



Editorial

This monitoring cycle marks the harvesting season of wheat, barley and potato. In most districts covered, yields are up over last year; and in several districts last year's yields were high to begin with. As a result, food stocks in many respondents' households currently exceed expectations. Moreover, retail prices of basic food items are down in most road head or district headquarter markets compared to the last cycle.

With the exception of Central and Eastern regions, short term migration has also decreased over last cycle, mainly because this period included the winter crop harvesting season and Nepali New Year. Overall, the movement of people and goods is somewhat relaxed compared to the previous period. As in previous cycles, households used multifaceted livelihood strategies such as wage labor, portering, collecting herbs and selling fruits and vegetables. WFP's Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) programme also augmented many household incomes.

These data and trends suggest some improvement in household food security in many cases and do not include indications of abnormal conditions of exceptional concern. The Bulletin includes the WFP Definition of Emergencies (p. 9) which might be helpful in appreciating our criteria of exceptional food insecurity that warrants an emergency response.

WFP-FAO: Late Monsoon in Dailekh

WFP and FAO, in consultation with the District Agricultural Development Office (DADO), estimate that this year's late monsoon in Dailekh will reduce summer potato yields by 75%, summer tomato by 33%, and summer maize by somewhat less, over last year. The effect on paddy yields is harder to gauge at this stage where transplantation of seedlings is still in progress. More than in the neighboring districts, Dailekh households grow vegetables as cash crops and the predicted reduction in vegetable yield will have some negative effect on household economies. The actual impact should become clearer around August-September when the current

stock of wheat is finished, maize harvested, and paddy ready for harvest.

Normal Migration Trends

With the exception of Central and Eastern regions, where the rate of short-term migration has increased slightly, rates in the rest of the monitored districts are somewhat lower than last monitoring cycle. This is in line with expectations because the wheat harvest and Nepali New Year during this period tend to keep people at home.

Unhindered Field Access

During this cycle of March and April, twenty-eight of WFP/VAM's thirty field monitors have enjoyed unhindered access to the districts and sites where they conduct Food Security Monitoring. Only Kavre and Surkhet districts remained affected by the UN staff travel freeze and have not been covered.

VAM Reports Online

All reports and documents produced by the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit in Nepal can be retrieved from the corporate WFP/VAM website <http://vam.wfp.org/> (choose Nepal from dropdown menu on the right) as these become available. Citation with acknowledgement of the source is encouraged.

Food Security Monitoring (FSM) in Nepal

World Food Programme monitors food security in the 32 Districts where it implements development activities in Nepal. The Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK Government has funded, and the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of WFP Nepal has managed, the project since its inception in October 2002.

Thirty field monitors monitor 32 Districts and 3 border points with India. 29 of them collect household and community data on food security in these 32 Districts. They aim to conduct about 1,500 repeat household interviews, in 150 VDCs, during every two-month monitoring cycle. In addition, each field monitor randomly selects 5-15 households to interview once in a cycle. The repeat households were selected through purposive sampling to represent vulnerable segments of the given population, for example, in terms of their physical isolation and limited landholding.

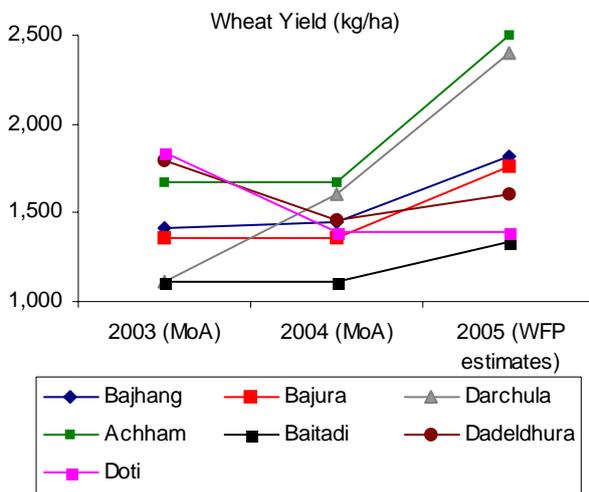
Additionally, one field monitor is assigned to collect migration data at 3 main Terai border points with India. He checks official migration records against spot interviews with migrants as they cross the border

Far Western Region

Seven Monitors survey food security in the 7 Hill and Mountain districts of Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura, Darchula and Doti.

