



GIIEWS Country Brief Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Reference Date: 17-April-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Recent floods disrupted favourable conditions for winter crop development
- Further increases in food inflation following currency devaluation likely

Recent floods disrupted favourable conditions for winter crop development

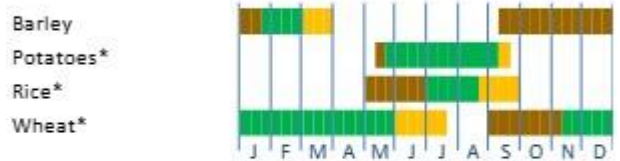
Harvesting of the 2019 winter season barley crop started in March. The wheat harvest will start in June. Up to March, conditions for the development of the winter cereal crop were exceptionally favourable, as rains started on time and rainfall amounts were abundant along the whole season, promising an above average harvest. However, torrential rain at the end of March led to major flooding across the country, affecting more than 20 provinces, with Mazandaran, Golestan, Lorestan and Khuzestan being the most affected areas, resulting in casualties, economic losses and severe infrastructure damage. The worst affected areas of Golestan Province received 70 percent of the average annual rain in the first 24 hours of the downpour. According to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, Golestan Province produces about 10 percent of the total wheat output. Across the other heavily affected areas, rainfall totals for the two days at the height of the downpour were above the average rainfall normally received throughout the whole month. Losses caused by floods are estimated to be between USD 3.5 to USD 4.1 billion, including USD 1.5 billion in the agriculture sector.

In the current season, about 5.85 million hectares of wheat were planted, including 2 million hectares with irrigation. Following the floods, the national authorities downgraded the national cereal harvest from excellent to good, likely to be similar to last year. The final production figures will depend on the impact of floods.

The Government intends to locally purchase about 10 million tonnes of the 2019 wheat harvest with the aim to eliminate the reliance on imports for domestic consumption. In 2018, the Government purchased 9.3 million tonnes of wheat. In April 2019, the Government announced an increase in the guaranteed purchase prices for the 2019 crop compared to last year: IRR 17 000 per kg (equivalent to USD 405 per tonne, up from IRR 13 000 in 2018) of common wheat and IRR 17 700 per kg (USD 420 per tonne, up from IRR 13 300) of durum wheat.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)

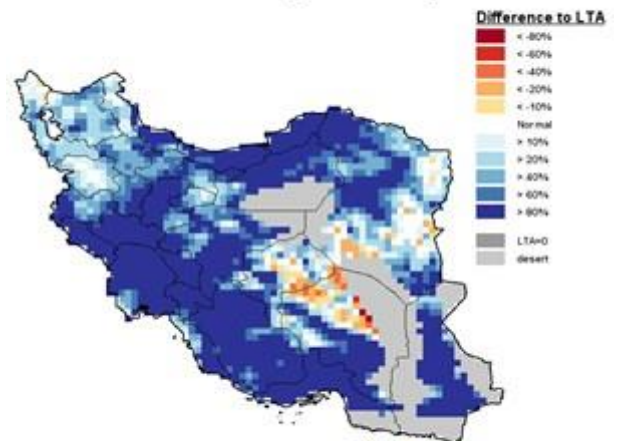


Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Iran - Precipitation anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - March 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

In January 2019, a deal among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation was concluded on the supply of wheat via the Caspian Sea in order to increase the utilization of the Iranian wheat flour mills with excess capacity and, consequently, expand the Iranian exports of flour to third countries via the Persian Gulf. The Iranian private millers are not allowed to use the domestic wheat destined to supply the domestic market for flour exports. All wheat imports are meant to be re-exported, while domestic wheat is only consumed in the country.

Increases in food inflation following currency devaluation

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that, in the period from 19 February 2019 to 20 March 2019 (corresponding to Esfand 1398), the food and beverages price inflation index climbed to 72 percent on a yearly basis, driven by the devaluation of its currency related to the full re-imposition of economic sanctions in November 2018. The sanctions severely limit export earnings. By comparison, in the same period in 2018, the food price inflation stood at 7 percent on a year-on-year basis.

The Central Bank of Iran maintains a dual tier exchange rate system. The fixed rate of IRR 42 000 per USD is used to finance imports of essential goods. For other transactions, the current official exchange is IRR 135 000 per USD.

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Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	11 820	13 400	13 400	0.0
Barley	2 993	2 800	3 000	7.1
Rice (paddy)	2 737	3 020	3 020	0.0
Others	1 239	914	1 115	22.0
Total	18 789	20 134	20 535	2.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.



GIEWS Country Brief Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Reference Date: 04-July-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

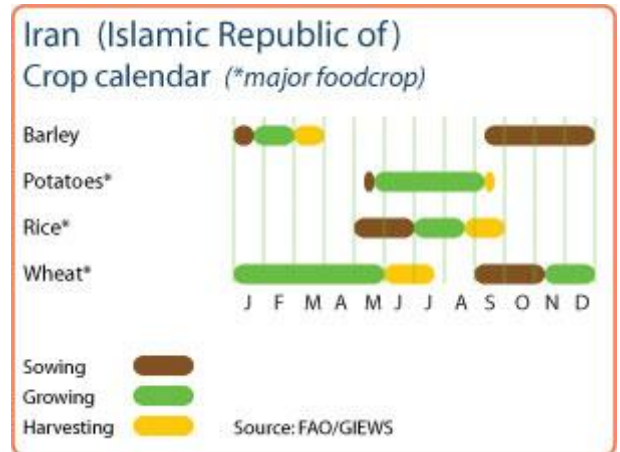
- Above-average wheat crop output forecast in 2018
- Average cereal import requirements forecasted in 2018/19
- Food inflation increased compared to previous month, but lower than a year ago

Above-average 2018 wheat crop forecasted

Harvesting of the 2018 winter wheat started in early June and will continue until mid-July. Good rainfall from March to May eased soil moisture deficits accumulated during an extended dry spell that affected the country since October 2017. Reports indicate that, in southern Fars and Esfahan provinces, the cereal area has been reduced with respect to 2017. Higher yields in the rest of the country are expected to offset the decreases in the southern planting areas, resulting in a national harvest of about 20 million tonnes of cereals, similar to last year and about 10 percent above average. Preliminary official estimates include 13.4 million tonnes of wheat.

The Government in the current season intends to locally purchase 10.4 million tonnes of wheat to decrease the reliance on imported wheat. As of early June 2018, about 3 million tonnes were purchased since the beginning of the wheat purchasing season. In 2017, the Government purchased about 9 million tonnes of wheat out of 11 million tonnes planned. The Government guaranteed that the purchase prices for the 2018 crop remained unchanged from their 2017 levels: IRR 13 000 per kg (equivalent to USD 310 per tonne) of common wheat and IRR 13 300 per kg (USD 316 per tonne) of durum wheat, above the prevailing international prices of about USD 250 per tonne. A revision of the guaranteed purchase prices is expected before the start of the new cropping season in autumn.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on rainfall. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the west and northwestern regions of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	11 001	12 500	13 400	7
Barley	2 995	3 100	2 800	-10
Rice (paddy)	2 623	3 050	3 020	-1
Others	1 310	917	914	0
Total	17 929	19 567	20 134	3

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

Average cereal import requirement forecasted

Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 (April/March) are forecast at an average level of 12.4 million tonnes, including maize (7.5 million tonnes), wheat (1 million tonnes), barley (2.5 million tonnes) and rice (1.4 million tonnes), about 10 percent above last year's low level.

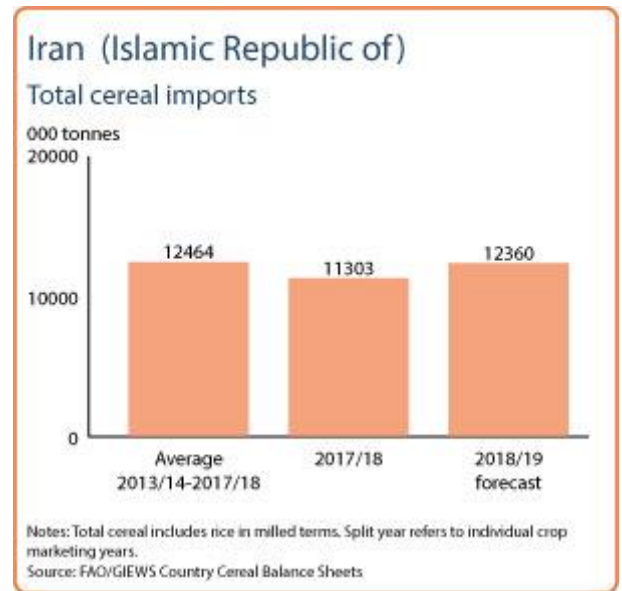
In March 2018, an import deal between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation was signed to import up to 1 million tonnes of wheat per year over the next five years to increase the utilization of the Iranian wheat flour mills and, consequently, expand the Iranian exports of flour. Iranian private millers are not allowed to use domestic wheat destined to supply the domestic market for flour exports.

Food inflation increasing compared to previous month, but lower than a year ago

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that, in the period from 20 April 2017 to 20 May 2018 (Ordibehesht 1397), the food and beverages price inflation index stood at 8.4 percent, on a yearly basis, driven by increases in the prices of meat and dairy products. By comparison, in the previous month, the food price inflation stood at 5 percent and at the same time a year ago, it exceeded 15 percent on a year-on-year basis.

In April 2018, the Central Bank decided to implement a long-awaited currency reform, unifying the official and open market exchange rates. Following the reform, the official exchange rate increased from about IRR 37 000 per USD to IRR 42 000 per USD.

