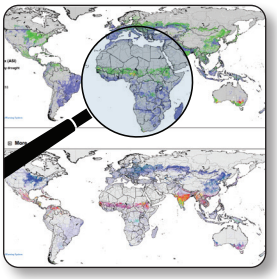
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Information and Early Warning System

MARKETS *and* **TRADE**
Transparent and efficient food and agricultural commodity markets and trade for global food security

Established after the food crises of the early 1970s, the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) continuously monitors and reports on food supply and demand across the world. It is a leading source of information on food production and food security at national, regional and global levels. Through assessments and reports, GIEWS alerts national and international decision makers on impending food crises, aiming to guide their intervention. GIEWS provides comprehensive market intelligence on agricultural commodities and supports national and regional initiatives to establish and enhance early warning systems.

Earth observation for crop monitoring



GIEWS monitors the growing conditions of major food crops across the globe to assess production prospects. To support analysis and supplement ground-based information, GIEWS utilizes remote sensing data that can provide valuable insight into water availability and vegetation health during cropping seasons. In 2014, GIEWS developed the Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), a quick-look indicator for the early identification of agricultural areas affected by water deficits or, in extreme cases, drought.

Crop Prospects and Food Situation Report

GIEWS' forecasts on crop production and analyses of market and food security conditions are brought together in the quarterly Crop Prospects and Food Situation report. The report provides decision makers with comprehensive forward-looking analyses, assessing the impact on agriculture and food security of a multitude of factors, ranging from weather, to disease outbreaks, from conflicts to policies. Moreover, the report draws attention to countries affected by high levels of food insecurity and forewarns on countries with unfavourable harvest expectations.

Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAMs)

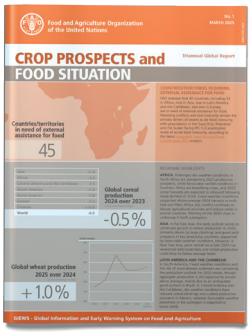
The purpose of CFSAMs is to provide an accurate picture of the extent and severity of existing or expected food security crises aiming to trigger appropriate government and international action that mitigates the impact on affected populations. CFSAMs are rapid verification (audit-type) assessments, implemented jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP). Since the establishment of GIEWS, CFSAMs have been fielded worldwide.

Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA)

After the 2007-2008 food price crisis, GIEWS established an online Food Price Monitoring Analysis (FPMA) Tool covering staple food prices in around 90 countries and international benchmark trade prices. The FPMA Tool supports GIEWS' regular analysis on food price trends at national and global levels, and the data contributes to the measurement of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal 2. GIEWS also supports country or regional level deployment of the FPMA Tool to strengthen market information systems for better decisions at country and regional level.

An interactive e-learning course is available on **SDG Indicator 2.c.1 – Food price anomalies** to complement countries' efforts in monitoring the 2030 Agenda and broaden the subject's understanding. The course shows how to monitor domestic food markets and analyze price data when reporting on SDG indicators. It is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian, and is part of a series of e-learning courses provided by FAO, the custodian UN agency for 21 SDG indicators.

To register, please visit the **FAO e-learning Centre**. All courses in the series are free, as a global public good to agriculture and food security professionals.



Crop Prospects and Food Situation

Published triannually, this report provides forward-looking analysis of regional food situations, focusing on cereal production, market trends, food security conditions, and particularly on Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs). The report also offers a global overview of cereal supply and demand, complementing the biannual analysis provided in the FAO Food Outlook publication.

Available in: English, French and Spanish

Special alerts, updates and reports

- GIEWS Special Alerts are ad-hoc briefs describing alarming food security situations in countries or regions.
- GIEWS Updates are ad-hoc briefs describing anomalous food supply and agricultural situations in countries or regions.
- Special Reports are the result of FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) or rapid evaluation missions, and provide a comprehensive analysis of the food security situation in countries affected by natural or man-made disasters.

Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Bulletin

Published monthly, the bulletin illustrates the latest national, regional and global food price trends, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. It provides timely warnings on countries facing abnormally high prices, based on the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS)-developed Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA), a statistical measure of food price volatility and abnormal price growth.

Available in: English with selected abstracts in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian

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For more information visit:
Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture
Crop Prospects and Food Situation
Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions
Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA)
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