2013 main season harvest, completed in December.

Food insecurity concerns remain in some areas

Overall, food security situation has improved. However, recurrent localized floods in recent years have negatively impacted the food security situation of the affected population. Furthermore, according to the latest UNHCR estimates, nearly half a million people remain displaced in Rakhine (southwest), Kachin (north), Shan (east) and southeast of Myanmar, after continuous inter-communal tensions since June 2012.

Myanmar

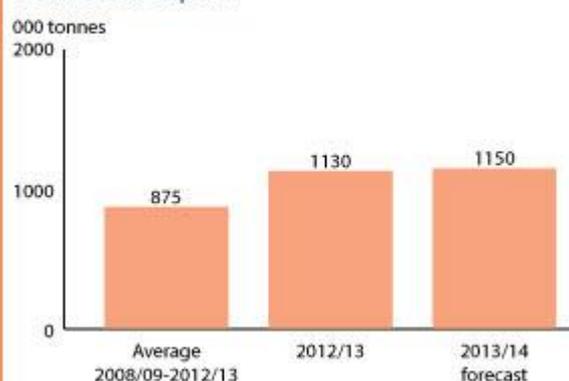
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	30,070	28,000	29,000	4
Maize	1,390	1,700	1,750	3
Millet	185	185	185	0
Others	195	193	193	0
Total	31,841	30,078	31,128	3

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

Myanmar

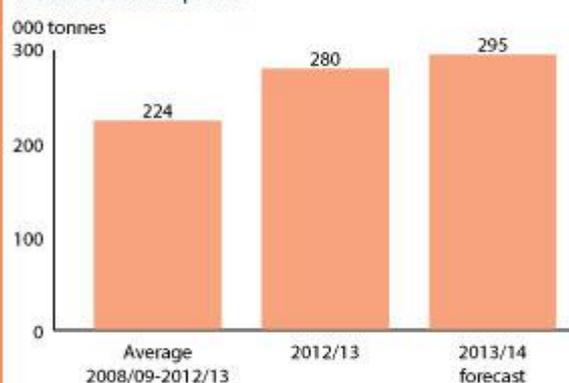
Total cereal exports



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

Myanmar

Total cereal imports

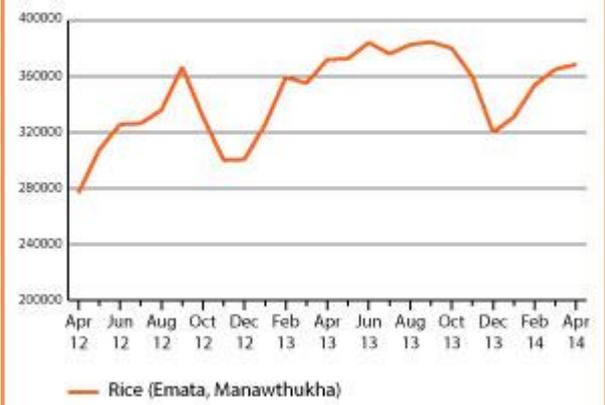


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Myanmar

Wholesale rice prices in Yangon

Kyat per Tonne



Source: E-Trade Myanmar