



## GLEWS Country Brief The Republic of Iraq

Reference Date: 11-June-2021

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Drought-induced widespread crop failure in Ninewa Governorate, halved production in Kurdistan Region of Iraq**
- **Decreased cereal production expected to cause loss of income, soaring feed prices and increased import requirements**
- **About 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance**

### Drought affected rainfed areas in north

The cereal harvest, which started in the southern part of the country in April, is proceeding northwards and will conclude in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) in July.

Across the country, the first substantial rainfall of the season in November 2020 facilitated sowing activities that were completed by mid-December and early crop prospects were relatively promising. In central and southern parts of the country, where crops require supplementary irrigation, the season proceeded under reasonably favourable conditions and the development of cereal crops, despite above-average temperatures, was satisfactory. In northern parts of the country, sporadic and insufficient precipitation in Ninewa Governorate as well as portions of northeastern Dahuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Salah Al Din provinces, affected conditions of mainly rainfed winter cereals. Rainfall in March and early April, which would have been critical to saving the crops, did not materialize. In May, extreme temperatures (35-40°C) further reduced the already meagre yield prospects for winter grains in drought-affected areas. Details on the drought are discussed in the [GLEWS Update](#).

### Crop failure in Ninewa, halved cereal production in KRI

Unfavourable rainfall in terms of amounts and distribution constrained domestic cereal production from the rainfed areas in 2021. Taking into account the drought in northern parts of the country, FAO forecasts the 2021 cereal production at a slightly above-average level of 5.4 million tonnes on account of declined wheat and barley production in the drought-affected areas. However, the official production estimates by the Central Statistical Organization for the past years do not include the KRI and some villages in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar and Salah

### Iraq

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)

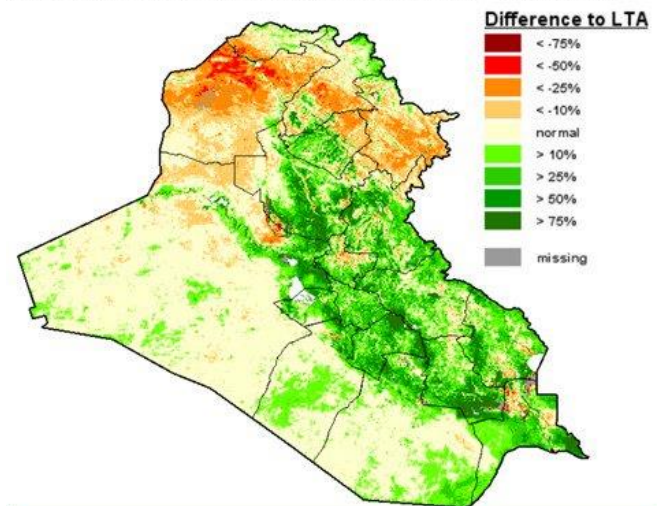


Sowing  
Growing  
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

### Iraq - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - May 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Al-Din governorates, rendering comparisons with the average production inaccurate.

According to the KRI authorities, production of the 2021 wheat crop is forecast at about 750 000 tonnes, 50 percent lower than the exceptional harvest of 2020. In May 2021, the local Department of Agriculture of Ninewa Governorate forecasted the 2021 wheat output at 394 000 tonnes, over 70 percent less than the 1.4 million tonnes harvested in 2020 and over 50 percent lower than the 850 000 tonnes harvested in 2019. The 2021 barley crop failed completely and production is forecast at a negligible level of 11 510 tonnes, down from the 1.36 million tonnes harvested in 2020 and the 1.3 million tonnes harvested in 2019.

Livelihoods of livestock producers are likely to be severely affected by the decline in barley production. By mid-April 2021, when widespread crop failure in northern areas was confirmed, feed prices steeply increased at a rate much faster than seasonally justified. The affected farmers may consider reducing the size of their herds, selling some animals in order to improve their cash flow and be able to feed the remaining livestock. A large number of livestock keepers started moving to western and northern regions of Ninewa and to Kurdistan areas looking after pastures and grazing areas.

For the 2021 wheat procurement season, the Ministry of Trade maintains the same prices as in 2020, ranging from IQD 420 000 to IQD 560 000/tonne, depending on the grain quality. The devaluation of the national currency against the US dollar by almost 22 percent in December 2020, which reduced the official exchange rate from IQD 1 182 to IQD 1 450/USD, lessened the prices in US dollar equivalent to USD 290-USD 385/tonne. The international benchmark price of wheat was USD 314/tonne in the second week of May 2021. As some farmers reportedly have not yet been paid for the 2020 crop delivered to the government, they might be unwilling to sell to the Ministry of Trade silos.

In April 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) restricted the movement of wheat and barley between the KRI and the rest of the country, with the exception of transfers to MOA warehouses, to deter speculative traders and smugglers from taking advantage of higher domestic prices.

### Import requirements increasing

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at a below-average level of 3.7 million tonnes, including 2 million tonnes of wheat (imported mostly as flour) and 1.1 million tonnes of rice. Overall, the 2021/22 forecast cereal import requirement is over 35 percent higher than in the previous year. The country usually does not import barley and it is foreseen that carryover stocks from the ample 2020 harvest will cover the gap resulting from constrained 2021 barley production.

### About 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

Unpredictable oil income resulting from the volatile global oil prices put pressure on the national budget as oil revenues account for over 90 percent of total State revenues. According to the Ministry of Oil, in April 2021, Basra heavy oil was traded at about USD 63.80/barrel, up from minimum of the USD 18.7/barrel in April 2020. In April 2021, the country was exporting about

## Iraq

### Cereal Production

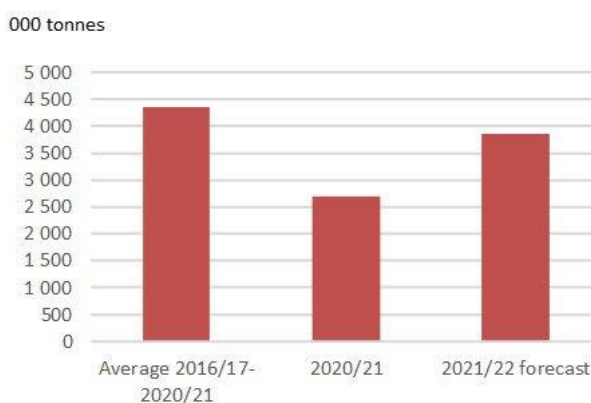
	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 757	6 238	4 500	-27.9
Barley	853	1 756	450	-74.4
Rice (paddy)	301	464	200	-56.9
Others	337	344	296	-14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 249</b>	<b>8 802</b>	<b>5 446</b>	<b>-38.1</b>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

## Iraq

### Cereals Imports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

3.9 million barrels per day. The 2021 budget, approved in March 2021, was prepared with the assumption of a USD 45/barrel of crude oil price and expected oil exports of 3.25 million barrels per day. Oil revenues determine, among other, the government's ability to pay pensions and salaries of the public sector employees on time.

The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Iraq identified 4.1 million people in need, of which 2.4 million have acute humanitarian needs. While the number of people in need remained similar to the previous year, the severity of those needs increased, largely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of an existing humanitarian crisis, leading to a 33 percent increase in the number of people in acute need.

More than half of them are concentrated in the governorates of Ninewa and Anbar. The number of severely food insecure people is estimated at about 435 000, while 731 000 are vulnerable to food insecurity, including IDPs (in camps and out of camps) and returnees. The most severe food insecurity conditions among IDPs living out of camps are reported in the governorates of Ninewa, Duhok, Erbil and Salah Al-Din, while the majority of the returnees are concentrated in the governorates of Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, Anbar and Kirkuk.

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*



# GIEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 10-February-2021

## FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Additional rainfall needed in some parts to maintain and improve crop prospects of winter cereals**
- **Ample cereal crop harvested in 2020, decreasing cereal import requirements forecast**
- **About 4.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, of which 2.4 million people have acute humanitarian needs**

## Additional rainfall needed in some parts

Sowing of the 2021 winter cereal crop was completed by mid-December. The first substantial rainfall of the season in November allowed finalizing sowing under favourable conditions. Rainfall amounts in December and January were below average across the country, except in the northern part of the country (particularly Dahuk, Erbil and Ninewa governorates) where abundant precipitation in the second decade of January mitigated the rainfall deficits. Despite below-average cumulative rainfall since the start of the season, but owing to relatively favourable rainfall distribution, crop conditions in the main cereal producing areas remain favourable, however, more precipitation is needed in the upcoming weeks to fully compensate the moisture shortfalls and maintain crop prospects.

For the 2020/21 season, as in past year, the Government subsidized 70 percent of the cost of wheat seeds to farmers registered with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), while fertilizer subsidies decreased from 50 to 35 percent of their cost. Seeds were delivered by mid-October in time for planting.

## Ample cereal harvest gathered in 2020

Favourable rainfall in terms of amounts and distribution contributed to an ample domestic cereal production in 2020. According to the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), almost 1.8 million tonnes of barley and 6.2 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 2020, an increase of 16 and 44 percent, respectively, compared to the previous year. Total cereal production in 2020 is estimated at nearly 9 million tonnes, more than double the last five-year average. The CSO estimates for 2019 and 2020 did not include the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and some villages in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar and Salah Al-Din governorates. Similarly, past geographic coverage of CSO was even more constrained by security conditions on the ground, rendering comparisons with the average production inaccurate.

## Iraq

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)

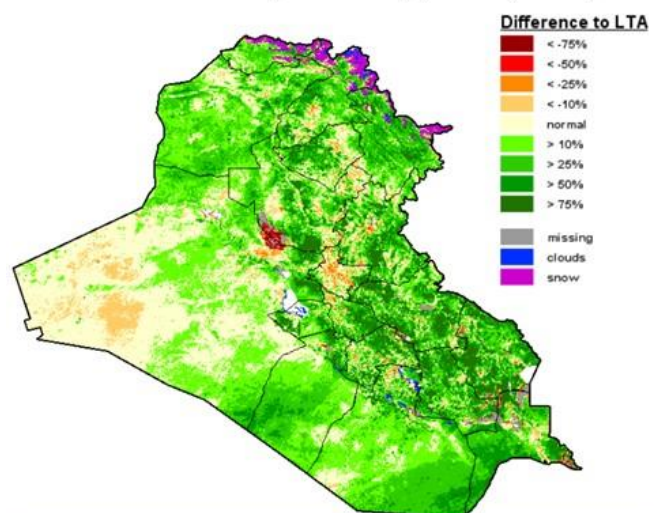


Sowing  
Growing  
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

## Iraq - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average, Dekad 3, January 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



The KRI Government estimated the 2020 wheat production at 2.43 million tonnes.

About 5.1 million tonnes of wheat were bought by the General Company for Grain Trade (about 500 000 tonnes more than in the previous year) to be distributed by the Public Distribution System as subsidized basic food rations. In the KRI, the Government silos received 390 000 tonnes of wheat. The 2020 purchasing prices of the Grain Board of Iraq for wheat grain, unchanged since 2017, ranged from IQD 420 000/tonne (equivalent to USD 350/tonne in June 2020) to IQD 560 000/tonne (USD 467/tonne), depending on the quality.

The Government purchased barley from farmers at IQD 460 000/tonne (USD 389/tonne) and has been selling it as feed at 50 percent of the costs to livestock and fishery owners based on registered herd size, as well as to feed processors.

It is reported that potato farmers in the KRI complained that movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented them from reaching the main markets in southern provinces. The production of potatoes in the KRI is estimated at 260 000 tonnes and it exceeds the local demand by almost three times, exerting a significant downward pressure on prices in the KRI markets.

### Below-average import requirements forecast

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at a below-average level of 2.6 million tonnes, including 1 million tonnes of wheat (imported mostly as flour) and 1.1 million tonnes of rice. The country has been striving to increase self-reliance on domestic wheat. The Government is taking steps to export 700 000 tonnes of barley from the 2019 harvest. To protect domestic producers from seasonal competition and maintain domestic prices, the MoA periodically revises the import ban on agricultural products which is part of the Local Products Protection policies. Currently, the imports of 24 products are banned.

### About 4.1 million in need of humanitarian assistance

Decreased oil income resulting from the decline in global oil prices put pressure on the national budget as oil revenues account for 90 percent of total State revenues. According to the Ministry of Oil, in the last two weeks of December 2020, Basra heavy oil was traded at about USD 49/barrel, up from minimum of the USD 18.7/barrel in April 2020, but still below the USD 58.4/barrel in December 2019. The 2020 budget was prepared with the assumption of a USD 56/barrel of crude oil price.

To cope with decreased income and maintain financial obligations, including payment of salaries and pensions, the Central Bank of Iraq devalued the national currency against the US dollar by almost 22 percent on 19 December 2020, reducing the official exchange rate from IQD 1 182/US dollar to IQD 1 450/US dollar. To offset the impact of the devaluation and increased inflation, particularly in terms of higher prices of imported goods, the Government intends to subsidize the consumer prices of sugar, vegetable oil and rice.

In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures on economic activities in the private and informal sectors, the continued delays in payments of public employees' salaries and the loose price monitoring and

## Iraq

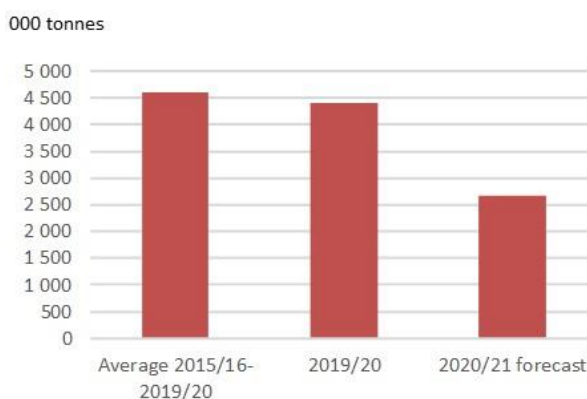
### Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 039	4 343	6 238	43.6
Barley	568	1 518	1 756	15.7
Maize	268	350	300	-14.3
Others	274	619	654	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 149</b>	<b>6 830</b>	<b>8 948</b>	<b>31.0</b>

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

## Iraq

### Cereals Imports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).  
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

consumer protection, the current devaluation of the national currency will have negative effects on households' food security.

The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Iraq identified 4.1 million people in need (PiN), of which 2.4 million have acute humanitarian needs. While the number of people in need remained similar to the previous year, the severity of those needs increased, largely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of an existing humanitarian crisis, leading to a 35 percent increase in the number of people in acute need.

More than half of them are concentrated in the governorates of Nineveh and Anbar. The number of severely food insecure people is estimated at about 435 000, while 731 000 are vulnerable to food insecurity, IDPs (in camps and out of camps) and returnees. Among the IDPs living out of camps, the governorates with the most severely food insecure IDPs are Ninewa, Duhok, Erbil and Salah Al-Din, while the majority of the returnees are concentrated in the governorates of Nineveh, Salah Al-Din, Anbar and Kirkuk.

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*



## GIEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 15-May-2020

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal crop production forecast for 2020
- Cereal import requirements forecast at average level as country builds stocks
- About 920 000 people estimated severely food insecure, while 1.7 million vulnerable to food insecurity

### Favourable weather conditions for crop development

The 2020 winter cereal harvest started in April in the southern parts of the country and the bulk will be collected in May and early June.

Conditions for crop development have been generally favourable across the country with timely and well-distributed rains. The northern cereal-producing belt of Kirkuk, Nineveh and Al Suleymaniah governorates experienced an early autumn dryness until late November 2019, but abundant precipitation starting from December significantly improved soil moisture content. In April 2020, a localized infestation of desert locusts was reported and control operations were implemented in Al-Muthanna, Al-Najaf and Thi Qar governorates in the south, where cereal production is minor due to the environmental conditions.

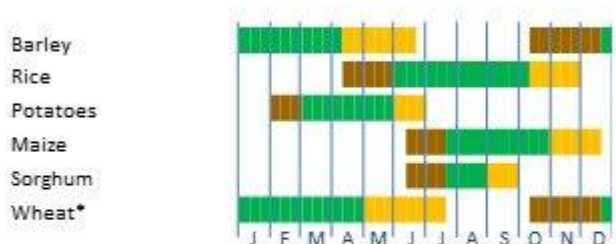
The 2020 cereal production is forecast at an above-average level of 6.5 million tonnes, slightly below the 2019 near-record level of 6.8 million tonnes. The comparison with the average is likely to be inaccurate as in 2018 the security situation prevented the complete production estimates in Nineveh, Salah-Alden and Anbar governorates, Hawija district in Kirkuk Governorate and some villages in Diyala Governorate.

Purchasing prices of the Grain Board of Iraq for the wheat crop have remained unchanged since 2017, when they sharply declined compared to the previous years following lower international oil prices. In 2020, prices ranged from IQD 420 000 (equivalent to USD 350) to IQD 560 000 (USD 467) per tonne, depending on the quality of the grain. Despite the pressure on the national budget, reports indicate that farmers are paid in cash upon presenting a letter from the Ministry of Trade confirming the quantity and amount due. As of 9 May 2020, the State grain buyer purchased 542 000 tonnes of wheat. The wheat purchased

### Iraq

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)

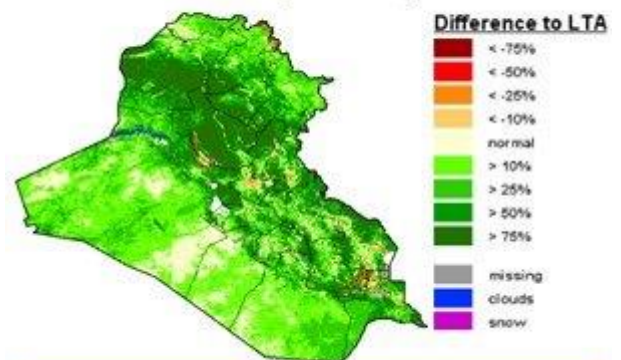


Sowing  
Growing  
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

### Iraq - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to LTA, Dekad 2 April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

is then used in the Public Distribution System (PDS), which distributes subsidized basic food rations to the population.

### Average import requirements forecast

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.2 million tonnes, including 2.7 million tonnes of wheat (imported mostly as flour) and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. The total cereal import requirements, despite the expectations of an above-average 2020 domestic harvest, are forecast to be near average, a level similar to the previous year, as the Government tries to rebuild stocks that have been recently depleted by the COVID-19-related stockpiling by consumers.

### About 920 000 people severely food insecure, 1.7 million vulnerable to food insecurity

The country's economy is being affected by the recent decline in global oil prices which is putting a pressure on the national budget. The 2020 budget was prepared with the assumption of USD 56 per barrel of crude oil price. Oil revenues account for 90 percent of total State revenues. According to the Ministry of Oil, in April 2020, Iraqi oil sold for an average of USD 13.80, down from USD 28.44 in March and USD 51.37 in February. Resentment over poor public services and lack of employment opportunities continue to impact political stability, which coupled with fiscal deficits, will likely threaten the overall food security situation.

According to the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released in November 2019, the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance decreased from 6.7 million in 2019 to 4.1 million. More than half of them are concentrated in the governorates of Nineveh and Anbar. The number of severely food insecure people is estimated at about 920 000, while 1.7 million are vulnerable to food insecurity, mostly IDPs and returnees, with the majority concentrated in the governorates of Diyala, Nineveh, Salah Al-Din, Anbar and Kirkuk.

Despite increased stockpiling by households facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the WFP's Cash-Based Transfer Food Basket increased on average by 5 percent between March and April 2020, mainly supported by increased flour prices. However, some governorates have observed higher prices of some commodities, particularly in the central part of the country.

## Iraq

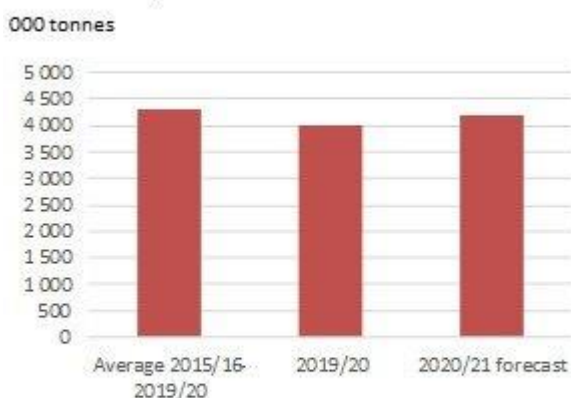
### Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 034	4 300	4 500	4.7
Barley	602	1 518	1 300	-14.4
Maize	268	350	300	-14.3
Others	274	619	400	-35.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 178</b>	<b>6 787</b>	<b>6 500</b>	<b>-4.2</b>

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

## Iraq

### Cereals Imports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



## COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

Since February 2020, both Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region have enforced movement restrictions and curfews to curtail transmission of the disease. Measures were slightly relaxed at the end of April to allow movement from 06:00 to 18:00 hours.

In early April 2020, the Higher Committee for Health and National Safety, established to coordinate national efforts to combat COVID-19, decided to:

- Establish a committee to assess current and future market needs in terms of food, medical supplies and agricultural produce, with a mandate to promote Iraqi products.
- Facilitate the transit of lorries and refrigerated trucks carrying food, agricultural products, medical and veterinary materials between provinces and within cities.
- Monitor the prices of essential goods to ensure that they remain stable and to take measures against speculators, according to law.
- Facilitate the transport of agricultural harvesters and livestock between provinces.
- Establish a committee to report on support mechanisms for workers in the private sector during COVID-19.
- Establish a committee to report on the financial impact on citizens and to suggest options to provide financial support to affected groups, especially those on low income.

The farmers do not face any obstacles in accessing their fields and herds. The domestic production of perishable produce, such as potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes and eggs, remains high with no export opportunities. The Ministry of Agriculture requested that existing import regulations are enforced in order to boost demand for domestic production.

The Government plans to assist approximately 2 million families (approximately 12 million individuals) through the *Minha* Programme which will provide each individual impacted by the curfew with a temporary monthly grant of IQD 30 000. The programme started dispersing funds in the first week of May and is administered via a telephone application.

Payment of land rental fees for agricultural tenants was postponed. The Central Bank announced a moratorium on interest and principal payments to small and medium enterprises.

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*



# GLEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 31-January-2020

## FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for crop development after early season dryness
- Close-to-record cereal crop harvested in 2019
- Cereal import requirements forecast at average level
- About 1.8 million people food insecure, mostly IDPs and returnees

## Favourable weather conditions for crop development after early season dryness

Planting of the winter grain crop, to be harvested from mid-April 2020, started in October and concluded in December. The northern part of the country, including the cereal-producing belt of Kirkuk, Nineveh and Al Suleymaniah governorates, was affected by early autumn dryness until late November, but abundant precipitation in December and early January 2020, significantly improved soil moisture. As of mid-January 2020, moisture reserves for dormant winter grains were deemed satisfactory.

