Market Grain Data Availability, Quality and Transparency in Egypt

مدى توافر و جودة وشفافية بيانات الحبوب في مصر

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Importance of grains to Egypt

The total production of grains in Egypt (wheat, corn, rice and barley) reached 23.3 million tons in 2016.

Egypt imported a total of around 19 million tons of grains in 2016; of which 10.25 million tons were wheat and 8.24 million tons were yellow corn, in addition to the imported rice and barley.

The consumption of grains in Egypt was very high in 2016, exceeding 42 million tons.

### Grain Production in Tons in Egypt 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Grain</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>9,342,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>5,308,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>White corn</td>
<td>5,475,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>Yellow corn</td>
<td>2,342,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>Thin corn</td>
<td>723,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>99,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,291,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Planted areas of Grains in Egypt in Feddans 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Grain</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>3,353,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1,353,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>White corn</td>
<td>1,703,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>Yellow corn</td>
<td>742,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>Thin corn</td>
<td>352,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>59,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,564,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Agriculture
The total area cultivated with grains in Egypt in 2016 reached 7.56 million feddans, representing 48.4% of the total cropping area in Egypt; which indicates the great importance of grains in the country.
Wheat Consumption in Egypt in 2016

- Wheat is the main crop in Egypt
- Total wheat production in Egypt reached around 9.34 million tons in 2016, representing 40.1% of the quantity of grains produced in Egypt.
- The total quantity of wheat imported to Egypt in 2016 reached 10.25 million tons, as per the data of the General Organization for Import & Export Control; with a monthly average of around 854 thousand tons; increasing in 2017 by 7.2% to become around 11 million tons, at a monthly average of 916 thousand tons.
- Egypt is the largest wheat importer in the world, with the main reason for this being the purchases made by the General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC), which imports between 50% and 60% of Egypt's wheat imports for use in milling flour extraction 82% for the production of subsidized balady bread that is sold to citizens at the symbolic price of 5 piaster per loaf; through bread ration cards.
- The average total annual consumption of wheat in Egypt reached around 19 to 20 million tons during the past years until 2016. Around 48% of this quantity on average is locally produced and the other 52% is imported either by GASC or the private sector.
- The quantities of wheat available for consumption in the Egyptian market in 2016 were 19.57 million tons; of which 9.34 million tons is local wheat and 10.25 million tons is imported wheat.

استهلاك القمح في مصر في 2016

- القمح هو المحصول الرئيسي في مصر
- بلغ حجم إنتاجه في عام 2016 حوالي 9.3 مليار طن تمثل 40.1% من كمية الحبوب المنتجة في مصر.
- بلغ إجمالي كميات القمح المستورد إلى مصر عام 2016 حوالي 10.25 مليون طن طبقاً لبيانات الهيئة العامة للرقابة على الصادرات والواردات وذلك بمتوسط شهري قدره 854 ألف طن، ثم ارتفعت في عام 2017 بنسبة 7.2% لتصبح حوالي 11 مليون طن وذلك بمتوسط شهري قدره 916 ألف طن.
- بلغ متوسط إجمالي استهلاك القمح في مصر من 19-20 مليون طن خلال السنوات السابقة حتى عام 2016 ، ويتم إنتاج 48% من هذه الكمية تقريباً في مصر واستيراد حوالي 52% من هذه الكمية سواء بوساطة الهيئة العامة للسلع التموينية أو القطاع الخاص أو الاستثماري.
- بلغت كميات القمح المتاحة للإستهلاك في السوق المصري خلال عام 2016 حوالي 19.57 مليون طن منها 9.34 مليون طن قمح محلي و 10.25 مليون طن قمح مستورد.
Development in the quantities of produced wheat in Egypt in 2016 (in tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yield (No. of tons per feddan)</th>
<th>Growth rate (%)</th>
<th>Production (Ton)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2.732</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
<td>7,977,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2.708</td>
<td>6.84</td>
<td>8,522,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2.389</td>
<td>-15.89%</td>
<td>7,169,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2.746</td>
<td>16.76</td>
<td>8,370,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2.783</td>
<td>5.08</td>
<td>8,795,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2.801</td>
<td>7.56</td>
<td>9,460,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2.735</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>9,279,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2.770</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>9,607,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.786</td>
<td>-2.76%</td>
<td>9,342,538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