Production. This monitoring cycle is the season of wheat harvesting in the Far Western Development Region and production has increased in all seven districts covered by the WFP/VAM Food Security Monitoring, over last year. In fact, with the exception of Dadeldhura and Doti where yields are lower than they were in 2003, this season's production level is the highest in two years. In Dadeldhura, Baitadi, and Bajhang, the year-on-year estimated increase is in the range of 10-25 percent. In Bajura, Achham, and Darchula, respondents assess that their production is up by as much as 30-50% over last year. The plenty and timely rainfall as well as snow coverage that kept crops moist during the growth stage of this season likely account for the increase.

As a result, households in Bajhang, Achham and Dadeldhura report significantly higher food stocks than last year. A case in point is the Bajhang respondents who one year ago assessed their stock to be sufficient for 1-3 months and now estimate that it will meet 2-4 months of consumption requirements.



In Doti, 4 out of 5 Food Security Monitoring communities report higher food stocks; the respondents in Daud VDC are landless and benefit less or indirectly from this year's higher production. While respondents in the lowland areas of Darchula say excessive rains reduced wheat yields slightly, higher stocks are reported elsewhere in the district.

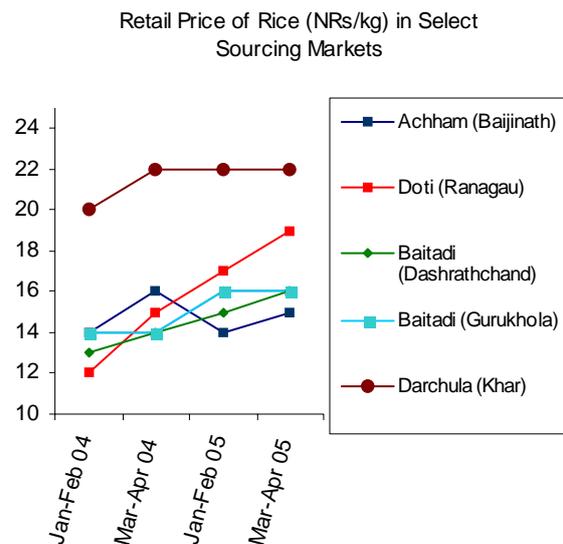
In Bajura, respondents who participated in WFP's Quick Implementation Programme (QIP) of December claim that the rice rations they earned help them save on their wheat stocks that they otherwise report to be marginally down (by less than ten percent) over last year.

Price. In spite of the increase in HMG/N taxes on transport, respondents in Achham, Bajura, and Bajhang report a 5-10% year-on-year reduction in the retail price of rice. The Darchula and Dadeldhura headquarter market prices have stabilized at similarly reduced levels after last year's frequent bandhs and blockades. Bajhang retail meat prices are also reported to be down by a whopping 25 percent, over last year.

A farmer from Dhuligada VDC of Darchula, in spite of having no irrigation facility at his disposal, harvested 400kg of wheat from his 0.2ha plot — five times more than last year. He is by no means alone: the overall production of wheat in Darchula saw a year-on-year increase of up to 50 percent. Also the yield of barley in the high hill areas is expected to be better after this year's favorable snowfall.

In contrast, Doti and Baitadi road head and headquarter markets see an increase in rice prices because of the higher HGM/N transport tax. The increase in Doti (NRs. 4/kg) is double that of Baitadi because the CPN(M) there adds their levies to the government tax.

Since January 2004, the retail price of rice in the Far west generally increased by 1.5-2 times the inflation rate (which ADB estimates at 4 percent



for the period in Nepal Quarterly Economic Update, March 2005). Achham saw the least overall increase as regular food supplies to the principal market of Sanfe resumed after prolonged CPN(M) blockade. That also lowered prices in Martadi, district headquarter of Bajura, which is supplied through Sanfe Bagar. NFC's timely delivery of rice (275/550MT at the time of monitoring) to Bajura should help maintain prices at this level.

Movement. In Achham, CPN(M) restrictions on the movement of food items to headquarters, reported in Food Security Bulletin 8, remains in place but limitations on movement were fewer and lesser otherwise. The CPN(M) blockade of Bajhang is lifted and headquarters has received at least two truckloads (20MT) of food supplies, to stock up in the market before the monsoon cuts off road access, every day since. Baitadi residents enjoyed greater freedom of movement within the district than last monitoring cycle, and last year.

In Doti, Bajura, and Darchula, the CPN(M) operates a pass system for movement of people within the district; in Doti and Bajura, also the transport of food and commercial goods require prior permission.

During bandhs and blockades, however, these varied, local regulations tend to be superseded by rigorous limitations on the movement of commodities, including food items, and people in all districts.

