

## Food Security Information Note - FOSIN

### Food Situation in the Sahel and West Africa: Definitive Assessment of the 2006/07 Agricultural Campaign in the Region

Note 7 – March 2007

#### 1. An overall satisfactory assessment of the food situation has been confirmed

The Regional Food Security Monitoring Meeting of the Sahel and West Africa was held from 20 to 22 March 2007 in Mbodiène, Senegal, confirmed an overall satisfactory food situation for the 2006-7 Agricultural Campaign.

CILSS countries' total cereal production, revised in March 2007 taking into account off-season (irrigated and recessional) crops, are estimated at **15 102 134 tonnes**, which is 3% higher than that of 2005-6 and 19% higher than the average last five-year average. Production is higher as compared to last year in all countries except for **Mauritania** and **Senegal** where production has dropped by **27%** and **29%** respectively.

Thus, the Sahel's gross cereal production per capita is higher than the average of the last five years (**10%**). This is true for all of the countries except for **Senegal** and **Mauritania** where production per capita has decreased by **17%** and **8%** respectively compared to the average of the last five years.

Overall, this constitutes a net regional surplus of **1 901 323 tonnes**. This cereal surplus takes into account intended rice imports (trade and aid) estimated at **1 369 700 tonnes** and an estimated **809 400 tonnes** of wheat.

This favourable situation will contribute to the reconstitution of national and security stocks, traders stocks and in particular farmers' stocks.

In non-Sahelian coastal countries, cereal production is generally good with the following estimates: **Benin** (1 095 505 tonnes), **Guinea Conakry** (2 117 858 tonnes) and **Togo** (888 984 tonnes).

In **Nigeria**, cereal production of the revised 2006-7 Agricultural Campaign is at 28 871 000 tonnes as compared to 26 942 000 tonnes in 2005-06, reflecting an increase of **7%**.

Staple food products markets continue to be generally well-supplied with generally low or stabilised prices except, for various reasons, in Chad, Guinea and Mauritania. Overall, prices during February were less than those at the same time the previous year.

#### 2. Although Pockets of Food Insecurity still Remain

Despite overall satisfactory cereal production in the Sahel, numerous pockets of food insecurity exist even in countries registering a cereal surplus.

Thus, extremely vulnerable zones in Niger include villages which are experiencing a significant cereal deficit and have little adjustment capacity. 26 communes with a total population of 376 830 spread over 459 villages are in an extremely vulnerable situation.

There are 9 structurally deficient Departments in Chad where there are vulnerable populations in conflict zones in the East of the country as well as those affected by floods. In the eastern conflict zones more than 115 000 displaced people are experiencing a very precarious food situation. The vulnerable flood-affected population represents approximately **79 000 people**.

#### 3. What can be done?

As was largely confirmed during this Agricultural Campaign, the necessary steps to take on the whole should focus on strengthening mechanisms concerning storage and the close monitoring of those displaced in the East of Chad considered the most vulnerable.

In reference to the most vulnerable populations, appropriate strategies should also be developed, combining both emergency actions where the situation is most critical like in eastern Chad, but mostly development actions aiming to strengthen livelihoods of vulnerable communities.



Thus, following the recent work carried out at the regional food security monitoring meeting, each of the countries concerned put forward a plan of action aiming to anticipate and prevent a potential food crisis. The following measures are envisaged:

- a. **Burkina Faso and Niger:** Mobilisation and strengthening of stock and cereal banks in particular in identified at-risk zones to contribute to price stabilisation.
- b. **Chad, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Niger:**
  - Setting up “*Food for work*” mechanisms, affordable sale price, “*Cash for Work*”, as well as caring for malnourished children;
  - Monitoring market prices;
  - Monitoring the price of cashew nuts which greatly affects Bissau Guinean household revenues.

- c. **The Gambia:** Support inputs supply, set up cereal banks as well as imports in order to stabilise prices.

Also drawing on lessons from the 2006-7 Agricultural Campaign, some actions have also been suggested:

- a. **Mali:** Establishing a concerted Mali-Mauritania mechanism combating grain eating birds as is the case between Senegal and Mauritania. This recommendation can only be effective if measures to combat grain eating birds undertaken in Mali are applied in Mauritania as well.
- b. **Senegal:** Strengthening input access and supply mechanisms and seed distribution. These two issues are the result of a sharp drop in production (29% as compared to last year).

## ▶▶ Information Sources

This analytical note is based on information provided by various specialised institutions. For more details, please consult these documents and visit the following web-sites:

CILSS/SE, 2007. Regional Meeting of Food Monitoring in West Africa, Mbour, 20-22 March 2007, Final Report, 17 p.

FEWS NET, 2007: Executive Overview of Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa, February 28, 2007, 2 p.

FEWS NET, 2007. Tchad : Alerte d'urgence alimentaire, 16 mars 2007, 2 p.

FEWS NET, 2007. Burkina Faso : Rapport mensuel sur la sécurité alimentaire, Février 2007, 5 p.

Afrique Verte, 2007. Point sur la situation alimentaire au Sahel – Suivi de campagne N°71 Point début Mars 2007, 5 p.

CSAO : [www.oecd.org/sah](http://www.oecd.org/sah)

CILSS : [www.cilss.bf](http://www.cilss.bf) et [www.agrhymet.ne](http://www.agrhymet.ne)

FEWS NET: [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net)

FAO : [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

PAM: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

Afrique Verte [www.afriqueverte.org](http://www.afriqueverte.org)

OCHA : [www.humanitarianinfo.org](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org) & <http://ochaonline.un.org/>

SISA/CNSA : [www.sisa.africa-web.org](http://www.sisa.africa-web.org)

Reliefweb: [www.reliefweb.int/](http://www.reliefweb.int/)

## ▶▶ For decisions and concrete action on food security and nutrition in the Sahel and West Africa

Aiming to make a definitive assessment of the food and nutrition situation as well as take concrete decisions with regard to preventing potential food and nutrition crises, and sustainable management of food insecurity, a meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (FCPN) will be held on 5 and 6 April 2007 in Paris at OECD Headquarters.

This meeting will also be the opportunity to launch the FCPN internet site: [www.food-security.net](http://www.food-security.net)

### ►►► For a better understanding of the agricultural and food situation in Nigeria

Nigeria plays a determining role in food security in Sahel countries, as revealed by the lessons learned during the recent 2004/2005 food crisis.

With the aim to better understanding and taking into account the role played by Nigeria, a joint FAO/CILSS/FEWS NET mission was carried out in Northern Nigeria.

The mission report provides an analysis and evaluation of the food and agricultural situation. It is available via the link:

<http://www.fews.net/resources/gcontent/pdf/1001220.pdf>

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The consortium IFAD/FAO/WFP, in partnership with other technical and regional (CILSS, ECOWAS, ROPPA, the SWAC and UEMOA) is implementing an initiative entitled, “*Sahel Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative – SARDI*” aimed to mobilise Sahelians and West Africans to strengthen their efforts so as to undertake actions with a view to sustainable management of the structural causes of food insecurity.

This initiative was officially launched on 9 and 10 March 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

For more information, please contact:

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CILSS ([www.cilss.bf](http://www.cilss.bf)) : Mr. Dramane Coulibly : [dramane.coulibly@cilss.bf](mailto:dramane.coulibly@cilss.bf)

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