



Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCM)

RCM Thematic Working Group on Food Security

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Beirut, Lebanon**

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Presentation outline

- **An overview of the food security situation in the region**
 - **Recommendations from the recent multi stake holder workshop on food security**
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Food Security Situation in the Region: A Context

- **Structural issues:** Food deficit, poverty, unemployment, high income growth, higher population growth rate, increased urbanization, single sector economies, scarce natural resource(water and land), impact of CC etc.
 - **New and emerging challenges:** Political and social unrests, civil insecurity, low intensity armed conflict, cross border population movement, slow down of economic activities (tourism and associated service sectors), food inflation etc
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Vulnerable population groups

- Rural landless and poor urban households are some of the worst affected by the deteriorating food and livelihood security situation in the region.
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Key regional issues to note

- ❑ **Good harvest** was recorded in all the countries in North Africa sub-region due to favorable weather conditions during the past season

 - ❑ **Cereal import** requirement to decrease for the next marketing year in Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt.

 - ❑ **Impact** of the recent drought, increased water scarcity, inadequate input etc still remains problematic in some countries.

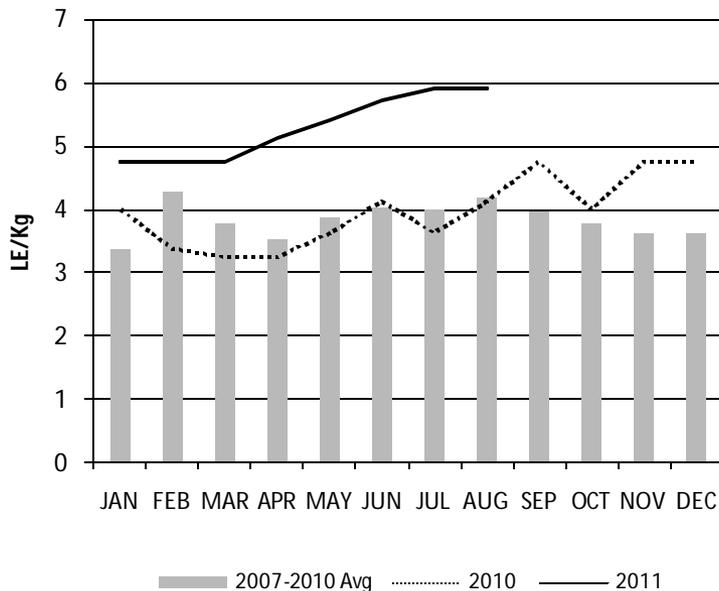
 - ❑ **Food price** inflation continues to increase in most of the countries of the region.
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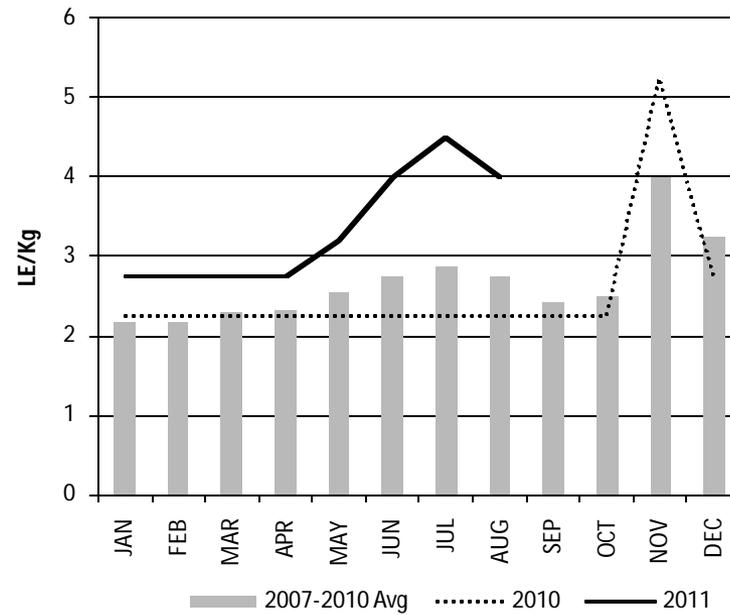
In Egypt..

Staple commodity prices and particularly prices of cereals show an increasing trend