Income. Through the Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) programme by WFP and RAP, some 6,500 participants in Achham and Doti receive 2 kg of rice and 60 NRs. per workday. Likewise, in Bajhang, Bajura, Darchula and Dadeldhura, where WFP implements the programme with GTZ and SAPPROS, another 4,000 participants receive 4 kg of rice. Other agencies provide employment opportunities in minor construction works, such as small-scale irrigation, school construction, and road maintenance, for an average daily wage of NRs. 150 in Achham, Bajhang, and Baitadi.

Household livelihood strategies in the Far west are as multifaceted as ever. The top-three in terms of contribution to the household economy in Baitadi are wage labor, remittances, and sale of handmade

bamboo crafts. Darchula respondents also rank wage labor and remittances but with portering instead of sales of handicrafts as their top-three income earning activities.

Portering goods from road head to headquarter or interior markets in Bajhang employs an estimated 200 people who earn NRs. 10 per kg of cargo they move. Another 100 or so transport workers in Bajhang are engaged as mule shepherds for which they are paid a monthly wage of NRs. 2,500. Also in Bajhang, it is estimated that about 600 villagers have moved to the higher mountains to collect the Yarshagumba herb which they sell in the headquarter market or to traders and middlemen in their village. A profitable occupation, the 500 gram or so that one person is able to collect in a season will help her or him earn about NRs. 30,000.

When the CPN(M) blocked vehicle movement from the Indian border to the district headquarter, Dalits in Baitadi took up a new livelihood strategy: they brought daily consumption goods, including rice, on their bicycles from the wholesale markets in India to headquarters where they sold these door-to-door at retail price. In Dadeldhura, Dalits are still engaged in their traditional caste-specific occupation of making metal utensils and appliances, discussed first in Food Security Bulletin 8, from which they earn about NRs. 10-20,000 per year. In Darchula, Dalits are engaged in another caste-specific occupation: weaving bamboo baskets for sale.

Bajura is witnessing the foundation of a small-scale handmade paper industry, in Dahakot VDC, where most households are now busy collecting the Daphne shrub required for this. For the 25-200kg that a household is able to collect, they will be paid NRs. 25 per kg. In Bichhya VDC, also in Bajura district, about 400 households are engaged in hemp collection from which they expect to make NRs. 1,200-6,000 this year.

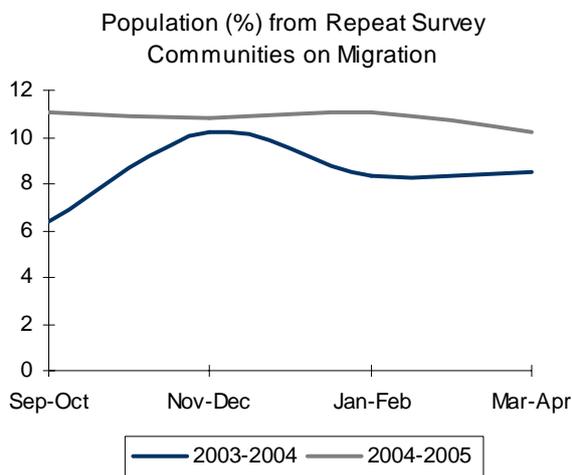
In Baitadi, as many as 5-700 households are collecting Charela (*Jhyau*), Cinnamon (*Dalchini*), and other herbs and each household will earn about NRs. 1,000-1,200 this season.

Migration. This monitoring cycle covers the period of winter crop harvest and festive season of the Nepali New Year both of which tend to make

migrants return or stay home. Indeed, the rate of short-term migration in the Far west is less this time than the last cycle. The Field Monitors' general impression from the region is that migrants have returned home leading to a noticeable decrease in the rate. However, data from Batmudi, Jamirpani, and Baspali survey communities in Darchula and Pali survey community in Baitadi district shows a sizeable increase in migration – perhaps in search of alternatives to collection of the Yarshagumba herb that was under snow cover longer than normal this year – which offsets the general decrease in the region.

In Achham, migrants are returning at an increasing rate for two reasons. First, the security situation which was volatile recently has improved noticeably. Secondly, WFP has expanded its RCIW programme from 22 to 26 VDCs. So, for example in the survey communities of Kuntibandali, Mangalsen, and Baijnath, only 19 people migrated to India this cycle compared to 45 at the same time last year. Also in Bajhang, very few people migrated during this monitoring cycle.

In Darchula, too, the rate of return is higher than the rate of migration this cycle. Less hostile actions by either party to the conflict and decreased volatility is one possible reason for this.



From the southern VDCs of Bajura, people migrate to the key regional market - Sanfe Bagar in Achham for daily wage labor opportunities, such as portering. About 150-200 residents of Bajura find employment in Sanfe Bagar.

