

# Crop Situation Update - 7



**United Nations World Food Programme**  
Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System

Crop Situation Update  
December 2007  
Issue 7

## Field update on the status of the summer crops

This update reflects the situation on the recent harvest of summer crop (paddy, maize and millet) in 38 districts covered by the field surveillance of the WFP's Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System (FSMAS).

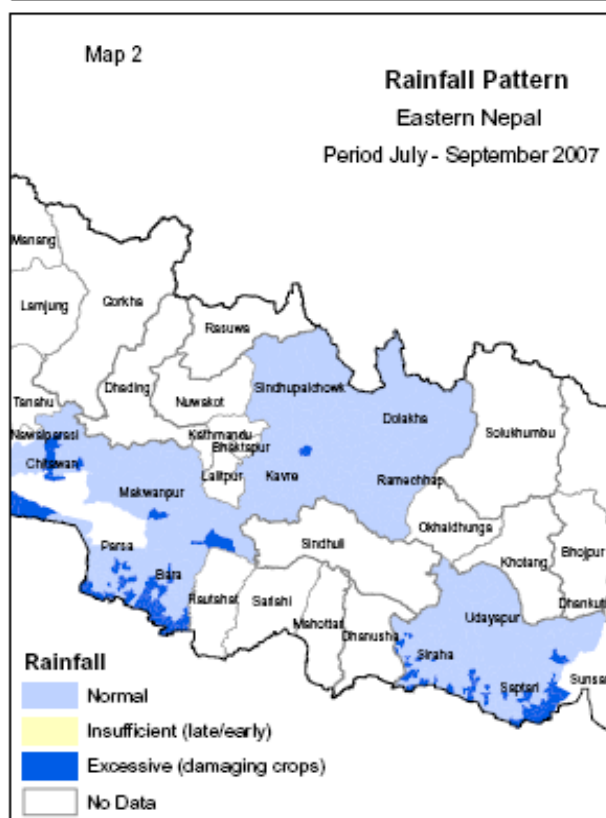
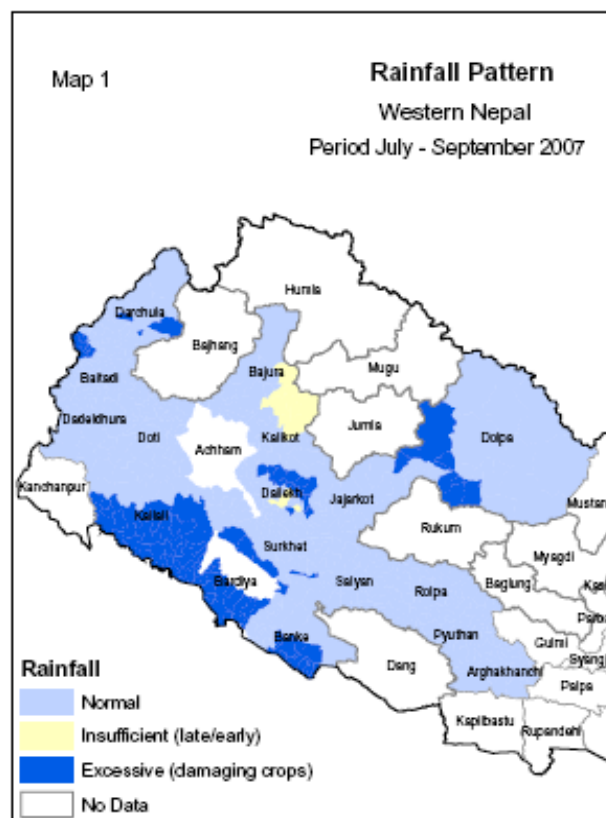
Various reports and estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) suggest a considerable increase in the national production of summer crops compared to last year (which was the lowest recorded in the past ten years). In spite of a generally good situation at the national level, information from WFP's field surveillance has revealed that there are a significant number of people affected by poor crop harvest in the Mid and Far Western development regions, due to localized problems. As of mid-January, this poor crop harvest combined with the lack of access puts at risk of acute food insecurity an estimated 150,000 people (Table 1). Moreover, about 50,000 people (IDPs, landless and with very little land) are likely to face acute food insecurity in western Terai district of Kapilbastu, which was affected by recent violence.