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GIEWS Country Brief Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Reference Date: 26-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average wheat crop output forecast in 2017
- Wheat import requirements increasing in 2017/18
- Inflation rates increase

Above-average 2017 wheat crop to be harvested

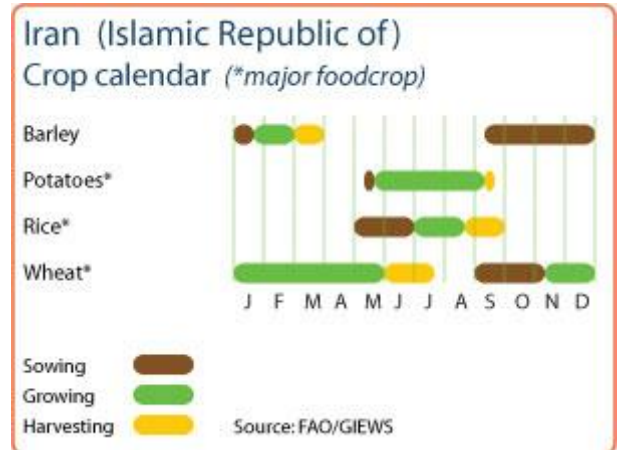
Harvesting of the 2017 winter wheat started in June and will continue until mid-July. Remote sensing images indicate a delayed start of the season due to a late onset of the rains in the northwest and centralwest parts of the country, potentially impacting yields. Favourable weather conditions prevailed across the rest of the country, with above-average temperatures towards the end of the season accelerating crop development in central and northern Islamic Republic of Iran.

The 2017 harvest is forecast at levels similar to last year and some 15 percent about the average of the last five years. The Government intends to locally purchase 11 million tonnes of wheat, about the same as last year, to decrease reliance on imported wheat over the next four years. The Government guaranteed purchase prices for the 2017 crop are IRR 13 000 per kg (equivalent to USD 340 per tonne) of common wheat and IRR 13 300 per kg (USD 350 per tonne) of durum wheat.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop, accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on rainfall. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the west and northwestern regions of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country. Reports indicate that the Government plans to improve irrigation by introducing modern irrigation systems to 450 000 hectares of farmland.

Cereal imports expected to increase in 2017/18 compared to last year

Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 (April/March) are forecast at 11.3 million tonnes, including maize (8.5 million tonnes), wheat (2 million tonnes), barley (1.2 million tonnes) and rice (1.3 million tonnes), about 9 percent above last year's imports and 12 percent below the average of the last five years. Importers



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	10,744	13,500	13,500	0
Barley	2,776	3,000	3,100	3
Rice (paddy)	2,405	2,520	2,600	3
Others	1,486	910	910	0
Total	17,410	19,930	20,110	1

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

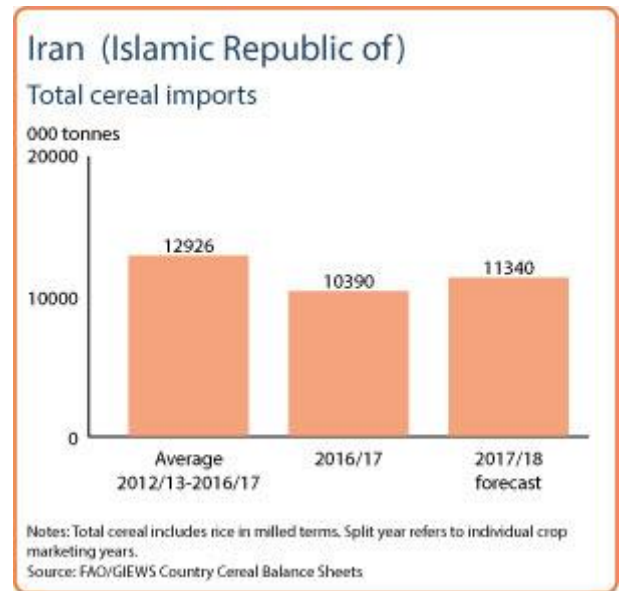
usually receive foreign exchange at concessionary rates from the Government for imports of basic commodities (considered essential imports). Otherwise, importers use foreign exchange at market prices to finance their purchases.

Inflation increasing

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in the period from 20 April 2017 to 20 May 2017 (Farvardin 1396), the food and beverages price inflation index stood at 19.9 percent, on yearly basis, driven by increases in the prices of fresh fruits and vegetables. By comparison, at the same time a year ago, the food price inflation was less than 2 percent year-on-year basis. In an effort to keep the annual inflation around 10 percent, the Central Bank is trying to lower the baseline interest rate, currently at 18 percent.

The Central Bank postponed the decision to end the current dual exchange rate regime of the market rate and preferential official rate for essential imports from the end of the Persian year of 1395 (20 March 2017) to February 2018.

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GIEWS Country Brief Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Reference Date: 26-September-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average wheat crop harvested in 2016
- Wheat import requirements decreasing in 2016/17
- Inflation rates ease

Planting of the 2017 winter wheat starts this month with the arrival of cooler weather and seasonal rains and will continue until early November. Winter barley is usually planted until mid-January.

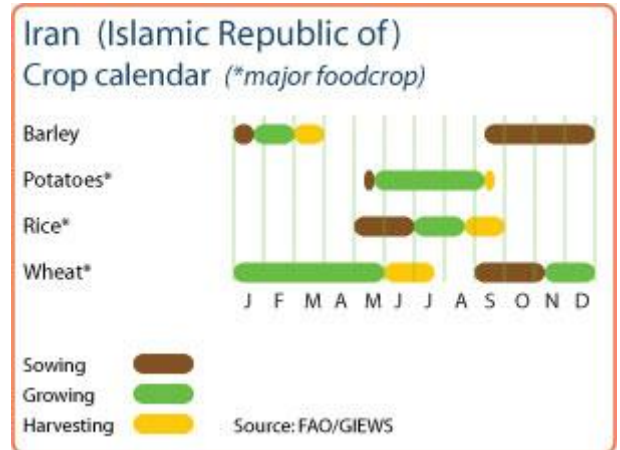
Above-average 2016 wheat crop harvested

The 2016 wheat harvest concluded in mid-July. Favourable weather conditions prevailed throughout the growing season. An estimated 12.5 million tonnes were harvested, 9 percent above the 2015 harvest and 28 percent above the five-year average. As of mid-August, the Government purchased 10.3 million tonnes of wheat out of the 11 million tonnes goal – an increase of 30 percent compared to the previous year. The Government plans to decrease reliance on imported wheat over the next four years.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop, accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on rainfall. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the west and northwestern regions of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country. Reports indicate that the Government plans to improve irrigation by introducing modern irrigation systems to 450 000 hectares of farmland.

Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2016/17 compared to last year

Cereal import requirements in 2016/17 (April/March) are forecast at 9.9 million tonnes, consisting of maize (5.3 million tonnes), wheat (2.2 million tonnes), barley (1.4 million tonnes) and rice (1.1 million tonnes), about 18 percent below last year's imports and the average of the last five years. The Ministry of Agriculture banned state imports of wheat for the current Persian year 1395 (which started on 20 March 2016) on the grounds of satisfactory domestic inventories and ample harvest. Importers usually receive foreign exchange at concessionary rates from the Government for imports of basic commodities (considered



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	9,779	11,500	12,500	9
Barley	2,783	3,000	3,000	0
Rice (paddy)	2,511	2,700	2,700	0
Others	1,481	910	910	0
Total	16,555	18,110	19,110	6

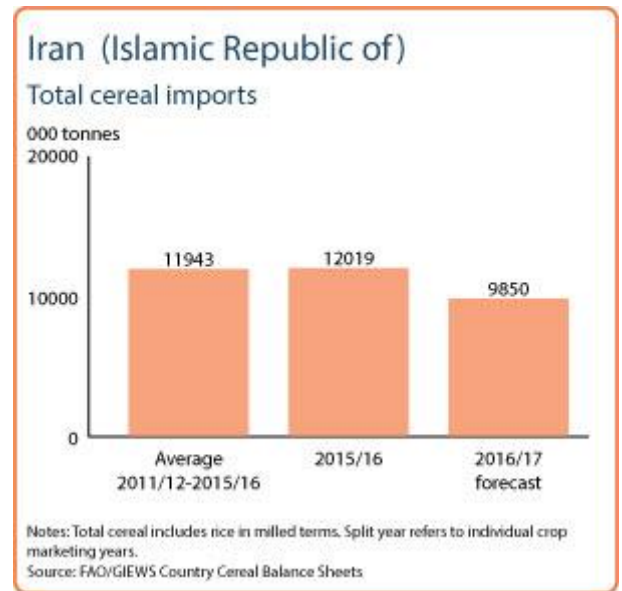
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

essential imports). Otherwise, importers use foreign exchange at market prices to finance their purchases.

Inflation easing, subsidy programme reform progressing

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in the period from 22 May to 21 June 2016 (Khordad 1395), the food and beverages price inflation index stood at 2.7 percent on yearly basis. By comparison, in June 2013, the food price inflation was above 50 percent year-on-year basis. The inflation declined sharply in 2014, following limited sanction relief based on the Joint Plan of Action from November 2013 and consequent economic recovery.

The official exchange rate stabilized in the first half of 2016, supported by slowing inflation and sharply rising oil exports. The Central Bank is planning to end the current dual exchange rate regime of the market rate and preferential official rate for essential imports by the end of the current Persian year of 1395 (20 March 2017). As of mid-September 2016, USD 1 traded for IRR 31 377 (Iranian Rials).