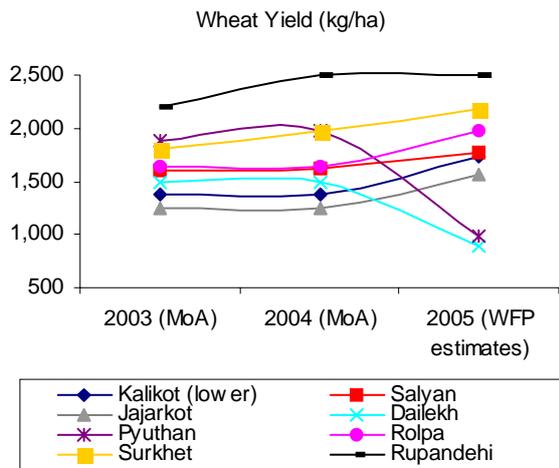
Mid Western and Western Regions

Fourteen Monitors survey food security in the 12 Mid Western Hill and Mountain districts of Dailekh, Dolpa, Humla, Jajarkot, Jumla, Kalikot, Mugu, Pyuthan, Rolpa, Rukum, Salyan, and Surkhet in addition to the Western Terai district of Rupandehi and migration patterns at 3 border points with India. Among them, there was no monitoring in Surkhet during this reporting cycle due to UN staff travel freeze.

Production. March - April is the harvesting season of the main cereal crop of wheat, in addition to barley and potato, in the Mid Western and Western Development Regions. With the exception of Dailekh and Pyuthan, the wheat harvest in all monitored districts this year is better than the previous two years due to adequate rainfall and this year's extended snow coverage which helped keep the crop moist during the early stages of growth. (Jumla, Mugu and Dolpa had not completed the harvest at the time of monitoring, though.) A case in point is Salyan where the District Agricultural Development Office (DADO) confirms that wheat production in the 20 VDCs located across the Sharada River belt is more than double that of last year (48,000 MT compared to 21,000 MT).

In Pyuthan, dry spells damaged both the wheat and barley crops. For instance a household in Arkha VDC reported a harvest of only 45 kg compared to 90 kg last year. In Dhubang VDC, the crops were so badly damaged that farmers decided to use them for cattle grazing. In Dailekh, particularly in Naumule and Salleri VDCs, respondents claim a 40 percent year-on-year reduction in wheat yields after their temporary displacement to district headquarters in protest against the CPN(M) disrupted their work on the land.

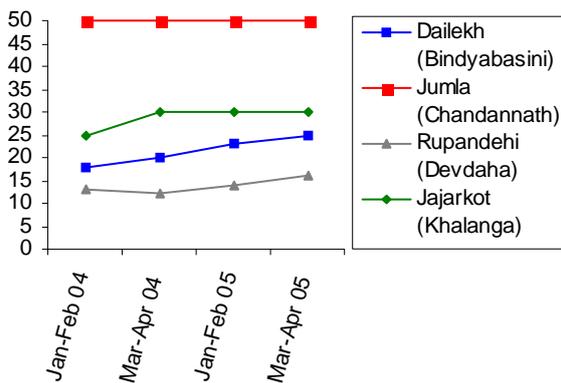
Jumla and Mugu had not completed their wheat harvest and to various extents respondents relied on Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) for rice supplies at the time of monitoring. Residents of villages far away from NFC's district headquarter depots, however, faced problems in accessing this source of food because of bandhs and blockades. Farmers in Dolpa also had not finished their wheat harvest at the time of the WFP field monitor's visit. Nonetheless, in Narku and Ila VDCs, they could rely on stock earned from participation in WFP's RCIW programme. In upper Dolpa, opportunities offered by the strong trade-links with Tibet boosted their households food stocks.



Price. The increase in HMG/N taxes on transport has led to higher retail prices of rice – generally by NRs. 1-3 per kg – in most of the districts monitored. Exceptions include Jumla and Jajarkot where HMG/N enforce price regulation in the headquarters and the CPN(M) in rural markets.

In Dailekh rural markets, the effect of higher taxes is aggravated by limited supplies due to the Security Forces' restriction on the movement of food items out of headquarters; increases since last cycle are in the range of ten percent. In the district headquarter, however, HMG/N has successfully enforced price regulation.

Retail Price of Rice (NRs/kg) in Select Sourcing Markets



Movement. In Dailekh, the CPN(M) blockade of vehicle movement on the road from Surkhet to district headquarter has been lifted and commercial traffic has resumed. Still, the Security Forces restrict the transport of food items in excess of 30-

35kg from headquarter to rural areas. There is however no restriction on the movement of people. Also in Jumla, the Security Forces restrict the movement of food items from headquarter to hinterland beyond 10kg per person. Jajarkot experienced a district-wide blockade from mid-March through mid-April. Before and after, the movement of food items was normal, though.