Table-1 Population at risk of severe food insecurity due to poor summer crop

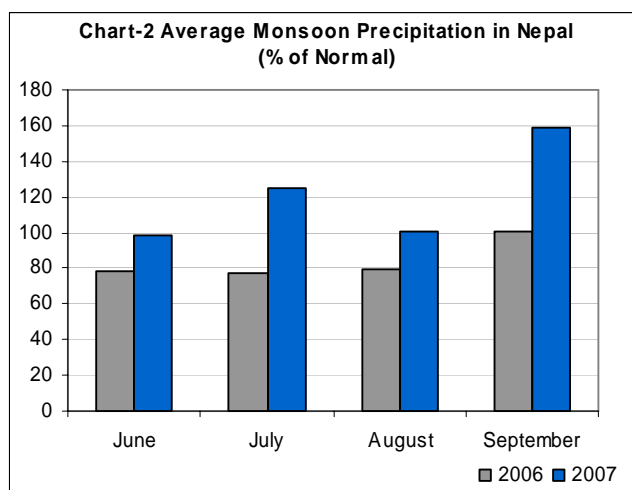
District	VDCs affected	Population at risk (Estimated)
Dailekh	13	24,750
Jajarkot	8	30,000
Kailikot	3	8,000
Mugu	3	5,525
Humla	13	25,850
Bajura	7	16,800
Rukum	2	900
<b>Total</b>		<b>111,8750</b>

### RAINFALL

The rainfall was late, and or insufficient during the cultivation of main crops maize (April-May), and paddy (June-August) in some areas. Maize plantation was delayed, and farmers even had to re-plant maize in some areas of Mid-western districts like Jajarkot, and Dailekh. Likewise paddy plantation was also delayed in *Terai*; farmers in Saptari and Siraha could plant paddy crops only in about 65% of the area until mid-July. Eastern *Terai* districts received about 90% of normal rainfall during the month of June, but it was erratic and sparsely distributed in areas, which was of little help for the plantation of paddy in rain-fed fields. However the monsoon rain was continuous and excessive (more than 100%) in most of the *Terai* districts during July-August, which caused heavy floods in the eastern and western *Terai* districts. The flood inflicted damage not only to houses, infrastructures, human lives, and livestock, but also to crops in the low land areas. On the other hand, it helped the growth of the paddy crop in the rain-fed fields, and the re-planted crop grew well due to abundant moisture. The rainfall remained continuous and intense in most of the hill and mountain districts during July-September; some areas saw landslides and flood due to incessant rainfall thereby causing crop losses. Overall, the monsoon precipitation in Nepal in 2007 was above normal<sup>1</sup>, except in the month of June. (Chart 1, maps 1 and 2).



<sup>1</sup> Weather reports, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology.



Source: Department of Hydrology and Meteorology

### CROP SITUATION OVERVIEW

Paddy, maize, and millet are the major summer crops cultivated in the country. Across the three agro-ecological belts, paddy is the main crop widely cultivated in *Terai*, likewise maize and millet are grown mostly in hill and mountain belts.

The estimates from the MOAC show increase in paddy, maize, and millet by 16.80%, 3.23%, and 2.21% respectively compared to last year, though the report does not discuss in detail the production status at the micro-level (VDCs level). Data from WFP's FSMAS has revealed that in some areas in the Mid- and Far-Western districts of Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Humla, Mugu, Rukum, and Bajura, the crop production has been highly affected by different factors such as excessive rainfall, hailstorms, land slides and insufficient/late rainfall at the time of crop cultivation. Thus the production in these areas is estimated to have decreased by more than 40%

### PADDY PRODUCTION

Paddy is the most important cereal crop in Nepal contributing to 55% of total cereal production. Despite some adverse impact of flood and inundation due to a month long incessant rain in the *Terai* districts during July-August, the production of paddy has been reported better compared to last year. The area was hard hit by drought last year, and the paddy production there had decreased by 14.40% from the previous year, which led to a fall in the national paddy production by 12.55%<sup>2</sup>. Likewise the production of millet had also decreased by 2.1% last year.

*Terai* districts contribute around 72% to the national paddy production. Last year the paddy production loss was highest in *Terai* (14.40%) followed by Mountain (7.70%), and Hills (6.60%) respectively<sup>3</sup>. However the production, this year, is reported to have been better, except in a few areas in Mid- and Far-Western *Terai*. The MoAC estimates of this year indicate an increase in paddy production by about 20% in the *Terai* compared to last year; likewise the production is expected to increase by 8.47% and 4.47% in the hill and mountain districts respectively.

However the situation in some areas in the Mid- and Far-Western districts is not as promising; and our reports suggest considerable decrease in production in these areas.