GIEWS Country Brief Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Reference Date: 19-February-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable conditions for winter grain planting and establishment
- Above-average wheat crop harvested in 2015
- Wheat import requirements decreasing in 2015/16
- Inflation rates ease

Planting of the 2016 winter grains started in September. Planting of wheat concluded in early November, while that of barley in mid-January. Weather conditions remained relatively favourable for land preparation and planting. Following a consistently warmer-than-normal autumn, below-normal temperatures in December eased winter wheat and barley toward dormancy across much of western and northern Iran (Islamic Republic of). Soil moisture and irrigation reserves remain favourable for winter grain development.

Above-average 2015 wheat crop harvested

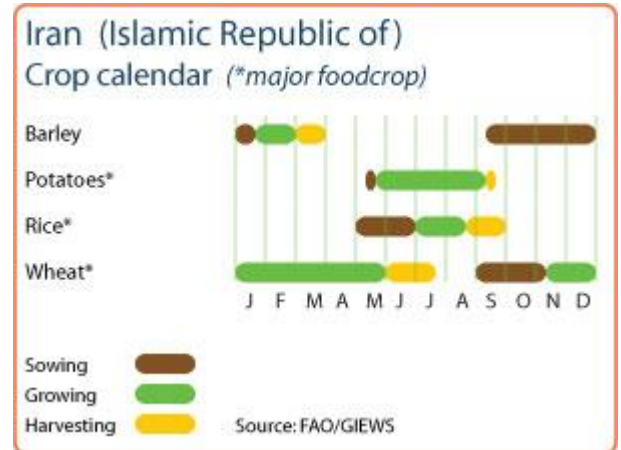
The 2015 wheat harvest concluded in mid-July. Favourable weather conditions prevailed throughout the growing season. The Government estimates the 2015 wheat production at 11.5 million tonnes, 8 percent above the 2014 harvest of 10.6 million tonnes and 16 percent above the five-year average.

The Government announced, on 20 June 2015, its plans to purchase 8 million tonnes of local wheat, an increase of 1 million tonnes compared to the previous year. The Government plans to decrease reliance on imported wheat over the next four years.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the west and northwestern region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2015/16 compared to last year

Cereal import requirements in 2015/16 (April/March) are forecast at 10 million tonnes, consisting of maize (5.3 million tonnes), wheat (2.2 million tonnes), barley (1.4 million tonnes) and rice (1.2 million tonnes), about 35 percent less than last year and some 12 percent below the average of the last five years.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	9 908	10 600	11 500	8
Barley	2 842	2 800	3 000	7
Rice (paddy)	2 574	2 300	2 700	17
Others	1 633	910	910	0
Total	16 956	16 610	18 110	9

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

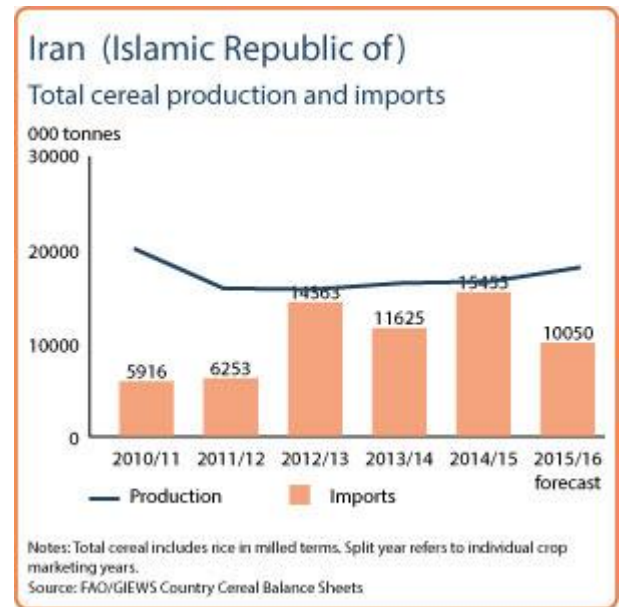
At the same time, Iran (Islamic Republic of) is emerging as a large wheat flour exporter, accounting for about 4 percent of the world total (the largest wheat flour exporters, Turkey and Kazakhstan, supply about 20 percent each). Iranian wheat exports are destined to other countries in the region, mostly Iraq.

Inflation easing, subsidy programme reform progressing

The Central Bank has maintained the fixed subsidized rate of about IRR 25 000 (Iranian Rial rates) per US dollar, introduced in early July 2013. Lately, the difference between the official and unofficial market rate is decreasing.

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in the period from 22 November to 21 December 2015 (Azar 1394), the food and beverages price inflation index stood at 2.2 percent on monthly and 5.3 percent on yearly basis. By comparison, in June 2013, the food price inflation was above 50 percent year-on-year basis. The inflation declined sharply in 2014, following more prudent policy-making.

Facing budgetary concerns, in 2010, the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer at IRR 455 000 per person (about USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per USD). The second round of subsidy reforms took place in the spring of 2014, increasing prices of electricity by 24 percent, water by 20 percent and subsidized petrol by 72 percent. In May 2015, the Government further increased the price of petrol by about 40 percent to IRR 10 000 (about 0.35 USD).



Reference Date: 29-June-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- About-average wheat crop forecast in 2015
- Wheat import requirements forecast at above-average levels in 2015/16
- Inflation rates ease
- Food security situation improves, but vulnerable groups in parts are still a concern

Average 2015 wheat crop forecast

The 2015 wheat harvest started in June and will continue up to mid-July. Favourable weather conditions prevailed throughout the growing season. In the first decade of June, hot and sunny weather promoted the harvest. FAO preliminary forecast puts the 2015 wheat production at 13 million tonnes, similar to 2014, and just slightly below the average.

The Government announced on 20 June 2015 its plans to purchase 8 million tonnes of local wheat, an increase of 1 million tonnes compared to the previous year. The Government plans to decrease reliance on imported wheat over the next four years.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the northwestern region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

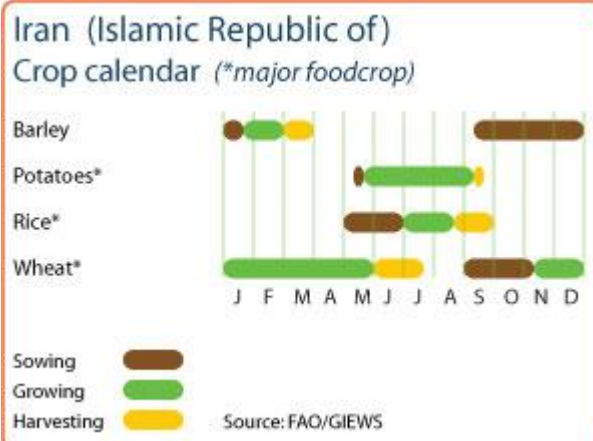
Cereal imports expected to decrease in 2015/16 compared to last year

Cereal import requirements in 2015/16 (April/March) are forecast at 14.9 million tonnes, consisting of maize (5.3 million tonnes), wheat (6.3 million tonnes), rice (1.6 million tonnes) and barley (1.7 million tonnes), about 8 percent less than last year's and some 30 percent above the average of the last five years.

At the same time, Iran is emerging as a large wheat flour exporter, exporting about 4 percent of the world total (the largest wheat flour exporters, Turkey and Kazakhstan, supply about 20 percent each). Iranian wheat exports are destined to other countries in the region, mostly Iraq.

Inflation easing, subsidy reform progressing

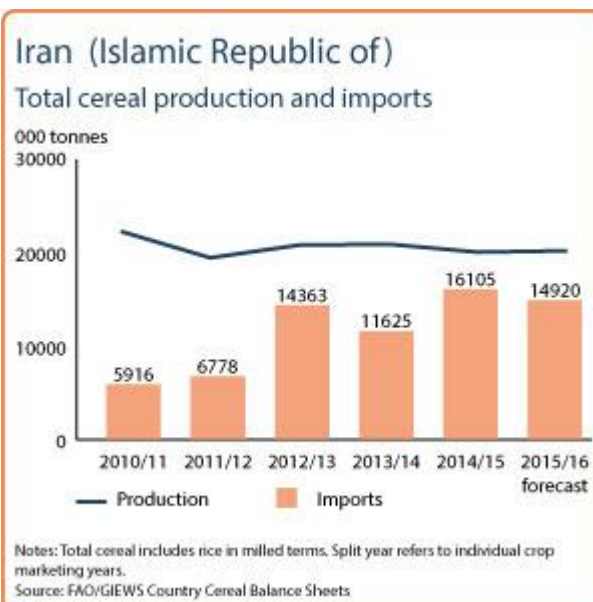
The Central Bank maintains the fixed subsidised rate of about IRR 25 000 (Iranian Rial Rates) per US dollar introduced in early July 2013. Lately the difference before the official and unofficial market rate is decreasing.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	13 340	13 000	13 000	0
Barley	3 280	3 200	3 300	3
Rice (paddy)	2 634	2 600	2 650	2
Others	1 450	1 260	1 260	0
Total	20 704	20 060	20 210	1

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



The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in March 2015 the food and beverages price inflation index, stood at 1.3 percent on monthly and 13.1 percent on yearly basis. For comparison, in June 2013 food price inflation was above 50 percent on year-on-year basis. The inflation declined sharply in 2014, following more prudent policymaking.

