



Nepal Food Security Bulletin

Issue 38, May 2013



नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
Nepal Khadiya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)
Nepal Food Security Monitoring System

HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period January to March 2013, and focuses more on the food security situation updates of the Mid and the Far Western Hill and Mountain districts. January-March is an agricultural lean period in Nepal.

- ◆ 209 Village Development Committees (VDCs) across Nepal are reported to be moderately food insecure (Phase II) - a stressed situation where most of the households have minimal access to, or availability of food.
- ◆ Overall the country is in a minimal food insecurity phase (Phase I). The District Food Security Networks (DFSNs) of Dolpa, Jumla, and Bhojpur have reported a better off situation compared to last year same period due to the improved supply of food, increase in maize production, income from the sale of herbs (*Yarchagumba*) and cash crops, and WFP's support.
- ◆ Household food stocks measured 23 percent lower than last cycle. NeKSAP's household survey revealed an average household food stock of 403 kilo (575 kilo in Terai, 351 kilo in the Mountains, and 224 kilo in the Hills). With the current level of stocks, average household food sufficiency in months ranges from three in the Hills to six in the Terai, with an average of 4.6 months.
- ◆ Daily wage, crop sales, remittances, and private enterprises continue to record largest share of household income with their contribution recorded at 28, 18, 16, and 13 percent respectively.
- ◆ Harvesting of the main winter crops, wheat and barley, is underway. Preliminary estimates obtained through the DFSNs and stakeholder consultations indicate promising wheat production except in the districts of Dailekh, Jajarkot, Rukum, Kalikot, Panchthar, and Taplejung.
- ◆ The year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 10.2 percent in March 2013; this is close to the inflation rate recorded in India (10.4 percent) during the same period.
- ◆ Overall, the food security situation in the next quarter (April-June 2013) is expected to improve in most of the areas from the harvesting of wheat, remittances (including the hand-carried remittances), and income from cash crops (e.g. tea and cardamom), fruits (e.g. mango), and *Yarchagumba*. Nevertheless, some of the VDCs of Dolpa, Dailekh, Ramechhap, Udayapur, Terhathum, Solukhumbu, Panchthar, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Bhojpur, and Taplejung might experience a seasonal deterioration in their food security situation. Some VDCs in Dailekh (Naumule, Toli, Chauratha, Bhawani, and Chamunda) also require close monitoring as these VDCs might slide into high food insecurity, or a crisis phase (Phase III).

Table 1. Food Security Situation and Outlook

Food Security Cluster	Jan-Mar 2013*	Change over Oct-Dec 2012	Outlook Apr-Jun 2013	Outlook Jul-Sept 2013
Karnali				
Far-Western Hill and Mountain				
Rapti-Bheri Hills				
Western Terai				
Central & Eastern Terai				
Western Hill and Mountain				
Central Hill and Mountain				
Eastern Hill and Mountain				

* Measured by number of VDCs

Phase Classification key See page 8, Table 4 for description

- Minimal food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Highly food insecure
- Severely food insecure
- Humanitarian emergency

Change/Outlook key

- Decline
- Stay the same
- Improve

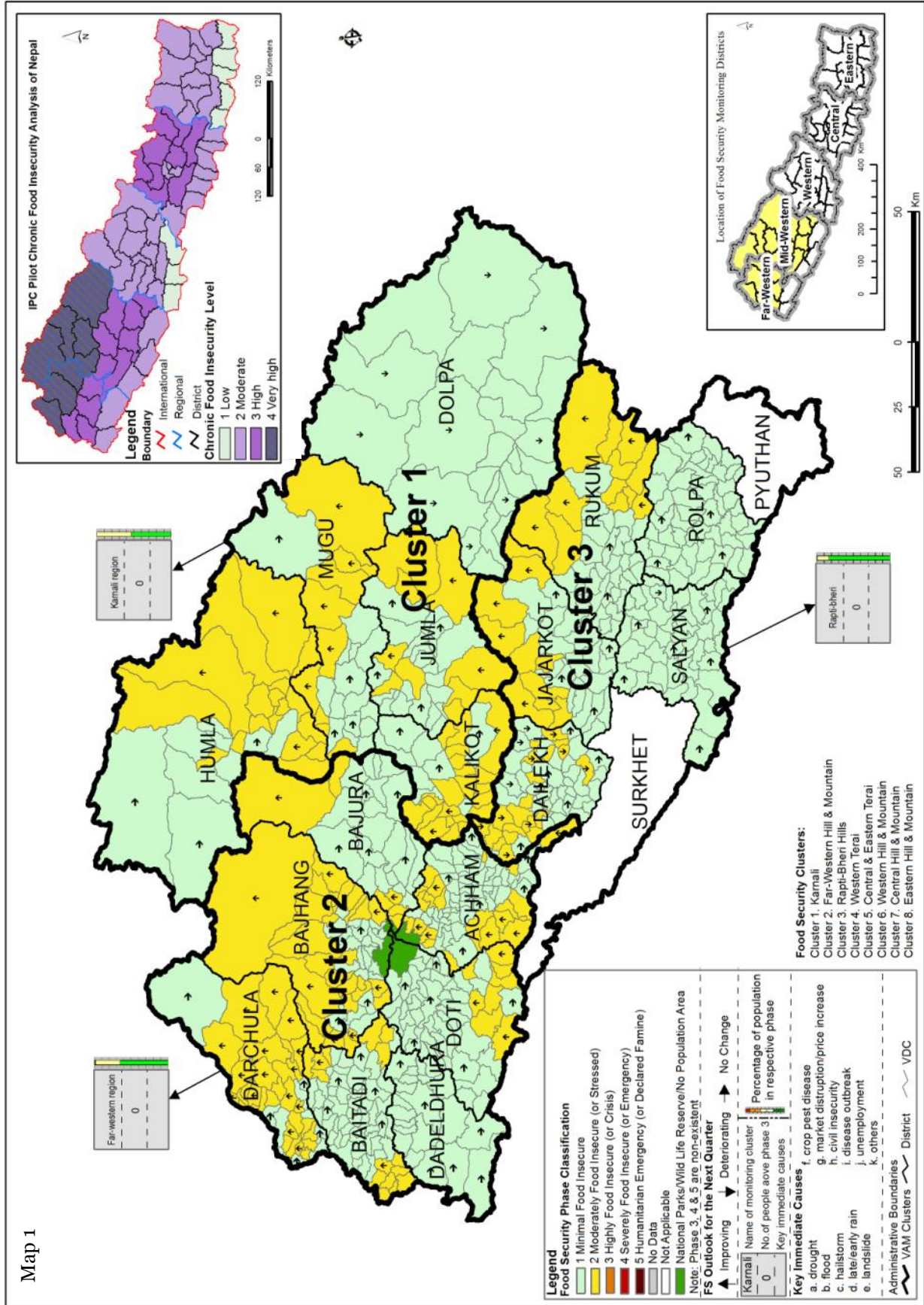
With depleting household food stocks, this period observed seasonal deterioration in some parts of the country, especially in the Mid and Far Western Development Regions. Nevertheless, with functioning markets, smooth supplies, safety nets, and income, most of the areas reported minimal food insecurity.