In Kalikot, Jumla, Salyan and Rukum, the CPN(M) limits the movement of food items from village to headquarter markets. In Jumla, Surkhet, Rukum, and Rolpa, they employ a pass system to restrict movement of people to different VDCs and headquarters.

During bandhs and blockades, such varied, local practices and regulations tend to be superseded by rigorous limitations on the movement of people and commodities, including food items in all districts.

Income. Through the Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) programme by WFP, GTZ and SNV, some 10,500 participants receive rice rations in Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Dolpa, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Dailekh, Salyan, and Pyuthan. GTZ/FSRP runs a similar construction project that pays participants from 12 VDCs in Rukum and Rolpa. The Karnali Highway construction project further engages 100-150 Dalit households for a daily wage of NRs. 150.

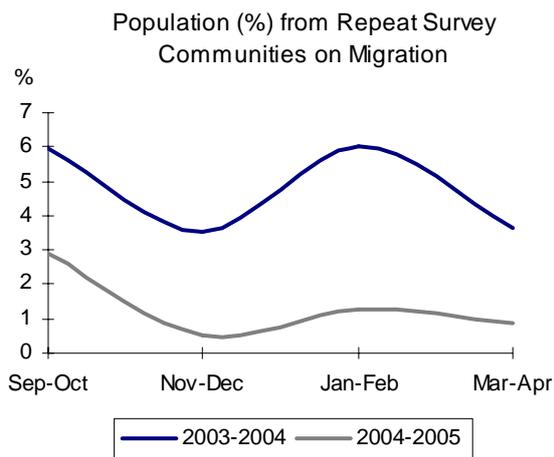
Household livelihood strategies in the Mid west and Western regions are as multifaceted during this monitoring cycle as ever. Respondents list wage labor, especially in minor construction works, and sale of agricultural and livestock products as well as non timber forest products as the most significant contributors to their household economies.

In Jajarkot and Dolpa, some respondents are finding lucrative employment as Guchchichyau collectors. Guchchichyau is a morel mushroom, growing at high altitudes in western Nepal, that is believed to have remedial value and sells at as much as NRs. 3,500 per kg in Jajarkot, and NRs. 1,200 per kg in Dolpa. From northern Jajarkot, an estimated 5-600 persons have moved up to the higher mountains to collect the Yarshagumba herb that they sell in the headquarter market or to

traders and middlemen in their village. Another exceptionally profitable occupation, the 500 gram or so that one person is able to collect in a season will help her or him earn about NRs. 30,000.

Migration. In Pyuthan, Rukum and Dailekh, the rate of short-term migration has increased over last monitoring cycle. Everywhere else, it has decreased. The net effect is an overall decrease which is to be expected during the period of winter crop harvest and Nepali New Year both of which tend to make migrants return or stay home. Particularly in Dolpa, migrants have returned in the thousands during this cycle. One possible attraction there is the prospect of engaging in Yarshagumba collection. Respondents in Jumla cite local employment opportunities, including RCIW and Guchchichyau collection, as reasons for returning or staying. In Jajarkot, the decrease in year-on-year migration could be related to new CPN(M) restrictions on migration: the number of migrants is reportedly a fraction of what it was a year ago.

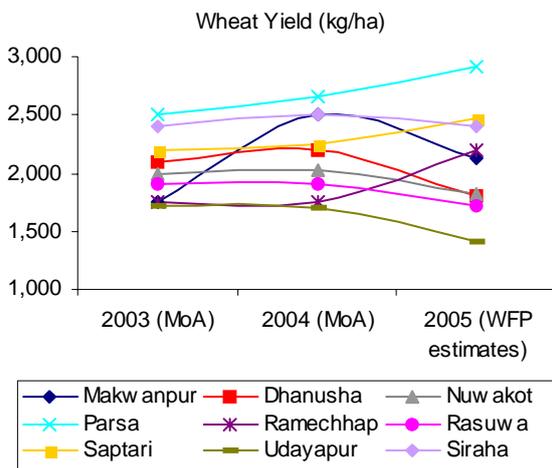
Both in Rukum and Dailekh, reference is made to CPN(M) recruitment and a more general sense of volatility in explanations for the migration rate increase. In Pyuthan, however, respondents cite inadequate employment opportunities as principal reason for the year-on-year increase in migration to India and neighboring districts, including Gulmi, Dang and Rupandehi.