The Ministry of Agriculture provides incentives to farmers to cultivate crops according to a national agricultural plan that instructs the areas farmers should plant with specific crops. Incentives include the distribution of subsidized certified seeds and fertilizers at about 50-70 percent less than the market price. Farmers not complying to the national agricultural plan are required to procure inputs at full market price or resort to planting their own seeds saved from previous harvest. In 2019, the national plan called for 1.8 million hectares to be planted with winter wheat.

Although reconstruction efforts are still in the early stages, some progress has been reported on reparations of damaged irrigation structures in the former conflict areas.

## Close-to-record 2019 cereal production

Despite the economic constraints due to the conflict and some flooding which occurred in March 2019, the 2019 cereal harvest is estimated at a near-record level of 6.4 million tonnes. Floods affected mainly the minor cereal producing areas of the eastern governorates of Diyala, Wasit, Missan and Al Basrah along the Tigris river. Elsewhere in the country, exceptionally favourable weather conditions prevailed since the start of the season, with timely and abundant rainfall amounts.

## Iraq

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)



Sowing  
Growing  
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

## Iraq

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 185	2 200	4 300	95.5
Barley	554	191	1 518	694.8
Maize	256	300	350	16.7
Others	253	144	234	62.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 248</b>	<b>2 835</b>	<b>6 402</b>	<b>125.8</b>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

The Central Statistical Organization estimated the 2019 production of wheat and barley at 4.3 and 1.5 million tonnes, respectively. Wheat production increased 30 percent compared to the average. Barley production exceeded the average by three times.

Purchasing prices of the Grain Board of Iraq for the wheat crop has remained unchanged since 2017, when they were sharply reduced from the previous years following lower international oil prices. In 2019, prices ranged from IQD 420 000 (at the beginning of the purchasing season in April 2019, equivalent to USD 350) to IQD 560 000 (USD 467) per tonne, depending on the quality of the grain. The wheat purchased is then used in the Public Distribution System (PDS), which distributes subsidized basic food rations to the population.

### Average import requirements forecast

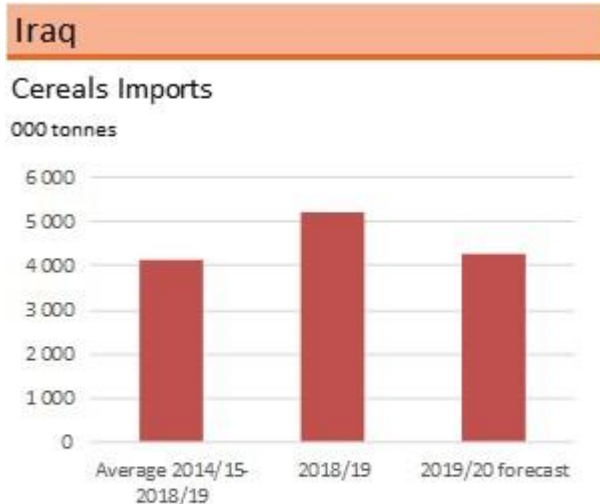
Cereal import requirements in the current 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.2 million tonnes, including 2.7 million tonnes of wheat (imported mostly as flour) and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. The total cereal import requirements, reflecting a strong 2019 domestic harvest, are forecast to be similar to the average and about 20 percent below the import requirement of the previous year.

### About 1.77 million people food insecure, mostly IDPs and returnees

According to the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released in November 2019, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance decreased from 6.7 million in 2019 to 4.1 million. More than half of them are concentrated in the governorates of Nineveh and Anbar. The number of food insecure people is estimated at 1.77 million, mostly IDPs and returnees, down from 2.5 million in 2019, with the majority concentrated in the governorates of Diyala, Nineveh, Salah Al-Din, Anbar and Kirkuk.

Since early October 2019, widespread social unrest and violent protests driven by resentment over poor public services and lack of employment opportunities continue to threaten political stability. Instability would likely threaten food security outcomes in the country.

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



## GIEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 11-April-2019

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Floods and economic constraints to affect cereal production
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecasted
- Some 2.5 million food insecure mostly among IDPs and returnees

### Floods and economic constraints to affect cereal production

Harvesting of the 2019 winter season barley crop, planted mostly in November, is scheduled to start in mid-April. The wheat harvest will start in mid-May. Up to March, conditions for the development of the 2018/19 winter cereal crop were exceptionally positive, with timely and abundant rainfall since the start of the season, promising an ample recovery from last year's drought-stricken harvest. Torrential rains at the end of March led to major flooding across the minor cereal producing areas of the eastern governorates of Diyala, Wasit, Misau and Al Basrah along the Tigris river. To a lesser extent, flooding also affected Kirkuk, Ninevah and Al Suleymaniah governorates in the cereal-producing belt in the north.

Despite weather conditions, crop prospects have been affected by economic constraints stemming from the recently ceased active conflict. In particular, limited availability and expensive inputs and machinery impact agricultural activities. Although reconstruction efforts are still in the early stages, some progress has been reported on reparations of damaged irrigation structures in the former conflict areas.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, 1.825 million hectares were planted with 2019 winter wheat, including 315 000 hectares on irrigated lands. Due to systematic water shortages in the previous seasons, the country halved its winter crop planting area on irrigated land.

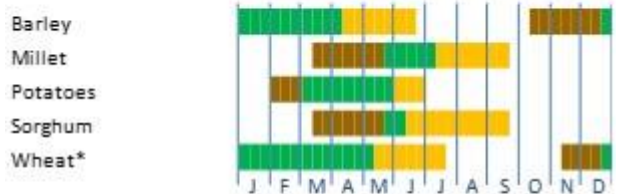
Before the March floods, the 2019 wheat harvest was forecasted by the Government at 4 million tonnes, over 80 percent above the previous year's harvest and 25 percent above average. The final production is likely to be lower than the preliminary forecast depending on the final impact of floods on yields.

The purchasing prices of the Grain Board of Iraq for the 2019 wheat crop remain unchanged since 2017, when they were

### Iraq

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)

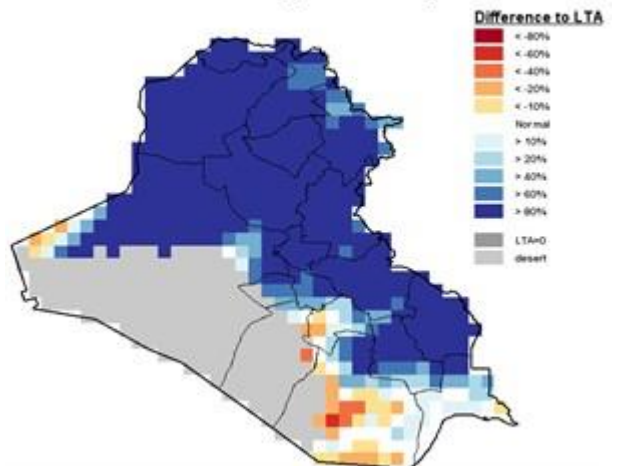


Sowing  
Growing  
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

### Iraq - Precipitation anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - March 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



sharply reduced from previous years following lower international oil prices. Prices range from IQD 420 000 (as of early April 2019, equivalent to USD 350) to IQD 560 000 (USD 467) per tonne depending on the quality. The wheat purchased is used for the Public Distribution System (PDS), which distributes subsidized basic food rations to the population.

### Above-average import requirements forecasted

Cereal import requirements in the current 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 5.2 million tonnes, including 3.7 million tonnes of wheat (imported mostly as flour) and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. The total cereal import requirements, reflecting a decimated 2018 domestic harvest, are forecast to be slightly above the previous year's level and about 25 percent above the five-year average.

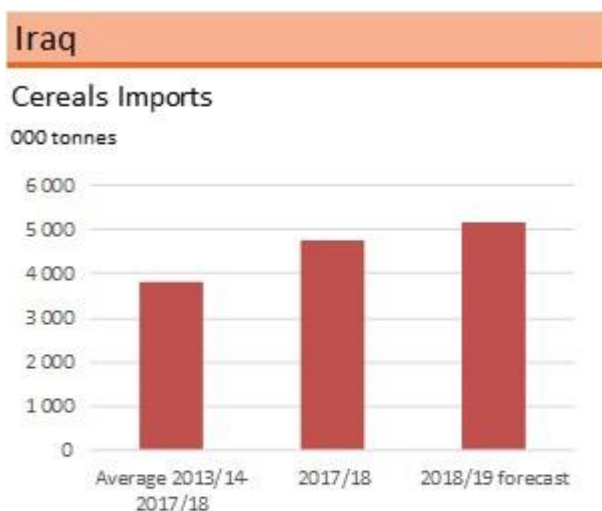
### About 2.5 million food insecure mostly among IDPs and returnees

According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released in November 2018, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance decreased from 8.7 million in 2018 to 6.7 million people (out of a total population of 36 million), including 2 million internally displaced and 4 million returnees. About 70 percent of the returnees in need of assistance are in Ninevah and Anbar governorates. The number of food insecure people is estimated at 2.5 million, mostly among IDPs and returnees, with the majority concentrated in Diyala, Ninevah, Dahuk, Anbar and Erbil governorates. The recent flooding is likely to worsen food security outcomes.

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*

Iraq				
Cereal Production				
	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 185	2 200	4 000	81.8
Barley	596	400	700	75.0
Maize	256	300	350	16.7
Others	253	144	44	-69.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 289</b>	<b>3 044</b>	<b>5 094</b>	<b>67.3</b>

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



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).  
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



## GIEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 21-June-2018

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

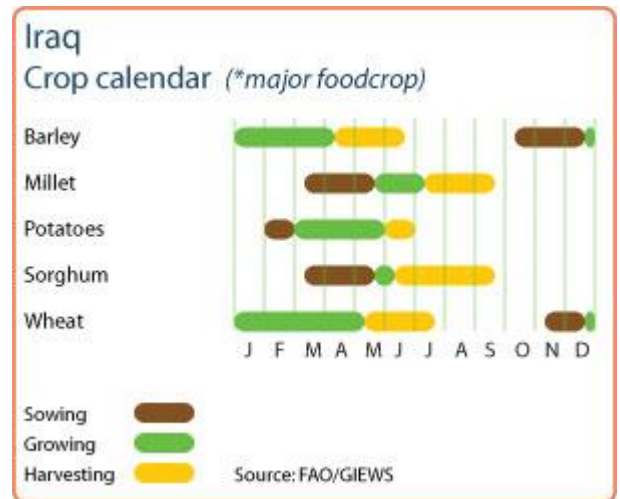
- Relatively favourable weather conditions prevail, but conflict continues to affect production
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecasted
- Number of food insecure declines as combat ends

### Relatively favourable weather conditions prevail, but conflict continues to affect production

Harvesting of the 2018 winter season barley crop, which started in late April, is about to conclude. The wheat harvest started in mid-May and is expected to finish in early July. Irregular rains from October 2017 to early January 2018 delayed sowings in parts of the country, but soil moisture deficits were compensated by good precipitation received in spring. While weather conditions remain relatively favourable, concerns prevail about the impact of the of conflict, particularly in the cereal production belt of Ninewah and Salahadin provinces. Remote sensing information indicates that some fields in the northwest parts of Mossoul and Dahuk provinces might have not been sown, possibly due to conflict-related constraints.

Machinery and irrigation structures in conflict areas are reported to be damaged. Due to the limited availability of irrigation water, farmers are encouraged to employ dry rice production techniques. Many farmers across the country resorted to planting uncertified seeds, resulting in lower yields due to the lack of timely hybrid seed distribution normally carried out by the Government. Supply shortages and soaring prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions. Consequently, the 2018 cereal harvest is forecast at below average 4.3 million tonnes. The preliminary wheat production forecast indicates a 14 percent reduction from last year's level and almost a 20 percent decline compared to the five-year average.

In March 2018, the Grain Board of Iraq announced that the purchasing prices for the 2018 wheat crop would not change compared to 2017, when they were sharply reduced from previous years following lower international oil prices. Prices range from IQD 420 000 (as of late March 2018, equivalent to USD 350) to IQD 560 000 (USD 467) per tonne depending on the quality. The wheat purchased is used for the Public Distribution



Iraq  
Cereal production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 686	3 500	3 000	-14
Barley	816	800	700	-12
Maize	362	250	300	20
Others	321	311	319	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 185</b>	<b>4 861</b>	<b>4 319</b>	<b>-11</b>

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

System (PDS), which distributes subsidized basic food rations to the population.

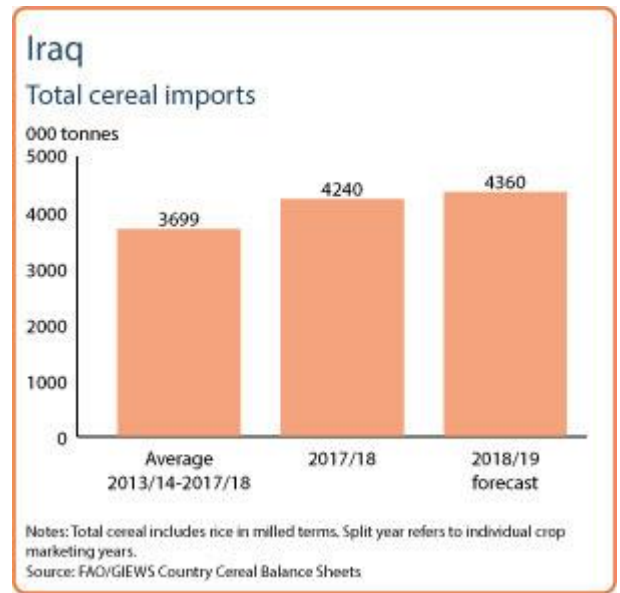
### Above-average import requirements forecasted

Cereal import requirements in the upcoming 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.4 million tonnes, including 2.9 million tonnes of wheat (mostly as flour) and 1.1 million tonnes of rice. The total cereal import requirement is forecast to be similar to the previous year's level, but about 20 percent above the five-year average.

### Number of food insecure declines as combat ends

According to the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) released in December 2017, about 2.6 million people were internally displaced, down from 3.1 million reported in the 2017 HRP. In December 2017, 1.9 million people were in need of food security assistance, down from 3.2 million in December 2016. The improvement in figures is attributed to the ending of combat operations against the Islamic State and the slow but steady return of displaced people to their home communities.

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*





## GlEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 23-November-2017

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable start of season but conflict continues to affect crop production
- Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2016, resulting in increased import requirement
- Food prices declined nationally in August 2017

### Favourable start of season, but conflict continues to affect crop production

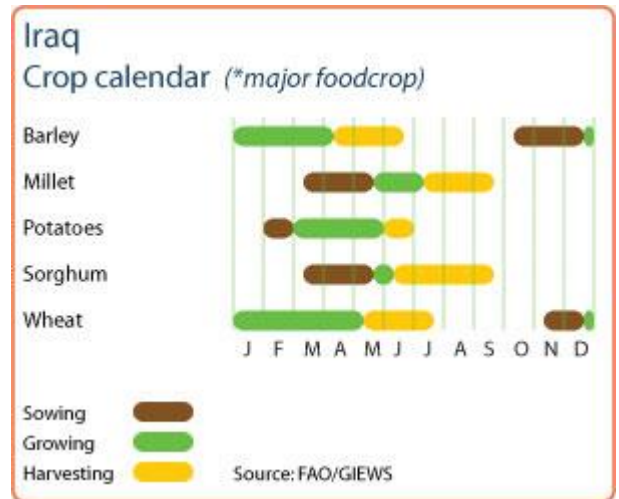
Planting of winter barley for harvesting from April 2018 started in mid-October, and that of winter wheat in early November. Planting usually continues up to mid-December. Cumulative rainfall in the month of October was below average, although plentiful rainfall in the first decade of November replenished soil moisture in the northern, most productive, areas of the country. Early season dryness is not unusual in the country and the effects can be reversed by normal precipitation before the crops fall into dormancy with the arrival of cold weather.

While weather conditions remain relatively favourable, concerns prevail about the progress of the agricultural season, particularly in the cereal production belt of Ninewah and Salahadin provinces. Here, large swathes of land are inaccessible or destroyed by fighting. Machinery and irrigation structures in conflict areas are reported to be damaged. Due to the limited availability of irrigation water, the production of “wet rice” was prohibited. Farmers are encouraged to employ dry production techniques to increase domestic rice production.

Many farmers across the country resorted to planting uncertified seeds or seeds from the past harvest, resulting in lower yields due to the lack of timely seed distribution normally carried out by the Government. Supply shortages and soaring prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions.

### Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2017, increased import requirements

Despite the conflict-related challenges, it is estimated that about 4 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 2017, slightly less than in 2016 and the last five-year average. Wheat quality is reported to be poor, making it more suitable for feed. Barley production is estimated at 1 million tonnes, similar to the five-year average, but 17 percent below the previous year’s harvest. The Ministry of Trade is expected to purchase about 2.4 million



**Iraq Cereal production**

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	4 199	4 200	4 000	-5
Barley	1 062	1 200	1 000	-17
Rice (paddy)	301	181	290	60
Others	261	259	259	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 824</b>	<b>5 840</b>	<b>5 549</b>	<b>-5</b>

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



tonnes of domestic wheat for the Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS). The current purchasing price of IQD 560 000 per tonne (corresponding to USD 487 per tonne) is below the procurement price of IQD 700 000 in 2016 and is likely to result in a decrease in planted area in 2018.

Cereal import requirements in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.35 million tonnes, including 2.9 million tonnes of wheat (mostly as flour) and 1.1 million tonnes of rice. The total forecasted cereal imports are about 13 percent above the previous year's level and the five-year average. To decrease import dependency, the Government strives to improve the productivity of domestic wheat farmers.

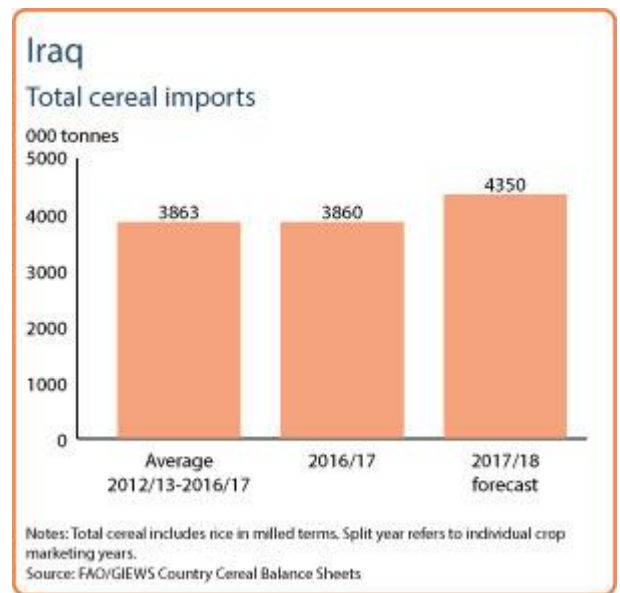
### Food prices declined in August 2017 but large regional differences persist

Food prices decreased by 6 percent across the country in August 2017 compared to the previous month, although large regional differences persist. Market functionality has been improving, with lower incidence of shortages reported due to conflict-disrupted supply lines. However, the purchasing power of the population living in conflict areas remains significantly lower than in the rest of the country.

The Ministry of Trade of Iraq continues to subsidize basic staple commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula) through the Public Distribution System (PDS). In conflict-affected areas, the PDS is very limited due to disruptions of the supply chains and Government cut-offs. Some households report receiving only partial rations. The PDS is also reported to be understocked and cash shortages prevent the Government from replacing physical commodities with cash transfers.

In the Government-held areas, latest figures from the Iraqi Central Statistical Organization indicate that the annual food inflation rate has been negative since May 2016, recording a negative 1 percent in March 2017 (latest figures available).

*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*





## GlEWS Country Brief Iraq

Reference Date: 06-February-2017

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Ongoing conflict jeopardizes agricultural production despite favourable weather conditions
- Average cereal harvest gathered in 2016 resulting in stable import requirement
- Food prices declined nationally in December 2016
- About 2.4 million estimated to be food insecure, with IDPs and returnees most vulnerable

### Favourable growing conditions but conflict affects production

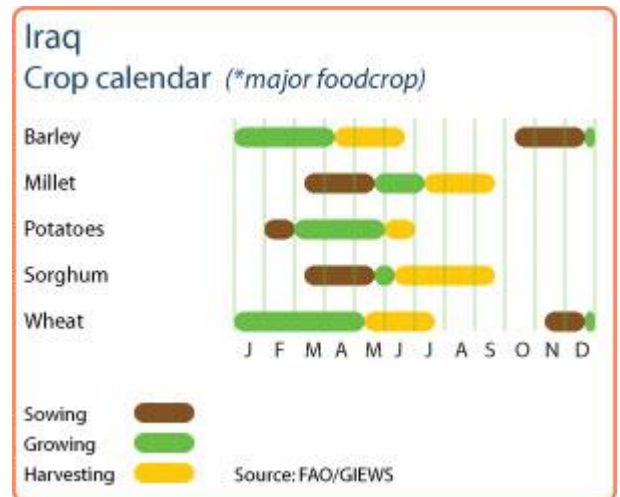
Planting of winter barley and wheat for harvesting from April 2017 was completed by mid-December. Current weather conditions remain favourable for cereal crop development after an early season dryness in November followed by higher than normal precipitation in December replenishing soil moisture.

Details about the level of actual plantings are not yet available. Concerns prevail about the progress of the agricultural season particularly in the cereal production belt of Ninewah and Salahadin provinces which partly remain under the control of rebel forces. Large swathes of land in these provinces are inaccessible or destroyed by fighting resulting in lower yields. Machinery and irrigation structures in conflict areas are reported to be damaged.

Many farmers across the country resorted to planting uncertified seeds or seeds from the past harvest – resulting in lower yields – due to lack of timely seed distribution normally carried out by the Government. Supply shortages and soaring prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions.

### Average cereal harvest gathered in 2016, stable import requirements

Despite the conflict-related challenges, it is estimated that some 3 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 2016, slightly down from 2015 and about the same as the past five-year average, owing to favourable precipitation and mild winter conditions. Barley production, at 750 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year and the five-year average. About 2 million tonnes of wheat were sold to the Iraqi Grain Board in the areas under Government control at the purchasing price of double the import price to support local production. The amount of 160 000 tonnes received by the Ministry of Agriculture as certified seeds is



Iraq  
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	3 080	3 000	2 800	-7
Barley	778	750	750	0
Rice (paddy)	301	181	290	60
Others	261	259	259	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 420</b>	<b>4 190</b>	<b>4 099</b>	<b>-2</b>

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

sufficient to plan about 1 140 hectares (at a rate of 140 kg/ha), a fraction of 925 000 hectares (3.7 million donums) planted in the Government-held area last year. Precise information from outside the Government-held areas is not available.

