Food consumption in MENA: trends and challenges

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Food consumption trends in MENA
Factors of consumption growth: annual GDP growth accelerates

Factors of consumption growth: population growth slows growth

% change p.a.

... As a result: continued per capita consumption increase

Source: OECD-FAO Outlook 2018
Cereals will continue to dominate the diets in the region by 2027.

Anticipated per capita grain consumption, kg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SSA</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>MENA</th>
<th>OECD</th>
<th>World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other coarse grains</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD-FAO Outlook 2018
Wheat will remain the most important cereal in the region


StatLink: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933742701
Challenges
Egypt showed the highest wheat yields in the region (average 2010-2016)

Note: Saudi Arabia was largely out of wheat production by 2015.
Source: FAO (2018b).

StatLink ™  http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933742473
Water is the major constraint: annual renewable water resources per capita (2014)

Source: FAO (2018a).

StatLink: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933742492
Uncertainty factor: will diets change towards healthy ones?

- Food calories supply from all grains in North Africa is anticipated at **685 g/cap/day by 2027**
- Assuming 40% of will be lost in storage, transportation and processing, actual grain consumption (**411 g/cap/day**) will still be **77%** above recommended healthy diet.

1. **Nuts** - 50g a day
2. **Beans, chickpeas, lentils and other legumes** - 75g a day
3. **Fish** - 28g a day
4. **Eggs** - 13g a day (so one and a bit a week)
5. **Meat** - 14g a day of red meat and 29g a day of chicken
6. **Carbs** - whole grains like bread and rice **232g a day** and **50g a day of starchy vegetables**
7. **Dairy** - 250g - the equivalent of one glass of milk
8. **Vegetables** -(300g) and fruit (200g)
Imports of grain into Egypt will need to increase by 23%

Imports of wheat, maize and soybeans into Egypt, mln tons

- 2018: 24.3 mln tons
- 2027: 24.3 mln tons

Difference: 5.6 mln tons
Conclusions

• Global demand and competition for wheat and maize will be high
• Egypt needs to make its import and storage systems less costly
Thank you!

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