



June 2001

WFP Emergency Officers have continued to give particular attention to the agriculture situation during June. The drought conditions that are not only affecting DPRK but the entire region eased with the onset of the first summer rains in the middle of the month. However, it is too late to save the first crop of the season that provides much needed food to replenish the public distribution system.

Early reports from the government are that of an expected output of 400,000 Mts. of cereals (barley, wheat, potatoes etc.) from the first crop, the yield is expected to be only 170,000 Mts.

The 12th joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission conducted field work in DPRK (24 June - 3 July 2001) to assess the results of the double crop and its impact on the food availability for the 2000/2001 season. The report of these assessments will be available in late July.

Planting of the second crop is almost complete in most parts of the country. Some crops, mainly the maize, will be affected by drought conditions. Significant amounts of cultivated areas have had to be replanted, some more than twice. This means that the growing period will be shortened by a month and could result in incomplete maturity of the crop in the autumn. According to senior staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, the maize harvest may therefore not be better than last year's.

Paddy (rice) has been less affected by the spring drought conditions. Transplantation has proceeded smoothly and by month's end over 90 percent of cultivated areas were complete meaning that the outlook - at this early stage - remains good. In parts of the north and west of the country, around 30 percent of paddy fields are yet to be transplanted. The delay is caused by insufficient irrigation.

It is too early to make any real predictions however, refilling of dry reservoirs, lakes and streams and the even distribution of rainfall in July and August are crucial to ensure a favorable harvest.

The Public Distribution System and Food Availability

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is expected to distribute the last of the ROK loan food on/around 10 July. After that food from the first crop harvest,

supplemented by limited commercial imports, will be distributed at 150 grams per person per day.

On 28 June WFP and OCHA visited two counties, Taedong and Jungsan, in South Pyongan province to talk to officials about the effects of drought on food availability. According to the Provincial Chairman Ri Myong Chol, the PDS in Jungsan county will start to distribute first crop harvest - at 150 g per person per day - on 15 July. They are very concerned about the effect that this low daily ration will have on the people in August. The county will begin production of alternative food made of a 15% cereal base with seaweed and herbs making up the remainder to supplement the very low ration.

In many areas, especially those with little arable land, the harvest from the first crop will not be sufficient and food availability in August is expected to be very low. **WFP is very concerned for the people who do not receive WFP assistance - which is most of the adult population.** The United Nations is encouraging donors to make bi-lateral donations so that those who are not WFP beneficiaries may continue to be supported.

Counties Accessible

Access:	167
No Access:	44
Total:	211

The numbers of private markets are thought to be increasing and are being used by the people as a coping mechanism as PDS supplies run out. Food prices are believed to be high which means they are not accessible to everybody. It is understood that domestic animals such as ducks and chickens are being sold to buy cereals.

Pipeline and Resourcing

The incoming WFP food pipeline remains steady and sufficient through to September (see Shipping and Logistics below for details). However, the cereals pipeline will dry up completely in October, which means WFP may have to scale back distributions before then to have some food for the last quarter. A recent pledge by the United States has fully met oil, pulses and CSB requirements.

Contributions this month include an in-kind donation of 2,435 Mts. split peas, valued at US\$

900,000 from Norway and 10,728 Mts. of wheat, valued at US\$2.7 million, gift of Australia.

Discussions are being held with Italy regarding contributions to the Emergency Operation and the Special Operation.

Local Food Production

Overall production of the four commodities – corn soy milk blend, biscuits, rice milk blend and cereal milk blend – was 2,077 Mts., or 71% of planned output in June. Production was affected by machinery break-downs, delay in the arrival of

Local Food Production Objectives

- Make micro-nutrients available to vulnerable groups through the use of fortified commodities;
- Process food commodities suitable for fortification and targeting to vulnerable groups; and
- Utilise locally available inputs such as infra-structure, management, labour and energy to produce value-added fortified foods.

packaging materials and problems associated with milling capacities and transportation.

Installation of the first noodle factory began in Sinuiju during June. This is expected to come into production by mid-July. The process is supervised by technicians from China. Preparatory work has begun in four other locations for installation between July and September.

Monitoring

WFP Emergency Officers carried out a total of 203 monitoring visits this month. The majority of visits were to families (58 visits) followed by nurseries (27 visits) and kindergartens (29 visits). Visits to schools have been scaled back as they have now closed for the summer break.

The number of visits is reduced from the average of 300 visits per month due to training sessions for the new monitoring system which will be implemented in July.

Food for Work

Emergency Officers monitored 24 ongoing FFW projects in June and reported that in some cases the duration of projects was reduced as more workers were mobilised to accelerate the project.

An additional 13 projects were assessed for summer implementation but were put on hold as there were no stocks available from donors who authorise their donations to be used for FFW.

Food for Work Number & Type of Project as at June 2001

Agricultural rehabilitation & Flood Control	106
Reforestation	68
Fish pond rehabilitation	4
Salt pan rehabilitation	5
Rural road construction	3
Total Projects	186

Shipping and Food Arrivals

Arrivals this month are 80,000 Mts. of Japanese-donated rice.

Status of Arrival Japanese Rice

Delivered:	260,000
Balance:	240,000
Total:	500,000

Offloading was slower than usual again in June due to the large amount of fertilizer being discharged at Nampo. Average daily offtake was 1,500 Mts. per day rather than the usual average of 2,000 Mts. This in no way interfered with the food being delivered to the beneficiaries.

A Chinese flag vessel collided with a passenger liner during the month. No injuries or damage to cargo was reported.

A second port captain took up duties with WFP in June to assist with the accelerated arrivals over the summer. All offloading of WFP food is supervised by an international port captain.

An agreement was signed between WFP and British NGO Children's Aid Direct (CAD) during June. WFP will provide FFW support to a small project to rehabilitate the Hamhung Maternity hospital

Food Aid Liaison Unit (FALU)

FALU completed monitoring of drugs and medical equipment in 30 hospitals in Kangwon Province.

This is the first in a series of four Caritas projects during 2001 consigned to UNICEF or WHO, with FALU carrying out monitoring at beneficiary hospital level.

Visitors in June

During June delegations from Norway, Denmark and Spain visited WFP projects in DPRK. In addition, a two-person mission from HQ Resourcing Department spent a week visiting WFP projects.