*The food security situation over the next quarter is expected to improve and remain stable for most parts of the country largely because of wheat harvest, remittances, and income from the *Yarchagumba*, fruits, vegetables, and wage labour. Over the later half of the next quarter, with the onset of monsoon, some areas are expected to experience supply shortfalls in the market.*

Some five VDCs of Dailekh call for close monitoring as the food security situation might further deteriorate to phase III. Dolpa and the mountains of the eastern region might also experience a moderately impaired food security situation.



Food Security Situation, January– March, 2013
 Source: NeKSAP District Food Security Networks



Food Security Maps are available for download NeKSAP Google site:
<https://sites.google.com/site/nefoodsec/home/food-security-phase-classification-maps>



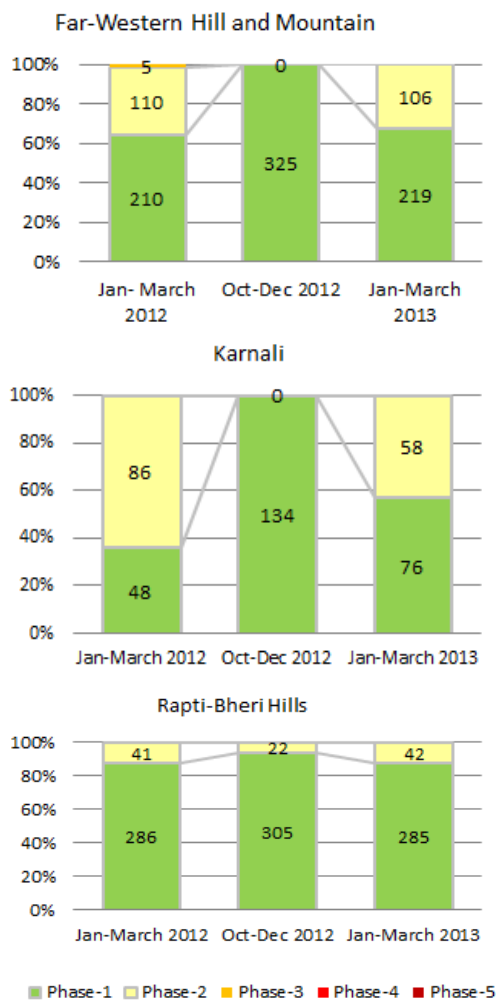


Figure 1. Temporal variation in food security (Source: NeKSAP DFSN)

Temporal and spatial variation in food security outcomes

January-March being a lean agricultural period in Nepal, different areas observed a seasonal deterioration in food security situation (Map1, and Figure 1). Based on the periodic monitoring information, the NeKSAP District Food Security Networks have classified total of 209 VDCs as moderately food insecure (Phase-II) in this period compared to only 25 VDCs in the same phase in the last cycle (October-December 2012).

Most of these food insecure VDCs are concentrated in the Far Western Hill and Mountain districts (106), Karnali (58), and Rapti-Bheri hills (42). Additionally, two VDCs of Siraha and one of Sunsari, affected by fire and flood incidents last year, have continued to be moderately food insecure. The overall food security situation, however, has improved compared to last year same period, where some 261 VDCs were classified as moderately food insecure and five VDCs as highly food insecure.

