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Wheat Value Chain: Bihar

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Bihar Wheat Value Chain Highlights

This report provides a general overview of the wheat market in Bihar. The first section describes trends in wheat production and consumption over the past twenty years and summarizes recent trade policy related to wheat. After a brief discussion of the types and nutritional content of wheat, the third section describes the wheat value chain in Bihar, beginning with seed development and ending with marketing. Finally, we highlight a few trends in Bihar wheat markets.

Key Takeaways

- The quantity of wheat production in Bihar has exceeded rice production over the past four years
- In the last two decades, wheat consumption has grown significantly among both urban and rural populations
- The Indian government lifted the ban on wheat exports in September 2011
- Wheat is a good source of protein, but nutritional content is highly variable
- Climate change and deteriorating land quality may threaten agricultural production in Bihar in the long-term

The below figure summarizes key findings along the different stages of the wheat value chain in Bihar.

Pre-Production Production Post Production Sales Procurement, Processing and Inputs Credit Production Storage, and Market Milling Transportation •76% of wheat Credit supply Wheat An estimated •About 12% of Markets are is cultivated is meeting less production difficult to 20-25% of markets have under IV seeds; than 3% of wheat goes to the facilities access for occurs low relative to estimated throughout markets for activities many rural other high demand Bihar though such as farmers, thus greatest in the sorting, itinerant local producing Available states in India western half of grading, or traders are the storage is well the state primary agent packaging below in wheat sales Irrigation is requirements The estimated widely Two types of available but milling are yield gap in •The gap Only around the dominant between retail recent years is important in 30% of villages tubewell Bihar, more prices and 44% are connected irrigation run traditional farm prices by roads and have increased by diesel chakkis and only seasonally more modern over the past engines is expensive roller mills decade

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NOTE: The findings and conclusions contained within this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Key Statistics about Wheat in Bihara

Production

Bihar is the 6th largest wheat producer among all states in India, and accounts for around 5% of all of India's wheat production. Production in Bihar is higher than the median level of state production (1,740,000 MT in 2009/10), but is only about 1/6 of the amount produced in Uttar Pradesh, the highest-producing state, and about 1/3 of Punjab production, which is the second highest producer. Over the past 20 years, wheat production in Bihar has been somewhat erratic. Area harvested has remained fairly constant, but production has fluctuated more dramatically, especially in the last decade; production fell significantly during the first half of the 2000s but has sharply increased since the 2005/06 season with increased yields (see *Figure 1*). This heightened production coincides with wheat's increasing importance in relation to other cereals within Bihar.

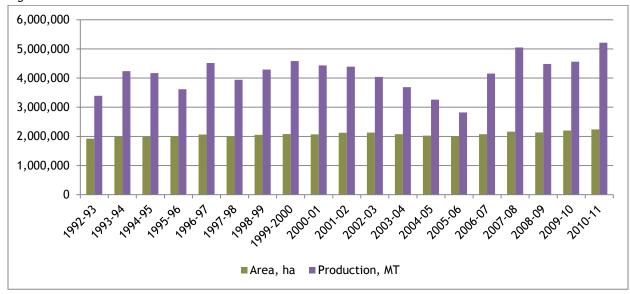


Figure 1: Area Harvested and Production of Wheat in Bihar

Source: Government of Bihar, Department of Agriculture (http://krishi.bih.nic.in/Statistics.html)

Despite these increases, yields in Bihar have been well below other wheat-producing states over the past decade, and are generally about half of those in Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.² As *Figure 2* indicates, these different state yields all followed a similar trend of declining yields through the first half of the decade, reaching mid-decade lows, then returning to levels similar to 2000 in the latter half of the decade, though Haryana and Uttar Pradesh 2010-2011 yields exceeded those of a decade earlier.

^a The Indian government is the source for the majority of the data in this brief since data at the sub-national level is not available from external sources such as the FAO.

