Key Updates

2020 – 2021 Agricultural season

FSA sector meeting
July 2021

Jalal Al Hamoud (National Food Security Officer)
Presentation components

Agro-Climate
Precipitations, Temperature, NDVI

Areas of cultivated crops
Wheat, Barley, Other crop

Agricultural inputs
Availability, Prices (fertilizer, fuel,..)

Adverse factors
Precipitation

October & November;
Almost no precipitation at all in all governorates during September ad October.

Heavy and abundant precipitation, especially in the first Dekad of November, in most governorates.

Precipitation exceeded the rates in Raqqa and the coastal and southern governorates.
Precipitation (cont.)

December & January;
In December, precipitation was good in the coastal governorates, acceptable in the southern governorates and northern regions of Hasakeh, Aleppo and Idleb.

In January, precipitation was weak in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, south of Hasakeh and Badia, While it was acceptable to good in the rest of the governorates.
Precipitations (cont.)

February & March;
In February, precipitation was acceptable in the southern and coastal governorates and weak in the rest of the governorates especially in the northern governorates.

In March, the rains were good in the coast, accepted in Qunitera, Raqqa, west of Rural Damascus and Idlib, while it was weak in the rest of the governorates.
Precipitations (cont.)

April & May;
In April good rains fell in the coastal governorates and Quneitra, while it was weak in the rest of the governorates, Especially in Deir Ezzor and the Badia, which did not witness any precipitation.

In May, there was no precipitation at all in any of the governorates.
Despite the drop of minimum temperatures and the occurrence of night frost in separate areas and for limited days, but with the exception of November, the maximum temperatures were high and higher than LTA for the rest of the months and in all governorates, especially in the northeastern governorates.

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NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX (NDVI)

The NDVI of February, March and April, was monitored, where the vegetative growth of crops is greatest.

In April, when vegetative growth and crop biomass are at their peak, in April 2021 the values of vegetative and biomass were scrawny and less than LTA, especially in Hama, the northeastern and southern governorates, as the values were lower than LTA by 50% in most regions of Hasakeh, Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor, and by 30 – 40% in Aleppo and southern governorates.
Planted area of wheat for the current season is more than the area of the previous season, up to 11%.

As for barley for current season, it is less than last season by about 7%.

The areas of other crops for the current season are very close to the previous season.
Availability

In addition to the lack of fertilizers, there was an acute shortage of fuel, especially diesel, in most governorates which led to slowed down agricultural activities, especially to operate water pumps to provide supplementary irrigation for crops and mechanization. There is also a shortage of veterinary services and feed especially for poultry.
Prices of agricultural production inputs continued to rise during 2020-2021 season.

Through the periodic monitoring of the agricultural inputs prices, carried out by FAO, for example, there is an increase in feed prices in the local markets (October 2020 to April 2021) by an average of 166%, Especially for hay and fodder barley,

Prices evolution of the main fodder in the local Syrian markets 2020-2021 season
Adverse factors

- Disturbance of **temporal and spatial distribution** and **decreased rainfall** in most governorates,
- Rainfall interruption, especially **delayed onset** and **early cessation** of rainfall, accompanied by high temperatures.
- Reduction in the **level of water from wells and lakes**, as well as a decrease in the flow of the Euphrates River.
- **Desert locust** spread in some governorates during April and May, and Other pests (field mouse, weed infestation),
- **Scarcity of energy resources** (electricity, diesel, gasoline and gas) and its negative impact on agriculture,
- **Low availability of agricultural production inputs**, low quality and high prices, led farmers to use less than the recommended standards.
- All of the above, in addition to very limited funding of the majority of farmers, is expected to lead to a **decrease in productivity of crops (and possibly livestock)** for the majority of farmers.
Questions?