In response to the difficult conditions in the cereal belt, wheat production has reportedly shifted to other provinces in the southeast part of the country, with the largest production increases recorded in Wasit and Diyala provinces.

Cereal import requirements in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 4.54 million tonnes, including 3 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice.

### **Food prices declined in December 2016 but large regional differences persist**

The cost of the food basket in December 2016 decreased by 6 percent at the national level compared to the previous month, although large regional differences persist. The purchasing power of the population living in conflict areas remains 20 percent lower than in the rest of the country. Conflict-disrupted supply lines are resulting in shortages of fresh fruits, meat, dairy and eggs.

Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Distribution System (PDS), continues to subsidize basic staple commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). In the conflict areas, the PDS is very limited due to disruptions of the supply chains and Government cut-off. Some households report receiving only partial rations. The PDS is also reported to be understocked and cash shortages prevent the Government from replacing physical commodities with cash transfers.

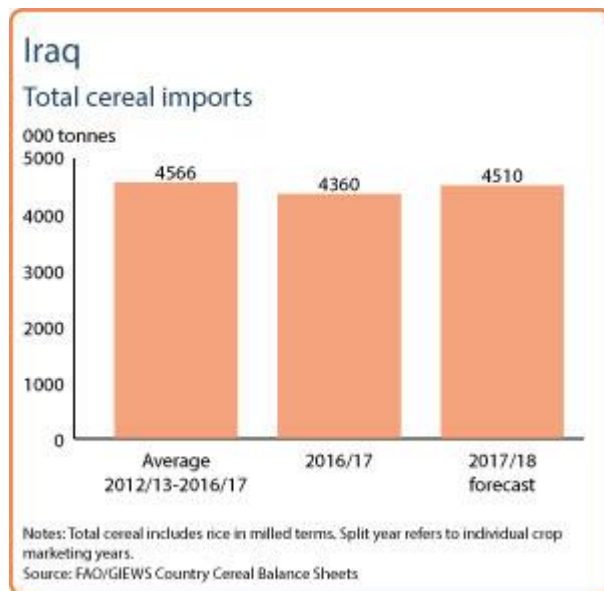
In the Government-held areas, latest figures from the Iraqi Central Statistical Organization indicate an annual food inflation rate of negative 4.8 percent in November 2016 compared to negative 2.8 percent in October 2016. The overall CPI in November 2016 was close to zero percent.

### **About 2.4 million people food insecure, particularly IDPs and returnees**

As of November 2016, over 10 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance out of a total population of 36 million, about 28 percent of the population. About 3 million people are internally displaced. The rapidly changing conflict dynamics are mirrored into a volatile food security situation across the country with 2.4 million people estimated to be food insecure, of which 1.5 million are severely food insecure. Food insecurity remains higher in conflict and displacement-affected provinces. Households and internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in the affected areas, and returnees in the liberated areas, remain the most vulnerable and food insecure.

Farmers in conflict areas are resorting to negative livelihood coping strategies such as having to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to populations affected by the Iraq crisis aims to support 2.45 million individuals via food, voucher or cash transfers on a monthly basis up to June 2017. The WFP also continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian Arab Republic refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.



*Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*



Reference Date: 07-March-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Ongoing conflict jeopardizes agricultural production despite favourable weather conditions
- Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming, together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large numbers of people to severe food insecurity
- Increasing number of IDPs together with refugees, mainly from Syrian Arab Republic, is also putting huge pressure on host communities

### Despite favourable weather conditions, ongoing conflict jeopardize agricultural production

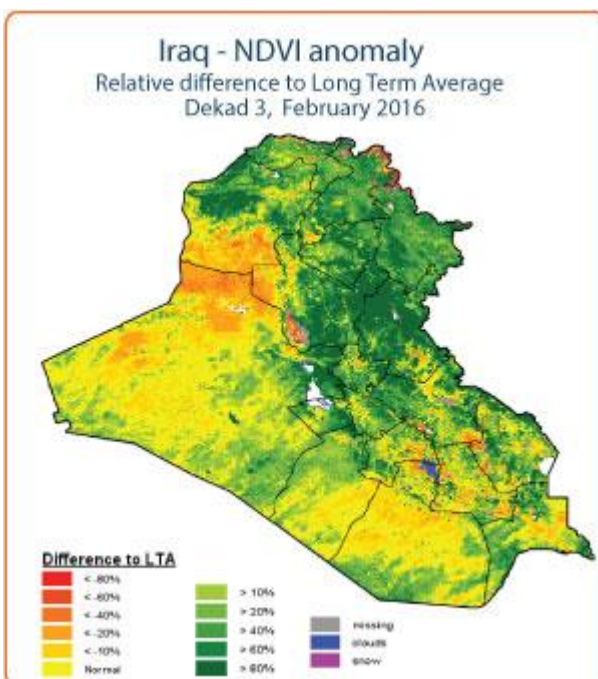
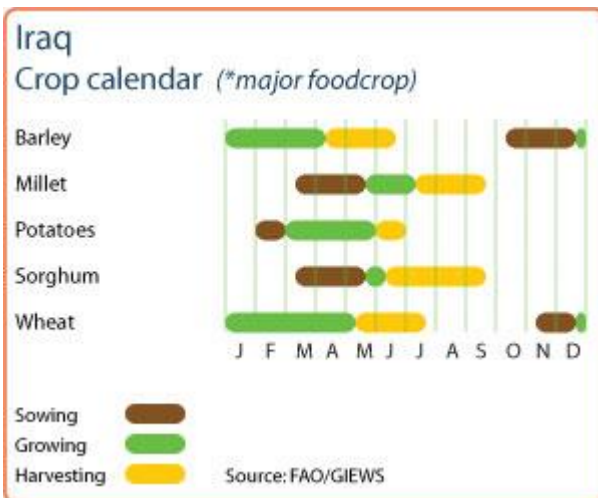
Planting of winter barley and wheat for harvesting from April 2016 concluded in mid-December. The planting season coincided with heavy rains at parts which, together with continuing fighting, complicated the fieldwork. Some planted fields were reported to be washed out by excess rainfall. In parts of Iraq, cumulated precipitation from October 2015 to the first dekad of January 2016 already surpassed last season's (October 2014 to April 2015) total precipitation. Estimates of planted area for the 2016 harvest are not yet available.

While rains and mountain snow sustained abundant soil moisture and sufficient irrigation reserves for winter grains that were actually planted and established, heavy rains might have damaged some of the wheat from the 2015 harvest stored in inadequate conditions on the ground under tarps, particularly in areas where the ongoing conflict destroyed storage facilities, or where security conditions prevented deliveries to warehouses.

Production levels and access to markets is severely restricted for the most conflict-affected areas. A large part of the cereal production belt is now directly under control of ISIL, impacting access to agricultural inputs, cereal harvest and post-harvesting activities.

Security concerns, access to fields and disrupted procurement and distribution systems are expected to aggravate the situation further. Delays in, or lack of, timely seed distribution during the planting period, normally carried out by the Government, also impacted the planting season both in terms of areas farmed and quality. Many farmers in conflict areas resorted to planting uncertified seeds or seeds from the past harvest. Supply shortages and soaring input prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions and the reported Government ban on fertilizer distribution. Machinery in conflict areas is reported to be damaged and many farmers cannot access their fields.

In the long run, access to agricultural land in liberated areas will be affected by the high number of unexploded ordinance and mines laid by ISIL. The Salahedin and Ninewa governorates, at the centre of the continuing conflict, normally produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of the total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively.



**Iraq Cereal production**

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	2 952	3 500	3 200	-9
Barley	859	900	800	-11
Rice (paddy)	321	403	300	-26
Others	282	269	259	-4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 414</b>	<b>5 072</b>	<b>4 559</b>	<b>-10</b>

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

## Good production in 2015, but supply jeopardized by conflict

Despite the fuel and input shortages, it is estimated that some 3.2 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 2015, down from 2014 but 8.4% percent above the past five-year average, owing to favourable weather conditions. Barley production, at 800 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year and the five-year average. Precise information from outside Government-held areas is not available. Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.2 million tonnes of wheat from farmers by mid-August 2015 at a subsidized price of about USD 600/tonne compared to 3.4 million purchased by the same time in 2014. Anecdotal evidence from the field indicates that up to 600 000 tonnes of wheat may have been produced in Ninewa, Salahedin, Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar.

Supply and marketing chains remain compromised by the conflict. Security concerns prevented deliveries to silos and delays in payments to farmers have been reported, creating cash flow problems in the upcoming cropping season.

## Cereal import requirements stable in 2015/16

The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly ration of 9 kg of subsidized flour under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

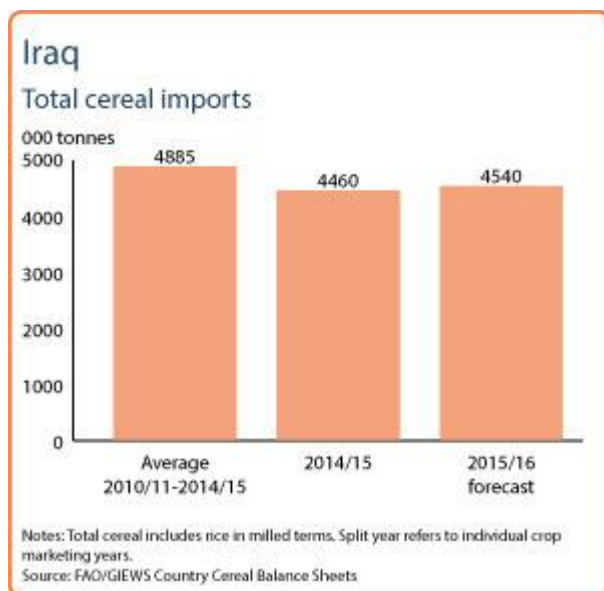
Cereal import requirements in the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June), are forecast at 4.54 million tonnes, including 3 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Given the situation within the country, the level of actual imports might be lower.

## Food prices high in conflict areas; disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern

Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the PDS, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). In the areas under conflict, the PDS is very limited due to disruptions of supply chains and Government cut-off. Some households reported receiving only partial rations. Internally-displaced people are reported not to be able to collect their rations elsewhere within the country due to inflexible supply chains and inability to move goods to the locations with the large shares of IDPs. The PDS is also reported to be understocked and cash shortages prevent the Government from replacing physical commodities with cash transfers. Reduced distribution of wheat flour via the PDS is supporting high flour prices in the governorates most affected by the conflict. Wheat flour and sugar prices in Anbar are more than 50 percent higher in Baghdad. Conflict-disrupted supply lines are resulting in shortages of fresh fruits, meat, dairy and eggs. The governorates with relatively good access report more stable market prices.

Road closures are severely disrupting supply lines, raising food prices (particularly in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates), and creating shortages of fresh produce (particularly fresh fruit, meat, eggs and dairy) in local markets.

Government employees' salaries and governorate budgets in the ISIL-controlled areas might be under freeze. Collection of inflation data has been interrupted.



## **Food security conditions continue deteriorating for IDPs and refugees**

As of December 2015, there were about 3.2 million people displaced within Iraq, of whom nearly 2 million have been displaced since January 2014. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced. In addition, heavy rains in late October caused flooding which affected at least 84 000 displaced people staying in more than 40 sites and camps, mostly in Baghdad and Anbar governorates.

Conflict is negatively affecting food security of the Iraqi population. One out of four IDP households is using negative coping strategies. Among displaced people, about 70 percent report poor and borderline level food consumption scores in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salahedin governorates.

Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with a large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

Employment is a high priority among displaced people across Iraq, reported by 42 percent of households. A majority of displaced people do not have access to regular, stable forms of income. Employment rates are lower for displaced people in central and southern governorates compared to governorates in the north. Access to jobs is particularly difficult for displaced people as a direct result of their displacement. Employment rates and access to livelihoods are lower for people residing inside camps compared to those outside. The average monthly income for people living in camps (USD 382) was also lower than those outside camps (USD 599).

Farmers and rural households, both in conflict areas and in host communities, have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Farmers in conflict areas are resorting to negative livelihood coping strategies such as having to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to populations affected by the Iraq crisis aims to support 1.5 million individuals via food, voucher or cash transfers on a monthly basis up to December 2016. The WFP also continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

## **FAO assistance to help mitigate impact of conflict on food security**

FAO, in cooperation with local Iraqi and international and national NGOs in the field, has been responding to the growing challenges to food security and agriculture arising from the Iraqi crisis. FAO has assisted a total of 569 000 people in Iraq for emergency food security, agriculture and livelihood support, supported by a grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

FAO has successfully finished distributing wheat seeds and agricultural inputs to farmers in Ninewa. This is expected to improve food security and to increase on-farm incomes generated by vulnerable households. Vegetable seeds and tools were distributed in Anbar and Salahedin, one of the most hard-hit areas of conflict in Iraq to address the urgent food and nutrition needs of returnees. In addition, FAO has assisted with emergency supplementary feeding of productive animals to

provide Syrian refugees with life sustaining production. Special programmes to empower women are in place: a programme in Kurdistan supports women to become agricultural extension workers and ensures their access to agricultural vocational schools. Elsewhere in Iraq, Development of Rural Women enhances the capacity of women to reduce their vulnerability, build resilience and provide livelihood opportunities.



Reference Date: 18-January-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Heavy rains and ongoing conflict jeopardize agricultural production
- Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming, together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity
- Increasing number of IDPs together with refugees, mainly from Syrian Arab Republic, is also putting huge pressure on host communities

### Heavy rains during planting season and ongoing conflict jeopardize agricultural production

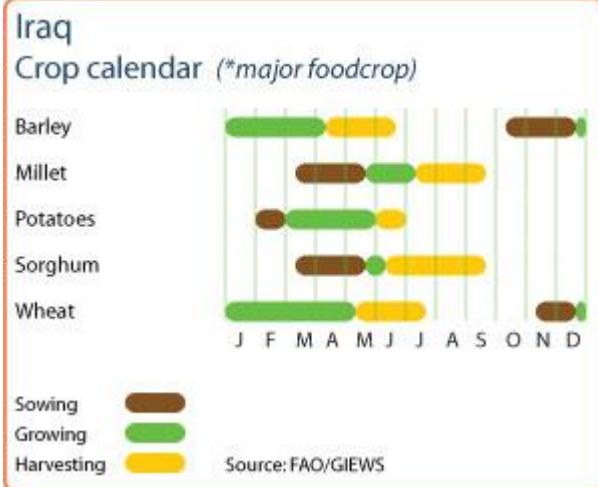
Planting of winter barley and wheat for harvesting from April 2016 concluded in mid-December. The planting season coincided with heavy rains at parts which, together with continuing fighting, complicated the fieldwork. Some planted fields were reported to be washed out by excess rainfall. In parts of Iraq, cumulated precipitation from October 2015 to the first dekad of January 2016 already surpassed last season's (October 2014 to April 2015) total precipitation. Earlier in the season, some replanting remained a possibility if the fields dried out. Estimates of planted area for the 2016 harvest are not yet available.

While rains and mountain snow sustained abundant soil moisture and sufficient irrigation reserves for winter grains that were actually planted and established, heavy rains might have damaged some of the wheat from the 2015 harvest stored in inadequate conditions on the ground under tarps, particularly in areas where the ongoing conflict destroyed storage facilities, or where security conditions prevented deliveries to warehouses.

Production levels and access to markets is severely restricted for the most conflict-affected areas. A large part of the cereal production belt is now directly under control of ISIL, impacting access to agricultural inputs, cereal harvest and post-harvesting activities.

Security concerns, access to fields and disrupted procurement and distribution systems are expected to aggravate the situation further. Delays in, or lack of, timely seed distribution during the planting period, normally carried out by the Government, also impacted the planting season both in terms of areas farmed and quality. Many farmers in conflict areas resorted to planting uncertified seeds or seeds from the past harvest. Supply shortages and soaring input prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions and the reported Government ban on fertilizer distribution. Machinery in conflict areas is reported to be damaged and many farmers cannot access their fields.

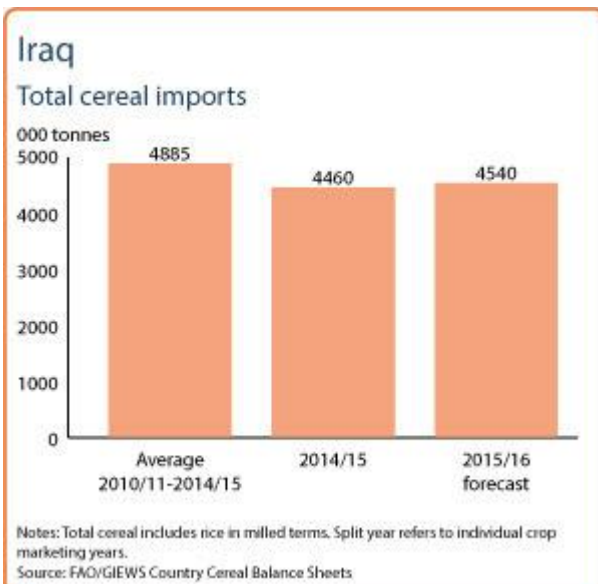
On the long run, access to agricultural land in liberated areas will be affected by the high number of unexploded ordinance and mines laid by ISIL. The Salahedin and Ninewa governorates, at the centre of the continuing conflict, normally produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of the total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively.



**Iraq Cereal production**

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	2 952	3 500	3 200	-9
Barley	859	900	800	-11
Rice (paddy)	321	403	300	-26
Others	282	269	259	-4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 414</b>	<b>5 072</b>	<b>4 559</b>	<b>-10</b>

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





## **Good production in 2015, but supply jeopardized by conflict**

Despite the fuel and input shortages, it is estimated that some 3.2 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 2015, some 8 percent above the five-year average, owing to favourable weather conditions. Barley production, at 800 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year and the five-year average. Precise information from outside Government-held areas is not available. Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.2 million tonnes of wheat from farmers by mid-August 2015 at a subsidized price of about USD 600/tonne compared to 3.4 million purchased by the same time in 2014. Anecdotal evidence from the field indicates that up to 600 000 tonnes of wheat may have been produced in Ninewa, Salahedin, Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar.

Supply and marketing chains remain compromised by the conflict. Security concerns prevented deliveries to silos and delays in payments to farmers have been reported, creating cash flow problems in the upcoming cropping season.

## **Cereal import requirements stable in 2015/16**

The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Cereal import requirements in the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June), are forecast at 4.54 million tonnes, including 3 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Given the situation within the country, the level of actual imports might be lower.

## **Food prices high in conflict areas; disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern**

Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the PDS, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). In the areas under conflict, the PDS is very limited due to disruptions of supply chains and Government cut-off. Some households reported receiving only partial rations. Internally-displaced people are reported not to be able to collect their rations elsewhere within the country due to inflexible supply chains and inability to move goods to the locations with the large shares of IDPs. The PDS is also reported to be understocked and cash shortages prevent the Government from replacing physical commodities with cash transfers. Reduced distribution of wheat flour via the PDS is supporting high flour prices in the governorates most affected by the conflict. Wheat flour and sugar prices in Anbar are more than 50 percent higher in Baghdad. Conflict-disrupted supply lines are resulting in shortages of fresh fruits, meat, dairy and eggs. The governorates with relatively good access report more stable market prices.

Road closures are severely disrupting supply lines, raising food prices (particularly in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates), and creating shortages of fresh produce (particularly fresh fruit, meat, eggs and dairy) on local markets.

Government employees' salaries and governorate budgets in the ISIL-controlled areas might be under freeze. Collection of inflation data has been interrupted.

## **Food security conditions continue deteriorating for IDPs and refugees**

As of December 2015, there were about 3.2 million people displaced within Iraq, of whom nearly 2 million have been displaced since January 2014. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced. In addition, heavy rains in late October caused flooding which affected at least 84 000 displaced people staying in more than 40 sites and camps, mostly in Baghdad and Anbar governorates.

Conflict is negatively affecting food security of the Iraqi population. One out of four IDP households is using negative coping strategies. Among displaced people, about 70 percent report poor and borderline level food consumption scores in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salahedin governorates.

Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with a large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

Employment is a high priority among displaced people across Iraq, reported by 42 percent of households. A majority of displaced people do not have access to regular, stable forms of income. Employment rates are lower for displaced people in central and southern governorates compared to governorates in the north. Access to jobs is particularly difficult for displaced people as a direct result of their displacement. Employment rates and access to livelihoods are lower for people residing inside camps compared to those outside. The average monthly income for people living in camps (USD 382) was also lower than those outside camps (USD 599).

Farmers and rural households, both in conflict areas and in host communities, have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Farmers in conflict areas are resorting to negative livelihood coping strategies such as having to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to populations affected by the Iraq crisis supports 1.5 million individuals via food, voucher or cash transfers on a monthly basis up to December 2016. The WFP also continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

## **FAO assistance to help mitigate impact of conflict on food security**

FAO, in cooperation with local Iraqi and international and national NGOs in the field, has been responding to the growing challenges to food security and agriculture arising from the Iraqi crisis. FAO has assisted a total of 569 000 people in Iraq for emergency food security, agriculture and livelihood support, supported by a grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

FAO has successfully finished distributing wheat seeds and agricultural inputs to farmers in Ninewa. This is expected to improve food security and to increase on-farm incomes generated by vulnerable households. Vegetable seeds and tools were distributed in Anbar and Salahedin, one of the most hard-hit areas of conflict in Iraq to address the urgent food and nutrition needs of returnees. In addition, FAO has assisted with emergency supplementary feeding of productive animals to

provide Syrian refugees with life sustaining production. Special programmes to empower women are in place: a programme in Kurdistan supports women to become agricultural extension workers and ensures their access to agricultural vocational schools. Elsewhere in Iraq, Development of Rural Women enhances the capacity of women to reduce their vulnerability, build resilience and provide livelihood opportunities.