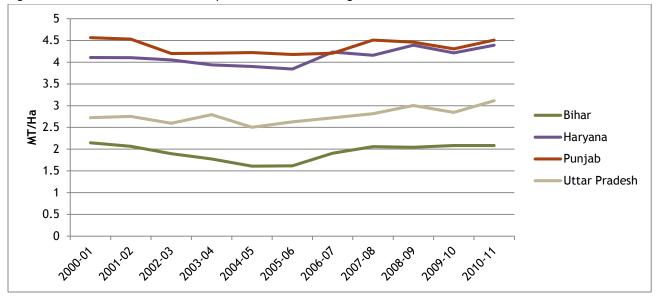


Figure 2: Wheat Yields of Bihar and Top Three Wheat-Producing States

Source: Indian Ministry of Agriculture (reported in Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, 2011) Note: 2010/2011 yields are advance estimates.

Wheat production has become increasingly important in Bihar relative to other cereal crops. Whereas rice production exceeded wheat production by an average of 725,000 MT in the early 90s, wheat production over the last four years has exceeded rice by 579,000 MT on average (see *Figure 3*). This production trend is likely tied to the declining area harvested of rice, accompanied by small increases in the area harvested of wheat (see *Figure 4*). Farmers may be shifting away from rice cultivation because it has larger fluctuations in productivity; according to the USDA FAS (2012), this is because a greater proportion of rice is not irrigated (42% nationally).

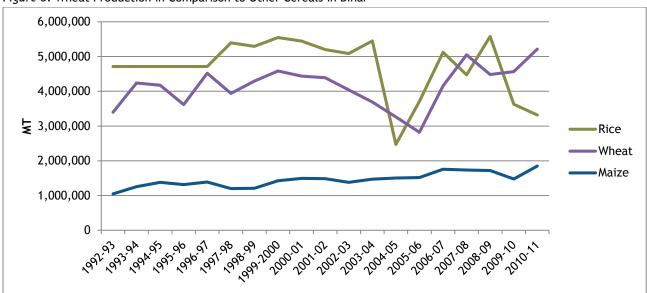


Figure 3: Wheat Production in Comparison to Other Cereals in Bihar

Source: Government of Bihar, Department of Agriculture (http://krishi.bih.nic.in/Statistics.html) Note: USDA FAS estimates are reported on the marketing year basis.

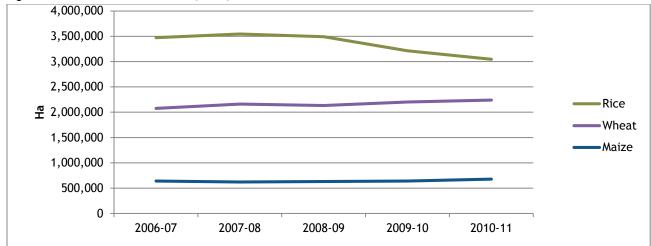


Figure 4: Area Cultivated of Wheat, Rice, and Maize in Bihar

Source: Government of Bihar, Department of Agriculture (http://krishi.bih.nic.in/Statistics.html)

Consumption

Wheat consumption has increased among both the rural and urban population of Bihar since 1993/94, but the trend has been different across those groups (see *Table 1*).³ Urban consumption increased sharply in the mid-late 1990s with smaller reductions since then, whereas rural consumption decreased slightly in the mid-late 1990s but then had large increases in the next decade. Overall, Bihar's urban population increased per capita monthly consumption of wheat by almost 0.30 kg from 1993 to 2010, while the rural population increased monthly consumption by almost 0.25 kg. At the same time, the proportion of households reporting wheat consumption in the past month has increased to over 95% from around 83% for both populations. Wheat products have increased in consumption as well; in 2009-10, 27% of the urban population consumed bakery bread in the past month, compared to 16% in 2004-2005.⁴

Table 1: Per Capita Wheat Consumption and Proportion of Households Consuming Wheat among Urban and Rural Bihar Populations

Per Capita Urban Consumption (kg/month) Urban Consumption (% of Households) Per Capita Rural Consumption (kg/month) Rural Consumption (% of Households)

1993-1994	1999-2000	2004-2005	2009-2010
5.44	5.88	5.82	5.73
83.7%	87.2%	95.8%	92.9%
5.23	5.21	5.39	5.47
82%	83%	95.1%	96%

Sources: National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 1997; NSSO, 2001; NSSO, 2007; NSSO, 2012

Note: Estimates for proportion of households consuming wheat do not include households that consumed wheat from the public distribution system (P.D.S.), but did not consume wheat from other sources. However, the number of households reporting consumption of P.D.S. wheat was low, so this is not expected to cause a significant bias in the estimates.