Facing budgetary concerns, in 2010 the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer at IRR 455 000 per person (about USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per USD). The second round of subsidy reforms took place in the spring of 2014, increasing prices of electricity (by 24 percent), water (20 percent) and subsidised petrol (by 72 percent). In May 2015 the Government further increased the price of petrol by about 40 percent to IRR 10 000 (about 0.35 USD), and plans to abolish lower priced 60 litres monthly quota for motorists later in 2015.

Reference Date: 21-August-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average wheat crop harvested in 2014
- Wheat import requirements forecast at above-average levels in 2014/15
- Inflation rates ease
- Food security situation improves, but vulnerable groups in parts are still a concern

Drought conditions affect wheat production in 2014

The 2014 wheat harvest was completed in July although final production estimates are not yet available. However, preliminary forecast puts the 2014 wheat production at 13 million tonnes, 7 percent lower than the 2013 wheat harvest due mainly to drought conditions that affected yields

Since the beginning of the fiscal year in March 2014, the Government purchased 6.5 million tonnes of wheat domestically at the cost of about 69 trillion rials (USD 2.58 billion on the official rate of 26 543 rials per dollar). Compared to the same period last year, the Government purchases increased by about 2.4 million tonnes. The Government plans to decrease reliance on imported wheat over the next four years.

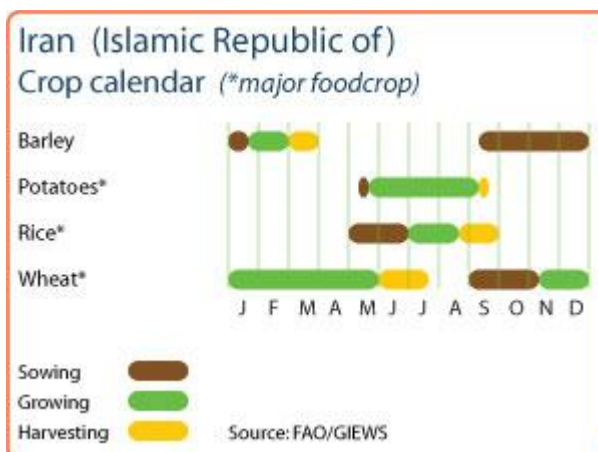
Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Cereal imports expected to increase in 2014/15 compared to last year

To offset below-average production, Iran's state grain buyer continues to build its strategic stocks in light of concerns about domestic food security. Iran has been active on international wheat market taking advantage of low prices. Buyers face payment issues as banks steer away from financing the deals. Reports indicate that significant amounts of grain and sugar are caught in various transits due to payment problems.

Total cereal imports are forecast at 12.6 million tonnes in 2014/15 (April/March) - consisting of maize (4.8 million tonnes), wheat (6 million tonnes), rice (1.6 million tonnes) and barley (1 million tonnes) - about 14 percent more than last year's and some 34 percent above the average of the last five years.

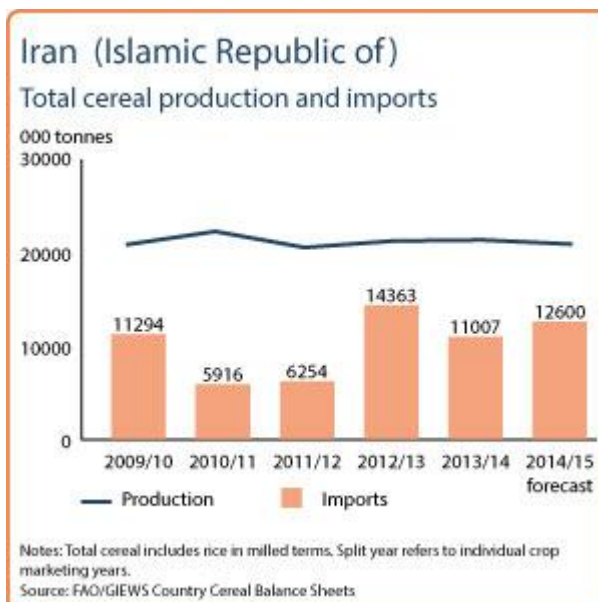
In July 2014, the Government increased the import duty on basmati rice to 40 percent (up from 22 percent previously) and raised the accepted level of arsenic in supplies to 120 ppb (parts per billion), up from 80 ppb.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	13 660	14 000	13 000	-7
Barley	3 330	3 200	3 200	0
Rice (paddy)	2 743	2 900	2 950	2
Others	1 529	1 260	1 260	0
Total	21 261	21 360	20 410	-4

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



Inflation easing, subsidy reform progressing

The Central Bank maintains the fixed subsidised rate of about Iranian Rial Rates (IRR) 26 000 per US dollar introduced in early July 2013, although the unofficial market rate remains substantially weaker contributing to increased concerns about food security by limiting the purchasing power of the population, especially of the poor.

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in June 2014 the food and beverages price inflation index, stood at 1.6 percent on monthly and 4.2 percent on yearly basis. For comparison, in June 2013 food price inflation was above 50 percent on year-on-year basis.

Facing budgetary concerns, in 2010 the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer at IRR 455 000 per person (about USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per USD). The second round of subsidy reforms took place in spring 2014, increasing prices of electricity (by 24 percent), water (20 percent) and subsidised petrol (by 72 percent). At the moment it remains unclear how much the compensatory payment will be scaled back.

GIEWS Country Brief

Iran (Islamic Republic of)



Reference Date: 28-January-2014

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Planting of the 2014 wheat crop is completed, while planting of barley is still underway. In the main rainfed cropping areas in the northwest, drier than normal conditions in October were followed by abundant precipitation in November, which improved soil moisture and favoured the establishment of crops, before the dormancy period in winter. Crops also benefited from January storms which further recharged irrigation reserves for warm season crops.

Above average wheat production in 2013

Harvesting of 2013 wheat crop was completed last August. Preliminary estimates indicate a 2013 wheat production of about 14 million tonnes, slightly exceeding the already above average harvest in 2012.

Cereal imports expected to decline in 2013/14 compared to last year but would still remain high

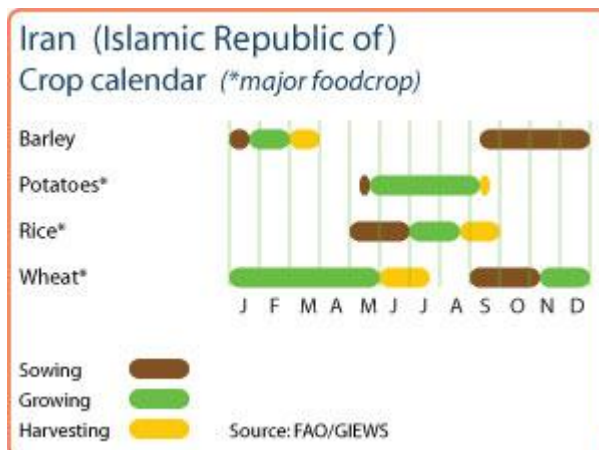
Total cereal imports are forecast at 11 million tonnes in 2013/14 (April/March) - consisting of maize (4 million tonnes), wheat (4 million tonnes), rice (1.5 million tonnes) and barley (1.2 million tonnes) - about 25 percent less than last year's high levels but still 8 percent above the average of the last five years.

The forecast wheat imports, at about 4 million tonnes, are one-third less than last year, mainly due to higher carryover stocks following large purchases in 2012.

Iran's state grain buyer continues to build its strategic stocks in light of concerns about domestic food security.

Sharp currency devaluation raises concern for food security and inflation

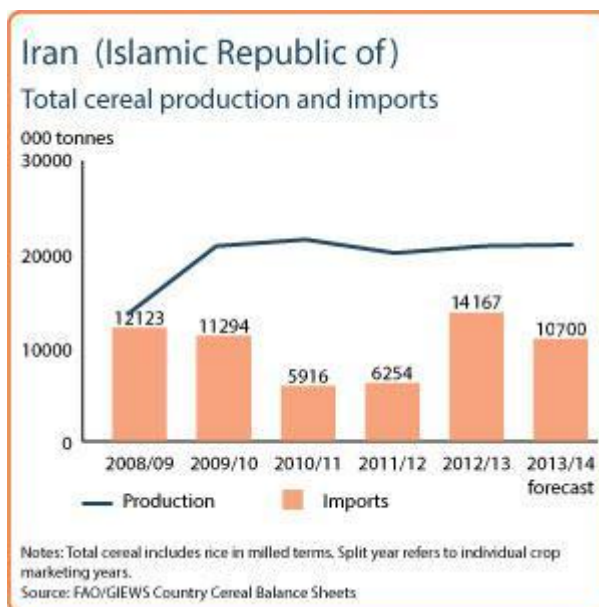
Although the Rial (the local currency) has been experiencing devaluation since 2011, in early July 2013 the Central Bank devalued the national currency's fixed subsidised rate from IRR 12 260 for USD 1 to IRR 24 779. This sharp devaluation of the Rial contributed to increased concerns about inflationary pressures and food security by limiting the purchasing power of the population, especially of the poor. The Rial depreciation is tied to international sanctions and lower oil exports. The energy sector provides about 80 percent of the total export revenue.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	12,460	13,800	14,000	1
Barley	3,000	3,400	3,200	-6
Rice (paddy)	2,285	2,400	2,540	6
Others	1,634	1,260	1,260	0
Total	19,379	20,860	21,000	1

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



Facing budgetary concerns, the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer, currently at IRR 455 000 per person (about USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per USD).