Reference Date: 16-June-2015

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite favourable weather conditions, uncertain prospects for 2015 crops mainly due to conflict in parts of the country, including major producing areas such as Salahedin, Ninewa and Anbar
- Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming, together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity
- Increasing number of IDPs together with refugees, mainly from Syrian Arab Republic, is also putting huge pressure on host communities

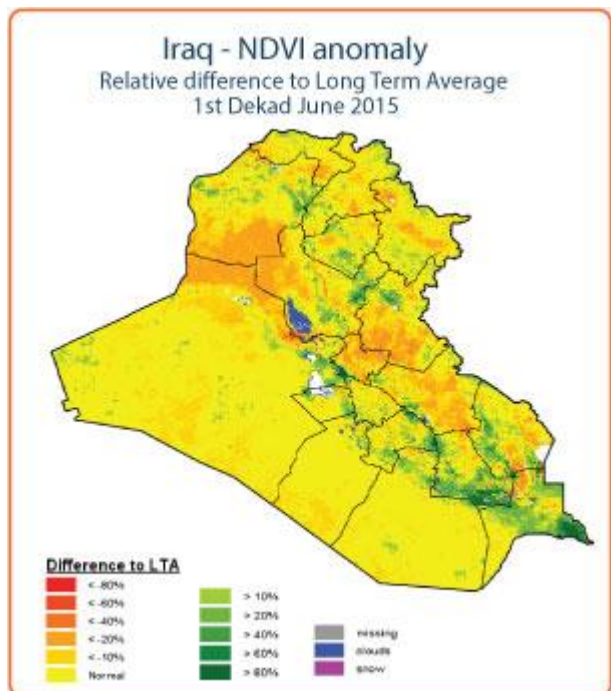
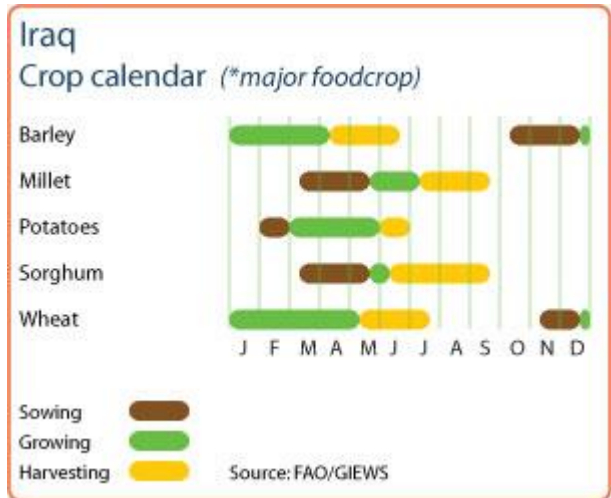
### Favourable weather conditions, but agricultural production jeopardized by conflict

Harvesting of the barley crop which started in mid-April is nearing completion. Harvesting of wheat started in mid-May and will continue until mid-July. Based on remotely-sensed data, images suggest relatively good vegetation conditions in the winter crop-growing areas. Late-season showers in May maintained favourable conditions for filling of winter grains while sunny skies and hot temperatures in the beginning of June supported drying of winter grains. Accordingly, from the weather point of view, winter crop prospects remained favourable.

However, the agricultural season (from October/November to April/May) was significantly affected by the ongoing conflict, particularly in northern parts of the country, which normally contribute to a large share of wheat and barley production. Salahedin and Ninewa governorates, at the centre of the current conflict, normally produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of the total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively.

Reported constraints in timely seed distribution during the planting period last winter, normally carried out by the Government, have impacted the planting season, in terms of areas farmed, and in terms of quality, as many farmers in conflict areas resorted to planting grains from the past harvest. Supply shortages and inputs soaring prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions and the reported Government ban on fertilizer distribution. Uncontrolled cross-border trade in areas under control by the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" between the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq are reported to have resulted in increased use of uncertified and low quality seeds.

Security concerns, access to fields and disrupted procurement and distribution systems are expected to aggravate the situation further. In addition, the ongoing harvest faces fuel shortages and supply chain disruptions together with problems of accessing warehouses and Government silos in parts of the country to store any of the harvested crops. On the long run, access to agricultural land in liberated areas will be affected by the high number of unexploded ordinance and mines laid by ISIL.



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	2 592	3 300	3 500	6
Barley	780	940	900	-4
Maize	268	250	260	4
Others	195	199	194	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>4 689</b>	<b>4 854</b>	<b>4</b>

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

Actual areas planted for the 2015 harvest remain uncertain. Despite favourable weather conditions, preliminary forecasts indicate a grain harvest below the 2014 level.

## Good production in 2014, but supply jeopardized by conflict

Prior to the current escalation of the conflict, an above-average 2014 wheat harvest of 3.5 million tonnes, some 35 percent above the five-year average, was forecasted. The barley forecast, at 900 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year but 15 percent above the five-year average. Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes of wheat from farmers by summer 2014.

However, the delivery of the wheat crop to the silos coincided with the escalation of the conflict and large areas, especially the provinces of Ninewa and Salahedin, being controlled by ISIL fighters. Related reports indicate that farmers in Ninewa and Salahedin provinces did not yet receive payment for the wheat delivered, creating cash flow problems in the upcoming cropping season.

## Cereal import requirements stable in 2014/15

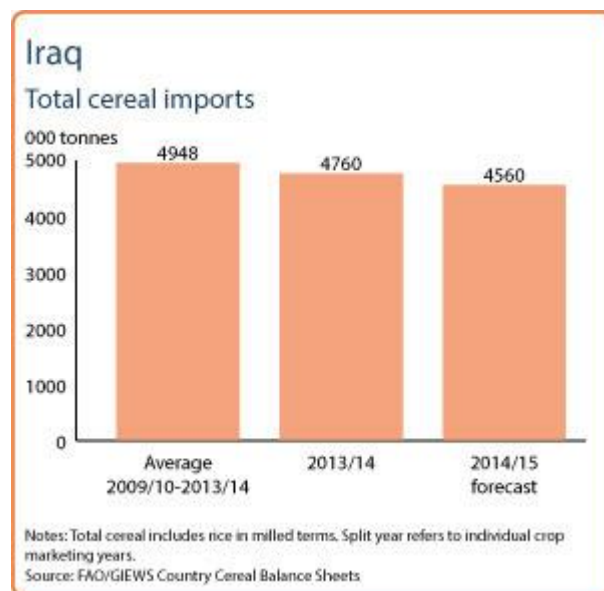
The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), cereal import levels were estimated at 4.76 million tonnes, including 3.2 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Cereal import requirements in the current 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are expected to slightly decrease, reflecting an above-average 2014 harvest despite conflict-related challenges to production, storage and other logistical arrangements. Given the situation within the country, the level of actual imports might be lower.

## Food prices high in conflict areas; disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern

Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the PDS, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). Nevertheless, in the areas under conflict (Anbar, Salahedin, Ninewa and parts of Kirkuk), the PDS is very limited due to disruptions of supply chains and Government cut-off. Some households reported receiving only partial rations. Reduced distribution of wheat flour via the PDS is supporting high flour prices in the governorates most affected by the conflict. Food prices in Anbar are the highest of all governorates, around 58 percent above the prices in Baghdad. Conflict-disrupted supply lines are resulting in shortages of fresh fruits, meat, dairy and eggs. The governorates with relatively good access report more stable market prices.

Government employees' salaries and governorate budgets in the ISIL-controlled areas might be under freeze. Collection of inflation data has been interrupted.





## **Food security conditions are expected to continue deteriorating for IDPs and refugees**

As of March 2015, there were about 3 million people displaced within Iraq, of whom nearly 2 million have been displaced since January 2014. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced.

Conflict is negatively affecting food security of the Iraqi population. One out of four IDP households is using negative coping strategies.

Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with a large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

Farmers and rural households, both in conflict areas and in host communities, have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Farmers in conflict areas are resorting to negative livelihood coping strategies such as having to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle.

As of early May 2015, almost 2 500 000 Syrian refugees have sought refuge in Northern Iraq, particularly in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah since the start of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Around 40 percent of the Syrian refugees are residing in eight camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, while some 60 percent have integrated in host communities.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to populations affected by the Iraq crisis supports 1.8 million individuals in need of food assistance up to December 2015. The WFP also continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

## **FAO assistance to help mitigate impact of conflict on food security**

FAO, in cooperation with local Iraqi and international and national NGOs in the field, has been responding to the growing challenges to food security and agriculture arising from the Iraqi crisis. FAO is currently targeting a total of 225 000 people in Iraq for emergency food security, agriculture and livelihood support, supported by a generous grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

FAO has successfully finished distributing wheat seeds and agricultural inputs to farmers in Salahedin, Ninewa, Dohuk, Erbil, Diyala and Kirkuk on time for the winter planting season. This is expected to mitigate some of the loss of wheat production in Salahedin and Ninewa, the breadbasket governorates of Iraq, and to assist the Kurdistan Region in responding to the growing demand for staple food. Vegetable seeds and tools were distributed to host community families in rural areas and are also reaching Anbar, one of the most hard-hit areas of conflict in Iraq. In addition, FAO has assisted vulnerable farmers in Erbil, Dohuk, Salahedin and Ninewa with animal feed distribution, supporting farmers in maintaining their livelihoods and income from cattle.

FAO is also assisting IDPs to cope with their displacement by distributing egg-laying hens and poultry feed and by providing income-generating activities under the cash-for-work programme to the most vulnerable families. To mitigate the risk of trans-boundary animal

diseases, FAO, in cooperation with the Iraqi Government, has embarked on an animal vaccination programme to mitigate the risk of disease crossing over from the Syrian Arab Republic, due to the influx of Syrian refugees with their animals and un-controlled cross-border trade. FAO will continue to monitor the current food security situation in Iraq with focus on the conflict areas, by providing analysis and Rapid Food Security Assessments, which have been completed for Salahedin, Ninewa, Erbil and Dohuk and are ongoing for Anbar, Baghdad, Kirkuk and Diyala.

An additional 234 000 people are planned to be reached in the near future, depending on the availability of funds.

The funding requirements for 2015 are estimated at USD 38.5 million of which limited amounts have been received so far. These estimates include only the current intervention and do not include any contingency capacity to respond to possible further massive population and livestock movements, as well as agricultural production losses created by conflict exacerbation.

Reference Date: 27-May-2015

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Uncertain prospects for 2015/16 cropping season mainly due to conflict in parts of the country, including major producing areas such as Salahedin, Ninewa and Anbar**
- **Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming, together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity**
- **Increasing number of IDPs together with refugees, mainly from Syrian Arab Republic, is also putting huge pressure on host communities**

### Favourable weather conditions, but agricultural production jeopardized by conflict

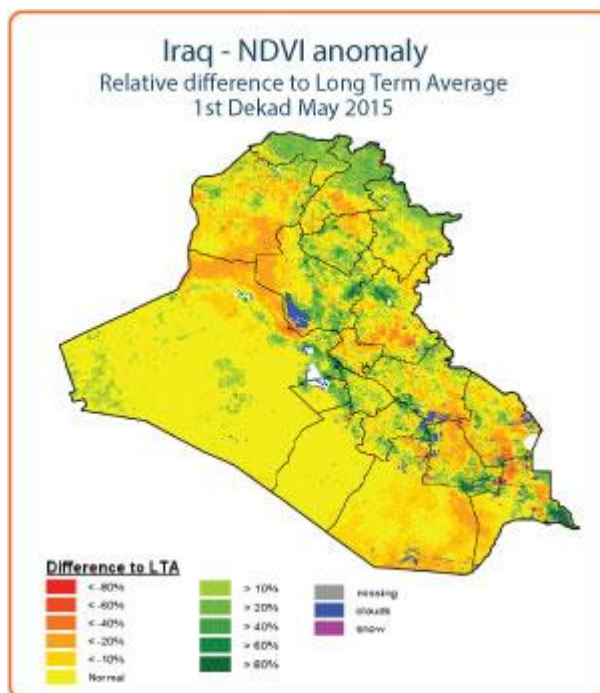
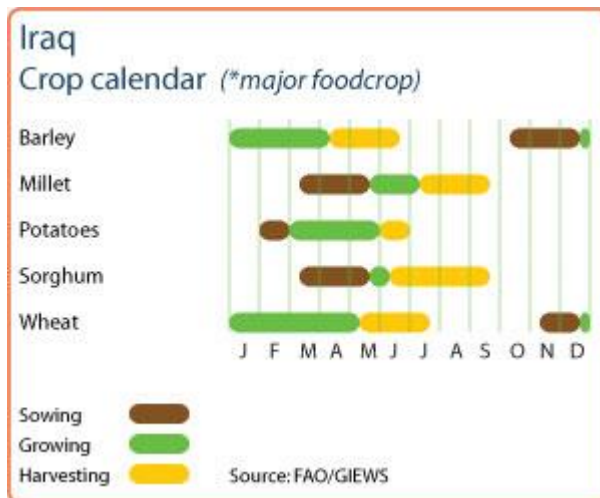
Harvesting of the barley crop started in mid-April and that of wheat in mid-May. Based on remotely sensed data, images suggest relatively good vegetation conditions in winter crop growing areas. Late-season showers in the first week of May maintained favourable conditions for filling of winter grains. Accordingly, from the weather point of view, as of mid-May, winter crop prospects remained favourable owing to timely rains. Across southern Iraq, unseasonable showers in early May improved moisture for irrigated summer crops.

However, the agricultural season (from October/November to April/May) was significantly affected by the ongoing conflict, particularly in Northern parts of the country, which normally contribute to a large share of wheat and barley production. Salahedin and Ninewa governorates, at the centre of the current conflict, normally produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of the total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively.

Reported constraints in timely seed distribution during the planting period last winter, normally carried out by the Government, have impacted the planting season, in terms of areas farmed, and in terms of quality, as many farmers in conflict areas resorted to planting grains from the past harvest. Supply shortages and inputs soaring prices were also reported for fertilizers, pesticides and fuel due to supply chain disruptions and the reported Government ban of fertilizer distribution. Uncontrolled cross border trade in areas under control by the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" between the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq are reported to have resulted in increased use of uncertified and low quality seeds.

Security concerns, access to fields and disrupted procurement and distribution systems are expected to aggravate the situation further. In addition, the ongoing harvest faces fuel shortages and supply chain disruptions together with problems of accessing warehouses and Government silos in parts of the country to store any of the harvested crops. On the long run, access to agricultural land in liberated areas will be affected by the high number of unexploded ordinance and mines laid by ISIL.

Actual areas planted for the 2015 harvest remain uncertain. Despite favourable weather conditions, preliminary forecasts indicate a grain harvest below the 2014 level.



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	2 592	3 300	3 500	6
Barley	780	940	900	-4
Maize	268	250	260	4
Others	195	199	194	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>4 689</b>	<b>4 854</b>	<b>4</b>

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

## Good production in 2014, but supply jeopardized by conflict

Prior to the current escalation of the conflict, an above-average 2014 wheat harvest of 3.5 million tonnes, some 35 percent above the five-year average, was forecasted. The barley forecast, at 900 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year but 15 percent above the five-year average. Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes of wheat from farmers by summer 2014.

However, the delivery of the wheat crop to the silos coincided, with the escalation of the conflict and large areas, especially the provinces of Ninewa and Salahedin, being controlled by ISIL fighters. Related reports indicate that farmers in Ninewa and Salahedin provinces did not yet receive payment for the wheat delivered, creating cash flow problems in the upcoming cropping season.

## Cereal import requirements stable in 2014/15

The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), cereal import levels were estimated at 4.76 million tonnes, including 3.2 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Cereal import requirements in the current 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are expected to slightly decrease, reflecting an above-average 2014 harvest despite conflict-related challenges to production, storage and other logistical arrangements. Given the situation within the country, level of actual imports might be lower.

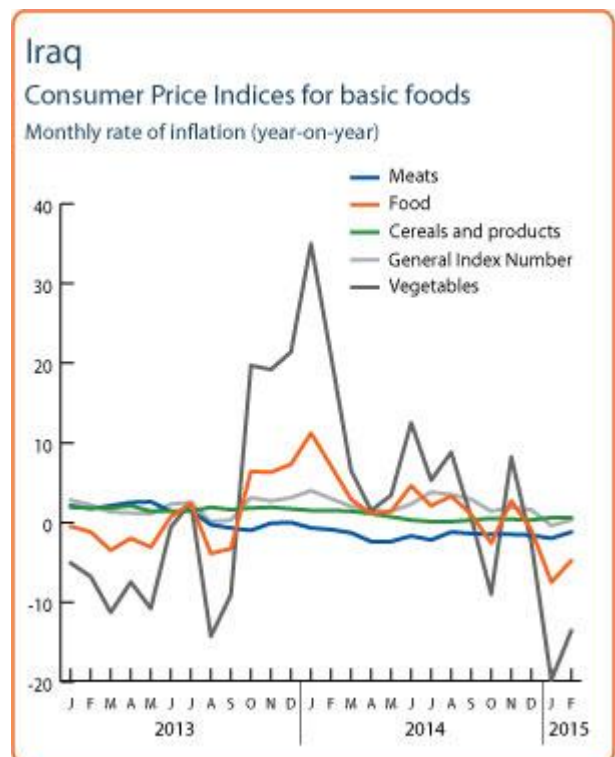
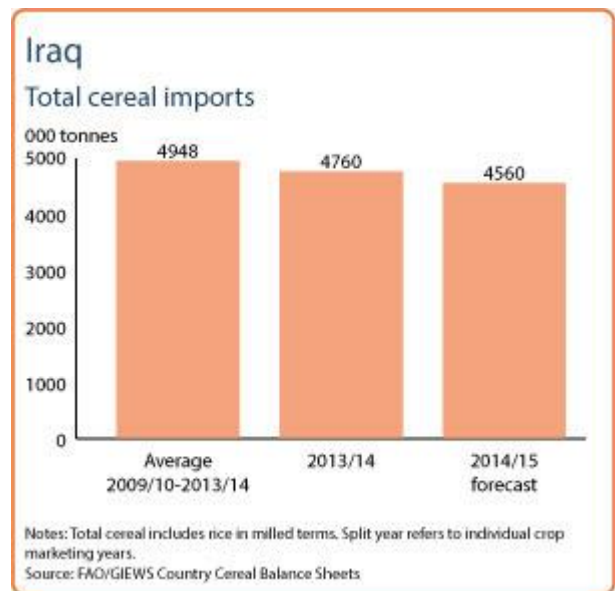
## Food prices high in conflict areas; disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern

Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the PDS, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). Nevertheless, in areas under conflict (Anbar, Salahedin, Ninewa and parts of Kirkuk), the PDS is very limited due to disruptions of supply chains and Government cut-off. Some households reported receiving only partial rations. Reduced distribution of wheat flour via the PDS is supporting high flour prices in the governorates most affected by the conflict. Food prices in Anbar are the highest of all governorates, around 58 percent above the prices in Baghdad. Conflict-disrupted supply lines are resulting in shortages of fresh fruits, meat, dairy and eggs. Governorates with relatively good access report more stable market prices.

Government employees' salaries and governorate budgets in the ISIL-controlled areas might be under freeze. Collection of inflation data has been interrupted.

## Food security conditions are expected to continue deteriorating for IDPs and refugees

As of March 2015, there were about 3 million people displaced within Iraq, of whom nearly 2 million have been displaced since January 2014. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced.





Conflict is negatively affecting food security of the Iraqi population. One out of four IDP households is using negative coping strategies.

Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with a large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

Farmers and rural households, both in conflict areas and in host communities, have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Farmers in conflict areas are resorting to negative livelihood coping strategies such as having to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle.

As of early May 2015, almost 2 500 000 Syrian refugees have sought refuge in Northern Iraq, particularly in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah since the start of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Around 40 percent of the Syrian refugees are residing in eight camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, while some 60 percent have integrated in host communities.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to populations affected by the Iraq crisis supports 1.8 million individuals in need of food assistance up to December 2015. The WFP also continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

## **FAO assistance to help mitigate impact of conflict on food security**

FAO, in cooperation with local Iraqi and international and national NGOs in the field, has been responding to the growing challenges to food security and agriculture arising from the Iraqi crisis. FAO is currently targeting a total of 225 000 people in Iraq for emergency food security, agriculture and livelihood support, supported by a generous grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

FAO has successfully finished distributing wheat seeds and agricultural inputs to farmers in Salahedin, Ninewa, Dohuk, Erbil, Diyala and Kirkuk on time for the winter planting season. This is expected to mitigate some of the loss of wheat production in Salahedin and Ninewa, the breadbasket governorates of Iraq, and to assist the Kurdistan Region in responding to the growing demand for staple food. Vegetable seeds and tools were distributed to host community families in rural areas and are also reaching Anbar, one of the most hard-hit areas of conflict in Iraq. In addition, FAO has assisted vulnerable farmers in Erbil, Dohuk, Salahedin and Ninewa with animal feed distribution, supporting farmers in maintaining their livelihoods and income from cattle.

FAO is also assisting IDPs to cope with their displacement by distributing egg-laying hens and poultry feed and by providing income-generating activities under the cash-for-work programme to the most vulnerable families. To mitigate the risk of trans-boundary animal diseases, FAO, in cooperation with the Iraqi Government, has embarked on an animal vaccination programme to mitigate the risk of disease crossing over from the Syrian Arab Republic, due to the influx of Syrian refugees with their animals and un-controlled cross-border trade. FAO will continue to monitor the current food security situation in Iraq with focus on the conflict areas, by providing analysis and Rapid Food Security Assessments, which have been completed for Salahedin, Ninewa, Erbil and Dohuk and are ongoing for Anbar, Baghdad, Kirkuk and Diyala.



An additional 234 000 people are planned to be reached in the near future, depending on the availability of funds.

The funding requirements for 2015 are estimated at USD 38.5 million of which limited amounts have been received so far. These estimates include only the current intervention and do not include any contingency capacity to respond to possible further massive population and livestock movements, as well as agricultural production losses created by conflict exacerbation.

Reference Date: 10-February-2015

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Uncertain prospects for 2014/15 cropping season mainly due to conflict in parts, including major producing areas**
- **Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity; increasing number of IDPs is also putting huge pressure on host communities**

### Uncertain prospects for 2014/15 cropping season

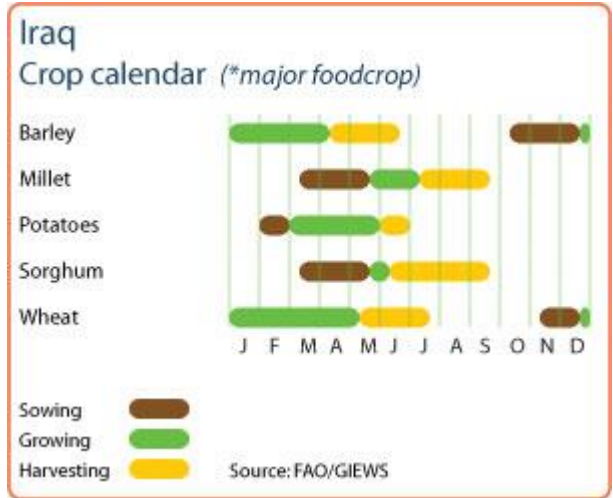
Planting of 2015 winter crops to be harvested from April, concluded in December. Vegetation response captured by Normalized Difference Vegetation Index using satellite images suggests good establishment of winter crops.

Although beneficial weather conditions both in terms of precipitation and temperature prevailed so far, the 2014/15 winter cropping is expected to be affected by the ongoing conflict particularly in Northern parts of the country. In the absence of Government seed distribution, reports indicate shortages of seeds in addition to fertilizers, pesticides and fuel. Uncontrolled cross border trade in areas under control by the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" between the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq are reported to have resulted in increased use of uncertified seeds. Security concerns, access to fields and disrupted procurement and distribution systems are further aggravating the situation.