المصدر: قطاع الشئون الاقتصادية بوزارة الزراعة بصرف
Corn Consumption in Egypt in 2016

- Corn is considered one of the most important summer crops in Egypt. Corn’s importance for Egypt’s farmers is that it is the only harvest that provides green feed for cattle during the summer season.

- There are three main types of corn in Egypt which are; white corn, yellow corn and thin corn, sometimes called sorghum.

- Total corn production in Egypt, with its various types, reached around 8.54 million tons in 2016; of which 64.1% was white corn, 27.6% was yellow corn and 8.5% was thin corn.

- The quantity of yellow corn imported into Egypt in 2016 reached 8,237,072, with a monthly average of around 686 thousand tons, and with a growth rate of 10.8% in 2016; increasing by 11.9% in 2017 to become 9,213,772; at a monthly average of 767 thousand tons.

- The average total annual consumption of corn in Egypt, with all its types, ranged between around 16 and 17 million tons. Around 50% of the consumed quantity is locally produced, while the other 50% is provided through importation from other countries.

استهلاك الذرة في مصر في 2016

- تعتبر الذرة من أهم المحاصيل الصيفية في مصر.
- هناك 3 أنواع رئيسية من الذرة في مصر. وهذه الأنواع هي الذرة البيضاء White Corn والذرة الصفراء Yellow Corn والذرة الرفيعة Thin Corn والتي يطلق عليها Corn أحياناً لفظ السورجوم.
- بلغ إجمالي إنتاج الذرة في مصر عام 2016 حوالي 8.54 مليون طن. وقد بلغت نسبة الذرة البيضاء 64.1% من هذه الكمية والذرة الصفراء 27.4% والذرة الرفيعة 8.5%.
- بلغت كميات الذرة الصفراء المستوردة إلى مصر عام 2016 كمية 8,237,072 طن بمتوسط شهري قدره 686 ألف طن بمعدل نمو قدره 10.8% عن العام السابق ثم زادت بنسبة 11.9% في عام 2017 لتصبح 9,213,772 طن بمتوسط شهري قدره 767 ألف طن.
- يبلغ متوسط إجمالي استهلاك مصر من ذرة جميع أنواعها في العام حوالي من 16 إلى 17 مليون طن. حيث يتم توفير أكثر من 50% من حجم الاستهلاك من خلال الاستيراد من الخارج المحلي وتم توفير النسبة الباقي وهي 50% أو أقل من خلال الاستيراد من الخارج.
A number of questions come up:

- Is there data available on grains in Egypt? Where?
- Is such data of a suitable standard? Is the data credible?
- Is there transparency in the preparation and provision of this data?

Such questions among others will be answered through this presentation, as well as other demonstrative presentations to be presented by the organization attending the workshop.
Types of data

- Primary data
- Secondary data
The majority of the data related to value in the case of importation can’t be trusted.

Data related to production and the available capacities sent by the companies can’t be trusted.
Grain data sources in Egypt

**Grain Data Sources in Egypt**

- **Others**
  - Chamber of Cereals Industry
  - Chamber of Food Industries
- **Industrial & Trade Chambers**
  - Industrial Development Authority (IDA)
- **Organizations**
  - General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC)
  - General Authority for Free Zones & Investments (GAFI)
- **Ministries**
  - Ministry of Agriculture
  - Ministry of Supply
  - Maritime Transport Sector (MIS)
  - Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS)
First: Ministry of Agriculture

- The Economic Affairs sector at the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the preparation, sorting, issuing and publishing of agricultural data in Egypt; whether agricultural areas, productivity or production; for all agricultural products; especially grains.

- The three strategic crops, wheat, cotton and corn, are given the highest importance and attention.