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in November 2013 the food and beverages price inflation index remained unchanged compared to the previous month and was 38.7 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

GIEWS Country Brief

Iran (Islamic Republic of)



Reference Date: 20-November-2013

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in the country. Wheat is the dominant cereal crop accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Above average wheat production forecast in 2013

Planting of the 2014 wheat crop is just completed, while planting of barley is still underway. In the main rainfed cropping areas in the northwest, drier than normal conditions in October were followed by abundant precipitation in November, which improved soil moisture and favoured the establishment of crops, before the dormancy period in winter.

Harvesting of 2013 wheat crop was completed last August. The final production estimates are not yet available; however, preliminary forecasts indicate a 2013 wheat production of about 14 million tonnes, slightly exceeding the already above average harvest in 2012.

In June 2013, the Central Bank of Iran allocated IRR 70 trillion (USD 5.7 billion) for buying wheat from domestic farmers. The Government increased the guaranteed purchase price of wheat from IRR 7 200 to IRR 8 000. As of mid August 2013, about 4.3 million tonnes of wheat were purchased domestically by the state trading institution.

Cereal imports expected to decline in 2013/14 compared to last year but would still remain high

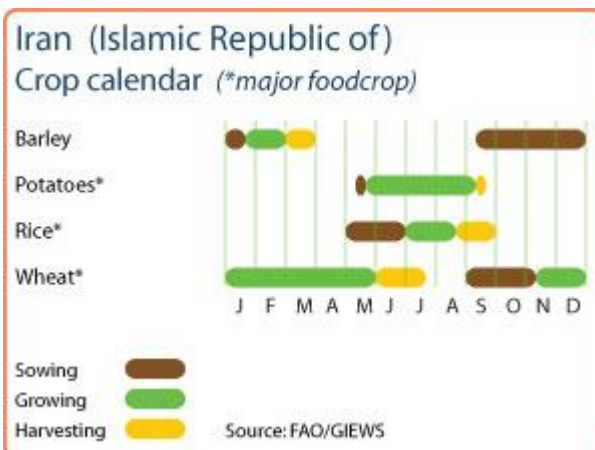
Total cereal imports, mainly consisting of maize (4 million tonnes), wheat (4 million tonnes), rice (1.5 million tonnes) and barley (1.2 million tonnes) are forecast at 11 million tonnes in 2013/14 (April/March), about 25 percent less than last year's high levels but still 8 percent above the average of the last five years.

The forecast wheat imports, at about 4 million tonnes, are one-third less than last year, mainly due to higher carryover stocks following large purchases in 2012.

Iran's state grain buyer continues to build its strategic stocks in light of concerns about domestic food security.

Sharp currency devaluation raises concern for food security and inflation

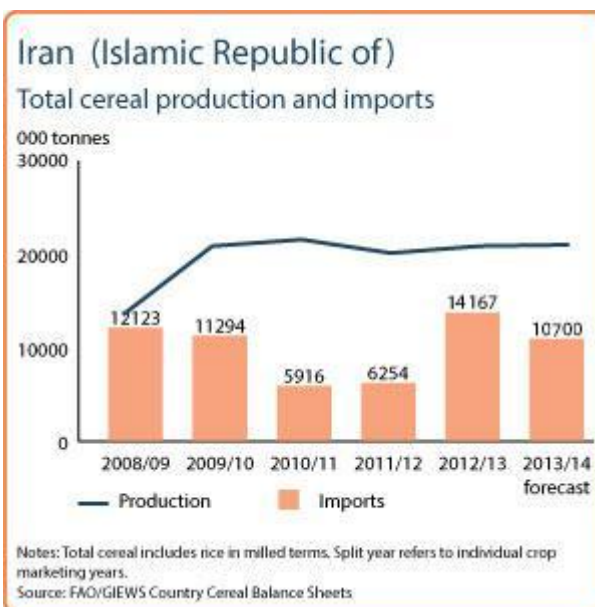
Although the Rial (the local currency) has been experiencing devaluation since 2011, in early July 2013 the Central Bank devalued the national currency's fixed subsidised rate from IRR 12 260 for USD 1 to IRR 24 779. This sharp devaluation of the Rial contributed to increased concerns about inflationary pressures and food security by limiting the purchasing power of the population, especially of the poor. The Rial depreciation is tied to international sanctions and lower oil exports. The energy sector provides about 80 percent of the total export revenue.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	12,460	13,800	14,000	1
Barley	3,000	3,400	3,200	-6
Rice (paddy)	2,285	2,400	2,540	6
Others	1,634	1,260	1,260	0
Total	19,379	20,860	21,000	1

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



Facing budgetary concerns, the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer, currently at IRR 455 000 per person (about USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per US dollar).

The latest official information available from the Central Bank indicates that in September 2013 the food and beverages price inflation index increased by 2 percent from the previous month and was 51 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

Reference Date: 28-September-2013

Above average wheat production forecast in 2013

The harvesting of 2013 wheat crop was completed in August. The final production estimates are not yet available, however, preliminary forecast puts the 2013 wheat production at 14 million tonnes, slightly exceeding the already above average harvest in 2012.

In June 2013, the Central Bank of Iran allocated IRR 70 trillion (USD 5.7 billion on the official rate of IRR 12 260 per dollar) for buying wheat from domestic farmers. In the current season the Government increased the guaranteed purchase price of wheat from IRR 7 200 to IRR 8 000. As of mid August 2013, about 4.3 million tonnes of wheat were purchased domestically by state traders.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period. While wheat is the dominant cereal in the country accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of the seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Wheat imports expected to decline but overall cereal imports expected to remain high in 2013/14 marketing year (April/March)

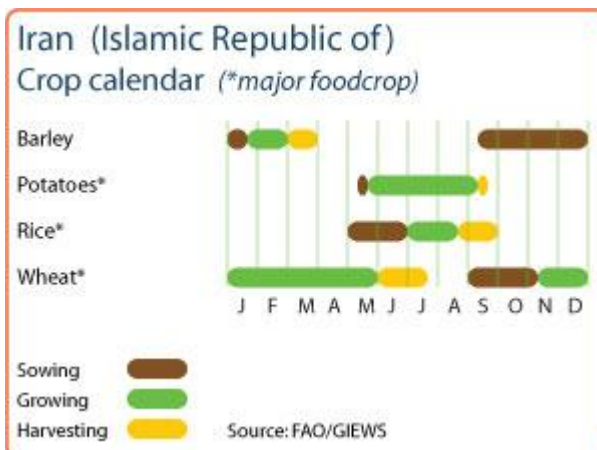
Wheat imports in the new marketing year are forecast at 4 million tonnes, about two-thirds of the wheat imports of 6.1 million tonnes in the previous year, mainly due to higher carryover stocks following large purchases in 2012. Total cereal imports, however, are forecast to remain relatively high at 11 million tonnes, consisting of maize, wheat and rice.

Iran's state grain buyer continues to build its strategic stocks in light of concerns about domestic food security. Reports from traders indicate that, so far, in 2013/14 (April/March marketing year) Iran made large purchases of cereals on the international markets, including a purchase of 800 000 tonnes of wheat of Russian and Baltic Sea origin ahead of the country's elections in June 2013. Discussions are underway with specific trading partners.

Sharp currency devaluation raises concern about food security and inflation

Although the Rial (the local currency) has been experiencing devaluation since 2011, in early July 2013 the Central Bank devalued the national currency's fixed subsidised rate from IRR 12 260 for USD 1 to IRR 24 779. The recent sharp devaluation of the Rial contributed to increased concerns about inflationary pressures and food security by limiting the purchasing power of the population, especially of the poor. The Rial depreciation is tied to international sanctions and lower oil exports. The energy sector provides about 80 percent of the total export revenue.

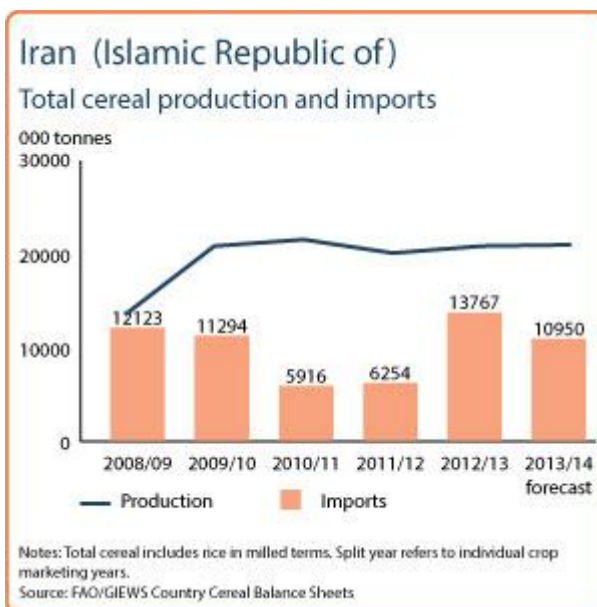
Facing budgetary concerns, the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer, currently at IRR 455 000 per person (about



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	12,460	13,800	14,000	1
Barley	3,000	3,400	3,200	-6
Rice (paddy)	2,285	2,400	2,540	6
Others	1,634	1,260	1,260	0
Total	19,379	20,860	21,000	1

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



USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per dollar). The latest official information available from the Central Bank published for the period from 22 June to 22 July 2013 indicates that the food and beverages price inflation reached 52 percent relative to the same time period in 2012 and the year on year increase in 2012 for the same period was 42 percent.

Reference Date: 30-July-2013

Above average wheat production forecast in 2013

The 2013 wheat harvest is nearing completion. The final production estimates are not yet available, however, preliminary forecast puts the 2013 wheat production at 14.5 million tonnes, exceeding by some 5 percent the already above average harvest in 2012.