### Good production in 2013/14 but supply jeopardized by conflict

Prior to the current escalation of the conflict, an above-average 2013/14 wheat harvest of 3 million tonnes, some 16 percent above the five-year average, was forecasted by FAO. The barley forecast, at 900 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year but 15 percent above the five-year average. Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes of wheat from farmers (the Board buys wheat at subsidized prices of about USD 480 per tonne). This indicates that the production this year was better than forecasted.

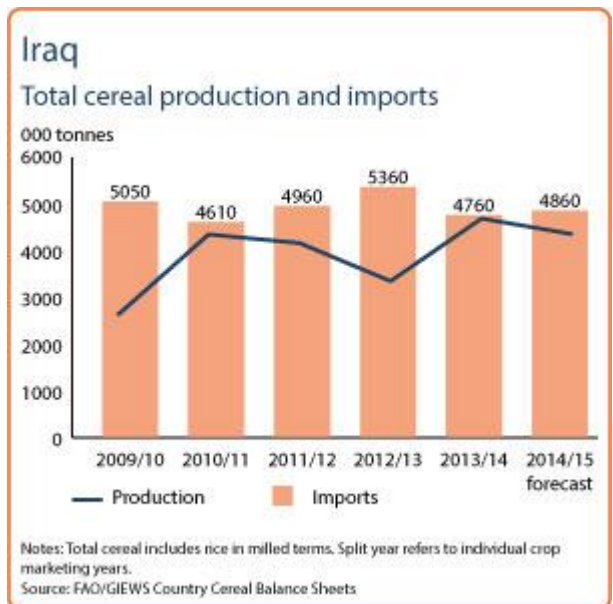
However, the delivery of the wheat crop to the silos coincided, from the second week of June, with the escalation of conflict and large areas, especially the provinces of Ninevah and Salahedin, being controlled by "ISIL" fighters. A number of grain board silos are located in these areas and were reported to have fallen with the stocks of grain. The Iraqi Ministry of Trade (MoT) reports indicate that in Ninevah alone, there are eight silos controlled by "ISIL" fighters which in early June 2014 had 180 000 tonnes of wheat stored. About 70 000 tonnes of wheat from Ninevah were delivered to MoT silos in Dohuk Governorate together with 10 000 tonnes of seeds to the Iraqi Seed Company. In Salahedin Governorate, out of seven silos, five are located in areas controlled by "ISIL" fighters with a storage capacity of 390 000 tonnes. Up to mid-August 2014, a total of 462 000 tonnes of wheat was reported to have been delivered in Salahedin Governorate.



### Iraq Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2 592	3 300	3 000	-9
Barley	780	940	900	-4
Maize	268	250	260	4
Others	195	199	194	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>4 689</b>	<b>4 354</b>	<b>-7</b>

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



Related reports indicate that most farmers in Ninevah and Salahedin provinces did not yet receive payment for the wheat delivered, creating cash flow problems for farmers in the upcoming cropping season.

## Cereal import requirements expected to increase in 2014/15 despite earlier-average forecasts

The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), cereal import levels were estimated at 4.76 million tonnes, including 3.2 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Cereal import requirements in the current 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are expected to increase, reflecting conflict-related challenges to production, storage and other logistical arrangements. At the moment, 17 percent of the 3.4 million tonnes purchased by the Government in 2014 are located in silos in the areas of Nineveh and Salahedin governorates controlled by "ISIL" fighters.

## Food prices were generally stable but disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern

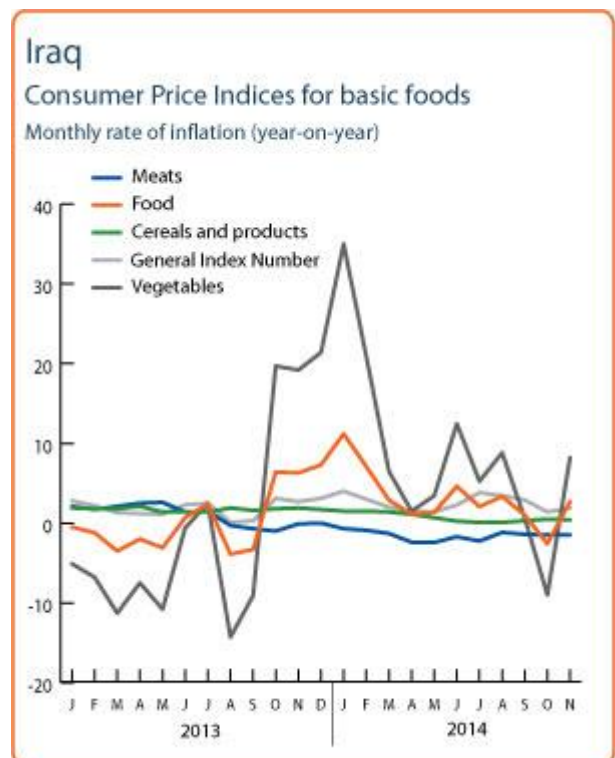
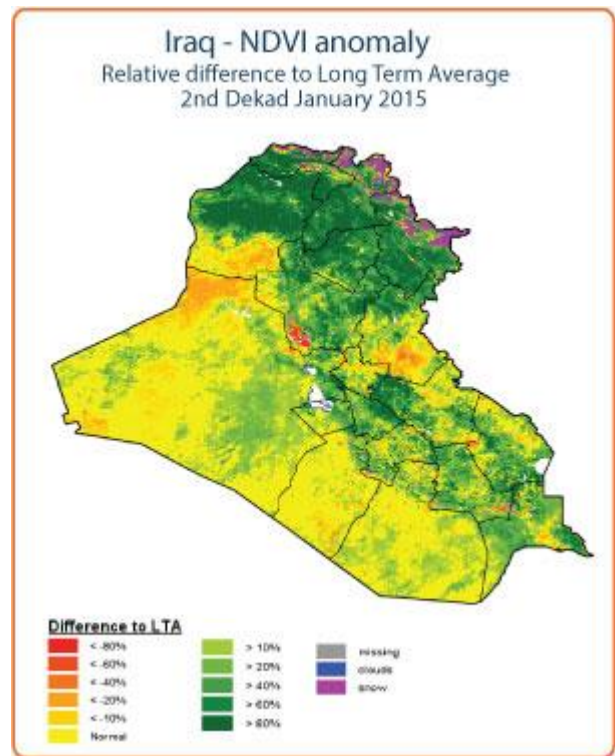
Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). Nevertheless, in areas under conflict (Anbar, Salahedin, Ninevah and parts of Kirkuk), the PDS has been suspended due to disruptions of supply chains and Government cut-off. Government employees' salaries and governorate budgets of Anbar, Salahedin and Ninevah have been under freeze since the "ISIL" takeover in June. In November 2014, the General Consumer Price Index stood at 147 points, slightly below the previous month's value of 147.1 but 1.9 percent up on August 2013. The food inflation rate increased by 4.7 percent on a monthly basis and 2.7 percent on a yearly basis. Cereal prices remain generally stable compared to a month earlier.

## Food security conditions are expected to continue deteriorating

There are now an estimated 3 million people displaced within Iraq, nearly 2 million of whom have been displaced since January 2014. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced, specifically in the governorates of Anbar, Ninevah, Salahedin and Diyala. At the moment, there are reports of deteriorating access to drinking water as well as basic food items and other essential non-food items. Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI). IDPs in Kurdistan have not been able to access their PDS rations in the KRI, due to registration and coordination challenges between the Kurdish Regional Government and the Central Government in Baghdad.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to populations affected by the Iraq crisis supports 1.8 million individuals in need of food assistance by December 2015.

Farmers and rural households, both in conflict areas and in host communities, have been heavily affected by the current conflict.



Farmers in conflict areas are resorting to negative livelihoods coping strategies such as having to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle.

## **FAO assistance to help mitigate the impact of conflict on food security**

FAO, in cooperation with local Iraqi and international NGOs in the field, has been responding to the growing challenges to food security and agriculture arising from the Iraqi crisis. FAO is currently targeting a total of 225 000 people in Iraq for emergency food security, agriculture and livelihood support, supported by a generous grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

FAO has successfully finished distributing wheat seeds and agriculture to farmers in Salahedin, Ninewa, Dohuk, Erbil, Diyala and Kirkuk on time for the winter planting season. This is expected to mitigate some of the loss of wheat production in Salahedin and Ninewa, the breadbasket governorates of Iraq, and to assist the Kurdistan Region in responding to the growing demand for staple food. Vegetable seeds and tools are being distributed to host community families in rural areas and are also reaching Anbar, one of the most hard-hit areas of conflict in Iraq. In addition, FAO has assisted vulnerable farmers in Erbil, Dohuk, Salahedin and Ninewa with animal feed distribution, supporting farmers in maintaining their livelihoods and income from cattle.

FAO is also assisting IDPs to cope with their displacement by distributing egg-laying hens and poultry feed and by providing income generating activities under the cash-for-work programme to the most vulnerable families. To mitigate the risk of trans-boundary animal diseases, FAO, in cooperation with the Iraqi Government, has embarked on an animal vaccination programme to mitigate the risk of disease crossing over from the Syrian Arab Republic, due to the influx of Syrian refugees with their animals and un-controlled cross-border trade. FAO will continue to monitor the current food security situation in Iraq with focus on the conflict areas, by providing analysis and Rapid Food Security Assessments, which have been completed for Salahedin, Ninewa, Erbil and Dohuk and are ongoing for Anbar, Baghdad, Kirkuk and Diyala.

An additional 234 000 people are planned to be reached in the near future, depending on the availability of funds.

The funding requirements for 2015 are estimated at USD 38.5 million of which limited amounts have been received so far. These estimates include only current intervention and do not include any contingency capacity to respond to possible further massive population and livestock movements, as well as agricultural production losses created by conflict exacerbation.

## **Large number of Syrian refugees in need of food and livelihood assistance**

As of mid-January 2015, over 233 000 Syrian refugees have sought refuge in Northern Iraq, particularly in Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymaniyah since the start of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. This includes almost 30 000 new arrivals fleeing the current fighting in Kobane in Northern Syria, some of whom are still waiting to be registered. Around 40 percent of the Syrian refugees are residing in eight camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, while some 60 percent have integrated in the host communities.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

In addition to the Syrian refugees, FAO and the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture estimate, since the start of the creation of "ISIL", that around 160 000 livestock crossed the border with refugee families, as many of the refugees from Northern Syria are herders and smallholder farmers who depend on their livestock for livelihoods income. In January 2015, only 95 000 of the original 160 000 remain, as many refugee families have slaughtered their animals and sold on local markets because of their inability to maintain them and out of desperate need for cash. Within Ninewa and Dohuk, evidence from an FAO Rapid Food Security Assessment shows that families with livestock have little access to animal feed as supply chains are hampered and feed prices rise.

Pending funding allocation, FAO is planning emergency assistance in supporting the resilience of Syrian refugees by assisting in the revival of agricultural income generation activities in the most affected governorates in Iraq (Ninewa and Dohuk). Provision of necessary inputs (animal feed) will provide means to rebuild livelihoods and facilitate the inclusion of Syrian refugees in their host communities and local markets. Livestock owned by the Syrian refugees are facing a serious threat for their health and productivity due to the reduced access to basic feed (high cost for the grains and other source of the concentrate diet or unavailability as well as the very limited access to the grazing pasture due to the ongoing crises in the targeted governorates). As risks to production and assets increase, it is becoming progressively more difficult for the refugees to sustain or restart their livelihoods. Loss of income and immediate food sources essential to dietary sufficiency and diversity (e.g. milk, dairy products, meat) will translate into greater reliance on food basket assistance over an extended period of time, particularly among the poor. Thus, severely affected populations face a dangerous multifaceted threat of reduced food production and access, rising food prices, reduced aid, livelihood loss and, ultimately, depletion of their resource base and purchasing power.



Reference Date: 10-November-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Uncertain prospects for 2014/15 cropping season mainly due to conflict in parts, including major producing areas
- Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen governorates, at the centre of the current conflict, together produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively
- Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity; increasing number of IDPs is also putting huge pressure on host communities

### Uncertain prospects for 2014/15 cropping season that is about to start

In Iraq, planting of 2015 winter crops is currently underway. Although normal weather conditions prevailed so far, the 2014/15 winter cropping is expected to be affected by the ongoing conflict in Northern parts of the country. Large number of farmers has fled their fields particularly in Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen governorates which together produce approximately one-third of total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively. Displacements of people would also deprive farmers from accessing their land.

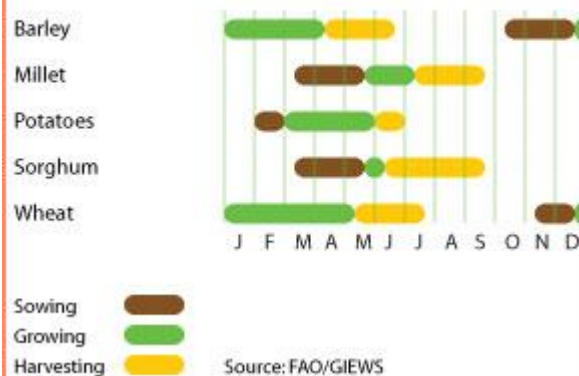
### Good production in 2013/14 but supply jeopardized by conflict

Prior to the current escalation of the conflict, an above-average 2013/14 wheat harvest of 3 million tonnes, some 16 percent above the five-year average, was forecasted by FAO. The barley forecast, at 900 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year but 15 percent above the five-year average. Although the final estimates of the 2014 harvest are not yet available, Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes of wheat from farmers (the Board buys wheat at subsidized prices of about USD 480 per tonne). This indicates that the production this year was better than forecasted.

However, the delivery of the wheat crop to the silos coincided, from the second week of June, with the escalation of conflict and large areas, especially the provinces of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen, being controlled by so-called "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" fighters. A number of grain board silos are located in these areas and were reported to have fallen with the stocks of grain. The Iraqi Ministry of Trade (MoT) reports indicate that in Ninevah alone, there are eight silos controlled by "ISIL" fighters which in early June 2014 had 180 000 tonnes of wheat stored. About 70 000 tonnes of wheat from Ninevah were delivered to MoT silos in Dohuk Governorate together with 10 000 tonnes of seeds to the Iraqi Seed Company. In Salah-Aldeen Governorate, out of seven silos, five are located in areas controlled by "ISIL" fighters with a storage capacity of 390 000 tonnes. Up to mid-August 2014, a total of 462 000 tonnes of wheat was reported to have been delivered in Salah-Aldeen Governorate.

### Iraq

#### Crop calendar (\*major foodcrop)



### Iraq

#### Cereal production

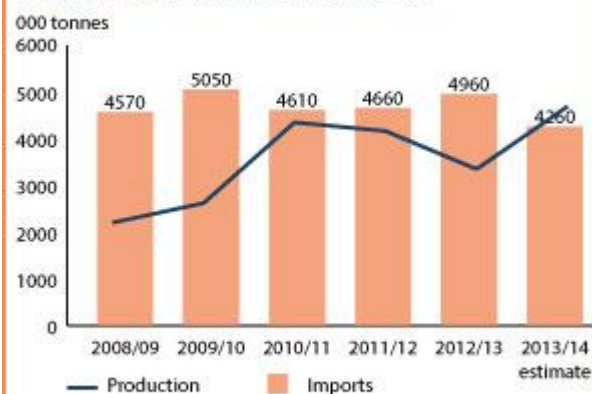
	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast*	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2 592	3 300	3 000	-9
Barley	780	940	900	-4
Maize	268	250	260	4
Others	195	199	194	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>4 689</b>	<b>4 354</b>	<b>-7</b>

\* 2014 FAO/GIEWS forecast before the current escalation of conflict.

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

### Iraq

#### 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

Related reports indicate that most farmers in Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen provinces did not yet receive payment for the wheat delivered, creating cash flow problems for farmers in the upcoming cropping season.

## Cereal import requirements expected to increase in 2014/15 despite earlier average forecasts

The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour. Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), cereal import levels were estimated at 4.26 million tonnes, including 2.7 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Cereal import requirements in the current 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are expected to increase, reflecting conflict-related challenges to production, storage and other logistical arrangements. At the moment, 17 percent of the 3.4 million tonnes purchased by the Government in 2014 are located in silos in the areas of Nineveh and Salah-Aldeen governorates controlled by "ISIL" fighters.

## Food prices were generally stable but disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern

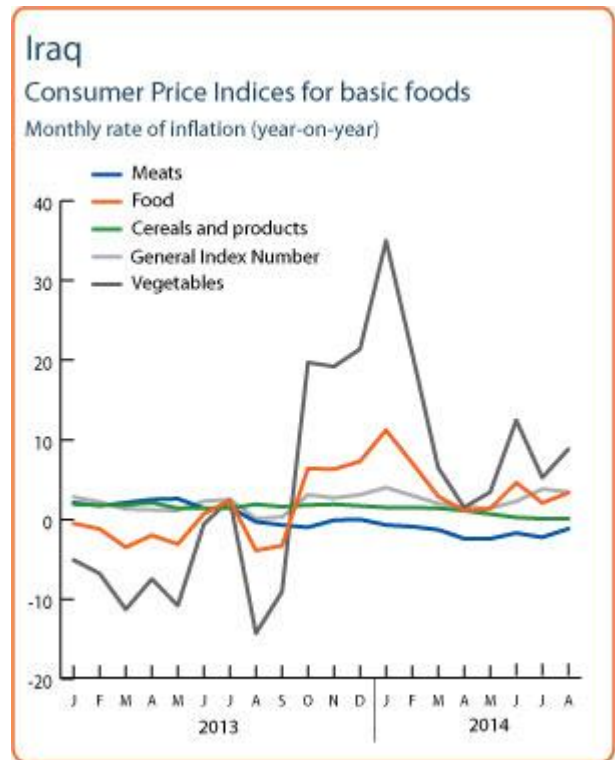
Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Food Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). In August 2014, the General Consumer Price Index stood at 146.9 points, the same as in the previous month but 3.5 percent up on August 2013. The food inflation rate increased by 2.6 percent on a monthly basis and 3.2 percent on a yearly basis. Cereal prices remain generally stable compared to a month earlier.

## Food security conditions are expected to continue deteriorating

There are now an estimated 2.8 million people displaced within Iraq, nearly 1.8 million of whom have been displaced since January 2014, including an estimated 500 000 people displaced from Mosul City and surrounding areas and a further 480 000 who have fled fighting in Anbar Governorate since the beginning of the year. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced. At the moment, there are reports of deteriorating access to drinking water as well as basic food items and other essential non-food items. Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

Reports indicate that in the most affected governorates of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen, the Public Distribution System is compromised and food might not be available to the most vulnerable. Lack of resources limit the coping capacities available to households and limit access to food.

Farmers and rural households have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Some farmers have to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle. FAO is currently targeting a total of 225 000 people in Iraq for emergency agriculture and livelihood support and additional 234 000 people are planned to be reached in the near future, depending on the availability of funds.



## **Large number of Syrian refugees still registered in Iraq**

As of end of October 2014, almost 224 000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq. Most of the Syrian refugees have settled in the northern governorates of Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. In Iraq should reach about 186 000 beneficiaries with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

Reference Date: 15-October-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Uncertain prospects for 2014/15 cropping season mainly due to conflict in parts, including major producing areas
- Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen governorates, at the centre of the current conflict, together produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively
- Loss of assets and income opportunities from farming together with disruptions in marketing activities and related logistics, have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity; increasing number of IDPs is also putting huge pressure on host communities

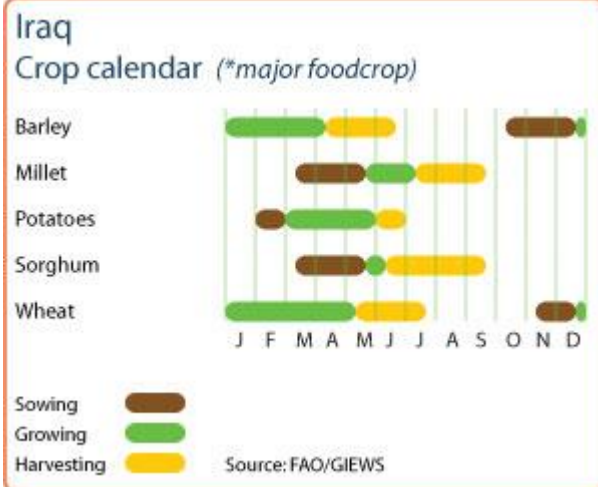
### Uncertain prospects for 2014/15 cropping season that is about to start

In Iraq, October heralds the beginning of the winter cropping season with land preparations. Although normal weather conditions prevailed so far, the 2014/15 winter cropping is expected to be affected by the ongoing conflict in Northern parts of the country. Large number of farmers has fled their fields particularly in Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen governorates which together produce approximately one-third of total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively. Displacements of people would also deprive farmers from accessing their land.

### Good production in 2013/14 jeopardized by conflict that coincided with harvesting period

Prior to the current escalation of the conflict, an above-average 2013/14 wheat harvest of 3 million tonnes, some 16 percent above the five-year average, was forecast by FAO. The barley forecast, at 900 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year but 15 percent above the five-year average. Although the final estimates of the 2014 harvest are not yet available, Government reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes of wheat from farmers (the Board buys wheat at subsidized prices of about USD 480 per tonne). This indicates that the production this year was better than forecast.

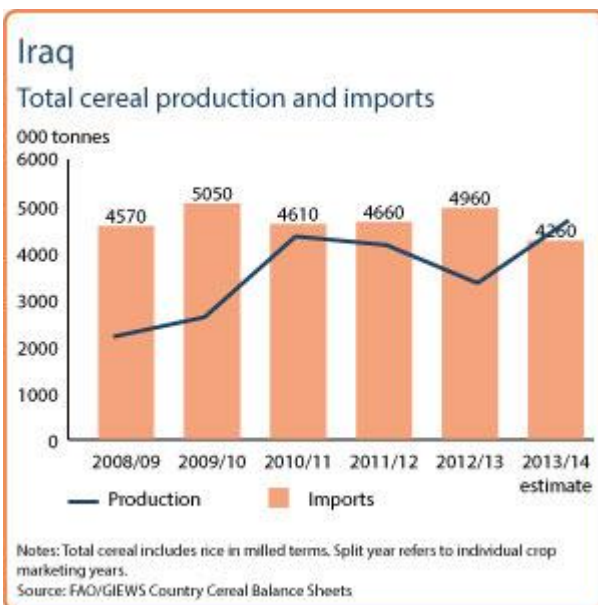
However, the delivery of the wheat crop to the silos coincided, from the second week of June, with the escalation of conflict and large areas, especially the provinces of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen, being controlled by so-called "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" fighters. A number of grain board silos are located in these areas and were reported to have fallen with the stocks of grain. The Iraqi Ministry of Trade (MoT) reports indicate that in Ninevah alone, there are eight silos controlled by "ISIL" fighters which in early June 2014 had 180 000 tonnes of wheat stored. About 70 000 tonnes of wheat from Ninevah were delivered to MoT silos in Dohuk Governorate together with 10 000 tonnes of seeds to the Iraqi Seed Company. In Salah-Aldeen Governorate, out of seven silos five are located in areas controlled by "ISIL" fighters with a storage capacity of 390 000 tonnes. Up to mid-August 2014, a total of 462 000 tonnes of wheat was reported to have been delivered in Salah-Aldeen Governorate.