Dolpa is in a minimal food insecurity phase (Phase-I) now, whereas the entire district was moderately food insecure (Phase-II), last year this period. The reasons for this change are: improved mule trails connecting Rukum and Jajarkot, better maize production (>20 percent compared to last year), larger incomes from *Yarchagumba* last year, regular supply of food by the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC), and WFP's food support of about 93 mt, in advance. Similarly, the situation in Jumla has also changed positively, compared to the same period last year, largely due to the better production of apple and maize; last year, the production of apple was severely affected by hailstorms during the flowering and fruiting stages. Kalikot has reported a deteriorating situation due to the decrease in maize production by around 27 percent.

Household Food Consumption*

The improvement in food security situation over last year is also revealed by the adequacy of food consumption as measured by the frequency and diversity of the food items consumed. Some 77 percent households indicated adequate food consumption in January-March 2013 against 59 percent in the same period in 2012 (Figure 2). Spatial variation in food consumption reveal almost similar picture for hills and tarai against mountains that record largest proportion of households (31 percent) reporting inadequate consumption against national average of 23 percent. Households with inadequate food consumption demonstrate poor intake of protieneous foods like pulses, dairy products, and meat, fish, and egg.

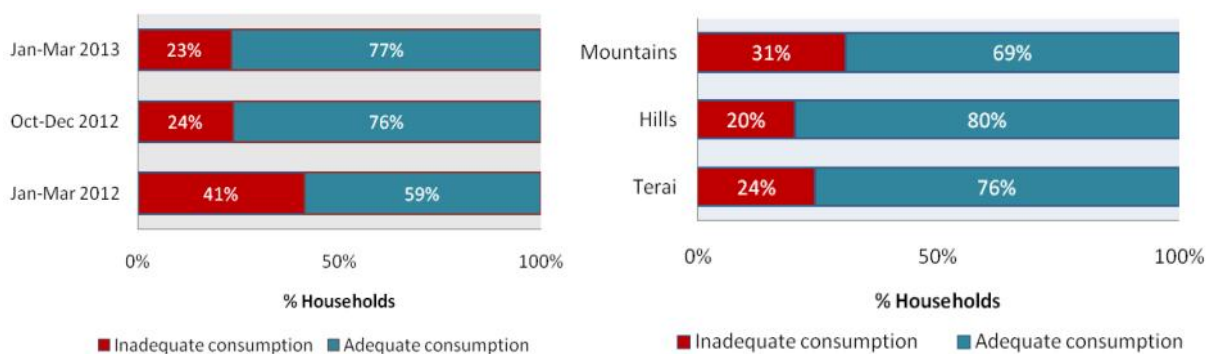


Figure 2. Household food consumption (Source: NeKSAP household survey)

As indicated by the NeKSAP household survey, relatively lower number of households have experienced shock in this period-only 11 against some 17 percent of the last cycle (October-December 2012). Of those facing shocks, some 30 percent reportedly experienced shock, leading to food shortages. Human disease/illness constituted the most common shock for the households.

* The classification of households having inadequate or adequate food consumption is based on the Food Consumption Score (FCS). The FCS is a composite indicator that takes into account the dietary diversity and food frequency of the household diet based on the consumption of 8 main food groups. Households that get FCS less than or equal to 35 are considered having inadequate food consumption, whereas households with FCS greater than 35 are classified as having adequate consumption. For more information, please download: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp197216.pdf





January– March being an agricultural lean season, level of household food stock has started depleting in this cycle, especially in the districts of Far Western Hills and Mountains and Rapti-Bheri Hills cluster that observed relatively larger production drops in maize. However, household food stock is expected to replenish with the winter crop harvest (e.g. wheat and barley) from April onwards.

HOUSEHOLD FOOD STOCKS: January– March is an agricultural lean season characterized by depleting household food stocks. The NeKSAP household survey has revealed depletion in household food stock by 23 percent compared to an average stock of 521 kilo last cycle to 403 kilo this period. Consequently the number of food sufficiency months have fallen from 6.3 months in the last cycle (October–December 2012) to 4.6 months in this cycle (January–March 2013). Areas of Rapti-Bheri Hills, and Far Western Hills and Mountains (FWHM), which experienced relatively larger decline in summer crops production (especially maize), are reported to have observed reduced level of food stocks in this monitoring cycle with household food stocks recorded at 144 and 188 kilo respectively. With the current level of stocks, households in these regions are expected to have food stock sufficient for 1.63 and 2.34 months.

FOOD ASSISTANCE AND SUPPLIES: In some mountainous districts, where inadequate local production and market inefficiencies crop up the food availability concerns, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Chinese Government have provided food assistance in this period as well. The WFP, through its Livelihoods and Assets Creation programme, made 3,719 mt food (3,332 mt rice and 387 mt pulses) available for 56,341 households in 179 VDCs of 14 districts in the Mid, and Far Western Development Regions. While the beneficiaries in Bajura, Darchula, Dolpa, Humla, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Mugu, and Rolpa received in-kind food for work; beneficiaries in Achham, Baitadai, Bajhang, Dailekh, and Jumla received combination of food and cash. Beneficiaries of Doti, however, received cash only for the work. Similarly, 445 households of Kimathanka, Chepuwa, and Hatiya VDCs of Sankhuwasabha received 51 mt of rice from the Chinese government.