In June 2013, the Central Bank of Iran allocated IRR 70 trillion (USD 5.7 billion on the official rate of IRR 12 260 per dollar) for buying wheat from domestic farmers. In the current season the Government increased the guaranteed purchase price of wheat from IRR 7 200 to IRR 8 000. As of end of July 2013, about 3 million tonnes of wheat were purchased domestically.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period. While wheat is the dominant cereal in the country accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of the seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Wheat imports expected to decline but overall cereal imports expected to remain high in 2013/14 marketing year (April/March)

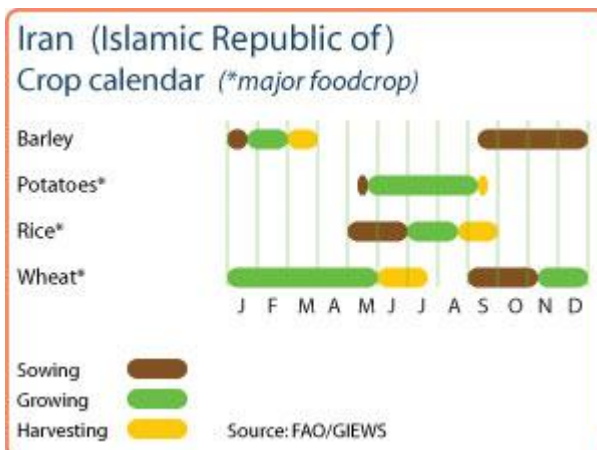
Wheat imports in the new marketing year are forecast at 2 million tonnes, about one-third of the wheat imports of 6.1 million tonnes in the previous year, mainly due to higher carryover stocks following large purchases in 2012. Total cereal imports, however, are forecast to remain relatively high at 9.4 million tonnes, consisting of maize, wheat and rice.

Iran's state grain buyer continues to build its strategic stocks in light of concerns about domestic food security. Reports from traders indicate that, so far, in 2013/14 (April/March marketing year) Iran made large purchases of cereals on the international markets, including a purchase of 800 000 tonnes of wheat of Russian and Baltic Sea origin ahead of the country's elections in June 2013. Discussions are underway with specific trading partners.

Sharp currency devaluation raises concern about food security and inflation

Although the Rial (the local currency) has been experiencing devaluation since 2011, in early July 2013 the Central Bank devalued the national currency's fixed subsidised rate from IRR 12 260 for USD 1 to IRR 24 779. The recent sharp devaluation of the Rial contributed to increased concerns about inflationary pressures and food security by limiting the purchasing power of the population, especially of the poor. The Rial depreciation is tied to international sanctions and lower oil exports. The energy sector provides about 80 percent of the total export revenue.

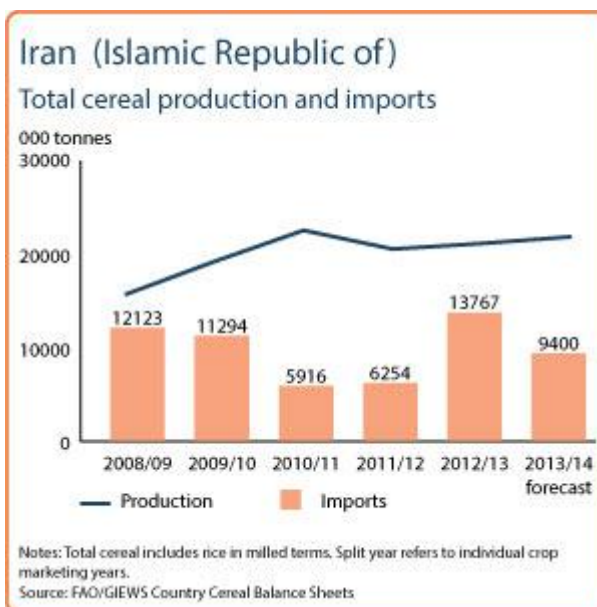
Facing budgetary concerns, the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy programme on fuel, electricity and some commodities and replace them with a cash transfer, currently at IRR 455 000 per person (about



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13,020	13,800	14,500	5
Barley	2,780	3,200	3,200	0
Rice (paddy)	2,285	2,400	2,400	0
Others	1,733	1,740	1,754	1
Total	19,818	21,140	21,854	3

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



USD 37 at the pre-devaluation rate of IRR 12 260 per dollar). The latest official information available from the Central Bank published for the period from 21 April to 20 May 2013 indicates that the food and beverage price inflation reached 58 percent relative to the same time period in 2012, and 7.8 percent relative to the preceding month in 2013. The year on year increase in 2012 for the same period was 35 percent.

Reference Date: 18-October-2012

Above average wheat production forecast in 2012

The 2012 wheat harvest was completed last July while the harvest of the rice crop has just been concluded. The final production estimates are not yet available, however, preliminary forecast puts the 2012 wheat production at 13.8 million tonnes, some 2 percent above 2011.

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period. While wheat is the dominant cereal in the country accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the bulk of the wheat crop depends on the performance of the seasonal precipitation. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country. Small amounts of rice and maize are also produced in the country.

Wheat imports expected to decline but overall cereal imports expected to remain high in 2012/13 marketing year (April/March)

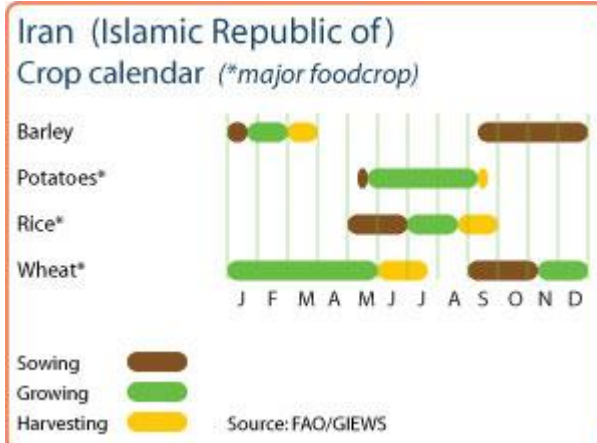
Wheat imports in the new marketing year are forecast at 1.7 million tonnes, some 10 percent below the previous year, mainly due to higher carryover stocks following large purchases in the early months of 2012. Total cereal imports, however, are forecast to remain high at 7.5 million tonnes, consisting of maize, wheat and rice.

Iran's state grain buyer continues to build its strategic stocks in light of increased international prices and concerns about domestic food security. Reports indicate that in September 2012 Iran made large purchases of cereals on the international markets. Discussions are underway with specific trading partners.

Sharp currency devaluation raises concern about food security

The recent sharp devaluation of the Rial (the local currency) contributed to increased concerns about inflationary pressures and food security by limiting the purchasing power of the population, especially of the poor. The Rial depreciated by over 80 percent since the end of 2011 following international sanctions and diminishing oil exports. The energy sector provides about 80 percent of the total export revenue.

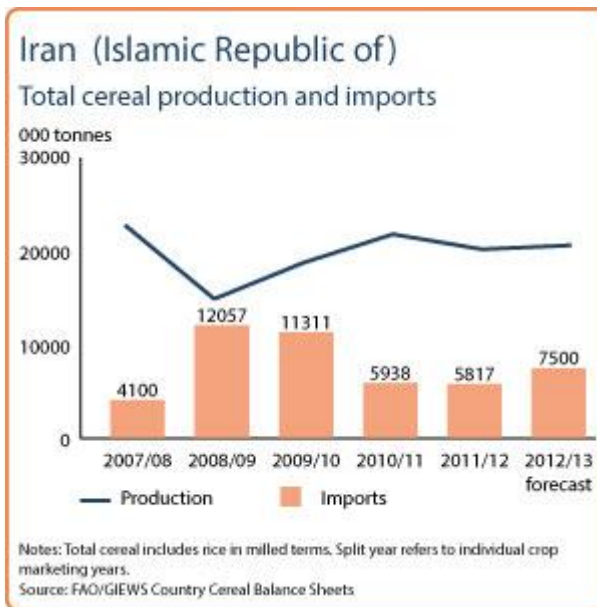
Facing budgetary concerns, the Government attempted to phase out the subsidy program. Although some subsidies for staples (milk, bread, rice, vegetables, yoghurt) remain in place, food prices have generally increased. The latest official information available from the Central Bank published for the period from March 21 to April 20 2012, indicates that the food and beverage price inflation reached 33 percent relative to the same time period in 2011, and 5.3 percent relative to the preceding month in 2012. The year on year increase in 2011 for the same period was 25.3 percent.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13,260	13,500	13,800	2
Barley	2,830	3,000	3,200	7
Rice (paddy)	2,358	2,400	2,400	0
Others	1,237	1,295	1,223	-6
Total	19,685	20,195	20,623	2

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



Reference Date: 19-April-2012

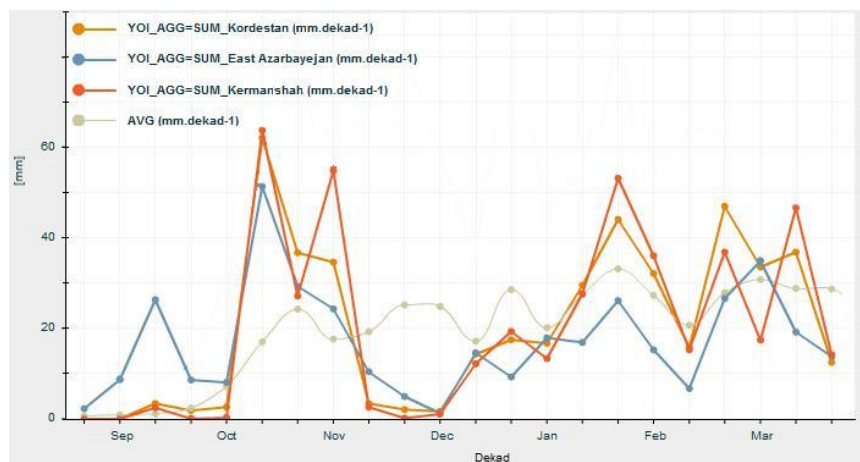
Near average wheat production expected for 2012

Harvesting of the barley crop is complete, while main staple wheat crop, to be harvested from June, is nearing maturity. Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Wheat is the dominant cereal in the country accounting for almost 70 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total wheat area, thus the majority of wheat crop depends on the performance of the rains. Most of the rainfed wheat crop is concentrated in the north-western region of the country.