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast*	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2 592	3 300	3 000	-9
Barley	780	940	900	-4
Maize	268	250	260	4
Others	195	199	194	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>4 689</b>	<b>4 354</b>	<b>-7</b>

\* 2014 FAO/GIEWS forecast before the current escalation of conflict.  
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.  
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets





Related reports indicate that most farmers in Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen provinces did not yet receive payment for the wheat delivered, creating cash flow problems for farmers in the upcoming cropping season.

## Cereal import requirements expected to increase in 2014/15 despite earlier average forecasts

The Government of Iraq normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour. Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

In the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), cereal import levels were estimated at 4.26 million tonnes, including 2.7 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Cereal import requirements in the current 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are expected to increase, reflecting conflict-related challenges to production, storage and other logistical arrangements. At the moment, 17 percent of the 3.4 million tonnes purchased by the Government in 2014 are located in silos in the areas of Nineveh and Salah-Aldeen governorates controlled by "ISIL" fighters.

## Food prices were generally stable but disruptions of markets, cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern

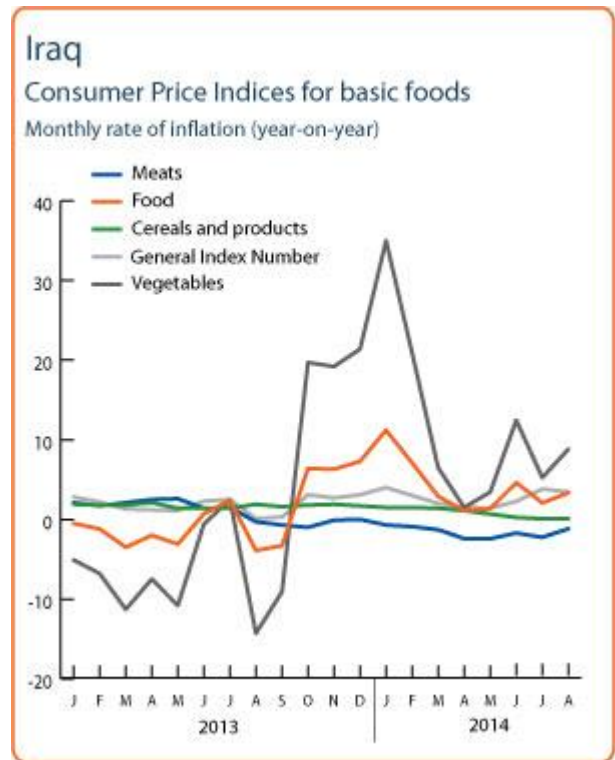
Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Food Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). In August 2014, the General Consumer Price Index stood at 146.9 points, the same as in the previous month but 3.5 percent up on August 2013. The food inflation rate increased by 2.6 percent on a monthly basis and 3.2 percent on a yearly basis. Cereal prices remain generally stable compared to a month earlier.

## Food security conditions are expected to continue deteriorating

There are now an estimated 2.8 million people displaced within Iraq, nearly 1.8 million of whom have been displaced since January 2014, including an estimated 500 000 people displaced from Mosul City and surrounding areas and a further 480 000 who have fled fighting in Anbar Governorate since the beginning of the year. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced. At the moment, there are reports of deteriorating access to drinking water as well as basic food items and other essential non-food items. Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

Reports indicate that in the most affected governorates of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen, the Public Distribution System is compromised and food might not be available to the most vulnerable. Lack of resources limit the coping capacities available to households and limit access to food.

Farmers and rural households have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Some farmers have to sell their livestock at lower prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle. FAO is currently targeting a total of 225 000 people in Iraq for emergency agriculture and livelihood support and additional 234 000 people are planned to be reached in the near future, depending on the availability of funds.





## **Large number of Syrian refugees still registered in Iraq**

As of mid-September 2014, almost 215 000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq. Most of the Syrian refugees have settled in the northern governorates of Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. In Iraq should reach about 186 000 beneficiaries with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.

Reference Date: 25-June-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The harvesting of major cereal crops, currently underway, is in jeopardy despite earlier favourable weather conditions that raised hopes for increased crop and livestock production
- Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen governorates, at the centre of the current conflict, normally produce nearly one-third and about 38 percent of total annual national wheat and barley production respectively
- Loss of assets and income opportunities together with disruptions of marketing activities, transport networks and farming have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity; the increasing number of IDPs is also putting huge pressure on host communities

### Favourable crop forecast in 2014 now in jeopardy

Harvesting of winter grains in Iraq is well underway and about to conclude, while the harvesting of the minor millet and sorghum crops is expected to continue until August/September 2014. However, the ongoing and spreading conflict will likely have serious implications especially in key growing provinces. Prior to the current escalation of conflict, an above-average wheat harvest of 3 million tonnes, some 16 percent above the five-year average, was forecast by FAO. The barley crop, at 900 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year but 15 percent above the five-year average. The most affected governorates, so far, by the current conflict of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen which on average contribute together over 30 percent of wheat production and about 38 percent of barley.

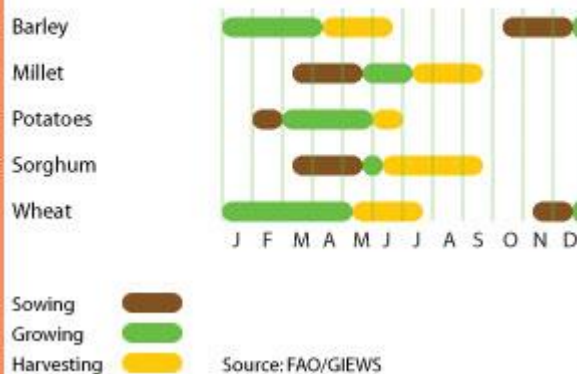
This year, timely seasonal rains and irrigation reserves recharged from mountain snow moisture maintained favourable crop prospects. FAO's Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicates that, in 2014, less than 10 percent of the crop land in Iraq has been affected by moisture deficit. All other areas received adequate moisture thus supporting agricultural production. In addition, analysis of rainfall amounts indicate that cumulated seasonal precipitation in Salah-Aldeen and Wasit provinces were at or above the long-term average, while in the main producing areas of Ninevah, Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah precipitation was slightly below the long-term average. Overall, crop prospects were generally satisfactory during the crucial periods of crop germination and establishment stages.

Accordingly, the current crisis is expected to negatively impact on the ongoing harvesting and post-harvesting activities. In addition, the large displacements of people would result in labour shortages at the critical harvesting period. Problems of logistics, storage facilities and larger post-harvest losses are also expected to add to the decline in domestic production and supply.

### Cereal import requirements expected to increase in 2014/15 despite earlier average forecasts

Given the concern over current harvests of crops due to recent events, cereal import requirements in the just starting 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are expected to increase. More in-depth field assessment

### Iraq Crop calendar (\*major foodcrop)

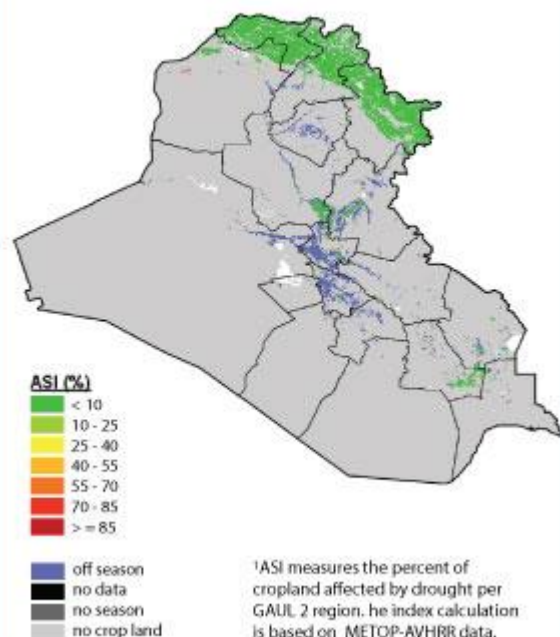


### Iraq Cereal production

	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		forecast*	2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2 592	3 300	3 000	-9
Barley	780	940	900	-4
Maize	268	250	260	4
Others	195	199	194	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>4 689</b>	<b>4 354</b>	<b>-7</b>

\* 2014 FAO/GIEWS forecast before the current escalation of conflict.  
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.  
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

### Iraq - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)<sup>1</sup> from start of season 1 to dekad 1 May 2014



would be required to determine the levels of this increase. In the just ending 2013/14 marketing year, cereal import levels were estimated at 4.26 million tonnes, including 2.7 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice.

The Iraqi Government normally maintains three to six months' supply of wheat in its food stocks and is committed to supply each Iraqi citizen with a monthly 9 kg of subsidized flour. Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

### Food prices were generally stable but disruptions of markets, cross border trade and in the movement of food commodities are expected to reverse the situation

Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Food Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). Data collected prior to the current crisis reveal overall stable food prices. In May 2014, the General Consumer Price Index stood at 144.2 points, about 1.4 percent lower than the previous month but 1.4 percent up on May 2013. The food inflation rate decreased by 4.5 percent on a monthly basis and increased by 1.4 percent on a yearly basis. Cereal prices remain generally stable compared to a month earlier, while the vegetable price index that peaked at 35 percent last January dropped to 3.4 percent in May 2014.

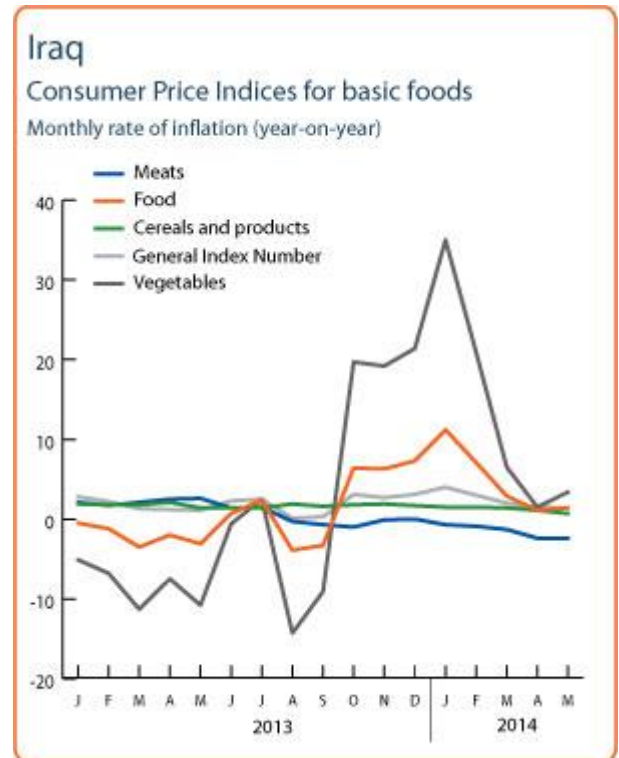
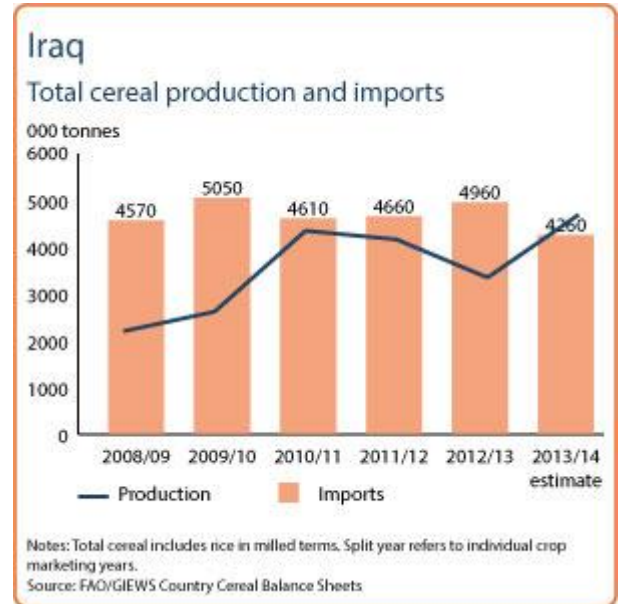
### Food security conditions are expected to deteriorate sharply

There are now nearly 2 million people displaced within Iraq, nearly 1 million of whom have been displaced since January 2014, including an estimated 500 000 people displaced from Mosul City and surrounding areas and a further 480 000 who have fled fighting in Anbar governorate since the beginning of the year. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced. At the moment there are reports of deteriorating access to drinking water as well as basic food items and other essential non-food items. Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as large share of IDPs have fled toward cities in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

Reports indicate that in the most affected governorates of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen levels of food available in the Public Distribution System are quickly depleting and might not be available to the most vulnerable. Given the month of Ramadan approaching, poor households with no stable income will have difficulties in accessing food in particular the Internally-displaced people who left their homes rapidly with only few belongings. Lack of resources limit the coping capacities available to households and limit access to food. Should the situation continue, prices of basic food and essential non-food items are expected to rise despite the subsidies and Government policies, particularly if cross-border movement of goods is hampered by security conditions.

### Large number of Syrian refugees registered in Iraq

As of May 2014, almost 225 000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq. Most of the Syrian refugees have settled in the northern governorates of Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The operation in Iraq should reach about 186 000 beneficiaries with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding. The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.



Reference Date: 28-January-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average cereal harvest gathered in 2013
- Import requirement of cereals in 2013/14 (July/June) is forecast at 4.4 million tonnes, 13 percent down on 2012/13

Planting of winter wheat and barley was concluded by the end of last year. In the eastern part of the country, rains and mountain snow moisture are benefiting winter crops. Widespread rain also benefited recharging of irrigation reserves for warm-season crops.

### Above average cereal harvest gathered in 2013

Above average cereal harvest was gathered in 2013 owing to favourable conditions in both rain-fed and irrigated areas. The official estimates put the overall cereal harvest in 2013 at a record high of about 4.7 million tonnes, 54 percent above last year's below average crop, affected by long dry spells in winter, and about 43 percent above the average. Wheat production, at 3.3 million tonnes, is 57 percent above last year's outturn and the five-year average. At 940 000 tonnes, the barley harvest has increased by almost 88 percent compared to last year, and 40 percent above the average.

### Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 forecast at below average levels

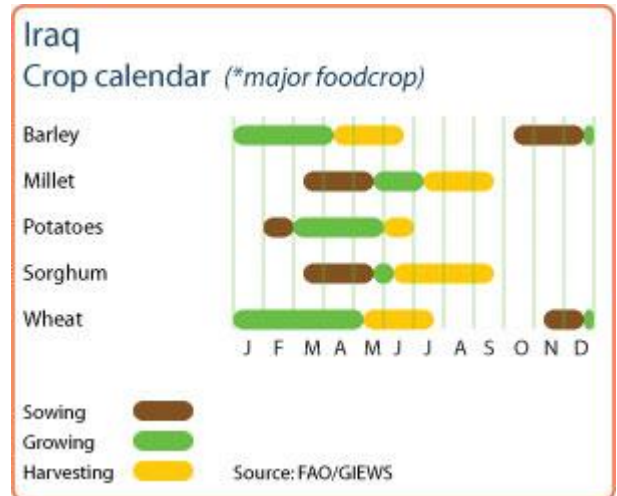
Forecast of cereal import requirements in marketing year 2013/14 (July/June) is put at 4.4 million tonnes, including 2.8 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Despite above average domestic harvest, large import requirements are driven by Iraq's aim to maintain three to six months supply of wheat in its food stocks, as well as commitment to supply each Iraqi citizen with nine kilograms of subsidised flour monthly. Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

### Cereal prices are stable mainly due to the subsidies

In December 2013, the Consumer Price Index stood, at by 0.4 percent compared to the previous month, and 1.6 percent compared to December 2012. The food inflation rate increased by 0.3 percent on monthly, and by 7.3 percent on yearly basis. Cereal prices remained stable compared to a month ago. Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Food Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula).

### Syrian refugees increasing in Iraq

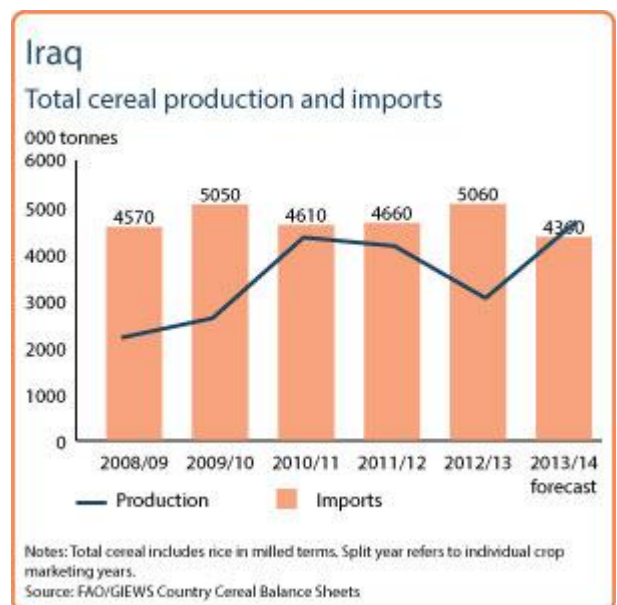
As of January 2014, almost 213 000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq. The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. Most of the Syrian refugees have settled in the northern governorates of Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The operation in Iraq should reach about 186 000 beneficiaries with voucher assistance, food packages and school feeding.



### Iraq Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2,123	2,100	3,300	57
Barley	673	500	940	88
Maize	276	250	250	0
Others	206	199	199	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>3,049</b>	<b>4,689</b>	<b>54</b>

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





Reference Date: 06-August-2013

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal harvest in 2013 forecast at above average levels
- Import requirement of cereals in 2013/14 (July/June) is forecast at 4.4 million tonnes, 13 percent down on 2012/13

### Above average cereal harvest forecast

Final estimates of the 2013 cereal harvest are not yet available but indications point to an above average crop. Favourable conditions were reported in both rain-fed and irrigated areas, although heavy rainfall in early May (beginning of the harvest) has negatively affected the expected wheat yield in the southern part of the country in Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Wasit provinces. Despite the losses, however, the official preliminary estimates put the overall cereal harvest in 2013 at a record high of about 4.7 million tonnes, 54 percent above last year's below average crop, affected by long dry spells in winter, and about 43 percent above the average.

Wheat production, at 3.3 million tonnes, is 57 percent above last year's outturn and the five-year average. At 940 000 tonnes, the barley harvest has increased by almost 88 percent compared to last year, and 40 percent above the average.

In August 2013, the Iraq Grain Board reported that farmers shipped over 3.5 million tonnes of wheat and barley to government silos. The Government procurement prices in May 2013 were IQD 792 000 a tonne of wheat (IQD 1 250/USD) compared to IQD 720 000 last year.

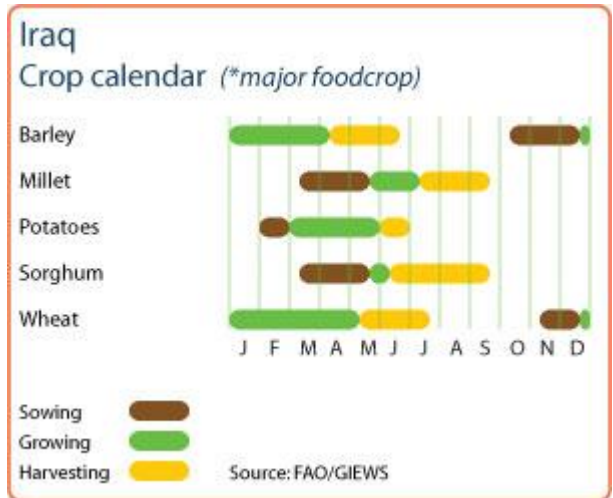
### Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 forecast at below average

Forecast of cereal import requirements in marketing year 2013/14 (July/June) is put at 4.4 million tonnes, including 2.8 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Despite above average domestic harvest, large import requirements are driven by Iraq's aim to maintain three to six months supply of wheat in its food stocks, as well as commitment to supply each Iraqi citizen with nine kilograms of subsidised flour monthly. Iraqi traders often seek higher quality wheat with more protein and gluten for blending rather than the cheapest origins.

### Cereal prices are stable mainly due to the subsidies

In June 2013, the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.9 percent compared to the previous month, and 2.3 percent compared to June 2012. The food inflation rate decreased by 3 percent on monthly, and increased by 0.7 percent on yearly basis. While cereal prices remained stable compared to a month ago, vegetable prices decreased by over 8 percent. Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Food Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula).

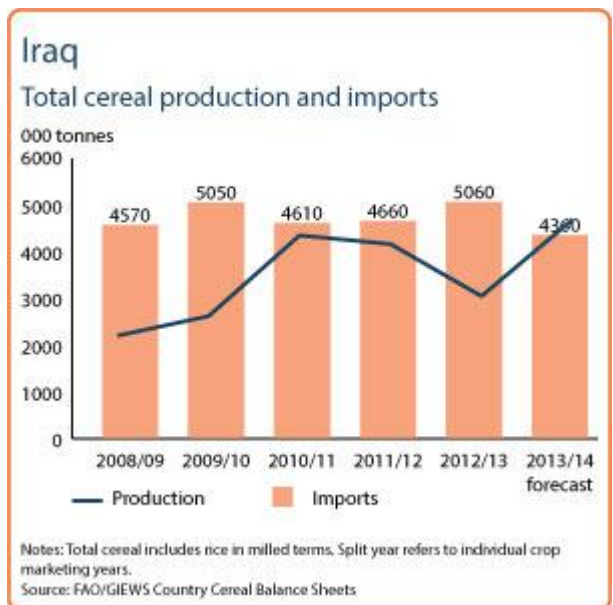
### Syrian refugees increasing in Iraq



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2,123	2,100	3,300	57
Barley	673	500	940	88
Maize	276	250	250	0
Others	206	199	199	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>3,049</b>	<b>4,689</b>	<b>54</b>

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





As of July 2013, over 160 000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq. The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. Most of the Syrian refugees have settled in the northern governorates of Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The operation in Iraq should reach about 80 000 beneficiaries with voucher assistance, and additional 15 000 with in-kind food distribution.