The Nepal Food Corporation (NFC), through its depots, made available food (rice) in subsidized rate for the people in the remote districts, and helped them access to food. As indicated by the DFSNs, NFC rice supplied in this reporting period is recorded at: 1,125 mt in the Far Western Hill and Mountain districts; 790 mt in the Mid Western Hill and Mountain districts; 857 mt in the Eastern Hill and Mountain districts; and 256 mt in the Western Hill and Mountain districts.

With the functional roads and trails, smooth market operations, and adequate food stocks in the road-head markets, most of the households have realized better 'physical access' to markets. Nevertheless, still a larger number of VDCs (especially in the Far Western Hill and Mountain, Karnali, Rapti-Bheri Hill, and the Eastern Hill and Mountain districts) experience poor access to market - not only economic, but also physical. During this period, some VDCs in the northern belt of Mugu reported reduced market supplies (by 10-15%) due to the road obstruction caused by snowfalls. For rest of the areas, market was reported to be smooth, with adequate food stocks, and normal price rise.

S.N	District	Supply (mt)	S.N	District	Supply (mt)
1	Bajhang	160	11	Dolpa	477
2	Bajura	495	12	Jumla	64
3	Darchula	420	13	Humla	45
4	Achham	50	14	Mugu	112
FWHM total		1,125	15	Kalikot	1.2
5	Solukhumbu	183	16	Rukum	1.6
6	Okhaldhunga	173	17	Dailekh	50.3
7	Khotang	280	18	Jajarkot	2.7
8	Bhojpur	101	19	Rolpa	36
9	Sankhuwasava	25	MWHM total		790
10	Taplejung	95	20	Mustang	57
EHM total		857	21	Manang	120
			22	Gorkha	79
			WHM total		256

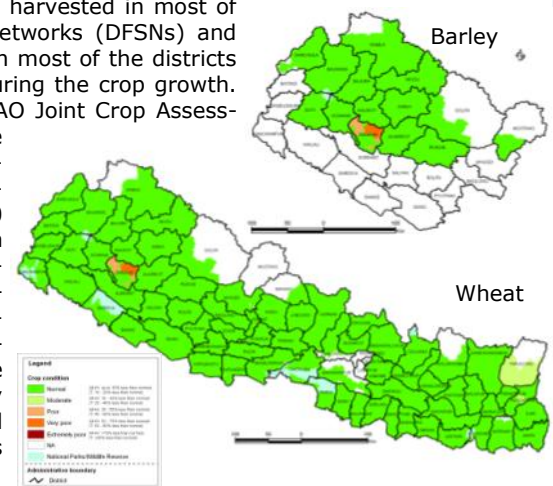
Table 2: NFC Rice Supply (Source: NeKSAP DFSNs)

WINTER CROP

Wheat and barley are the major winter crops in Nepal, which are currently being harvested in most of the areas. Based on the information obtained through District Food Security Networks (DFSNs) and stakeholder consultation, the winter crop production is expected at normal level in most of the districts (Map 2), which is attributed to the good rainfall (Map 3) and agriculture input during the crop growth. The details on the crop production estimate will be released in the MoAD-WFP-FAO Joint Crop Assessment report, which is in progress. The preliminary information indicates decrease in wheat production in some of the areas in the Mid Western Development Region, especially in the Rapti-Bheri districts. For instance, the production is estimated to decline by 60 percent in some 20 VDCs in Dailekh (mostly in the northern belt), due to the strong wind and hailstorms during the maturity and the harvesting period; likewise the crop is expected to decrease by 10-15% in Jajarkot, Rukum, and Kalikot. Also, the wheat production is estimated to drop by 15-20%, and 17 percent in Panchthar, and Taplejung respectively due the hailstorms and lack of chemical fertilizers. Short supply of chemical fertilizer is a perennial issue in many parts of the country, which had negatively impacted on the summer crops production as well in many districts.



Map 3. Rainfall (January-March) (Source: NeKSAP DFSN)



Map 2. 2012/13 winter cereal production (Source: NeKSAP DFSN)





HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

Daily wage, crop sales, remittances, and private enterprises continue to record largest share of household income with their contribution recorded at 28, 18, 16, and 13 percent respectively for January-March 2013 (NeKSAP household survey).

Key agricultural commodities contributing to household income include seasonal and off-season vegetables, sugarcane, dairy, and livestock products.

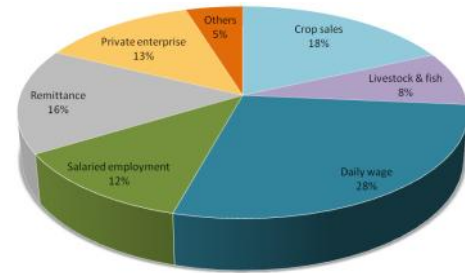


Figure 3. Source of household income (NeKSAP household survey)

HIGH VALUE COMMODITIES (HVCs)

Contribution of agriculture, livestock, and NTFPs in household income and food security remains significant in this period. Vegetables (cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, potato etc.), fruits (e.g. citrus), NTFPs (Jatamasi, Satuwa, Kaladana, Chiraito, Katuki, Amla, Rittha etc.), and livestock products (e.g. dairy, goat, poultry) have contributed to household income and food security of smallholder and medium sized producers, and associated entrepreneurs, despite this period being lean season for the major cereals.