### DISTRICT UPDATES - PADDY

#### Far-western Region

**Kailali** – The flash flood in August badly damaged the crop, and later the pest infestation further affected the growth of the plant; the production is estimated to have decreased by 40-60% in Khailad, Bhajani, Lal Bojhi, Thapapur, and Narayanpur VDCs. Likewise, 20-40% decrease has been estimated in Pathariya, Durgauli, Manao, Kota Tulsipur, Joshipur, and Dhansinghpur. Kailali was most hard hit by flood in the Far-Western region. However there is no report of significant decrease in the overall district level production.

**Bajura** – The paddy crop was cultivated in about 3,300 Ha. of land, of which 60% was rain-fed. Even though, the total production in the district has increased by 20-40%, it is still less by 10-15% compared to a normal level of production. In some VDCs the production was affected by late/insufficient rainfall, hailstorm, and wild animal's encroachment. The production is estimated to have decreased by more than 40% in Manakot, and 20-40% in Rugin, Jayabageshwari, Kanda, and Dahakot VDCs.

**Other districts** - Similarly the production has decreased at a range of 20-40% in Khaptad and Ramaroshan (Achham), Boharigaun and Rithchaupata (Darchula), and Sitad (Baitadi) due to excessive rainfall.

The production in the rest of the areas is reported to be normal to moderate.

#### Mid-western and Western Regions

**Kalikot** – Paddy is the main summer crop in the district. For the first time after more than several years of consecutive drought, the production of paddy this year has been reported to be normal to moderate in most of the areas.

However, the crop has failed (by more than 60% from normal) in Pakha and Chhapre VDCs due to the infestation of blast disease; also the Mehelmudi VDC has seen a loss by 40-60% due to the same reason.

The production in the northern belt VDCs will be sufficient for up to February. WFP food was supporting them to recover from the problem they faced prior to harvesting.

**Mugu** – Paddy crop was affected by hail storm, pest, and insects in Rowa, and Ruga VDCs, thus decreasing the production by about 40-60%. Paddy crop is not cultivated in Bhie, Mugu, Photu, Mangri, Pulu, Kimri, and Dolphu VDCs due to high altitude.

The production is reportedly normal in the rest of the district.

**Humla** – In Kharpunath VDC, the production has decreased by more than 60% due to late rainfall and blast disease. Likewise the crop was badly affected by hailstorms in Kalika, Madana, Maila, and Shrinagar VDCs, where the production is estimated to have decreased by about 40-60%. A normal year production is reported in Lali, Sarkideu, Darma, Mimi, Rodikot, and Saya VDCs. Paddy is not cultivated in the rest of the district.

**Dailekh** – Due to the impact of floods, landslides, and hailstorms, the crop is estimated to have decreased by more than 60% in Kashikandh, Kusapani, Meheltoli, Salleri, Bindhyabasini, and Badabhairab VDCs. A range of crop losses between 40-60% has been estimated in Jagannath, Raniban, Pagnath, Toli, and Bhawani VDCs due to drought, hailstorm, and blast disease. The production is estimated to be normal to poor in the rest of the district.

**Jajarkot** – The production is reported to be normal in most of the areas, but it has decreased by more than 60% and by about 40-60% in Suwanauli and Bhagawati VDCs respectively, where the paddy plant was hit by heavy storms, landslides, and hailstorms.

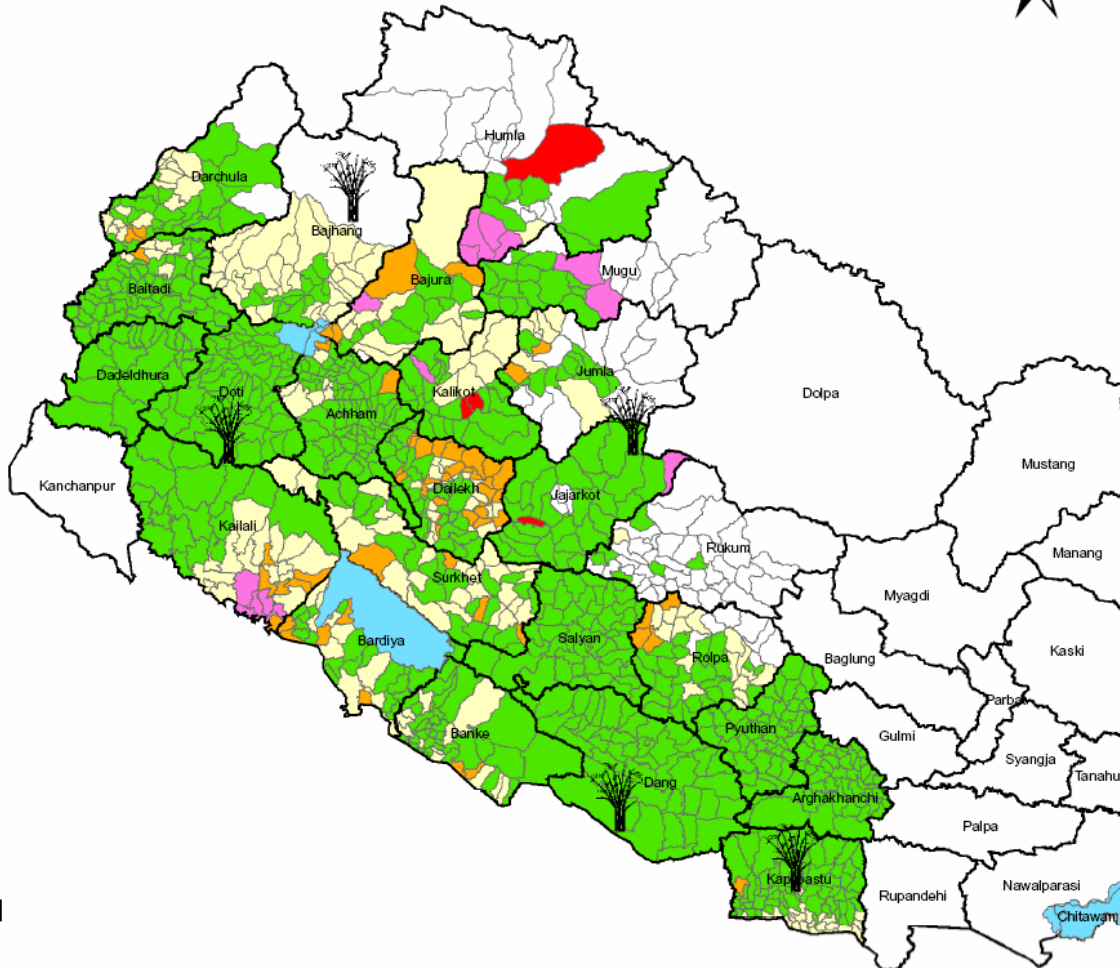
<sup>2</sup> National Crop and Food Security Assessment (December 2006), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

<sup>3</sup> National Crop and Food Security Assessment (December 2006), MoAC



# Paddy Crop Situation

## Western Nepal - December 2007



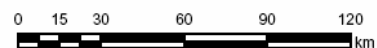
### Legend



Paddy

### Crop Condition

- Normal or Good
- Moderate ( 10 - 20 % less than normal )
- Poor ( 20 - 40 % less than normal )
- Very poor ( 40 - 60 % less than normal )
- Failure ( > 60 % less than normal )
- No Data
- National Parks/Wildlife Reserve/No Population Area
- District Boundary



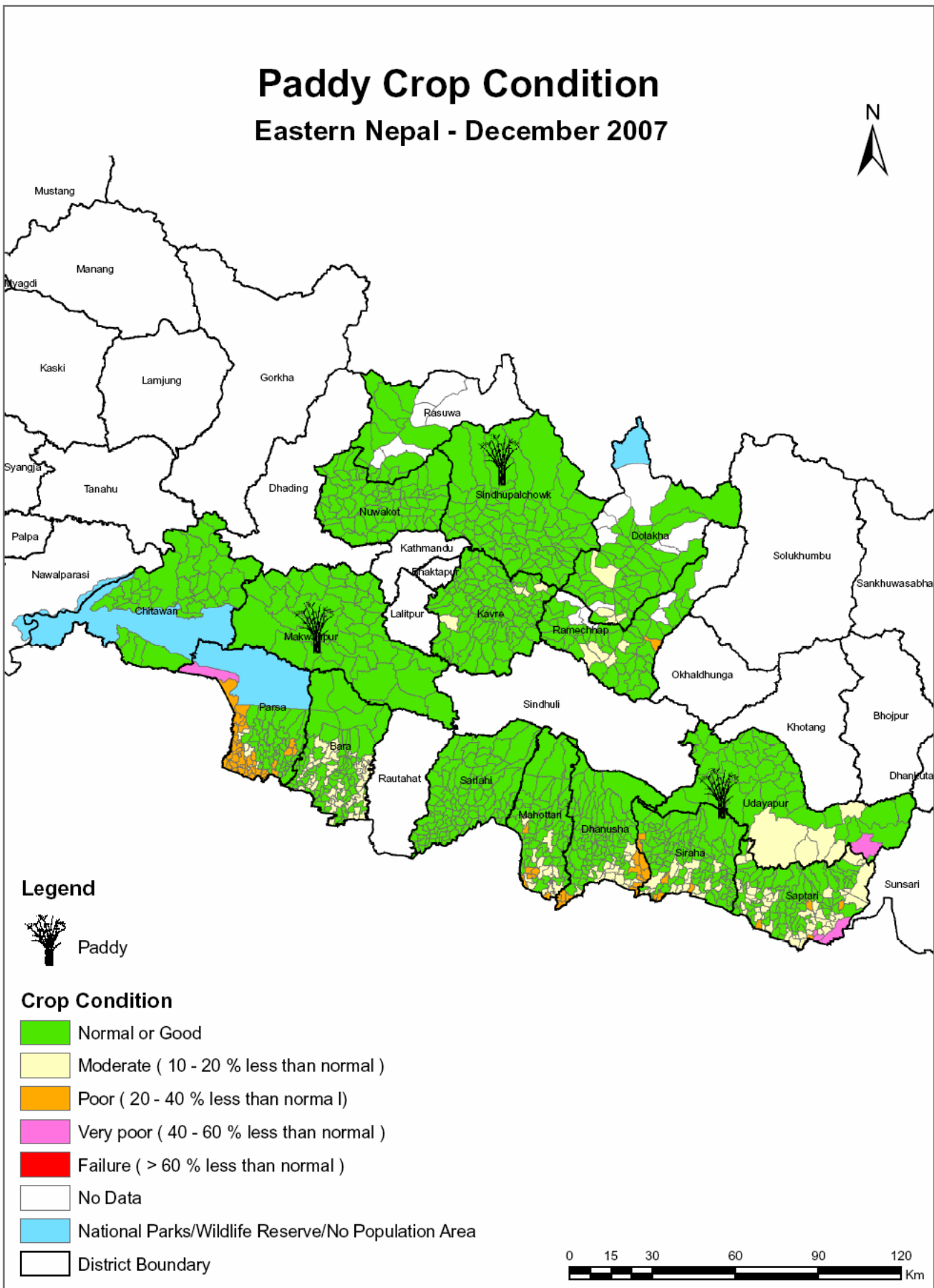
Map 3- Paddy Crop Condition, West Nepal



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Map 4- Paddy Crop Condition, East Nepal



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**Rukum** – Kholagaun and Arma VDCs were hard hit by landslides and the crop production has been estimated to have decreased by 40-60%. Nepal Red Cross Society is supporting the people with some non-food items. The production is better than last year in the rest of the areas.

**Surkhet** – Excessive rainfall and landslide significantly affected the crop in Dharapani, Taranga, Ratu, and Lekhparajul VDCs. However the production is reported to have been normal in most of the areas.

**Banke** – The flash flood damaged the crops in low land and river bank areas; the impact was higher in Gangapur and Holiya VDC in terms of crop damage. About 20-40% of crop reduction is estimated in these VDCs.

**Bardiya** – Rajapur, Bhimapur, Suryapatuwa, Mohammadpur, and Neulapur VDCs were highly affected by flood and pest disease. The crop production is estimated to have decreased by 20-40% in these VDCs. The production is expected to be normal to moderate in other areas.

**Kapilbastu** – Even though the total paddy production in this district has reportedly increased by about 20% compared to the last year, some VDCs in the south had their crops affected by the pest disease and as many as 50,000 people consisting of internally displaced persons, landless and those owning very little land (<0.5 ha per household) living in the areas affected by the riots in September are likely to face a situation of acute food insecurity.

### Central and Eastern Region

Overall the paddy crop harvest has remained normal in most of the areas in Eastern and Central districts. The production has decreased between moderate to very poor levels only in some flood affected low land areas of *Terai* districts.

### MAIZE PRODUCTION

Maize is the second most important cereal crop in Nepal. It occupies around 23% share in total cereal grain production, and is cultivated mostly in hill and lower belts of the mountain districts. This year the national production of maize is estimated to have increased by 3.23%<sup>4</sup> with mountain districts having the highest level of increase (12.01%), followed by hills (3.07%). This is due to regular rainfall during the month of July-August. The production slightly declined (by 0.02%) in the *Terai* districts due to the excessive rainfall and flood.

Despite an overall good production of maize in the hills and mountains, considerable loss in crop production has been reported in several areas where the crop was highly affected by landslide, flood, strong winds, hailstorms, and diseases.