Reference Date: 22-October-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal harvest in 2012 forecast to be below 2011
- Import requirement of cereals in 2012/13 (July/June) is forecast at 5.3 million tonnes, 2 percent up on 2011/12

### Below average cereal harvest forecast

Final estimates of the 2012 cereal harvest are not yet available. Following long dry spell in December and January, the overall cereal harvest in 2012 is put at about 3.2 million tonnes, 21 percent below last year's crop and about 7 percent below the average.

Wheat production, at 2.1 million tonnes, is 12 percent below last year's outturn although slightly above the five-year average. Strong wheat yields in the irrigated areas (Kirkuk, Wasit) compensated for very low yields in the rain-fed areas (the Mosul plateau). At 600 000 tonnes the barley harvest has decreased by almost 47 percent compared to last year, and 23 percent below the average.

In August 2012, the Iraq Grain Board reported that farmers shipped over 1.9 million tonnes of wheat to government silos and that the quality of wheat was very good, owing to modern production techniques and increasing use of irrigation. At 80 000 tonnes, the Government purchases of barley remain on the low side, partially because prices on open markets are higher.

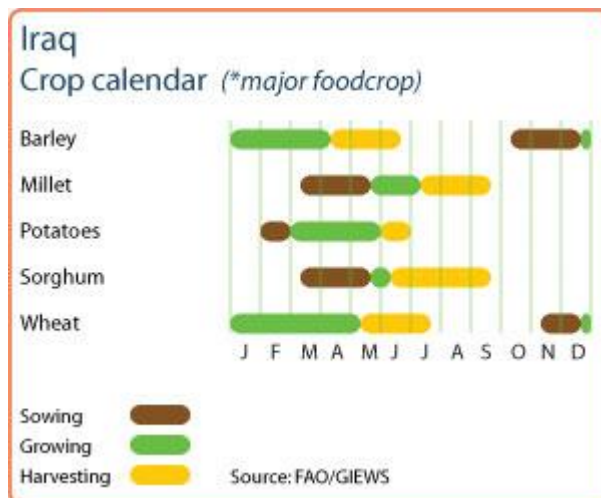
Agriculture plays an important role in the latest five-year national development plan for the years 2013 – 2017 announced in September 2012. According to Ministry of Agriculture officials, Iraqi agricultural development plan calls for the production of 4.5 million tonnes of wheat, almost double of current levels, and a substantial increase in other cereals.

Elsewhere in the sector, the domestic poultry production potential improved in the first half of 2012. However, high feed costs resulting from generally higher grain prices on the world markets and lack of availability tied to the ongoing conflict in Syria are likely to keep the 2012 production at the 2011 level.

### Cereal import requirements in 2012/13 forecast at record high levels

Forecast of cereal import requirements in marketing year 2012/13 (July/June) is put at a (new) record high level of 5.3 million tonnes, including 3.7 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. Large import requirements are driven by Iraq's aim to maintain three to six months supply of wheat in its food stocks, as well as commitment to supply each Iraqi citizen with nine kilograms of flour monthly. In addition, given the lower levels of domestic wheat production, the need to maintain adequate supplies of feed wheat and the country's intention to improve wheat flour quality by blending a higher percentage of imported wheat with local wheat varieties also contribute to increased imports.

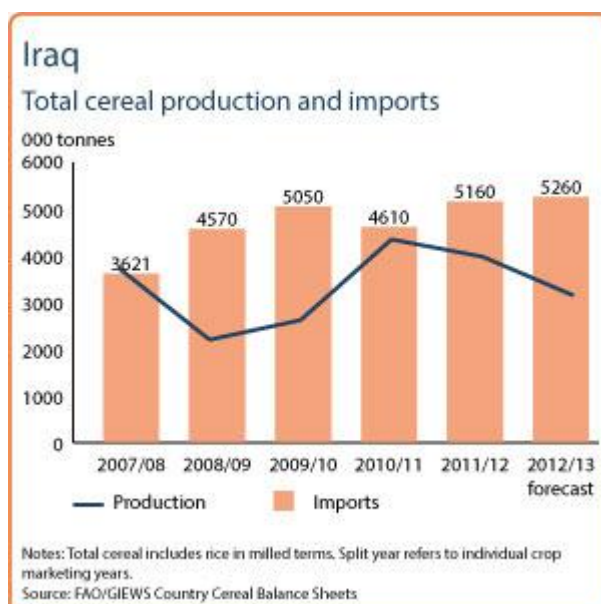
A large grain importer, Iraq made several large purchases on the



### Iraq Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2,061	2,400	2,100	-12
Barley	784	1,130	600	-47
Maize	285	250	250	0
Others	247	199	199	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>3,979</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>-21</b>

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



international market, procuring supplies from Australia, Russian Federation, and Canada.

Iraqi flour imports increased by 42 percent between 2010/11 and 2011/12, reaching 1.4 million tonnes of wheat equivalent, becoming the second-largest flour importer in the world, following Uzbekistan (1.9 million tonnes of wheat equivalent).

### **Cereal prices are stable mainly in response to the subsidies, other food commodity prices increasing**

In September 2012, the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.3 percent compared to the previous month, and 6.4 percent compared to September 2011. The food inflation rate increased by 1.2 percent on monthly, and 7.8 percent on yearly basis. While cereal prices remained stable, increases were recorded for yoghurt, cheese, eggs, and fruits. Prices of cereals and cereal products increased by 0.2 percent compared to August 2012, owing to the Government subsidy programme.

### **Syrian refugees increasing in Iraq**

As of mid-October 2012, around 40 000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq. The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. The operation in Iraq should reach about 15 000 beneficiaries with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance.

Reference Date: 17-April-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prolonged dry spell in December/January likely to affect 2012 winter cereal production
- Import requirement of cereals in 2011/12 (July/June) is forecast at 5.1 million tonnes, 11 percent up on 2010/11

### Production of 2012 winter crops likely to be affected by erratic rains

In northern rain-fed areas, harvesting of 2012 winter crops is expected to start in May and production is forecast at 1.9 million tonnes of wheat and 900 000 tonnes of barley, about 10 to 11 percent below the previous year. A long dry spell between early December and mid-January had a negative impact on the establishment of recently planted crops in key producing governorates of Ninevah, Salaheldin, Ta'meem, Dahuk, Arbil and As Sulaymaniyah, with significant reduction in planted area and likely decrease in final yields. In some cases, farmers opted for late planting at the end of January, when rains resumed, but yields are expected to be very low.

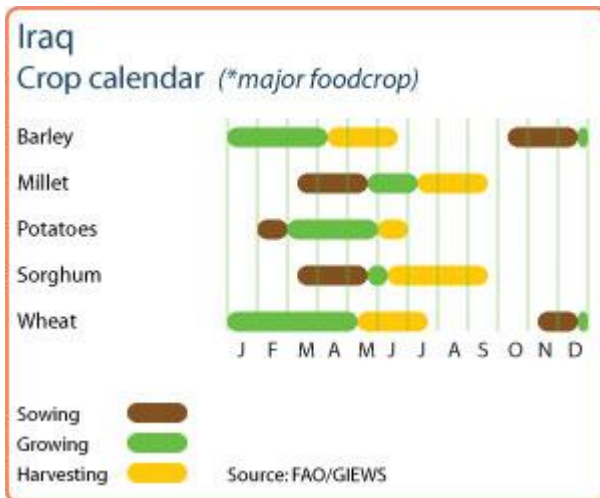
However, better rainfall conditions and the presence of a thick snow cover favoured crops in some northern areas along the border with Turkey and Iran. In central and southern irrigated areas, the low cumulative rainfall amounts received to date have affected the normal winter season's restocking of major water reservoirs, increasing the risk of water shortages for irrigated summer crops such as rice, maize and vegetables to be harvested between July and September.

### Cereal import requirements in 2011/12 estimated at record high levels

Forecast of cereal import requirements in marketing year 2011/12 (July/June) is put at a record high level of 5.1 million tonnes, including 3.7 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. This is essentially due to the lower domestic wheat production, the need to maintain adequate supplies of feed wheat (especially for the livestock and poultry sectors) and the country's intention to improve wheat flour quality by blending a higher percentage of imported wheat with local wheat varieties.

### Cereal prices are stable mainly in response to the subsidies in 2011

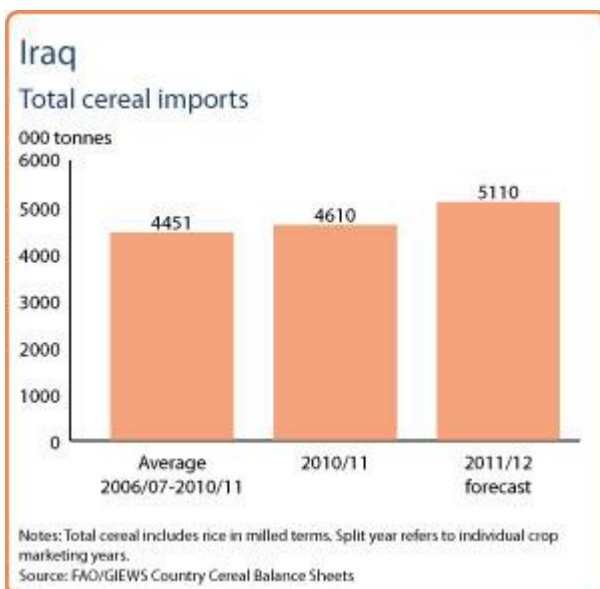
In February 2012, the food price inflation rose by 1.2 percent compared to the previous month, mainly due to an increase in the price of vegetables (3.8 percent), while prices of other food commodities remained relatively stable. The year-on-year (February 2011 to February 2012) inflation rate in the food sector was estimated at 4.5 percent, with most significant increases for eggs and dairy products (11.5 percent) and meat (4.2 percent). By contrast, during the same period, the inflation rate for cereal and cereal products was negative (-0.5 percent) following the Government subsidy programme.



### Iraq Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	1 922	2 100	1 870	-11
Barley	758	1 000	900	-10
Maize	285	250	220	-12
Others	247	199	199	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 212</b>	<b>3 549</b>	<b>3 189</b>	<b>-10</b>

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



Reference Date: 13-October-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather conditions affected cereal production in 2011
- Import requirement of cereals in 2011/12 (July/June) is forecast at 5 million tonnes, 11 percent up on 2010/11

### Land preparation underway for planting of the 2011/12 winter crops

Planting of the winter crops is expected to start in November 2011 with the arrival of seasonal precipitations.

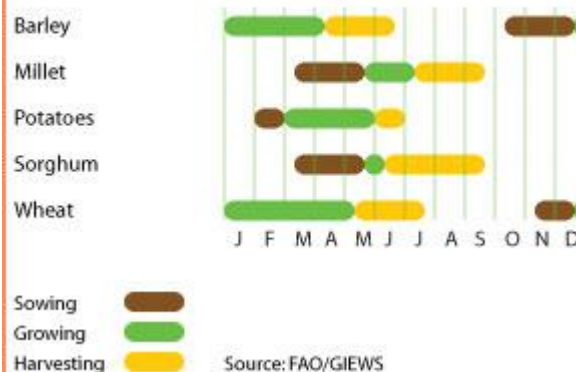
### The 2010/11 winter crops were affected by dry weather conditions

Production of the 2011 winter wheat and barley crops, harvested from last May, is estimated at slightly above 2.1 million tonnes, about 12 percent less than the last five years average. The season has been characterized by late and erratic rains which negatively affected crop planting and establishment especially in key producing governorates of Ninevah and Kirkuk. In southern and central irrigated areas, despite some increases in planted area, crops often suffered from lack of adequate and timely irrigation due to reduced water levels in the main rivers of Euphrates and Tigris as well as the high soil salinity. In addition, lack of quality seeds and fertilizers continues to limit yield potential across the country.

### Cereal import requirements in 2011/12 estimated at record levels

Preliminary forecast of cereal import requirements in marketing year 2011/12 (July/June) is put at record high of 5 million tonnes, including 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice. This is essentially due to the lower domestic production, the sustained demand for feed wheat (especially by livestock and poultry sectors) and the derived demand for high quality flour that is made from blending a higher percentage of imported wheat with domestic wheat.

### Iraq Crop calendar (\*major foodcrop)

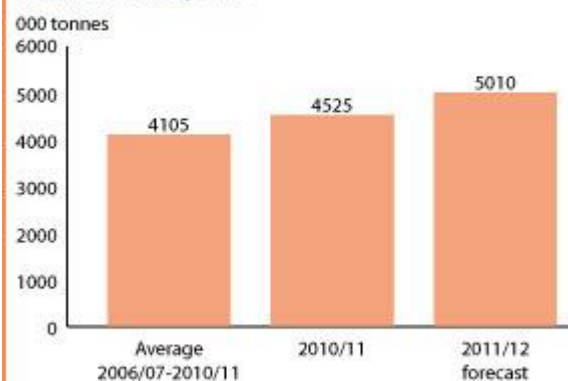


### Iraq Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		forecast	2011/2010
000 tonnes				
				percent
Wheat	1 822	1 866	1 730	-7
Barley	605	450	400	-11
Maize	288	133	120	-10
Others	282	196	199	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 997</b>	<b>2 645</b>	<b>2 449</b>	<b>-7</b>

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

### Iraq 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



Reference Date: 17-May-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

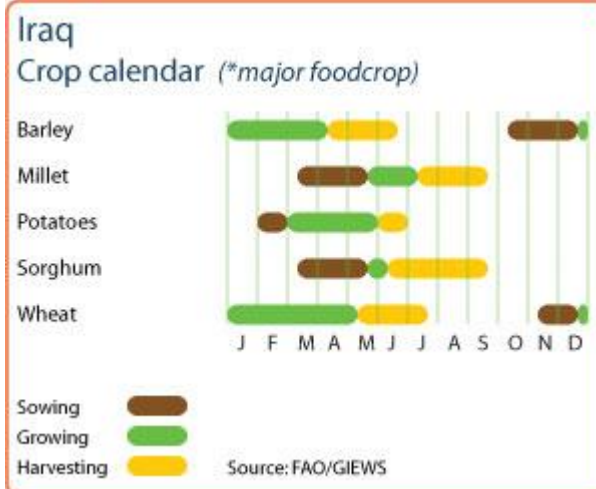
- Uncertain prospects for 2011 winter crops due to dry weather conditions during the growing season
- Imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) are forecast at 4.9 million tonnes compared to 5.2 million tonnes in 2009/10

### Uncertain prospects for 2011 winter crops

Harvesting of 2011 winter wheat and barley crops has just started in irrigated areas in the south. Production prospects are uncertain because, despite some recent beneficial rainfall in northern rain-fed areas, the season has been characterized by late and erratic rains which negatively affected crop planting and establishment especially in key producing governorate of Ninevah. In southern and central irrigated areas, crops often suffered the lack of adequate and timely irrigation due to reduced water level in main rivers Euphrates and Tigris as well as the high soil salinity.

### Wheat imports expected to decrease in 2010/11

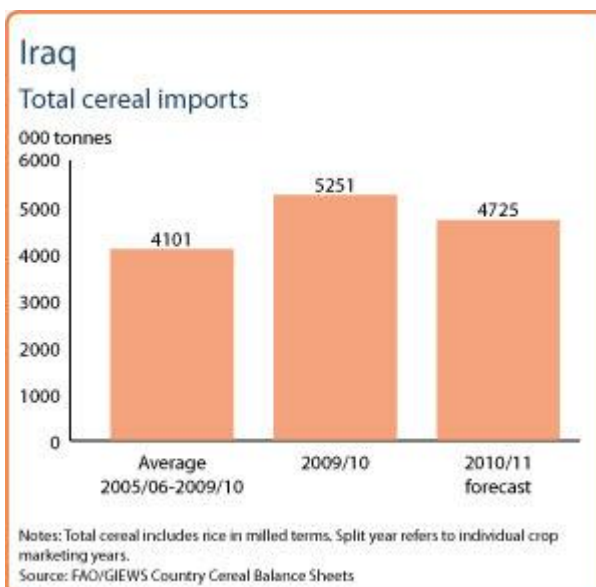
Cereal import requirements in marketing year 2010/11 (July/June) are forecast at 4.7 million tonnes, including about 3.4 million tonnes of wheat and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. This is due to the good performance of 2010 winter grains was mainly due to almost ideal weather conditions in northern rain-fed Governorates that, despite some localized losses due to an infestation of yellow rust, led to very high yields. It compares with higher import levels of 5.2 million tonnes in the drought-affected 2009/10 marketing year, but still higher than the previous five years average to meet the increasing national food and feed demand.



### Iraq Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	1 834	1 400	1 860	33
Rice (paddy)	297	173	250	45
Barley	665	502	1 200	139
Others	9	9	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 113</b>	<b>2 234</b>	<b>3 469</b>	<b>55</b>

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



Reference Date: 27-April-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Uncertain prospects for 2011 winter crops due to dry weather conditions during the growing season
- Imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) are forecast at 4.9 million tonnes compared to 5.2 million tonnes in 2009/10

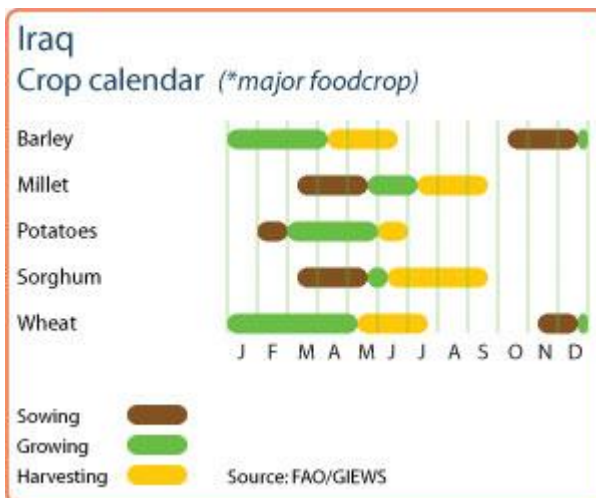
### Uncertain prospects for 2011 winter crops

Harvesting of 2011 winter wheat and barley crops is about to start in irrigated areas in the south. Production prospects are still uncertain because, despite some recent beneficial rainfall in northern rain-fed areas, the season has been characterized by late and erratic rains which negatively affected crop planting and establishment especially in key producing governorate of Ninevah. In southern and central irrigated areas, crops often suffered the lack of adequate and timely irrigation due to reduced water level in main rivers Euphrates and Tigris as well as the high soil salinity.

Aggregate output of the 2010 wheat and barley crops, harvested last summer, is estimated at about 3 million tonnes, compared to 1.9 and 1.7 million tonnes respectively obtained in 2009 and 2008 drought-affected years. The good performance of 2010 winter grains was mainly due to almost ideal weather conditions in northern rain-fed Governorates that, despite some localized losses due to an infestation of yellow rust, led to very high yields.

### Wheat imports expected to decrease in 2010/11

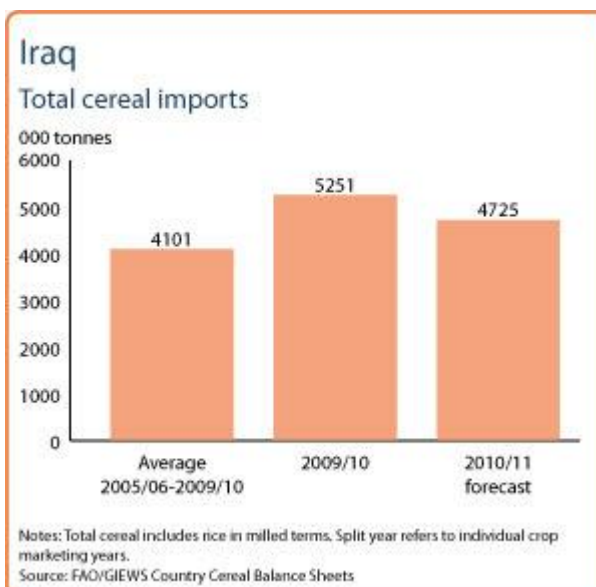
Cereal import requirements in marketing year 2010/11 (July/June) are forecast at 4.7 million tonnes, including about 3.4 million tonnes of wheat and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. This compares with higher import levels of 5.2 million tonnes in the drought-affected 2009/10 marketing year but still higher than the previous five years average to meet the increasing national food and feed demand.



### Iraq Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	1 834	1 400	1 860	33
Rice (paddy)	297	173	250	45
Barley	665	502	1 200	139
Others	9	9	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 113</b>	<b>2 234</b>	<b>3 469</b>	<b>55</b>

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



Reference Date: 4-February-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following two drought-affected years, the output of the 2010 winter crops is estimated at well above average levels
- Imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) are forecast at 4.9 million tonnes compared to 5.2 million tonnes in 2009/10

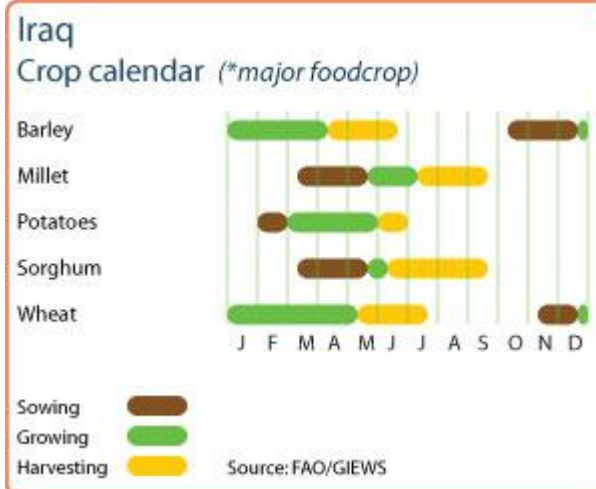
### Late rains delay planting of 2011 winter crops

Planting of the 2011 winter cereal crops to be harvested from April is complete. Seasonal rains started late in mid-December and were erratic in the following weeks, negatively affecting crop establishment.

Aggregate output of the 2010 wheat and barley crops, harvested last summer, is estimated at about 3.6 million tonnes, compared to the nearly 1.8 million tonnes obtained in the 2009 and 2008 drought-affected years. The good performance of 2010 winter grains was mainly due to almost ideal weather conditions in key growing areas in northern rain-fed Governorates that led to very high yields. By contrast, yields have been average to below-average in most southern and central irrigated areas due to the low water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and the high soil salinity. An infestation of yellow rust, especially in northern Governorates bordering Syria, caused some localized losses of production.