Packed Rice: Nominal Retail Prices in Upper Egypt



Wheat: Nominal Prices in Lower Egypt





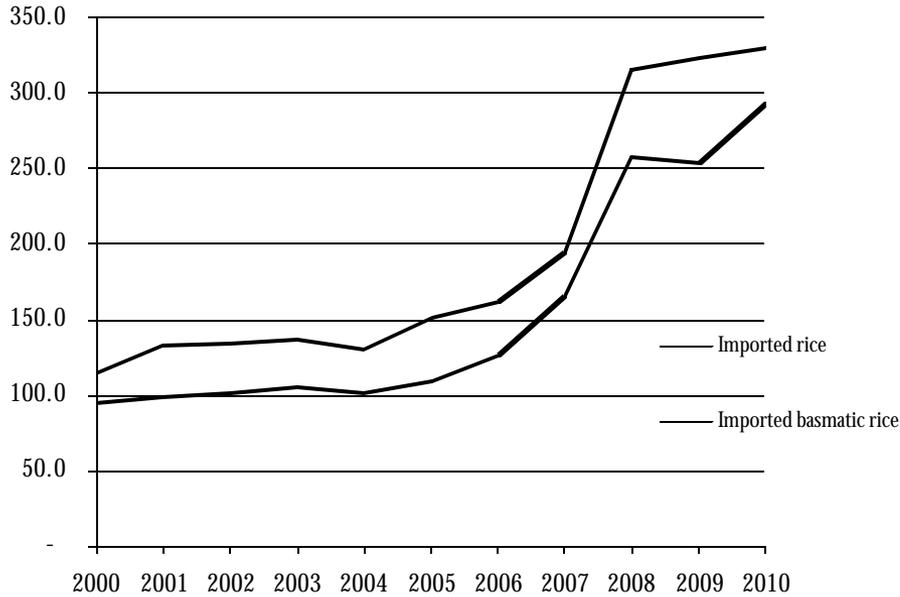
..and Yemen

- **The price of main food commodities increased since January 2011.**
 - wheat flour (33%)
 - Sugar (52%)
 - vegetable oil (39%)
 - rice (45%)
 - Bread (50%)
 - Major impact especially on the poor as they spend most of their income on bread.
 - High fuel and other input costs are affecting Agriculture
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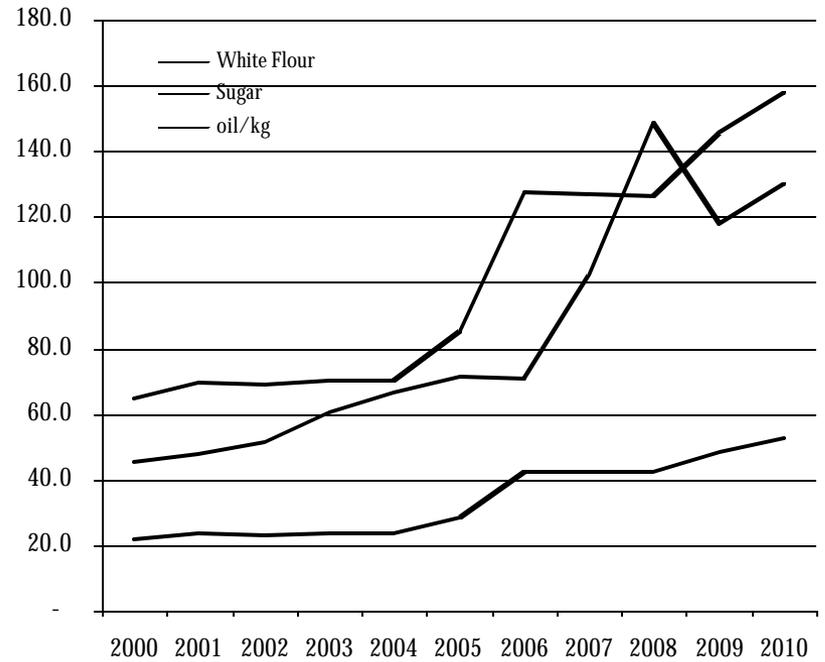
....and Yemen

Average Price of imported cereals (riyal/kg) 2000-2010 in Yemen



Source:Ministry of Agriculture

Average price of non stable essentials (kg) 2000-2010 in Yemen



Source:Ministry of Agriculture



Global prices of food commodities

- Improved global supply prospects and weakening demand but agricultural commodity market conditions remain fairly tight.
 - Prices of commodities like wheat and rice will continue to be high and, in most cases, above the previous year.
 - Aside from being high, most prices are also extremely volatile, moving in tandem with unstable financial and equity markets.
 - Fluctuations in exchange rates and uncertainties in energy markets are also contributing to sharp price swings in agricultural markets.
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Global food prices Cont..

- Given all these uncertainties, it is difficult to predict how global markets will evolve in the near-term; while there is some room for optimism that, for most commodities, prices could remain below their recent highs, the general picture still points that cost of food purchases will continue to be high for poor food-importing countries.
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Policy roundtables and recommendations

- 1. The effect of socio-political transition on food security and nutrition.**
 - A regional coordination mechanism should be established to promote regional cooperation to enhance food security.
 - Accurate and timely information on agricultural production and market dimensions should be analyzed and disseminated.
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Policy roundtables and recommendations cont...

2. Food Price Volatility

- Subsidies should be targeted at those who need them to reduce market distortions and the fiscal burden on governments.
- Strengthen the cooperative systems to support small-holder farmers' production and marketing.
- Water use should take into consideration the scarcity in the region; treat water as national wealth and enhance water management efficiency.
- Develop a better understanding of the purpose and costs of different food reserve schemes at regional, national and household level.
- Promote policy coherence and coordination at the national level by expanding dialogue between all stakeholders involved in food security and nutrition



Policy roundtables and recommendations cont...

3. Small holder Sensitive Investment in Agriculture

- ❑ Investment is needed in the sustainable intensification of agriculture and the reduction of food losses
 - ❑ Smallholder farmers are the backbone of agriculture. They need to receive information in a way that is timely, useful and relevant to their situations.
 - ❑ A regional code of conduct for responsible agricultural investment.
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Policy roundtables and recommendations cont...

4. Gender, Nutrition and Food Security

- ❑ Raise awareness and, advocate for women's rights at regional, national and local levels; promote the enforcement of existing legal frameworks such as women's rights to land ownership.
 - ❑ Strengthen capacities to collect gender disaggregated data, ensuring standardization of methodologies in order to collect comparable data.
 - ❑ Promote capacity building in the implementation of gender sensitive interventions, through the development of national guidelines by the relevant national institutions.
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THANK YOU
