



Crop Prospects and Food Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- **High food prices persist in developing countries** despite an improved global cereal supply situation and sharp decline in international prices. This is affecting access to food of large numbers of low-income vulnerable populations.
- **A recent analysis of domestic food prices for 58 developing countries** shows that latest prices are higher than a year earlier in 78 percent of the cases, and in 43 percent of the cases are higher than 3 months earlier. Mostly affected are sub-Saharan African countries.
- **Global cereal stocks are anticipated to increase sharply at the end of 2008/09 season** mainly reflecting the record cereal output in 2008.
- **World cereal production in 2009 is forecast by FAO to fall by 3 percent** from the record level of last year. However, the supply outlook for 2009/10 is still satisfactory due to ample carryover stocks.
- **In the Low-Income Food-Deficit countries as a group**, the 2009 cereal production could remain around the good level of 2008.
- **Food emergencies persist in 31 countries worldwide** despite good 2008 cereal crops in many of the countries normally most at risk from food insecurity.

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Domestic cereal prices in selected countries and benchmark export prices (US dollar per tonne)