Central and Eastern Regions

Nine Monitors survey food security in the 12 Mountain, Hill and Terai districts of Dhanusha, Dolakha, Kavre, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, Parsa, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Saptari, Sindhupalchok, Siraha, and Udayapur. Among them, there was no monitoring in Kavre during this reporting cycle due to UN staff travel freeze.

Production. This monitoring cycle covers the harvesting season of wheat in Central and Eastern Development Regions. Overall, early yield estimates are less impressive here than in the other three regions. Of the nine survey districts where sufficient data existed at the time of monitoring, Udayapur, Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhanusha expect wheat yields this year to be the lowest in two years. The fluctuations are, however, fairly minimal and should fall within the margin of error for an early assessment.



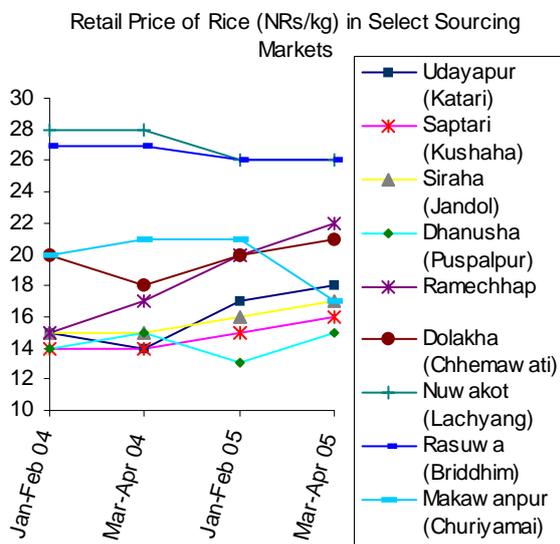
Furthermore, as discussed in Food Security Bulletin 5, a great proportion of Food Security Monitoring households in Central and Eastern Regions are landless and hence indirectly rather than directly affected by fluctuations in agricultural production. Respondents who work as agricultural wage laborers on other people's land do not necessarily get paid less in a season of lower yields. Correspondingly, a bumper harvest does not necessarily translate into heightened food security for them. In other words, even in districts where wheat yields are the highest for two years running, many survey respondents reported relatively low food stock levels.

Another caveat about wheat production data from Central and Eastern Regions is that maize supercedes wheat in significance to food security

in several districts, including Ramechhap and Nuwakot where farmers are upbeat about this year's yield. In Makwanpur, ginger and turmeric increasingly replace wheat in the fields and the impact of the lower wheat yield is relatively minor. The same would apply to Dhanusha where some 65% of farmer respondents engaged in vegetable production this season.

Price. The increase in HMG/N tax on transport and occasional bandhs and blockades led to rising prices of rice in Udayapur, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Ramechhap, Dolakha, and Parsa since last cycle. The distribution of RCIW rice rations in Udayapur, however, helped keep prices stable in the project areas.

Only Makwanpur saw a general decrease in rice prices over last bimonthly monitoring cycle. Villagers tend to source food items and other basic commodities from local markets where they can purchase on credit, and in the eastern part of the district the CPN(M) keeps market prices low: a kilogram of rice costs NRs. 15 in the headquarter but NRs. 8 in CPN(M)-controlled areas.



Movement. In Udayapur, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, and Parsa districts, there are no restrictions on the movement of either food items or people.

In Rasuwa and Nuwakot, CPN(M) require verbal permission for the movement of food items and

other commodities within the district. The CPN(M) seeks to prevent people from paying HMG/N taxes while expecting them to honor their levies on food and other cargo. In Ramechhap and Makwanpur, some restrictions apply on the movement of food into district headquarter, particularly in Makwanpur. In Saptari, and Siraha, respondents complain of harassment and movement restrictions at the hands of a hitherto unknown group that claims to be "fighting" the CPN(M).

People in Dolakha can move from the district headquarter to hinterland but less freely so the other way. In fact, the movement of people within the district has decreased considerably; respondents cite fears of allegations of involvement in the armed conflict that apparently are attached to people who move about as one reason for this.

In Sindhupalchowk, the CPN(M) allowed students who were sitting for the School Leaving Certificate Examination (SLC) to move during their otherwise rigorously implemented district-wide blockade.

During bandhs and blockades, these varied, local regulations tend to be superseded by rigorous limitations on the movement of people and commodities, including food items, and people in all districts.

Income. As in the other regions, livelihood strategies include a wide range of income earning activities of lesser or greater relative complementary significance to the household economy. Wage labor in construction and agriculture, firewood collection, and portering are the principal livelihood strategies of respondent households in Udayapur, Saptari, Siraha, Ramechhap, Dolakha, and Parsa during this cycle.