### Wheat imports expected to decrease in 2010/11

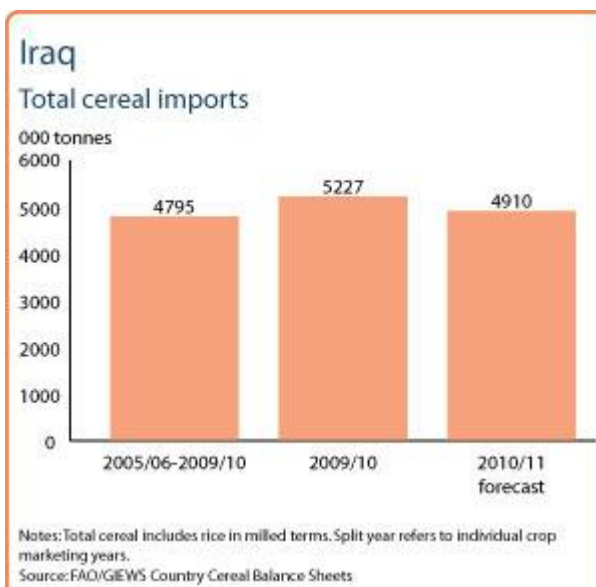
The early forecast of cereal imports in marketing year 2010/11 (July/June) is put at 4.9 million tonnes, including about 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. This compares with higher import levels of 5.2 million tonnes in the drought-affected 2009/10 marketing year but still higher than the previous five years average to meet the increasing national food and feed demand.



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		estimate	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	1834	1400	2500	79
Barley	665	502	1100	119
Maize	307	150	150	0
Others	307	182	259	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>3113</b>	<b>2234</b>	<b>4009</b>	<b>79</b>

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



Reference Date: 13-October-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following two drought-affected years, the output of the 2010 winter crops is estimated at above average levels
- Imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) are preliminarily forecast at 4.9 million tonnes compared to 5.2 million tonnes in 2009/10

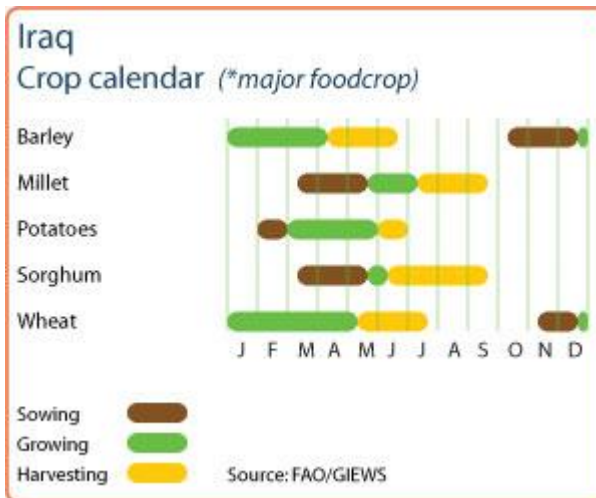
### Good output of 2010 winter cereal crops

Planting of the 2011 wheat and barley crops, to be harvested next May/June, is about to begin.

Output of the 2010 winter cereal crops, harvested earlier this year, has been good due to favourable weather conditions during the season. Early estimates indicate an aggregate wheat and barley output of about 3.1 million tonnes in 2010, compared to the nearly 1.8 million tonnes obtained in the 2009 and 2008 drought-affected years. The good performance of 2010 winter grains, especially in northern rain-fed Governorates, was mainly due to an almost ideal weather conditions that led to near-record yields. By contrast, yields have been average to below-average in most southern and central irrigated areas due to the low water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and the high soil salinity. In addition, the shortage of irrigation water induced the Government to restrict planted area of wheat and rice in some of the major provinces with irrigated agriculture.

### Wheat imports expected to decrease in 2010/11

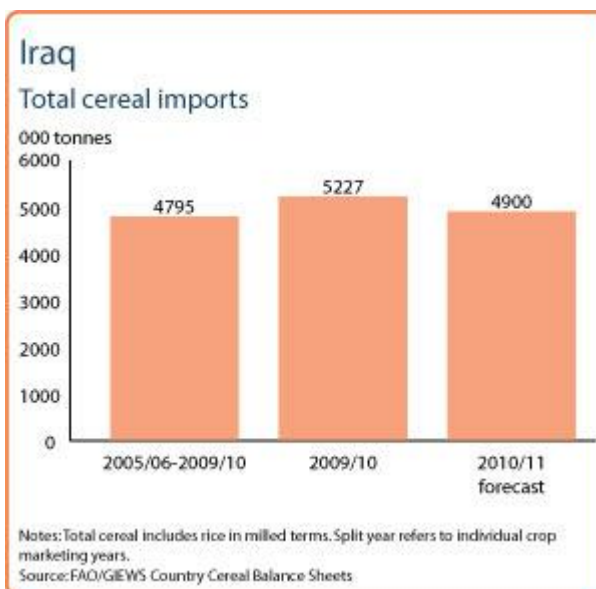
The early forecast of cereal imports in marketing year 2010/11 (July/June) is put at 4.9 million tonnes, including about 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. This compares with higher import levels of 5.2 million tonnes in the drought-affected 2009/10 but still higher than the previous five years average.



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	1874	1350	2000	48
Barley	660	450	1150	156
Maize	307	150	150	0
Others	310	189	259	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3151</b>	<b>2139</b>	<b>3559</b>	<b>66</b>

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





Reference Date: 09-September-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following two years of poor crop production, prospects for 2010 winter crops are good
- Imports of cereals in 2010/11 (July/June) are early forecast at 4.9 million tonnes compared to 5.2 million tonnes in 2009/10

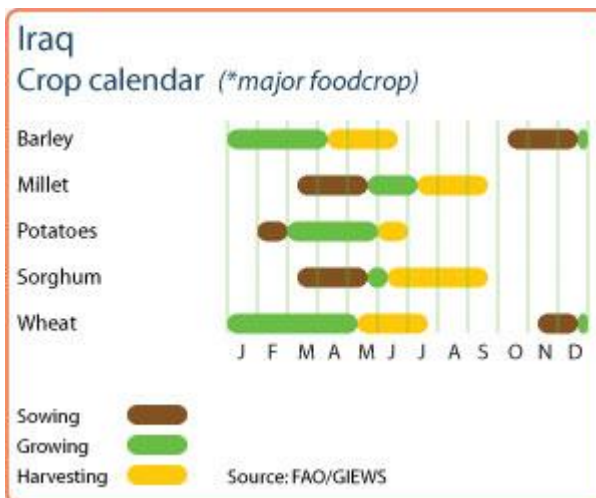
### Good prospects for the 2010 winter cereal output following two years of drought affected crop

Harvesting of the 2010 winter cereal crops has been completed in August and production prospects are good due to favourable weather conditions along the season. In particular, above average rains from October to December 2009 induced farmers to increase planted area for both wheat and barley crops. Early estimates indicate an aggregate wheat and barley output of about 3.1 million tonnes in 2010, compared to the drought affected 1.8 million tonnes obtained in 2009 and 2008. The good performance of winter grains in northern rain-fed Governorates including Ninawa, the country's breadbasket, following abundant rainfall and warm temperatures provided almost ideal growing conditions along the season leading to near-record yields. By contrast, yields are expected to be average to below-average in most southern and central irrigated areas due to the low water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and the high soil salinity. In addition, the shortage of irrigation water induced the Government to restrict planted area of wheat and rice in some of the major provinces with irrigated agriculture.

Favourable precipitations in the north have improved pasture conditions and livestock numbers are gradually recovering from the effects of the two consecutive drought years. The expected increase in barley production may lead to a substantial decrease in feed prices increasing the profitability of livestock and poultry activities.

### Expected declining levels of wheat imports in 2010/11

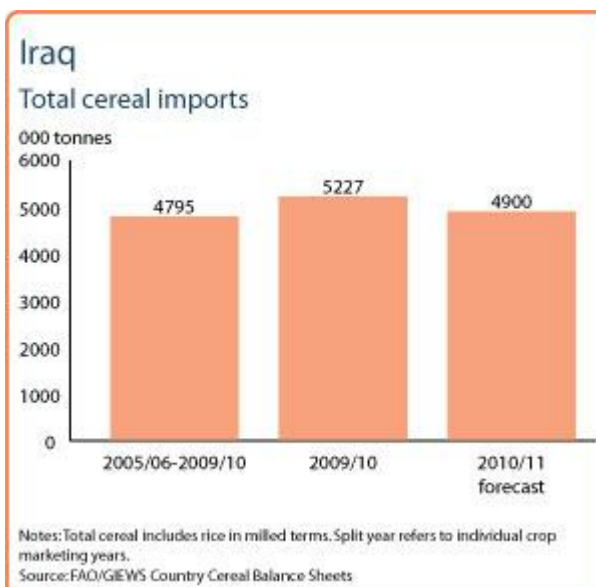
Cereal imports in marketing year 2010/11 (July/June) are early forecast at 4.9 million tonnes, including about 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. With rice imports being stable, this compares with higher import levels of 3.9 million tonnes of wheat in drought-affected previous year.



**Iraq**  
Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	1874	1350	2000	48
Barley	660	450	1150	156
Maize	307	150	150	0
Others	310	189	259	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3151</b>	<b>2139</b>	<b>3559</b>	<b>66</b>

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





Reference Date: 02-June-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following two years of poor crop production, prospects for 2010 winter crops are good
- Imports of cereals in 2009/10 (July/June) are forecast at 5.1 million tonnes compared to 4.7 million tonnes the previous year

### Good prospects for the 2010 winter cereal output following two years of drought affected crop

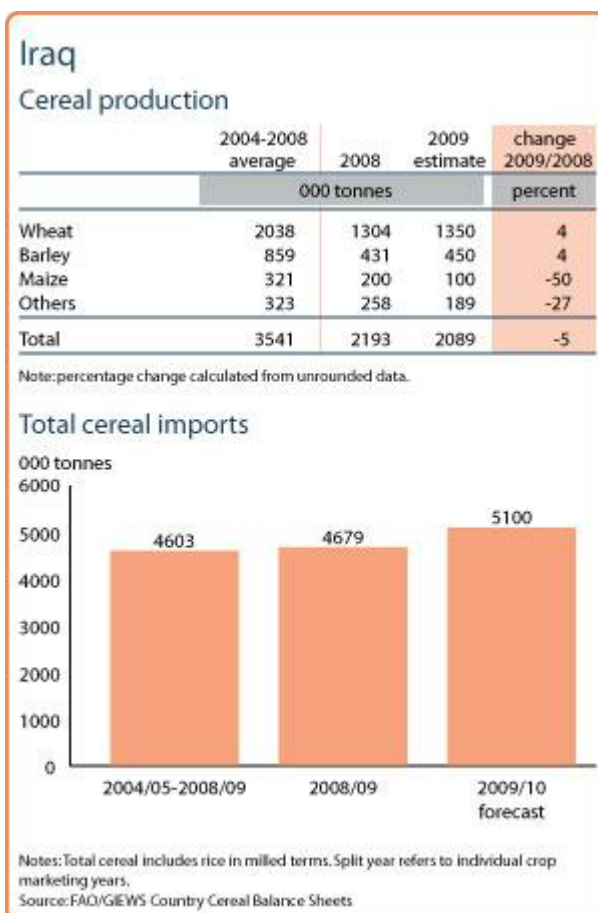
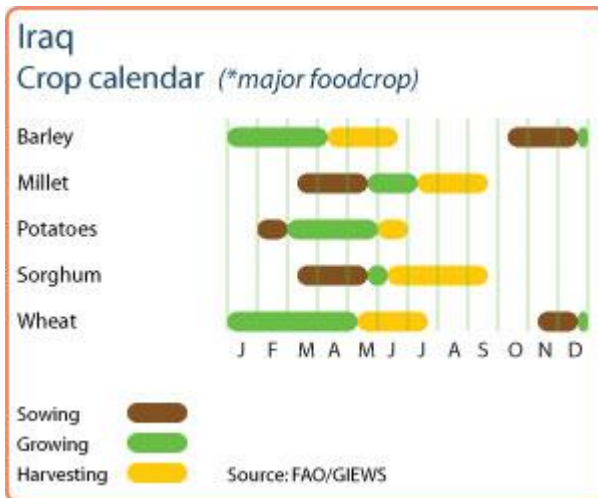
Harvesting of the 2010 winter cereal crops has started in early May in the mainly irrigated southern areas and it is proceeding northward to the rain-fed areas. Production prospects are favourable due to above average rains from October to December 2009 that induced farmers to increase planted area and good yields. Area planted under wheat crop has increased by 30-35 percent compared to the previous two years that were severely affected by drought, but still remains about 10 percent below the last five year's average.

Early estimates indicate an aggregate wheat and barley output of about 3 million tonnes in 2010, compared to the drought affected 1.8 million tonnes obtained in 2009 and 2008. The good performance of winter grains in northern rain-fed Governorates including Ninawa, the country's breadbasket, following abundant rainfall and warm temperatures provided almost ideal growing conditions along the season leading to near-record yields. By contrast, yields are expected to be average to below-average in most southern and central irrigated areas due to the low water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and the high soil salinity. In addition, the shortage of irrigation water induced the Government to restrict planted area of wheat and rice in some of the major provinces with irrigated agriculture.

Favourable precipitations in the north have improved pasture conditions and livestock numbers are gradually recovering from the effects of the two consecutive drought years. The expected increase in barley production may lead to a substantial decrease in feed prices increasing the profitability of livestock and poultry activities.

### Increased levels of cereal imports in 2009/10

Reflecting the poor domestic production in 2009, cereal imports in marketing year 2009/10 (July/June) are expected at a high level of 5.1 million tonnes, including about 3.9 million tonnes of wheat and 1.2 million tonnes of rice. This compares with import levels of 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 1.1 million tonnes of rice the previous year.



Reference Date: 31-March-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Expanded planted area and abundant precipitation benefit 2010 winter crops.
- Import requirements for wheat and rice are forecast at record 5 million tonnes.

### 2010 winter cereal output expected to rebound after two years of drought

Prospects for 2010 winter cereal crops to be harvested from May are favourable due to increased planted area and expected good yields following beneficial rains, especially in northern and central growing areas. Area planted under wheat crop has increased by 30-35 percent compared to the previous two years that were severely affected by drought, but still remains about 10 percent below the last five year's average.

Livestock numbers have sharply decreased in the last two years due to feed shortages following the drought. The expected increase in barley may lead to a substantial decrease in feed prices increasing the profitability of livestock and poultry activities.

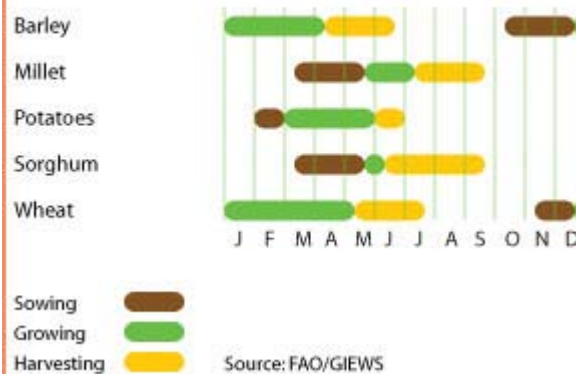
### Cereal production severely affected in 2009, for the second year running

Generally poor weather conditions for most of the cereal cropping season (November-June) led to drastic reductions in the 2009 winter cereals, harvested last June/July. In particular, water shortages and high soil salinity have hampered cultivation compelling farmers to reduce their level of planting, often decreasing by as much 50 percent. Aggregate output of wheat and barley in 2009 is estimated at low 1.8 million tonnes, slightly higher than 2008 production level that has been recorded as the smallest crop in recent history following serious drought conditions that affected the country.

### Imports in 2009/10 expected to be a record

To compensate for the poor domestic production in 2009, cereal imports in marketing year 2009/10 (July/June) are expected to increase drastically, with requirements of wheat and rice anticipated to reach about 3.8 million tonnes and 1.1 million tonnes, respectively. This compares with import levels of 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 900 000 tonnes of rice the previous year.

### Iraq Crop calendar (\*major foodcrop)

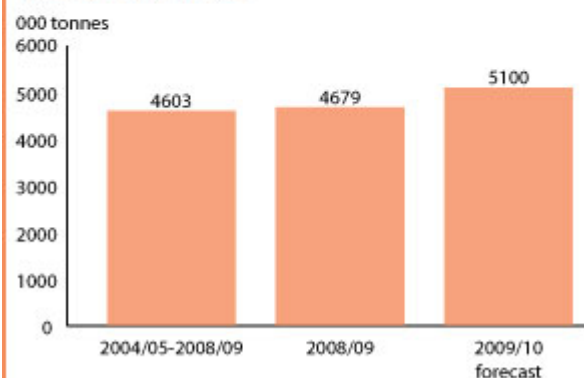


### Iraq Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	2038	1304	1350	4
Barley	859	431	450	4
Maize	321	200	100	-50
Others	323	258	189	-27
<b>Total</b>	<b>3541</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>-5</b>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

### 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

Reference Date: 01-February-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rains benefits planting of 2010 winter crops
- Dry weather lowered cereal production in 2009
- Import requirements for wheat and rice are forecast at record 5 million tonnes

### Planting of 2010 winter cereals under generally favourable weather conditions

Planting of 2010 winter cereal crops to be harvested next June/July has recently been completed and crops are currently dormant. Recent precipitations benefited crops in several parts of the country. However, unseasonably warm weather is affecting parts of the country since mid-December, with temperatures from 5 to 12 degrees C above average. This affects the protective snow cover and may expose the crops to cold. Nevertheless, current winter crop prospects are generally favourable due to timely beneficial rainfall and the absence, so far, of winterkill.

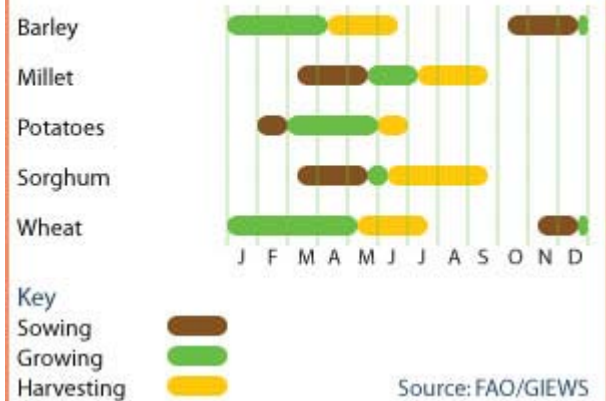
### Cereal production in 2009 as low as 2008

In 2009, generally unfavourable weather conditions for most of the cereal cropping season (November-June) led to drastic reductions of winter cereals, harvested in June/July. In particular, water shortages and high soil salinity have hampered cultivation compelling farmers to reduce their level of planting, often decreasing by as much 50 percent. Aggregate output of wheat and barley in 2009 is estimated at low 1.8 million tonnes, slightly higher than 2008 production level that has been recorded as the smallest crop in recent history following serious drought conditions that affected the country.

### Imports in 2009/10 expected to be record

Cereal imports in marketing year 2009/10 (July/June) are expected to reach record levels, with requirements of wheat and rice anticipated to increase to about 3.8 and 1.1 million tonnes, respectively. This compares with import levels of 3.6 million tonnes of wheat and 900 000 tonnes of rice the previous year. In contrast, the level of feed use of cereals is expected to be affected by the low domestic cereal production in the last two years coupled with high feed import prices.

### Crop calendar Iraq

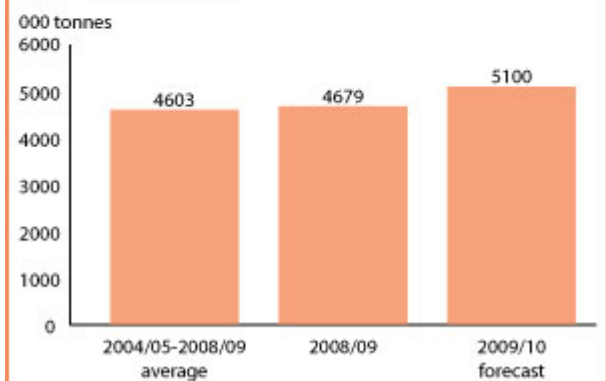


### Iraq Cereal production

	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
000 tonnes				
Wheat	2038	1304	1350	4
Barley	859	431	450	4
Maize	321	200	100	-50
Others	323	258	189	-27
<b>Total</b>	<b>3541</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>-5</b>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

### 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

Reference Date: 25-September-2009

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather lowered cereal production in 2009
- Import requirements for wheat and rice are forecast at record 5 million tonnes

### Land preparation for 2010 winter crops

Planting of 2010 winter cereal crops is expected to start in November with the arrival of first seasonal precipitations.

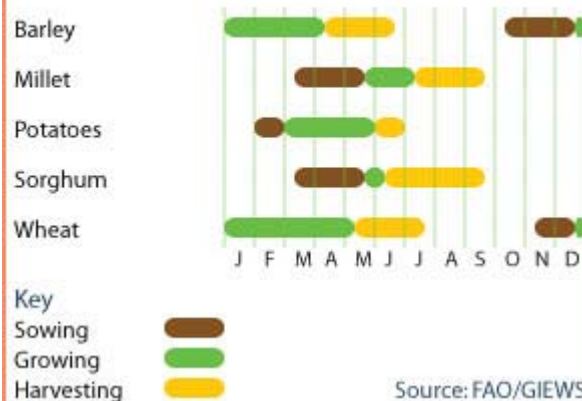
### Cereal production in 2009 as low as 2008

In 2009, generally unfavourable weather conditions for most of the cereal cropping season (November-June) led to drastic reductions of winter cereals, harvested in June/July. In particular, water shortages and high soil salinity have hampered cultivation compelling farmers to reduce their level of planting, often decreasing by as much 50 percent. Aggregate output of wheat and barley in 2009 is estimated at low 1.8 million tonnes, slightly higher than 2008 production level that has been recorded as the smallest crop in recent history following serious drought conditions that affected the country.

### Imports in 2009/10 expected to be record

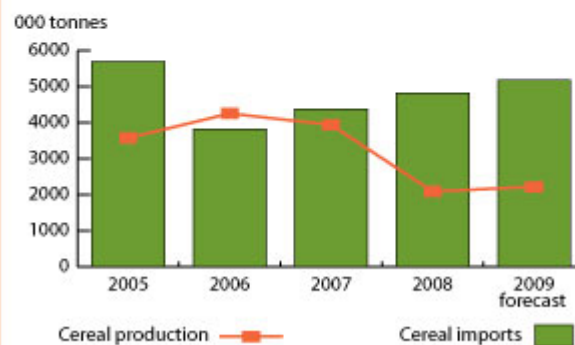
Import requirements of wheat and rice in marketing year 2009/10 (July/June) are anticipated to increase to about 3.8 and 1.2 million tonnes, respectively.

### Crop calendar Iraq



### Cereal production and imports Iraq

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	2038	1304	1350	3.5%
Barley	859	431	450	4.4%
Maize	321	200	307	53.5%
Other	177	158	117	-25.9%
<b>Total Cereals</b>	<b>3415</b>	<b>2093</b>	<b>2224</b>	<b>6.3%</b>



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets