Summary

- In March 2011, a total of 5,357 metric tons (mt) of pulses, 4,255mt of cereals, 329mt of vegetables, 11mt of fruits, 35mt of ginger, 86mt of honey, 10,500 liters of edible oil, 35mt of ginger and 17,403 heads of live animals were traded as outflow along the four major crossing routes between Ethiopia and Sudan through formal and informal trades.

- Inflow commodities traded from Sudan to Ethiopia in March 2011 were estimated at 4,880 liters of edible oil, 705mt of onion and 50mt of dates.

- Out of the total traded commodities the majority constitutes outflows from Ethiopia to Sudan whilst the inflows are limited to dates, onion and edible oil.

- The Metema Yohanes and Maicadra/Humera borders are the two main cross border routes where more than 90 percent of the outflow commodities passed to Sudan.

- The highest trade flow of food grains in the last 10 months was through Metema Yohannes (67 percent), followed by Maicadra/Humera (23 percent), Kurmuk (6 percent) and Gambella (4 percent).

- In terms of trade volume in March 2011, the informal cross border accounts; 26 percent for cereals, 6 percent for pulses, 86 percent for vegetables, 17 percent for fruits, 100 percent for ginger and 32 percent for livestock. The remaining percentages for each commodity account for formally traded volumes.

Traded Commodity

a. Cereals: Of the total cereals informally traded along the Ethiopia-Sudan border, sorghum constitutes the 62 percent of the total traded volume followed by maize 30 percent (see Figure 1). The volume of cereals traded in March 2011 and in the last ten months (June 2010 – March 2011) stood at 4,255mt and 77,602mt, respectively. The informal trade constitutes 26 percent of the traded cereals in March 2011.

b. Pulses: The major outflow of pulse to Sudan comprises faba bean, lentils, chickpeas and lupine. In March 2011, 5,357 mt of pulses were traded where faba bean constitutes more than 90 percent of the commodities. Faba bean is highly demanded by Sudanese for making local food known as “fool”. The contribution of informal trade of pulses in March 2011 to Sudan is insignificant as compared to its contribution to total traded cereals.
c. **Vegetables and fruits:** Onion, garlic, potatoes, lemon and orange are the major traded commodities along the Ethiopia and Sudan border monitoring areas. Onion is the only inflow vegetables from Sudan through the Metema Yohannes and Maicadra/Humera routes. On the other hand, onion is an outflow commodity to Southern parts of Sudan through Gambella border area. Out of the total vegetables outflow, garlic constitutes 78 percent of the commodities followed by potatoes. Most of the vegetables are traded through informal trade routes that account 86 percent of traded vegetables. In March 2011, about 329mt of vegetable and 11mt of fruits were traded through the four monitored border areas.

d. **Live animals:** Live animals are outflow commodities both through the formal and informal trade routes. The traded live animals mainly comprise oxen, goat, sheep and camel where the trade is dominated by oxen. In March 2011, a total of 17,403 live animals were exported to Sudan through the formal and informal trade routes. Of the total outflows, oxen accounted for about 87 percent of the live animals followed by goat that accounted 7 percent.

e. **Sesame:** A total of 9633mt of sesame has been exported to Sudan through the formal trade. The Humera area is known for its high sesame production.

f. **Edible oil:** Edible oil flow both directions and in March 2011 about 10,500 liters of oil traded from Ethiopia to Sudan; while 4,880 liters of edible oil was traded from Sudan to Ethiopia.

g. **Other commodities:** In March 2011, traded commodities in these border sites include ginger, wax and dates where the last commodity is inflow and the first two are outflow commodities. In the reporting month, 35mt of ginger, 9mt of wax and 50mt of dates were traded.

h. The major traded commodities among cereals, pulses and vegetables are indicated on Figure 2.

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**Figure 1: Contribution of outflow cereals**

Source: WFP

**Figure 2: Major Traded Commodities in mt**

Source: WFP