Consumption: What are the sources and uses of domestic food supply?

The domestic food supply consists of: domestic production + imports + stock variations - exports. In the selected countries, between 1961 and 2007, profound changes have taken place in the make-up of the respective domestic food supply. Whilst in 1961, almost all the selected countries produced domestically more than 100 percent of the domestic food supply, in 2007, all selected countries produced less than 100 percent of domestic food supply. This, consequently, has lead to a smaller portion being exported, and a greater dependency on imports. The greatest changes in the distribution of components of the domestic food supply are in Benin, Mozambique, and Sudan and South Sudan. All three countries show large drops in the portion domestically produced, and large increases in imported food, and in stock variations.

In the same way that domestic food supply comprises of a number of component sources, it also has a number of component uses. The total use of domestic food supply is defined as: food for animal + plus food for seeds + Post-Harvest Loss (PHL) + other utilisations + human food. There are a number of noteworthy trends. For instance Benin, Ghana, Nigeria all substantially increased the percentage of total food supply used for animal feed (these are incidentally the same countries which show the most marked increases in calories per capita, see above). Post-Harvest Loss continues to be a problem in a number of countries, especially Sudan and South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Mozambique.

Source: FAOstat (http://faostat.fao.org/) Food Balance Sheets (FBS)
Agricultural Consumption & Production, 1961-2009

Production – How has agricultural production performed over the last 50 years?

**Food Production**
Significant changes have taken place in Africa's agricultural sector during the last 50 years. Production has increased across the board, although the extent varies, both across countries, and across crop varieties. Despite significant progress in the area of agricultural production of basic foods, in a number of Dutch focus countries the increase in basic food production has struggled to keep pace with population increases (Uganda, Sudan & South Sudan, Kenya, Burundi and Mozambique).

**Tropical Livestock Units**
The same is true for TLUs: in a number of the Dutch focus countries, the production of meat has struggled to keep pace with population increase (Mali, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Mozambique) - many of the same countries whose production of basic food has also struggled to keep pace with population increases. However, some countries have managed to increase food production and TLU by more than the population growth.

**Domestic Food Supply**
An increasing amount of Africa’s domestic food supply is made up by food imports. In Africa as a whole, in 1961 only 12 percent of the total domestic cereal supply came from food imports, a figure which rose to 29 percent in 2007. The increasing dependence on food imports is reflected also in the net Agricultural commodity flows of the focus countries. In 1961, five of the twelve selected countries had a positive trade balance, whilst in 2007, none of the twelve selected countries exported more volume than it imported.

This information was compiled by Anika Altaf, Ton Dietz, Wijnand Klaver and Sebastiaan Soeters.

For other infosheets and thematic maps on Africa visit the website: www.ascleiden.nl/Publications/

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THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTRE (ASC) in Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only research institute in The Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. Its primary aims are to undertake scientific research on Sub-Saharan Africa in the social sciences and to promote a better understanding of African societies. It is an independent institute but maintains close links with Leiden University.

The work of the ASC is not only of importance to other researchers but also to policymakers, journalists, NGOs and multinational companies and organizations.

Research The research programme usually lasts for a period of five years and the projects are multidisciplinary. The research is of an empirical nature and is carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions. The ca. 25 researchers and many PhD candidates conduct research in Sub-Saharan Africa on a variety of themes in the social sciences.

Library The ASC’s Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection of Africa in the Netherlands in the fields of the social sciences, the humanities and law. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 80,000 books, 1,500 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 2,000 periodicals. African Studies Abstracts Online contains some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles. Web dossiers offer background information about a number of events and themes.

Publications The ASC researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. In addition, the ASC has five publication series:
- Africa Yearbook
- Afrika-Studiecentrum Series
- African Dynamics
- African Studies Collection
- ASC Infosheets

Seminars The ASC offers a regular seminar programme on Thursday afternoons. The seminars, on a wide range of topics, are given by prominent local and foreign-based Africanists. The seminars are open to the public.

Visiting Fellows Each year eight African academics are invited for a three month fellowship at the ASC in order to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. The scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing.

Research Masters in African Studies Together with the Leiden University Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Social Sciences and other Africanists in The Netherlands, the ASC offers a two year Research Masters in African Studies. Two-thirds of the students participating in this programme come from outside the Netherlands.

Thesis Award Each year a prize is awarded to the best Masters thesis on Sub-Saharan Africa by a student at a university in the Netherlands or in Africa. The winning thesis is published in the ASC collection series.

* Figures for Ethiopia only cover the period 2000 to 2009, due to the formation of the independent Eritrean state.