- The sector publishes a report on winter crops, which includes data on wheat and barley; and a report on summer crops, which includes data on corn and rice; as well as the food balance report, which includes data on waste and consumption.

- The sector provides the Minister of Agriculture and high officials with up-to-date data, as it gave data on the area planted with wheat in 2017/2018, which reached 3,156,835 feddans; as well as data on wheat production, which reached 8,349 million tons.

- The main problem is that data provided to researchers and other agencies is not up-to-date; as the report on winter crops for 2016/2017 has not been issued yet, even though more than a year passed.

- The Central Department for Agricultural Directorates Affairs announces the areas that were planted with the different crops on a weekly basis, whether in the winter or summer season; which is the only up-to-date data at the ministry and which is periodically published by the media.

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Second: The General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC)

- The General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC) provides data on imports and exports for all agricultural products; especially grains.

- The organization is the only agency in Egypt that provides up-to-date data on imports; even for the day prior to requesting the data.

- Import and export data by the organization doesn’t get published, but is provided to clients upon their request for a fee that is the highest among other agencies in Egypt.

- The main problem is that the data requires effort on the part of the client, for him to benefit from.

- The organization always gives attention to the provision of the quantities and value of the imported items, but the value can’t be trusted because importers register lower values for their merchandize, so as to reduce the customs they need to pay.

- It is difficult to reach a unified number between the organization and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics with regards to export and import data on wheat, corn and other products; even though the data source is the same, which is the Customs Authority.

- The General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC)
  
  - تقدم الهيئة العامة للرقابة على الصادرات و الواردات بيانات استيراد و تصدير كافة المنتجات الزراعية و علي رأسها محاصيل الحبوب.

  - تتميز الهيئة بأنها الجهة الوحيدة في مصر التي تقدم بيانات الاستيراد الحديثة و حتى اليوم السابق علي طلب البيانات.

  - بيانات الاستيراد و التصدير للهيئة غير منشورة و لكنها تقدم للعملاء بناء علي طلبهم علي نظير أجر هو الاعلى بين الجهات الأخرى في مصر.

  - المشكلة الرئيسية هي أن البيانات تحتاج جهد من العميل لكي يستفيد منها.

  - تتهم الهيئة دائماً بتقديم الكميات و القيمة للبنود المستوردة و لكن القيم لا يتم الوثوق بها بسبب قيام المستوردين بتسجيل قيم منخفضة لبضاعتهم من أجل تقليل ما يتم دفعه للجمارك.

  - من الصعب الوصول لرقم موحد بين الهيئة و الجهاز المركزي للتعبئة العامة و الإحصاء بشأن بيانات الاستيراد و التصدير للفحم و الفرخ و الديزل وغيرهما رغم أن مصدر البيانات واحد و هو مصلحة الجمارك.
Third: The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)

- The Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS) is the official agency that is responsible for the provision of all data, as well as population and economic statistics etc. in Egypt.

- The agency provides printed and published agricultural data, including grain data, but the data is issued very late.

- The agency provides import and export data through the data base of external trade located on the ground floor, which is the outlet that is allowed to deal with the people for the purchase of the agency’s publications or for requesting data for a fee.

- The agency also provides data related to the food balance; such are stored quantities and consumption etc., but only depends on quantities stored by the General Authority for Supply Commodities and the public sector; without considering the private sector.

- Agricultural production data and data on planted areas are the same as the data by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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The Maritime Transport Sector provides data on vessels carrying strategic commodities, which are wheat, corn, and sugar, on the sector’s website on a daily basis; including the vessel’s name, type of mercandize, quantity, unloading port and the name of the importing company.

Sometimes errors occur in the data related to these vessels, whether with regards to quantities, type or company name. Accordingly, the sector is contacted after revising the data of custom release companies, so as to correct the mistake or confirm the information.

The information center affiliated to the sector in Alexandria provides data on the imported quantities of wheat and corn, but only through the one outlet allowed to deal with the people for a fee; and it is difficult to deal with this outlet, as you have to go in person and pay in cash.