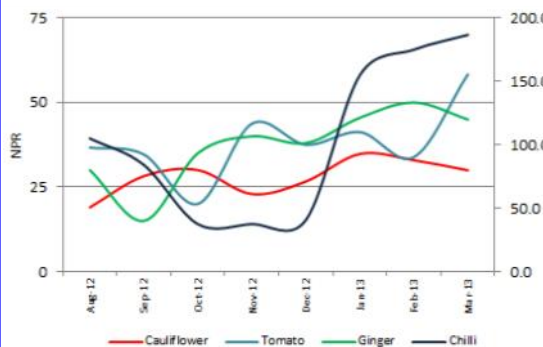


Figure 4. Farm gate price of key vegetables (NeKSAP market survey)

The farm gate prices of key vegetables and spices, like cauliflower, tomato, chilly, and ginger demonstrate monthly variation, however an upward trend after the month of December, with significant improvement in price of chilly and ginger compared to the last cycle (Figure 4). With increasing farm gate price, small holder farmers, who are the hallmark of Nepalese agriculture, are reported to be in the better position in this reporting period.

Indicative estimates by the District Food Security Networks (DFSNs), reveal significant transaction and revenues from HVCs in this reporting period. For instance, in the Far Western Hill and Mountain districts, some 9,000 households are reported to have earned NPR 5,000 each through NTFPs and seasonal vegetables. Production and trade of vegetables, in this region, are largely focused around the District Head Quarters (DHQ). In Jumla, farmers in 20 VDCs are reported to have made an income of NPR 14 million (160 thousands USD) by apple sapling, carrot seeds, and potato. NTFP from Mugu, Dolpa, and Jumla is reported to have contributed an amount of NPR one million to the national treasury in this period. Likewise, in the districts of Rapti Bheri Hills, some 60,000

households are reported to have earned NPR 500 million (5.7 million USD) through NTFPs, and additional 68,000 households are believed to have generated revenue of NPR 400 million (4.6 million USD) through citrus, vegetables, dairy and livestock products.

In the Western Hill and Mountain districts, some 20-25% households (especially from Syangja, Tanahun, Arghakhanchi, Palpa, and Lamjung) reported to have earned NPR 13 billion (149 million USD) through vegetables, which is an increment of 5-10% compared to last year. In the Eastern Hill and Mountain districts, cash crops and NTFPs are reported to have generated revenue of NPR 1.6 billion (18.3 million USD); livestock sub-sector, in this region, have generated income of NPR 2.5 billion (28.7 million USD). Similarly, in the Central and Eastern Terai districts, sugarcane, vegetables, and livestock products are reported to have generated incomes of NPR 32.9 billion (378 million USD).

Production and trade of HVCs is concentrated along the road corridors and market centers. Hence, needless to say, a large chunk of benefit from HVCs is reaped by the producers and entrepreneurs located near the road head and market centers.

WAGE EMPLOYMENT AND REMITTANCE

Public works, real estate, and industries remained key sectors creating wage opportunities as usual. Development activities supported by the government, and non-government organizations have created good employment opportunities in the Mid Western, Far Western, and Eastern Development Regions. For instance, some 10,000 people in Khotang, Bhojpur, Okhaldhunga, and Solukhumbu got wage employment in the DFID and SDC supported road projects, like Rural Access Programme (RAP), and District Road Support Programme (DRSP) respectively. Similarly, WFP's Livelihoods and Assets Creation programme, CARE Nepal's project, Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP), Decentralized Rural Infrastructure and Livelihood Project (DRILIP), and RAP are reported to have provided wage employments to some 30,400 households (12 percent of total households) in the Far Western Hill and Mountain districts. WFP's Livelihoods and Assets Creation programme alone has created wage employments worth of NPR 54 million (620 thousands USD) in 86 VDCs of the six districts in the Mid and Far Western Development Regions.

Road and hydro projects in the Central Development Regions have provided wage employments to some 5,370 people of Sindhuli, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Dhading, and Kavre. It is estimated that these projects disbursed around NPR 2.17 million/day (USD 27,000/day). Industrial sector is yet another larger contributor to the employment generation. In the industrial corridors of the Central and Eastern Terai, some 200,000 people (21 percent households) from Sunsari, Morang, Bara, and Parsa have got employments; they earn NPR 10,000/month. (Source: NeKSAP, DFSNs)

Remittances, as usual, have contributed to households' income and food security. March being the period for seasonal in-migration in Karnali, it is estimated that some 58 VDCs (except Dolpa) received about NPR 75 million (860 thousands USD) in the later half of March. Likewise, Rapti-Bheri Hill districts (Surkhet, Salyan, Pyuthan, Dailekh, Jajarkot, and Rukum) reported to have received some 192 million NPR (2.2 million USD). The total remittances flow in the Western Hill and Mountain districts remained around NPR 9.8 (112.6 million USD); it is estimated that around 60 percent households received NPR 22,000 each. In the Eastern Hill and Mountain districts, where some 35 percent households are estimated to have their member migrated to gulf countries, reported to have received NPR 1,209 million/month (14 million USD/month). Similarly, some 29 percent households in the Central and Eastern Terai districts have received NPR 13,000/month on an average. Following the traditional trend, Far Western Development Region observed seasonal in-migration (March end) as well as out-migration (January-February) during this period. Hence the effect of remittance on households' income and food security can be observed in the next monitoring cycle. (Source: NeKSAP DFSNs)





