



July 2001

Steady rainfall fell throughout the DPRK during the month of July and as a result the outlook for the second crop remains quite positive. WFP Emergency Officers report that the crops are doing well with favourable weather in most parts of the country although localised flooding (see below for more details) will have an impact in some areas. The negative effects of the spring drought on the maize crops, in particular those that had to be replanted or were planted late, has been widely observed. The impact this will have on the harvest will depend on the weather conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

July and August are the two months of the year when rainfall is heaviest in DPR Korea. This period is characterised by typhoons and tropical storms which in the past have affected the harvest and may reasonably be expected to do so again this year.

FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment

The report of the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment was released on 27 July 2001. The purpose of the mission, that carried out field work in DPRK from 23 June to 3 July, was to review the food supply situation for the current marketing year (Nov 2000 – Oct 2001) and assess early prospects for the 2001 main crops.

In formulating their conclusions the mission relied on interviews with officials and farmers in DPRK as well as satellite images measuring the vegetation index (NDVI) from the SPOT-4 satellite.

According to the mission report “some 45 percent of the maize crop was affected by the

drought and a significant proportion of the original plantings failed...”. Production from the first crop for this season was approximately 172,000 Mts., considerably below the 493,000 Mts. originally expected.

Finally, the mission report stressed the importance of continuing food aid, stating that “in the short term the crucial food aid safety net cannot be removed without dire food security consequences.”

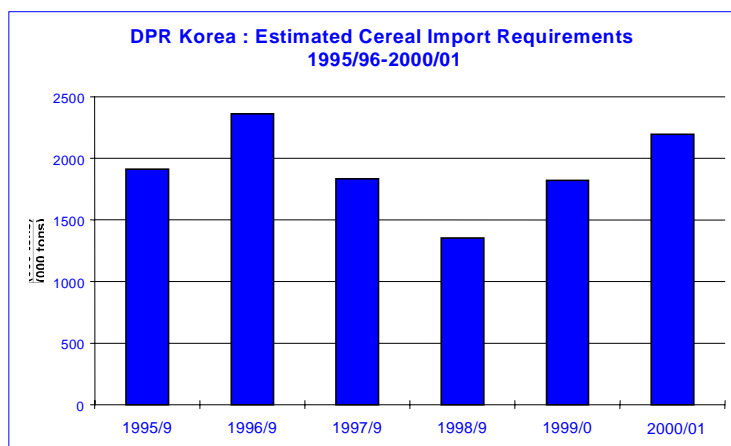
The mission report is available on the WFP web site www.wfp.org

Visit to Observe Flood Damage in South Hwangae

Heavy rains between 29 July and 1 August were reported in Yonan and Paechon counties, South Hwanghae province. An inter-agency mission comprised of UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, FAO, OCHA and UNDP) and the NGOs Campus fur Christus, WFP/FALU and SDC visited the affected areas to view damage and speak to local officials.

The mission concluded that: Should there be no further adverse weather the total harvest will provide sufficient food to support the population of the counties. However, the anticipated surplus which would normally be provided to other provinces and counties via the Public Distribution System will be much reduced.

Given DPR Korea's already chronic problems with food insecurity, flooding as well as storm and drought damage, even when confined to small areas of the country, can have a serious effect on the food supply situation.



Source: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Report, July 2001

Pipeline and Resourcing

During July the United States pledged 50,000 Mts. of wheat valued at US\$ 13,048,400. This was followed by another donation of 50,000 Mts. in early August.

Correction: In last month's Update a donation of 2,435 Mts. of split peas was mistakenly reported as a donation from Denmark. This was a contribution from Norway.

Safety Awareness Training

WFP conducted safety awareness training for all staff, both national and international, during July. This three-day training was introduced in 1999 to ensure that all WFP staff worldwide were trained to deal with situations that face our staff in carrying out their day-to-day duties. Training modules include such topics as mine awareness, stress management and communications as well as practical sessions on basic vehicle maintenance and a medical component.

Visitors during July

WFP participated in an inter-agency (WFP, UNICEF, IFRC) field visit to Pyongsong county with British Foreign Service Chief Clerk Mr. Christopher Hum and new British Chargé d'Affaires Dr. James Hoare. The mission visited hospitals and institutions where the humanitarian community provides assistance. Mr. Hum was in DPRK to officially open the new British Embassy in Pyongyang. The flag raising ceremony took place on 30 July 2001.

In addition, a New Zealand delegation led by Graham Kelly, MP, held talks with UN agencies and visited the joint WFP/UNICEF local food production facilities in Pyongyang.

Monitoring

WFP Emergency Officers carried out 164 monitoring visits during July. This number is down from the usual average of 300 due to training sessions and summer leave breaks. This month the emphasis was again on visits to nurseries, kindergartens and families as schools are still on summer holidays.

Emergency Officers are reporting concern at the health condition of many of the beneficiaries, particularly children. This is thought to be due to a combination of the hot weather which brings

higher incidences of water-borne diseases and the lower than normal amount of food distributed by the PDS.

Local Food Production

Total production of all 4 commodities in July was 2,117 Mts. or approximately 60 percent of the planned monthly output. Monthly output increased by 40 Mts. from June when the two Pyongyang biscuit factories resumed production.

Commodity	Planned Production	July Production	%
Corn Soya Milk	912	970	106
Enriched Biscuits	1,583	667	42
Rice Milk Blend	20	9	45
Cereal Milk Blend	1,000	470	47
Total July Production		2,116	

The installation of equipment to produce enriched noodles for pregnant and nursing women began during July. By month's end work was complete and trial production had begun at Sinuiju and Pyongyang.

According to government, Kim Jong Il visited the WFP/UNICEF CSB plant in Pyongyang on July 4. WFP and UNICEF were not present.

WFP Staffing Update

Four new staff members joined WFP in July, while two departed. Incoming officers included specialist staff such as Procurement and Data Base Officers. The total number of staff at 31 July was 44, of which 24 or 55% were female. There were 31 nationalities represented. In addition WFP employs 36 national staff members and 23 drivers.

WFP International Staffing July 2001			
Afghanistan	1	Italy	3
Australia	2	Kenya	1
Armenia	1	Madagascar	1
Bangladesh	1	Mexico	1
Burundi	1	Myanmar	1
Cameroon	1	Nepal	2
Canada	1	Pakistan	1
China	3	Philippines	1
Croatia	1	Sri Lanka	1
Cuba	3	Sweden	1
Cameroon	1	Thailand	1
Georgia	1	United Kingdom	4
Germany	2	United States	1
Ghana	1	Vietnam	2
Indonesia	1		
<i>Total WFP Staff 44</i>			