For example, in Udayapur, people from Aaptar, Khabu, and Rautah VDCs have earned enough food from participating in WFP's RCIW programme to cover consumption requirements for as much as six months. In Saptari, Siraha, and Dhanusha, vegetable and fruit (particularly mango) production provide farmers with profitable alternatives to more traditional crops. Almost 35% of respondents in Dhanusha reported that they had income from seasonal vegetable sales this cycle. Other respondents in the Terai expect a strong yield from their mango trees this year.

As in the Mid West and Western Regions, in Rasuwa, the collection of non-timber forest products, such as the herbs Bojho and Jhyau used for medicine and spice, provides profitable seasonal employment. Handicrafts, including woven baskets, boost cash incomes in Nuwakot this cycle. Agricultural wage labor helps women in Makwanpur's Raksirang, Kakada, and Hadikhola VDCs earn a daily wage of NRs. 40-50. In contrast, the completion in Dolakha of the road link between Charikot and Singati in the north have deprived respondents in Babre VDC - who used to work along this route as porters - of their employment.

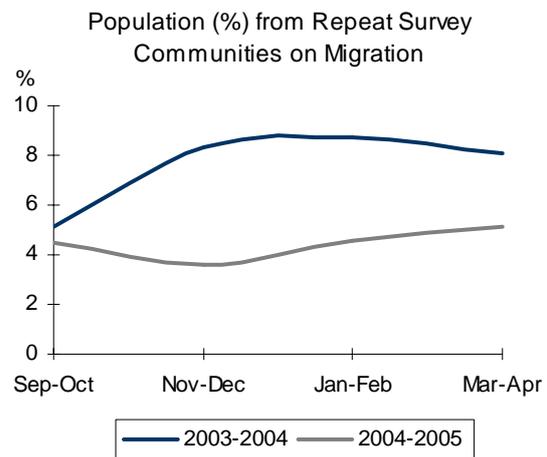
Whereas many Dalits from Lychyang VDC of Nuwakot migrated to Kathmandu for labor, other Dalits in Kaule VDC engaged in caste-specific production of kitchen utensils and agricultural appliances at home. In Parsa, the headquarter of Birgunj again offered wage labor opportunities in spinning mills and iron and herbal drug factories for many rural residents.

Migration. In contrast to the other three regions, the rate of migration in Central and Eastern Regions is rising in spite of this cycle being the period of winter harvest and Nepali New Year. Particularly, the survey communities in Sindhupalchowk, Udayapur, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, and Ramechhap reported increased migration to Kathmandu, India or a third country. For example, from two survey communities in Sindhupalchowk, three residents went to India and fifteen to Malaysia this cycle. Most Sindhupalchowk migrants, however, went to Kathmandu and Bhaktapur to work in the carpet, garment, or brick industries. In one survey community in Udayapur alone, as many as 136 men left for work elsewhere in the absence of employment opportunities at home. In contrast, Aaptar and Chilaune survey communities in Udayapur had residents stay and migrants return to participate in the RCIW programme.

The disruption of economic activity and opportunity by bandhs and blockades were cited by respondents in Saptari, Siraha, and Dhanusha as reason for increased labor migration to India this cycle. The rate of migration from the survey communities of Siraha thus increased by 14-53%, in Saptari by a factor four, year-on-year.

At least some of the migration out of Rasuwa and

Nuwakot is explained by the trekking season: Solukhumbu, Annapurna, Langtang, and Kathmandu attract helpers and porters for the tourists from these districts. Anywhere between 2 and 5 members of each survey community have left for this type of employment.



Dolakha and Parsa are the exception. Disappointment with the migrant wage level among Dolakha respondents and adequate employment opportunities in Parsa headquarter kept people at home.