Their data on the imported quantities is not accurate.

Their main advantage is that they are the only ones who can provide data on the importation of wheat and corn according to the port.
The General Authority for Supply Commodities and the Egyptian Holding Company for Silos & Storage are affiliated to the Ministry of Supply & Internal Trade.

GASC is the authority that is responsible for the provision and purchase of local wheat, as well as imported wheat; for the production of subsidized balady bread.

GASC always keeps the data on the purchase of local wheat, as well as wheat imported through the tenders it holds; and this data is published on the authority’s website and announced by the minister and officials from the ministry and the authority.

The main problem is lack of transparency, as the authority and the ministry don’t publish any periodical or non-periodical data on the quantities stored; even though they have the data. They suffice with announcements made by the minister that the strategic stock would be enough for consumption for a number of months.

The General Company for Silos & Storage affiliated to the Egyptian Holding Company for Silos & Storage stores local wheat, as well as unloads, transports and stores imported wheat for GASC.

The company also has data on daily stored wheat quantities, but does not announce such data; but only provides it to the ministry and GASC.

The company increased its storage capacities by building advanced silos and improved barns.

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Sixth: Chamber of Cereal Industry

- The Chamber of Cereal Industry is affiliated to the Egyptian Association of Industries.

- The Chamber of Cereal Industry covers all flour mills in Egypt, whether subsidized flour mills extraction 72% or fine flour mills extraction 82%. It also covers rice mills, pasta factories and bakeries.

- The chamber provides data related to lists of all mills and pasta factories; as they are members in the chamber.

- The chamber stopped providing data, especially data on flour production, with its types, and data on rice and pasta production; with the last report by the chamber being issued for the year 2012/2013.

- There is currently no credible data for the field of cereal industry in Egypt.
There are other agencies/authorities through which one can get some information related to grains, grain products or new companies in the field, the most important being:

- The General Authority for Investment & Free Zones
- Industrial Development Authority
- The Agricultural Affairs Office at the Embassy of the United States, which issues a periodical report on wheat, corn and strategic commodities in Egypt.
- Port Authorities, like the Damietta Port Authority, which announces in a periodical manner the quantity of stored grains at the port.
- Unloading and Storage Companies at ports like Siscotrans and Unigrain, which collect data related to grain imports for their own use.
- Some companies from the private sector and research companies

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Grain Data Problems in Egypt

- Lack of trust by International organizations in the official data prepared by the ministries and the agencies/authorities affiliated to them; because in the past, data was prepared to satisfy ministers, to make them look good in front of the political leadership or as per orders from ministers to increase areas or productivity for political reasons.

- Some people not accepting the idea that farmers don’t supply the majority of their production to GASC, supplying only an average of 3.5 million ton. Accordingly, they don’t believe that farmers keep the remaining quantity of around 5 million tons to themselves or sell them elsewhere; thereby doubting all numbers.

- Lack of credibility of the data on wheat cultivations in the past, as subsidized fertilizers were distributed to wheat farmers, which made farmers of other crops claim that they cultivate wheat to get the fertilizers; which in turn increased the numbers for planted areas and decreased numbers of productivity.

- The delay in publishing data on grains by the Ministry of Agriculture, for more than one year

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Grain Data Problems in Egypt

- Transparency in presenting information on grains depends on the personality of ministers, as some ministers send written orders to all departments affiliated to them requesting that no data is to be presented to any agency except after being presented to them first; out of fear that the media, especially media outlets belonging to the opposition, might misuse the data or explain the data in a wrong manner that could embarrass the minister.

- Lack of transparency in publishing data of wheat stocks by GASC

- The unavailability of data that could be trusted and used in relation to the production of flour by mills, as well as wheat stocks by companies in the private sector.

- The data related to grain imports and exports by CAPMAS and GOEIC not matching

- Some data related to the food balance, such as waste and stored quantities is incorrect; especially that data on waste is totally illogical.

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