### DISTRICT UPDATES - MAIZE

#### Far-western Region

**Kailali** – South-eastern belt was heavily impacted by the August flood; the crop plants were washed away in most of the areas. The production is estimated to have decreased by about 40-60% in Khailad, Lalbojhi, Bhajani, Thapapur, Dhansinghpur, and Manuwa VDCs. Likewise a decrease of about 20-40% is estimated in eastern belt VDCs. Since maize is not the main cereal crop in the *Terai* districts, there will not be a significant impact on food security with the decrease in maize production.

**Darchula** – Sufficient and timely rainfall helped farmers plant the crop on time in all maize growing areas (~5510 hectares of land). However excessive rainfall during the months of June-July affected the crop. In Khandeshwori VDC, the production decreased by about 40-60% in 108 hectares of land due to landslide. Similarly the production has declined by about 20% in Iyarkot, Khar, Rithpatachaur, Boharigaun, Bhagawati, Hunainath, Shankarpur, Kharkada, Uku, Lali, Sarmali, Dandakot, Tapoban, and Gwani VDCs.

Overall the maize production has decreased by about 18% compared to last year.

### Mid-western and Western Regions

**Dailekh** – Excessive rainfall, strong winds, hailstorms, and disease (blast and *Gabharo*) affected the crop in northern and eastern belt VDCs. Salleri was the hardest hit by this disaster, and the crop failed in this VDC. A production decrease of about 40-60% is estimated in Badabhairab, Baluwatar, Jagannath, Kashikandh, Kalika, Kusapani, Meheltoli, Pagnath, Raniban, and Toli VDCs.

**Jajarkot** – Like in Dailekh, the crop was affected mostly in the northern belt of this district. Around 20-40% crop loss is expected in Dasea, Daha, Bhagawati, Suwanauli, Salma, Rokayagaun, Ramidanda, Ragda, Paink, Nayakbada, and Kortang VDCs.

**Rukum** – Strong winds and wild animals' encroachment have affected crops in some VDCs. A production decrease of 20-40% is estimated in Pwang, Sisne, and Ghetma VDCs.

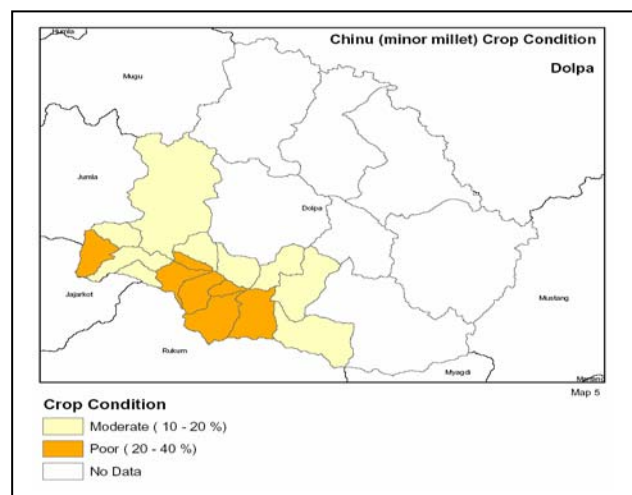
### MILLET PRODUCTION

Though it has very little contribution to the national cereal grain production (~4%), millet is one of the main summer cereal crops in some of the hill and mountain districts.

The MoAC estimate indicates an increase in production by 2.21% compared to last year.

The increase in millet production is mostly observed in the eastern hill and mountain districts. The production, however, is affected by hailstorms, pest, and insects in Mugu and Humla districts. The crop is estimated to decrease by 40-60% in Rowa, Ruga, and Bhie of Mugu; and Jaira, Chhipra, Barai, Shrimasta, Raya, Gothi, and Syada VDCs of Humla districts.

*Chinu* (minor millet) is one of the main summer crops in Dolpa cultivated in lower and in the middle belt of this district. This year the production decreased by about 35% compared to normal years due to insufficient and late rainfall at the time of plantation, and excessive rainfall at the harvesting time.