Judging from the satellite based estimates, favourable rains were recorded at the start of the season from September through mid-November over northern and central areas of the country. However, this was followed by a dry or below average precipitation for six dekads from late-November to mid-January in the main wheat producing areas (see Figure 1). Rains picked up since mid-January to normal to above normal levels in the northern areas especially along the Caspian Sea. By contrast, southern and central parts of the country continue to experience below average precipitation. Thus, following the erratic rainfall in the main wheat producing areas, the 2012 wheat production is preliminarily forecast at 13.5 million tonnes, below the 2011 harvest and about the same level as the average of the previous five-years.

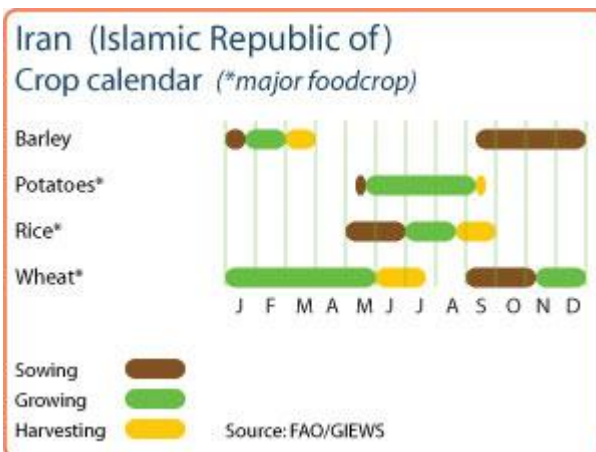
Small amounts of rice and maize are produced in the country.

Figure 1: Iran – Rainfall (mm) for three main wheat-growing provinces, from 1st dekad of September 2011 to 3rd dekad of March 2012, in comparison with the 2010-2011 year



Cereal imports expected to remain high in 2012/13 marketing year (April/March)

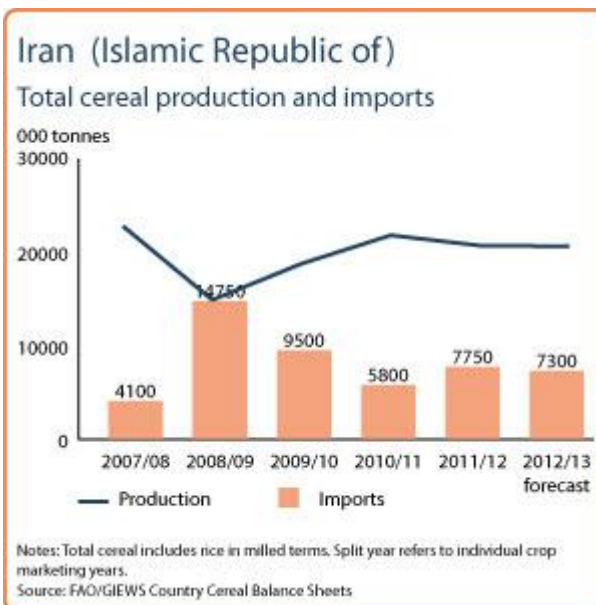
Despite the anticipated lower production in 2012, wheat imports in the new marketing year are forecast at 1.7 million tonnes, some 32 percent below the previous year mainly due to higher carryover stocks from the current season due to large purchases in early months of 2012. Total cereal imports, however, are forecast to remain high at 7.3 million tonnes, consisting of maize, wheat and rice.



Iran (Islamic Republic of) Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13 360	14 000	13 500	-4
Barley	2 830	3 000	3 000	0
Rice (paddy)	2 358	2 400	2 400	0
Others	1 237	1 295	1 223	-6
Total	19 785	20 695	20 123	-3

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



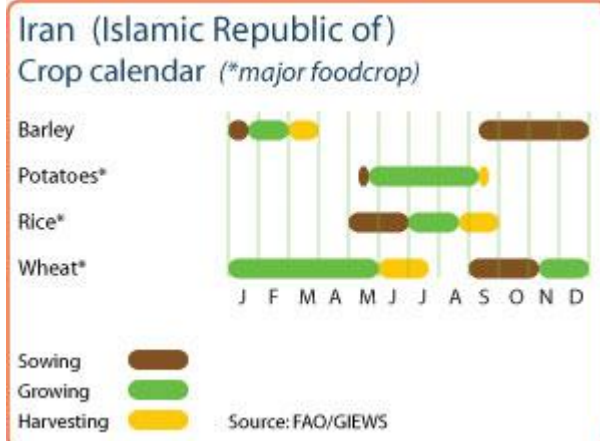
Reference Date: 14-February-2012

Mixed rainfall performance at the start of the 2011/12 winter cropping season

Planting of the 2011/12 winter main crops, wheat and barley, is complete. Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Generally, wheat is harvested in June and July while winter barley is harvested earlier in March. Favourable early season rains in October and November over northern and central areas of the country are expected to benefit planting and early development of crops. Although dry weather prevailed during December, rains resumed more normal patterns in January over northern areas of the country. By contrast, southern and central parts of the country continue to experience below average precipitation.

The 2011 wheat production is estimated at 13.8 million tonnes, some 11 percent below the record harvest a year earlier. Small amounts of rice and maize are produced in the country.

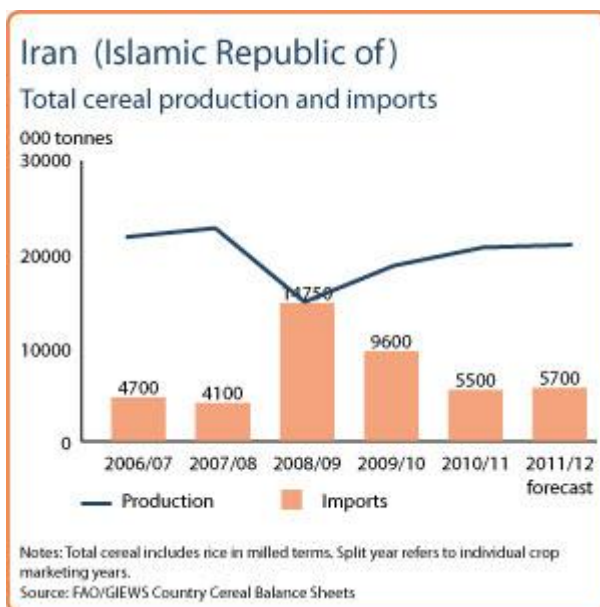
Wheat imports in 2011/12 (April/March) are forecast at 1.3 million tonnes, following the good wheat harvest in 2011. The total cereal imports for 2011/12 are estimated at 5.7 million tonnes, consisting of maize, wheat and rice.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	13 560	15 500	13 800	-11
Barley	2 830	3 500	3 000	-14
Rice (paddy)	2 400	2 288	2 400	5
Others	1 320	1 010	1 295	28
Total	20 110	22 298	20 495	-8

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



GIEWS Country Brief

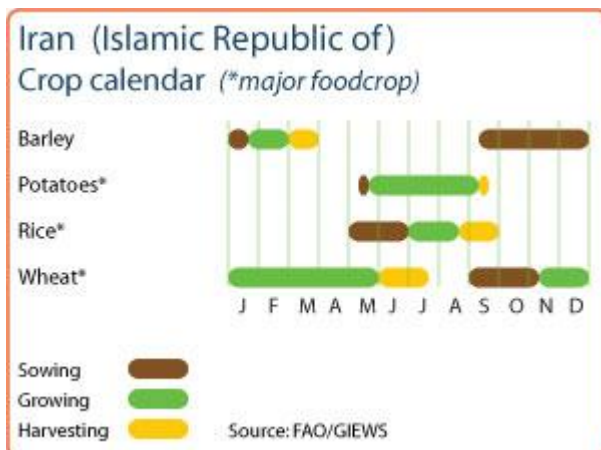
Iran (Islamic Republic of)



Reference Date: 30-May-2011

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Generally, wheat is harvested in June and July while winter barley is harvested earlier in March. The current growing season has been near normal and the wheat production in 2011, estimated at 13.5 million tonnes, is similar to that of the year before. Small amounts of rice and maize are produced in the country.