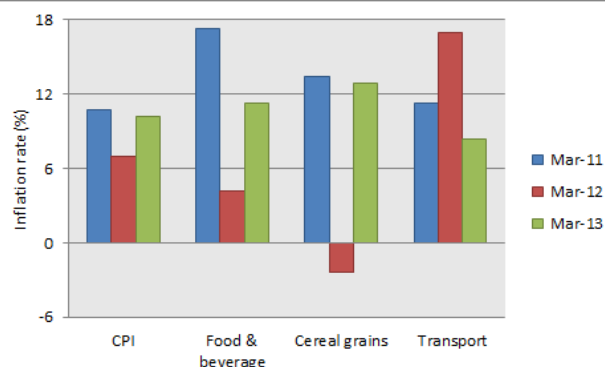
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Food Access

MARKET AND PRICES

The year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) as revealed by Rastra Bank stood at 10.2 percent in March 2013 against 7.0 percent. While the index of food & beverage increased by 11.3 percent over moderate increment of 4.2 percent in the same period last year (figure 5), cereal grain index demonstrated sharp increment (by 12.9 percent) as compared to 2.4 percent decline, thereby indicating food security concerns for poor and vulnerable households. Transport Price Index, which is one of the major contributors to rising food prices, however, increased moderately by 8.4 percent compared to sharp increment of 17.0 percent over the same period last year.

Figure 5. Inflation trend (Source: Nepal Rastra Bank)



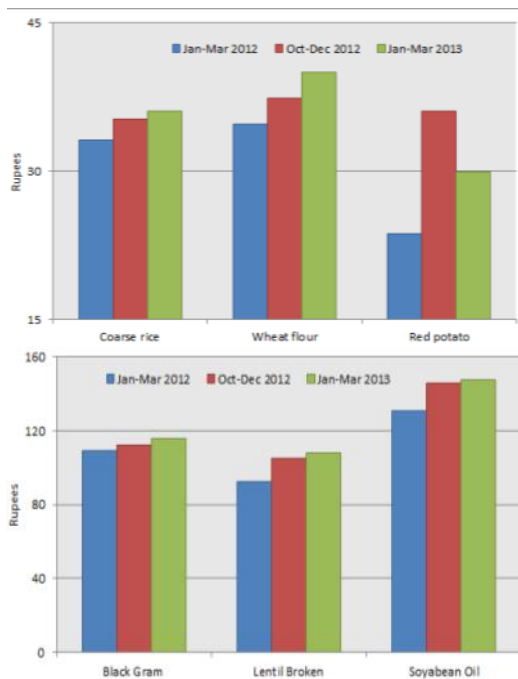
INTERNATIONAL FOOD MARKET- INDIA

Year-on-year CPI in India rose by 10.4 percent in March 2013 and the food, beverage, and tobacco price index by 12.3 percent. Cereal sub-sector recorded the largest increment of 17.6 percent (http://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewBulletin.aspx?Id=14192). Among the cereals, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) indicates wheat being dearer with its WPI recorded at 19.87 percent. The WPI of rice also increased in similar trend, measured at 17.90 percent. The vegetable price index, however, recorded a marginal decline, with some 0.95% (<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=94679>).

RETAIL PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS

Retail prices of basic food commodities showed an upward trend over the past one year. For instance, prices of coarse rice, wheat flour, black gram, broken lentil and soybean oil indicated a marginal increase as compared to the period of October-December 2012 and the same period last year. Price of red potato, however, demonstrates seasonal fluctuation with price on decline over the last cycle (October-December 2012) and slight increment compared to same cycle last year (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Retail price of key food items Source: ABPMDD, MoAD



Though the supply situation during January-March 2013 remained fairly stable (except in Mugu, where snowfall obstructed road, which led to supply shortfalls by some 10-15 percent), spatial variation in retail price remained unabated. For instance, compared to consumers in the Terai, people in the Mountains had to pay 72 percent more for coarse rice, 103 percent more for wheat flour, 88 percent more for potato, 44 percent more for lentil, and 36 percent more for soybean oil.

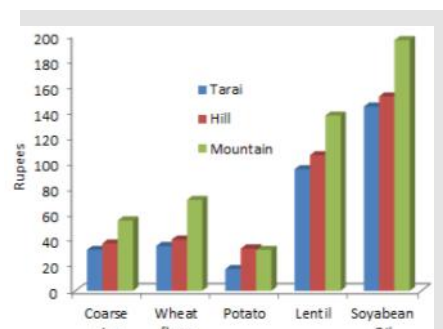


Figure 7. Spatial variation in retail price

Purchasing power of poor and vulnerable households: Wage to Cereal Terms of Trade

Terms of trade that measures the relative strength of one good or service over others, is the rate at which one good or service can be exchanged for another. It is expressed as a ratio or relative price. In the context like ours, where wage labor constitutes a large segment of households' income in most of the poor and vulnerable households, wage to cereal Terms of Trade (TOT) is a powerful tool to assess the food security, especially access to food of those groups, who are net food purchasers. Wage to cereal TOT is the ratio of price of coarse rice over daily wage and as such tells the kilo of coarse rice that a day's wage can purchase.