Map 5: Chinu crop condition in Dolpa

### CONCLUSION

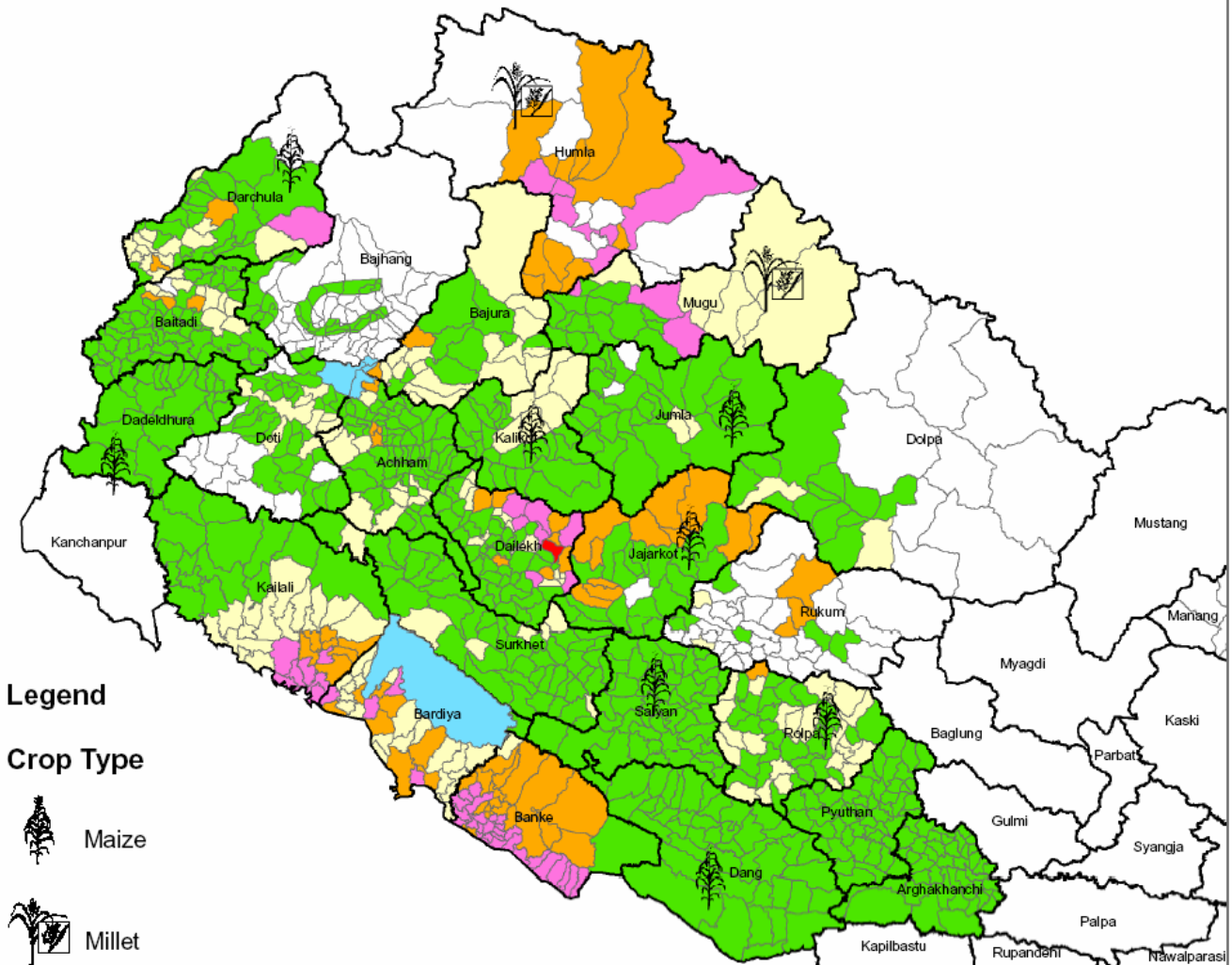
At the national level, the production of summer crops, especially that of paddy, has increased compared to last year. However there are significant geographic variations within the country and certain remote and poor areas in the Mid- and Far-Western districts such as Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Humla, Mugu, Rukum, and Bajura are suffering from a production loss as high as 40% or higher. This is likely to adversely affect the food security situation of these poor and vulnerable communities, including poor and landless people in Kapilbastu affected by the recent violence. WFP will continue to monitor the situation of these communities. The situation of the ongoing winter crop will have an impact on the food security situation of the communities after April/May. WFP is closely monitoring the winter crop situation and its likely impacts, and this will be reported in the next update.

