



# AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA FOOD SECURITY PORTAL

FACILITATED BY IFPRI 

The new Africa south of the Sahara Food Security Portal presents current information about agriculture, food security, and nutrition in Africa south of the Sahara and about dynamic developments in the region's food system. It is facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and brings together a network of regional partners.

While Africa south of the Sahara has seen impressive growth in agricultural trade in recent years, one in four people remains undernourished,<sup>1</sup> making it the region with the highest prevalence (percentage of population) of hunger. To combat this trend, reliable data and evidence-based knowledge is needed. The **Food Security Portal for Africa south of the Sahara (FSP-SSA)** (<http://ssa.foodsecurityportal.org>), created by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) with support from the European Commission, provides open access to timely, relevant, and high-quality country-level information, focusing on SSA's regional conditions and food security and nutrition needs as well as global issues and trends impacting the region.



The FSP-SSA will serve as a one-stop source of food security and nutrition and early warning indicators and will provide structured evidence and information about the different dimensions of food security to contribute to the design of high quality, timely, and relevant food security policies in the region. The portal will also strengthen regional capacity for improved food security and nutrition policy research and analysis through in-country networks throughout the region and additional in-country dialogues in Zambia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Senegal with the goal of extending these dialogues to other countries in the region in the near future. The FSP-SSA aims to be a

focal point of dialogue between food security stakeholders and is intended to foster a better flow of information for policies designed by public and private stakeholders.

## KEY PORTAL FEATURES:

**Price Watch** provides an instant overview of the latest monthly, weekly, and daily global prices of five major commodities, as well as a daily global volatility status to alert policymakers to periods of excessive price volatility. This volatility "early warning system" is the only mechanism currently available to identify time spans of increased price variability and can assist researchers and policymakers in responding and managing food security crises. Regional data is used to track regional prices and provide daily updates of volatility specific to SSA.

A **Network of Experts** provides members with the opportunity to collaborate and share information with colleagues around the globe. Members also receive weekly email updates of the latest news from the FSP-SSA and can follow the portal on Facebook and Twitter. To become a member, please visit <http://ssa.foodsecurityportal.org/content/registration>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>

[Themes and Discussions](#) covers the multiple dimensions of food security by presenting the latest research, publications, and expert analysis. In addition to in-depth analysis of timely, relevant food security issues, the blog also provides links to the latest data and food security reports released by a number of global and regional sources. The dimensions covered include Food Availability, Input Markets, Food Access, Risk and Resilience, Food Consumption, and External Shocks.

[Interactive Maps](#) featured on the homepage allows users to get a hands-on look at some of the region's most important food security-related indicators. The selection of maps pulls from IFPRI's **Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKKS)** and **Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI)** programs and features interactive tools on regional cereal yields, agricultural expenditures in terms of % of GDP, prevalence of undernourishment, agricultural value-added, and agricultural research and development (R&D). These tools allow users to receive a complete picture of the current food security and agricultural conditions throughout the region.

A [Resource](#) section links to several innovative Policy Analysis Tools from the global Food Security Portal. This section includes:

- [Agricultural Commodity Market Tools](#) that allow users to quickly browse up-to-date global data for four major agricultural commodity prices (wheat, maize, rice, and soybeans) and also include data on international exchange rates and oil prices as well as related news headlines.
- [Global Nutrition Report](#) country profiles, highlighting the progress made on nutrition indicators throughout SSA.
- [Agricultural Commodity Prices and Returns](#) that track the movement of global prices and futures markets for four major agricultural commodities (wheat, maize, rice, and soybeans).



An interactive [Media Analysis Tool](#) tracks discussions in international media outlets regarding agricultural prices of four major crops (wheat, rice, soybeans, and maize). Research has found that media coverage can have an impact on commodity prices and volatility; tracking this coverage provides users with important information on the dynamics of agricultural commodity markets.

[Electronic Dialogues](#) on important regional food security issues will allow for collaborative sharing of information and ideas among partners and contributors. These dialogues will provide an opportunity for members to engage in food security discussions and connect with other policymakers and food security experts. The dialogues will feature both a live panel discussion with experts in the field of food and nutrition security as well as an open online discussion forum and will discuss such topics as climate change adaptation, women's inclusion, and using value chains for enhanced nutrition.

It is hoped that the FSP-SSA's environment of open information-sharing and dialogue will help to increase the resilience of the region's poor to possible food-related crises, including price and climate shocks.

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