



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report # JO0001

## Jordan

### Agricultural Situation

#### Drought in Jordan

#### 2000

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#### **Report Highlights:**

For the second consecutive year, Jordan is experiencing a drought. Total loss from the decline of crops and livestock production is estimated at \$158 million.

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Includes PSD changes:No  
Includes Trade Matrix:No  
Unscheduled Report  
Amman, Jo

## **I- Drought**

For the second successive year, the 1999/2000 rainfall season was characterized by late rain, low rainfall quantities and fluctuated distribution over the various regions of the country. Hence the average rainfall in all regions of the country is 54% of the long-term total average. It is worth noting here that no rains fell during the month of April, though these rains are considered crucial to field crops.

The Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has prepared a preliminary report outlining the effects of the drought on the field crops and livestock production. This report estimates that the total loss from the decline in agricultural products at about JD 112.1 million or about \$158 million.

## **II - Impact of the drought on the Farming Season**

This impact of the drought on crops and limited production can be summarized as follows:

**Field Crops:** Winter crops (wheat, barley, lentils) had been negatively affected by the late and low rainfall. In addition, lack of rainfall during April, in particular, further deteriorated the condition of those crops in many areas. Total loss is estimated to be JD 16.6 million.

**Summer Rainfed Vegetables:** Total loss is estimated at JD 7.5 million

**Rainfed Fruit Trees:** Lack of rainfall during the previous year has led to a weak overall growth of trees; consequently, it negatively affected production of this year. Total loss is estimated at JD 42 million.

**Ranges and Fodder:** Natural ranges (fodder shrubs and natural grass) are extremely deteriorated. Total loss is estimated at JD19 million.

**Livestock:** The drought conditions that prevailed this year have negatively affected animal health and productivity. Total loss is estimated at JD 27 million.

## **III - Food and Animal Feed Situation**

Jordan's wheat production in the good rainy years is estimated at 40 - 60,000 tons annually. With drought this year, production is estimated to be approximately 20,000 tons. The Jordanian wheat import requirement is estimated at about 50 - 55,000 tons monthly. At the present time, the GOJ carries wheat stocks of about 204,000 metric tons. In May 2000, the U.S. government provided Jordan with 180,000 tons of wheat donated under the Section 416 (b) program. The GOJ has submitted a request to the USDA for an additional 200,000 metric tons of wheat under the 416(b) program.

Jordan has very small barley production estimated at 30,000 metric tons per year. With the drought conditions this year, total barley production is expected to be less than 10,000 metric tons. Total annual barley requirement is estimated at 600,000 metric tons, of which about 130,000 metric tons currently available in stocks. The GOJ is the sole importer of barley since the price for selling to livestock producers is fixed by the GOJ. This prevents the private sector from importing barley at the current international prices.

Jordan has no rice production and its requirements are estimated at 80,000 MT per year. Rice is imported freely by Jordanian private sector companies.