The TOT between wages to cereals varies spatially and temporally, showing relatively better purchasing power of agricultural wage labourers in the Hill and Terai as compared to the Mountain. Looking at the TOT trend, the wages to cereals terms of trade have slightly deteriorated in the past couple of months, as cereal prices have marginally increased and wage rates have remained same relatively. On an average, one day's wage earning can buy about 9.4 kilo of coarse rice in the Hill, 8.4 kilo in the Terai, and 7.0 kilo in the Mountain belts, while the national average is 8.0 kilo coarse rice per day's labor.

Table 3. Wage to cereal TOT (Source: NeKSAP)

Ecological belt	Agricultural wage rate (NPR)	Price of coarse rice (NPR)	TOT
Mountain	387.4	55.3	7.0
Hill	342.3	36.5	9.4
Terai	262.0	31.0	8.4
Average	330.5	41.2	8.0





The food security situation in most parts of the country is expected to improve during the the next three months (April-June 2013). Food availability and access is anticipated to improve with winter crop harvest, remittances, and income from NTFPs and high value crops. With the onset of monsoon (ideally from 10 June), stability and utilization (for e.g. road blockades and public health concerns), however, can be expected to deteriorate in some hilly and mountain areas after mid June 2013. The South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-4) predicts 'above normal' level of monsoon for Nepal (http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/news/documents/sascof-4_consensusstatement_2013.pdf). The political situation is likely to be unstable with the anticipated elections approaching nearer. Incidences of *bandhas* might obstruct supplies, including the food.

In most part of the country, wheat will be completely harvested by May, which will help replenish the households' food stocks. Timely winter rain and good weather conditions are expected to give rise to normal production of winter crops in most of the districts. Hence, food availability, as such, is not expected to deteriorate in most part of the countries. Additionally, food supplies by Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) is also expected to improve food availability in the next cycle. NFC food stock as of March 2013 is recorded at 1,081 mt in the Eastern Hill and Mountain districts (Solukhumbu, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, and Taplejung), 344 mt in far western hills and mountains (Achham, Bajhang, Bajura, and Darchula), 324 mt in Karnali, 360 mt in Western Hill and Mountain districts (Mustang, Manang, and Gorkha), and some 160 mt in Rapti-Bheri districts (Rukum, Jajarkot, and Dailekh). In addition, food supports from the WFP and the Chinese government are also expected to ease food availability in some districts.

April-June is a period of *Yarchagumba* (*Cordyceps sinensis*) collection in many mountain districts in the Mid Western, Far Western, and Central Development Regions. *Yarchagumba* is an important contributor of the households' income and livelihoods in these areas. NeKSAP DFSNs reported some 40 million USD earned by some 27, 200 families of Dolpa, Mugu, Jumla, Bajhang, Darchula, Sindhupalchowk, Rukum, and Dolakha in 2012. April-June is also a period of high value crops like tea and cardamom in the eastern hills, vegetables and tropical fruits like mango, pineapple, melons in the entire Terai region. Hence, income from these commodities will also shape households' access to food. Third country remittance is expected as usual. In the Mid and Far Western districts, where household members have returned during March, the hand-carried remittances are expected to make significant contribution in the livelihoods and food access.

Karnali: Most of the districts in Karnali are expected to have fairly improved and stable food security situation in the next quarter except for Dolpa where food security situation is expected to deteriorate with exhausting food stocks as wheat will be harvested only after July and Chinese market access (in upper 7 VDCs) will be possible only in August.

Far Western Hill and Mountain: The food security situation in the Far Western Hill and Mountain districts is expected to improve in the next quarter. Wheat harvest, well functioning roads and markets, remittances, wage employment opportunities, and income from the vegetables and NTFPs are expected to stabilize food security situation across the region. Income from *Yarchagumba* will be instrumental in food access for the next few months. Some 11,000 households are expected to engage in *Yarchagumba* collection from 32 VDCs of Bajhang, and Darchula.

Rapti-Bheri Hill: Except for Dailekh, most of the areas are expected to be in minimal food insecurity phase (Phase I). The outlook for 26 VDCs (20 in Cluster C; and six in Cluster B) in Dailekh is deteriorating. It's quite likely that Naumule, Toli, Chauratha, Bhawani, and Chamunda VDCs in Cluster C might slide into phase III. Crop failure is the key reason for such a worsening situation. Production of main summer crop, maize, decreased by 30 percent (in 2012), and winter crops have now been badly affected by strong wind and hailstorms. The main winter crop, wheat, is estimated to decline by 60 percent (mostly in the northern belt). An initial estimate by the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), Dailekh, indicates production decrease of around 5,000 mt.

Eastern Hill and Mountain: Wheat is not extensively grown in the Eastern Hill and Mountain districts, some northern VDCs of Taplejung (5), Bhojpur (2), Khotang (11), Panchthar (8), Solukhumbu (10), Sankhuwasabha (10), Udayapur (11), and 7 eastern VDCs of Terhathum are expected to experience seasonal deterioration in the food security situation. In addition to depleting households' stocks, these VDCs are expected to experience difficult access to market with the onset of the monsoon.