Seasonal Calendar

Region		Rice		Wheat		Maize		Millet		Barley		Potato	
		Planting	Harvesting	Sowing/ Cultivation	Harvesting	Sowing/ Cultivation	Harvesting	Planting	Harvesting	Sowing/ Cultivation	Harvesting	Planting	Harvesting
Eastern	Mountain	May -Jul	Oct - Dec	Nov - Jan	3rd week Mar-May	Dec-Apr	Jun - Sep	May - Jul	Oct - Dec	Oct - Nov	Mar - Apr	Dec - Feb	Jun - Aug
	Hill	May -Aug	Sep - Dec	Oct - Jan	Feb -May	May -Sept	Oct - Dec	May - Aug	Oct - Dec	Sep - Nov	May - Jul	Dec - Mar	June - Aug
	Terai	Apr -Aug	Oct - Nov	Sep - Dec	Mar - May	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	May - Jul	Sep - Nov	Sep - Nov	Apr - Jun	Summer Feb - Apr Winter Oct - Dec	Summer Jul - Sep Winter Feb - Apr
Central	Mountain	May -Aug	Oct - Dec	Oct - Dec	Mar - Jun	Feb - Jun	Aug -Nov	Jun - July	Oct - Jan	Oct - Dec	Apr - Jun	Mar - Jun	Aug - Oct
	Hill	May -Aug	Oct - Dec	Oct - Dec	Mar - Jun	Apr - Jun	Jun - Sep	May - Jul	Oct - Jan	Oct - Dec	Mar - Jun	Jul -Sep	Dec - Feb
	Terai	May -Aug	Aug - Dec	Oct - Jan	Mar - May	Feb - May	May - Sep					Sep - Nov	Dec - Mar
Western	Mountain			Oct - Dec	May - Jul	Feb - Apr	Aug - Oct	Mar - May	Aug - Oct	Oct - Dec	May - July	Feb - May	Aug - Oct
	Hill	May -Aug	Sep - Dec	Oct - Dec	Mar - May	Feb - Jun	Jun - Sep	May - Sep	Sep - Dec	Sep - Jan	Feb - May	Oct - Feb	Jan - Jul
	Terai	May -Aug	Oct - Dec	Oct - Jan	Feb - Apr	Apr - Jul	Jul - Sep	Jun - Aug	Oct - Dec			Sep - Nov	Dec - Feb
Mid Western	Mountain	Mar - Jul	Oct - Dec	Oct - Jan	Apr - Aug	Mar - Jun	Aug - Oct	Mar - May	Oct - Nov	Oct - Jan	Apr - Aug	Feb - Jun	Jun - Nov
	Hill	May -Aug	Oct - Dec	Sep - Dec	Mar - May	Apr - Jun	Aug - Oct			Sep - Nov	Mar - May	Oct - Feb	Sep - Dec
	Terai	May -Jul	Oct -Dec	Oct - Dec	Feb - Apr	Apr - Jul	Aug - Oct	Oct - Dec	Feb - Apr	June -Jul	Sep -Nov	Sep - Nov	Dec - Feb
Far Western	Mountain	Apr -Jun	Aug - Oct	Oct - Dec	Apr - May	Mar - Jun	Jun - Oct			Oct - Dec	Mar - May	Oct - Apr	Apr - Aug
	Hill	May -Aug	Sep - Nov	Oct - Dec	Mar - May	Apr - Jul	Aug -Oct	May -Jul	Sep - Nov	Oct - Dec	Mar - May	Summer Jan - Apr Winter Sep-Nov	Summer Sep - Winter Feb-Apr
	Terai	May -July	Sep - Nov	Oct - Dec	Feb - Apr	Summer May - Jul Winter Feb - Mar	Summer Aug - Sept Winter May - Jun	Jun - Aug	Oct - Dec	Oct - Dec	Feb - Apr	Sep - Nov	Dec - Feb

Source: HMG/N Department of Agriculture

WFP Definition of Emergency

The Executive Board of WFP on February 2, 2005 updated its criteria of scenarios for which WFP might consider emergency food aid interventions. The full document is available as <http://www.wfp.org/eb/docs/2005/wfp047115~1.pdf>

“For purposes of WFP emergency projects, emergencies are defined as urgent situations in which there is clear evidence that an event or series of events has occurred which causes human suffering or imminently threatens human lives or livelihoods and which the government concerned has not the means to remedy; and it is a demonstrably abnormal event or series of events which produces dislocation in the life of a community on an exceptional scale.

The event or series of events may comprise one or a combination of the following:

a) sudden calamities such as earthquakes, floods, locust infestations and similar unforeseen disasters;

b) human-made emergencies resulting in an influx of refugees or the internal displacement of populations or in the suffering of otherwise affected populations;

c) food scarcity conditions owing to slow-onset events such as drought, crop failures, pests, and diseases that result in an erosion of communities' and vulnerable populations' capacity to meet their food needs;

d) severe food access or availability conditions resulting from sudden economic shocks, market failure or economic collapse — and that result in an erosion of communities' and vulnerable populations' capacity to meet their food needs; and

e) a complex emergency for which the government of the affected country or the Secretary-General of the United Nations has requested the support of WFP.

WFP's emergency interventions will continue to be based on assessed needs, also taking into account any other considerations or criteria that may be decided upon by the Executive Board consistent with the organization's rules, regulations and mandate.”