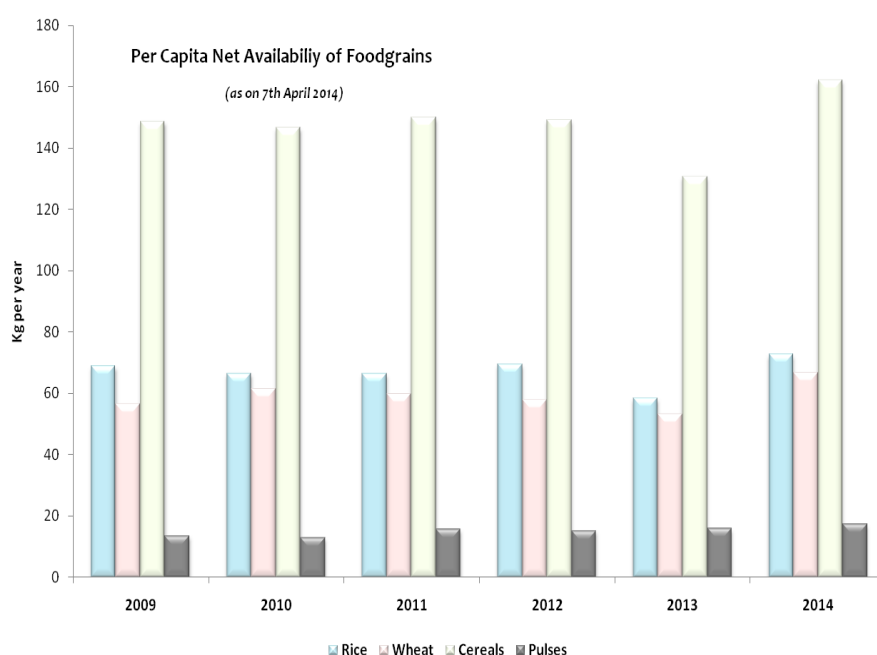


Agriculture

Current scenario: Food security, a distant goal for India



Food security is still a far cry for India, with the average per capita food consumption being about 500 gm per person, which is far below global standards. In the period from 2009 to 2014, Rice, Wheat, and Pulses recorded a CAGR of 0.9%, 2.8% and 4.1% respectively in per capital net

availability of foodgrains in India, which indicate a clear changing pattern in consumption.

Source: <http://eands.dacnet.nic.in/PDF/PerCapita-FoodGrains.pdf>

A region wise representation of FAO data concerning the global and regional per capita food consumption is provided below for requisite benchmarking.

Table . Global and regional per capita food consumption (kcal per capita per day)

Region	1964 - 1966	1974 - 1976	1984 - 1986	1997 - 1999	2015	2030
World	2358	2435	2655	2803	2940	3050
Developing countries	2054	2152	2450	2681	2850	2980
Near East and North Africa	2290	2591	2953	3006	3090	3170
Sub-Saharan Africa (Excluding South Africa)	2058	2079	2057	2195	2360	2540
Latin America and the Caribbean	2393	2546	2689	2824	2980	3140
East Asia	1957	2105	2559	2921	3060	3190
South Asia	2017	1986	2205	2403	2700	2900
Industrialized countries	2947	3065	3206	3380	3440	3500
Transition countries	3222	3385	3379	2906	3060	3180

Source: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/ac911e/ac911e05.htm>

Future trends: Agriculture in India has tremendous potential of being transformed into a vibrant sector. India could pursue policies that would enhance foreign investment in the food processing sector. Due attention to food safety and security, innovation, and competitiveness of the local industry would help to increase the speed at which new products can be introduced in the market to cater to changing consumer tastes and preferences.

Policy news:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Announces the Reformation of the Agriculture Ministry, which has been renamed as 'Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry' with a view to take care of the farming community's needs, as well as the personal problems faced by them.
- Agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh has urged the finance ministry to increase the import duty on both crude and refined edible oils to stem the flow of cheap imports and protect the interest of domestic farmers. Singh, in a letter to the finance ministry, suggested that the import duty on crude edible oil be increased to 10% from 7.5%, and to 20% from 15% in case of refined edible oil.