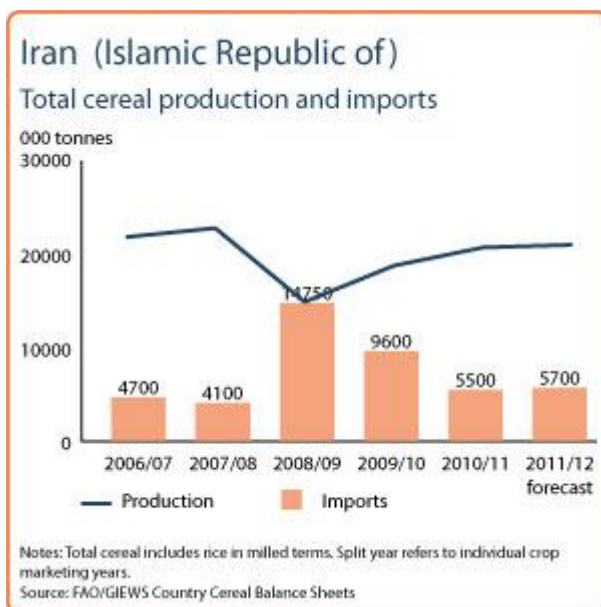
The total cereal imports in 2011/12 (April/March) are expected to be similar to the level in 2010/11 and preliminarily estimated at 5.7 million tonnes, consisting of maize, wheat and rice.



Iran (Islamic Republic of) Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13 160	13 500	13 500	0
Barley	2 870	3 700	3 700	0
Rice (paddy)	2 443	2 500	2 500	0
Others	10	10	10	0
Total	19 792	20 710	20 995	1

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



GIEWS Country Brief

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

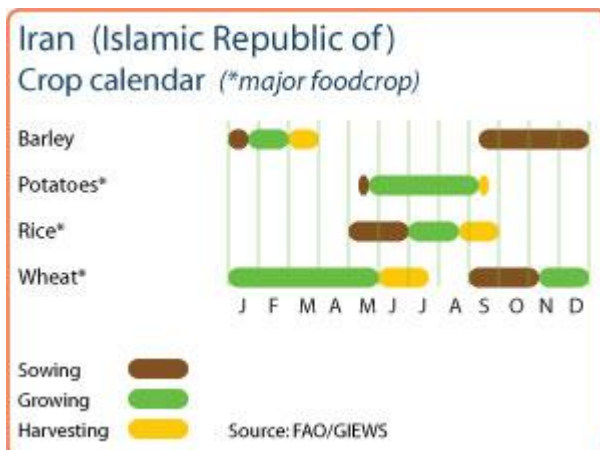


Reference Date: 11-February-2011

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Generally, wheat is harvested in June and July while winter barley is harvested earlier in March. Rains in February, following below average precipitation since the beginning of the season improved soil moisture for the 2011 wheat crop.

The 2010 wheat output is estimated at 14.5 million tonnes, recovering from the reduced harvest of 2009. With this good wheat harvest, wheat imports in 2010/11 (April/March) are estimated to fall to 1.5 million tonnes. The total cereal imports for 2010/11 are estimated at 6.6 million tonnes, significantly lower than the previous two drought years.

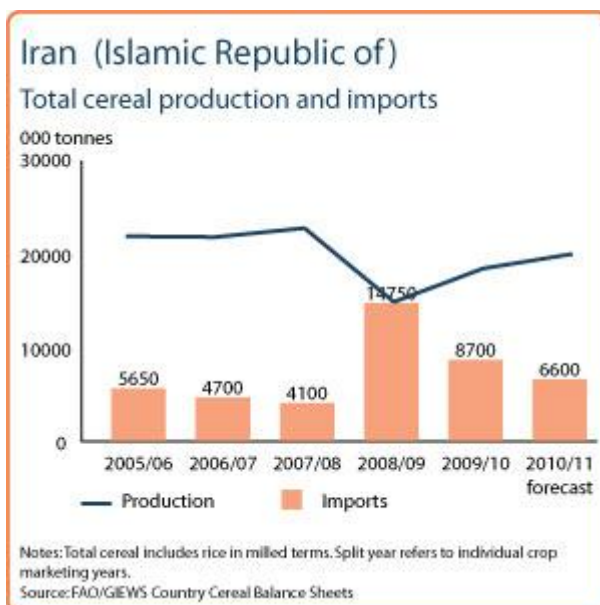
Small amount of rice is produced in the country. The 2010 harvest, completed in August, was estimated at 2.5 million tonnes, about 11 percent up from 2009, but still below average.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

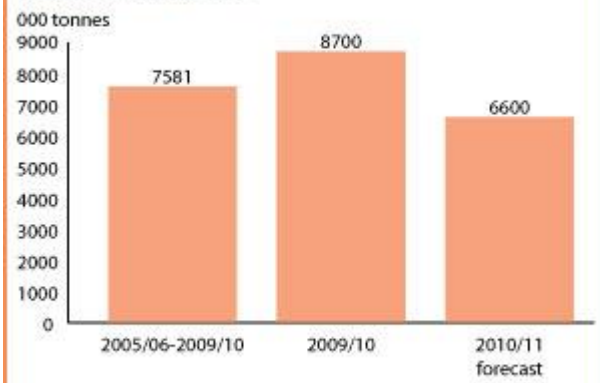
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13322	13000	14500	12
Barley	2641	2000	2000	0
Rice (paddy)	2490	2253	2500	11
Others	1522	1210	1010	-17
Total	19975	18463	20010	8

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



Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Total cereal imports



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

GIEWS Country Brief

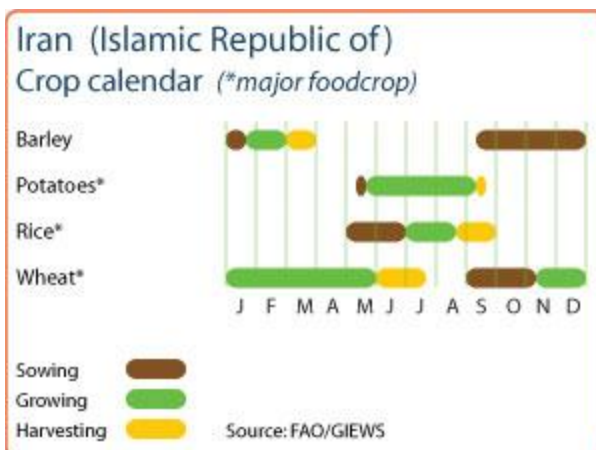
Iran (Islamic Republic of)



Reference Date: 09-November-2010

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Generally, wheat is harvested in June and July while winter barley is harvested earlier in March. The 2010 wheat output is estimated at 14.5 million tonnes, recovering from the reduced harvest of 2009. With the expected good wheat crop this year, wheat imports in 2010/11 are expected to fall to 1.7 million tonnes.

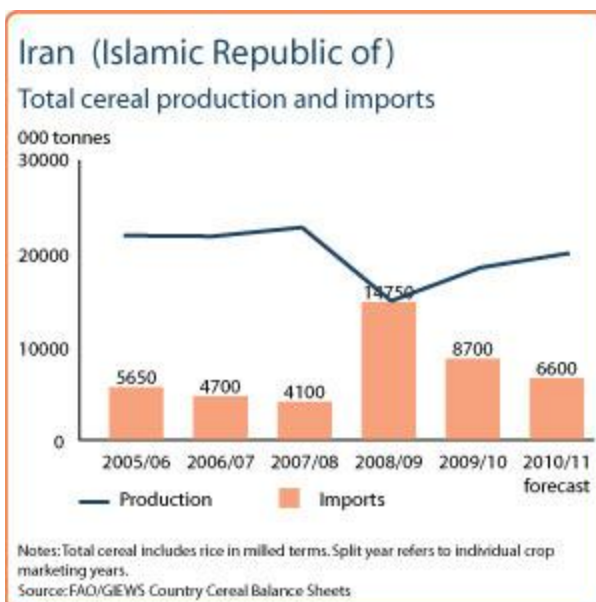
Small amount of rice is produced in the country. This year's harvest, completed in August, is estimated at 2.5 million tonnes, about 11 percent up from 2009, but still below average.



Iran (Islamic Republic of) Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13322	13000	14500	12
Barley	2641	2000	2000	0
Rice (paddy)	2490	2253	2500	11
Others	1522	1210	1010	-17
Total	19975	18463	20010	8

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



GIEWS Country Brief

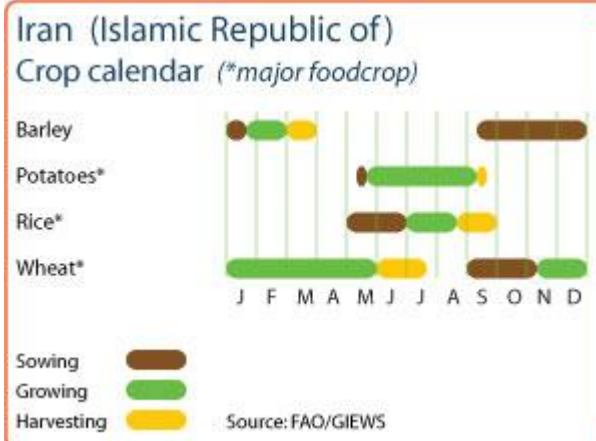
Iran (Islamic Republic of)



Reference Date: 03-September-2010

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Generally wheat is harvested in June and July while winter barley is harvested earlier in March. The 2010 wheat output is forecast at 14.5 million tonnes, recovering from the reduced harvest of 2009. With the expected good wheat crop this year, wheat imports in 2009/10 are expected to fall to 3 million tonnes.

Small amount of rice is produced in the country. This year's harvest just completed in August is estimated at 2.8 million tonnes slightly up from good harvest of 2009.



Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	13322	13000	14500	12
Barley	2641	2000	2000	0
Rice (paddy)	2579	2700	2800	4
Others	1522	1210	1010	-17
Total	20064	18910	20310	7

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