Central Hill and Mountain: Districts of this region are expected to remain at minimal food insecurity phase, except for some southern VDCs of Ramechhap, where some 11 VDCs are expected observe moderately deteriorating situation, largely due to the decrease in production of lentil, maize, and millet. Lentil production is estimated to have decreased by 25 percent in those VDCs.

This Food Security Bulletin is based on (i) data collected from 954 households of 57 districts (Hill: 396 households; Mountain: 239 households and Terai: 319 households) during October-December 2012 as a part of the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), (ii) NeKSAP District Food Security Network Meetings in 17 Far and Mid Western Hill and Mountain; consultation meetings in 55 districts; and other information sources as referenced.

Rest of the country is expected to be stable.



NeKSAP updates

NeKSAP Inception Workshop: NeKSAP, which was pioneered by WFP in 2002, entered into second phase with the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the National Planning Commission (NPC), the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) on 04 October 2012 on institutionalizing of NeKSAP into the government structure between 2012-2016. A project inception workshop was organized on 20 March 2013, where Honorable member of the NPC Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai attended the event as a chief guest and declared official launching of the project at the presence of the high level officials (NPC, and MoAD); Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Nepal; Country Representative, WFP; and representatives from the government agencies, I/NGOs, private sector, and civil society. The regional level consultation meetings are planned for May/June for the inception of the project at regional levels.

NeKSAP De-briefing Meeting: NeKSAP de-briefing meeting was organized between 18-20 April 2013 in Kathmandu with the participation of the Food Security Focal Persons from the District Agriculture Development Offices (DADOs) in the Central Development Region. The MoAD spokesperson; Director General of the Department of Agriculture; Directors of the Regional Agriculture, and Livestock Development Directorates; Representative of the WFP, and other senior government officials had also participated the meeting.

NeKSAP Food Security Phase Classification Review: The bottom-up process of NeKSAP food security phase classification review started with community level consultations, advanced towards the districts and regions, and concluded with a national level consultation and validation workshop on 22 March 2013. The objective of the review was to review the indicators, methodology, reporting, and institutional linkages in the spirit of the strengthening and institutionalizing of NeKSAP into the government structure, and streamlining of NeKSAP and IPC version 2. Range of thematic experts representing diverse stakeholders (government, non-government, private sector, and the civil society) provided their inputs in finalizing the review. The Senior Advisor from the WFP Asia Regional Bureau, and Technical Advisor from the IPC Asia Regional Project also participated the event, and provided valuable inputs.

The revised indicators and methodology will be fully adopted by NeKSAP once endorsed by the NeKSAP Project Steering Committee. Along with the revised indicators, NeKSAP will adopt the IPC version 2 standard phases as presented in the table below (Table 3).

Detailed district food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) currently monitors 72 districts across Nepal. The information collected forms the basis for this bulletin. Detailed food security bulletins will be made available upon request in English* and Nepali.

Cluster 1. Karnali

Dolpa*
Humla*
Jumla*
Kalikot*
Mugu*

Cluster 2. Far-Western Hill & Mountain

Achham*
Bajhang*
Bajura*
Baitadi*
Dadeldhura*
Darchula*
Doti*

Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri Hill

Dailekh*
Jajarkot*
Pyuthan
Rolpa*
Rukum*
Salyan*
Surkhet

Cluster 4. Western Terai

Kanchanpur
Kailali
Bardiya
Banke
Dang
Kapilbastu
Rupandehi
Cluster 5. Central and Eastern Terai
Nawalparasi
Chitwan
Parsa
Bara
Rautahat
Sarlaha
Mahottari
Dhanusha

Cluster 6. Western Hill and Mountain

Gorkha
Lamjung
Tanahu
Arghakhanchi
Gulmi
Palpa
Syangja
Parbat
Baglung
Myagdi
Mustang
Manang
Kaski

Cluster 7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli
Ramechhap
Dolakha
Sindhupalchok
Kavrepalanchok
Nuwakot
Rusuwa
Makwanpur
Dhading

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldhunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum

Table 4. NeKSAP Phase Classification vis-a-vis IPC version 2

Phase	NeKSAP Phase names	Equivalent phases IPC V2	Description
I	Minimal Food Insecure	Minimal	Households with secure food and non-food needs without shifting or changing livelihood strategies. These households are capable of adjusting small scale stresses caused by hazards, disasters, shocks, epidemics and conflicts or violence by means of existing social, natural and economic capital.
II	Moderately Food Insecure (or Stressed)	Stressed	Households meet minimal food with traditional coping, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.
III	Highly Food Insecure (or Crisis)	Crisis	Households with food consumption gaps high or above usual acute malnutrition. Or meet minimal food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets - lead to food consumption gaps.
IV	Severely Food Insecure (or Emergency)	Emergency	Households unable to meet food and non-food needs without losing livelihood assets. This induces very high acute malnutrition leading to high morbidity, mortality and shortened life expectancy. Probable high level of violence and movement restriction due to conflict. Some immediate interventions and assistance required.
V	Humanitarian Emergency (or Declared Famine)	Famine	Almost all households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, destitutions, irreversible loss of capital resources and loss of lives are evident. Households of the whole areas are challenged by acute shortage of food and other basic needs - hazards, disasters, epidemics or destruction of infrastructure, disturbances of services. Immediate humanitarian assistance required.