<sup>4</sup>Preliminary Estimate of Paddy, Maize and Millet (2007/08), MoAC



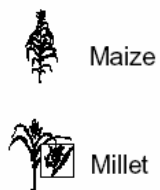
# Maize / Millet Crop Situation

Western Nepal - December 2007



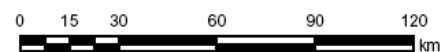
## Legend

### Crop Type



### Crop Condition

- Normal or Good
- Moderate ( 10 - 20 % less than normal )
- Poor ( 20 - 40 % less than normal )
- Very poor ( 40 - 60 % less than normal )
- Failure ( > 60 % less than normal )
- No Data
- National Parks/Wildlife Reserve/No Population Area
- District Boundary



Map 6- Maize / Millet Crop Condition, West Nepal



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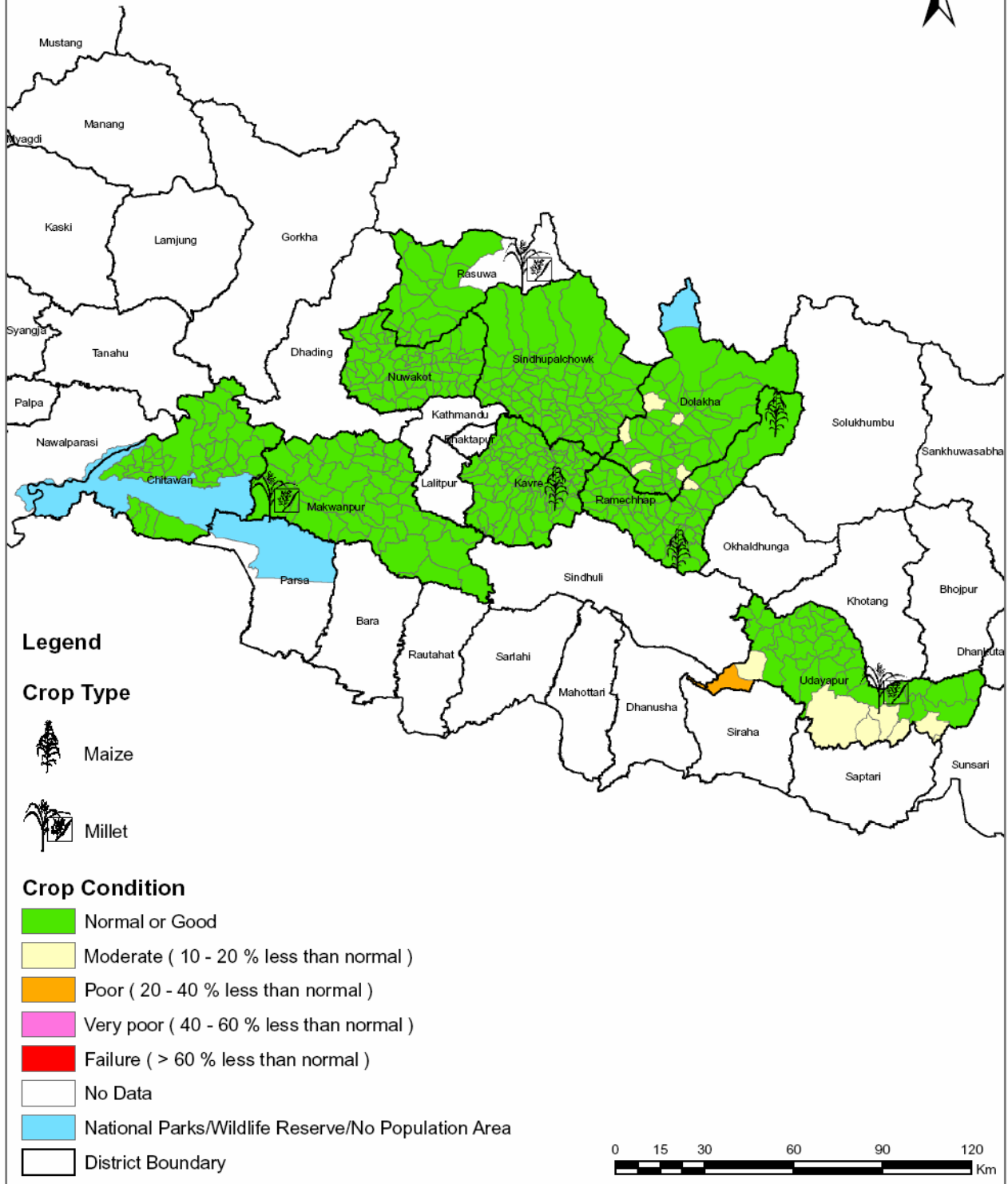


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# Maize / Millet Crop Condition

## Eastern Nepal - December 2007



Map 7- Maize / Millet Crop Condition, East Nepal



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Crop Situation Updates are produced by WFP Nepal as part of the Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System.

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