Trade

From 2007 to 2011, the same period during which Bihar wheat production was rising, India imposed an export ban on wheat. The ban was lifted on September 9, 2011 because national stocks exceeded storage capacity, and exports are expected to come exclusively from government stocks.⁵ Nationally, exports have been limited due to uncompetitive prices and problems with quality.⁶ However, if the export ban remains lifted, at higher international prices exports from Bihar would be profitable.⁷

At the regional level, Bihar remains a net importer of wheat with inflows of 757,000 MT and 868,000 MT in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, largely from Punjab, Haryana, and West Bengal states.^{8,9}

Types and Nutritional Content of Wheat

Bread Wheat is the Predominant Type of Wheat Grown

There are three major types of wheat: bread, durum, and emmer. ^{10,11} Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) is commonly used in leavened and unleavened breads, noodles, cookies, and cakes. Durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum durum*) is more common in semolina and pasta. Due to its smaller size and weight, bread wheat can be broken into a finer flour and has a softer texture, making it popular in agro-industries. ¹² Emmer wheat is the wild progenitor of the domesticated durum and bread wheat varieties. ¹³ While all three types are grown in India, bread wheat accounts for the majority of production in Bihar. ¹⁴

Wheat is a Good Source of Protein and Other Nutrients, but Nutritional Content is Highly Variable

Table 2 shows how the nutritional composition of wheat compares to other cereals. Whole wheat has the highest protein level and contains more iron, riboflavin, and niacin than rice or maize. Table 2 also demonstrates the negative relationship between nutrient content and the degree of milling, with less processed cereals retaining more nutrients. White wheat flour does not contain most of the germ and outer layers that contain some of the protein and the majority of B vitamins and other nutrients. The degree of wheat processing also has a significantly negative effect on antioxidant content and bioavailability; consumption of whole-grain wheat has been associated with a reduced risk for several chronic diseases due to those antioxidant properties and insoluble fiber content. ¹⁶

Table 2: Nutritional Composition of Wheat Relative to Selected Cereals (per 100 grams)

	Energy	Protein	Fat	Calcium	Iron	Thiamine	Riboflavin	Niacin
Food	(kcal)	(g)	(g)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Wheat, whole	323	12.6	1.8	36	4.0	0.30	0.07	5.0
Wheat flour, white	341	9.4	1.3	15	1.5	0.10	0.03	0.7
Maize flour, whole	353	9.3	3.8	10	2.5	0.30	0.10	1.8
Maize flour, refined	368	9.4	1.0	3	1.3	0.26	0.08	0.1
Rice, brown	362	7.9	2.7	33	1.8	0.41	0.04	4.3
Sorghum*	337	10.6	3.2	26	4.3	0.36	0.15	3.8
Millet, pearl	363	11.8	4.8	42	11.0	0.38	0.21	2.8

Sources: Latham, 1997; EPAR, 2010; White and Broadley, 2009

In addition to the degree of processing, several other factors contribute to the high variability of nutritional content across different types and strains of wheat. Varieties of emmer wheat generally have higher grain mineral concentrations than durum or bread varieties (see *Table 3*).

Table 3: Variability Across Nutritional Composition of Different Types and Varieties of Wheat (per 100 grams)

	Number of			
Туре	Varieties Included	Protein (g)	Iron (mg)	Zinc (mg)
Bread	197	n/a	2.4-5.7	1.4-5.3
Durum	2 in both wet and dry conditions (N=4)	14.9-18.4	2.9-4.7	4.9-5.6
Emmer	22 in both wet and dry conditions (N=44)	16.4-38.2	4.8-8.8	6.9-13.9

Sources: White and Broadley, 2009; Peleg et. al, 2008

The adoption of modern, higher-yielding varieties and/or agronomic practices may also reduce the nutritional content of wheat.¹⁷ In both bread and durum wheat varieties, a negative relationship has been observed between nutritional content and grain yields, although the strength of the relationship has depended greatly on environmental factors such as water availability. Nutritional quality is also affected by the micronutrient quality of the soil.¹⁸ Finally, tradeoffs can exist between nutritional content and consumer desirability in the absence of strong nutrition education programs. For example, white wheat flour is often preferred by consumers; increasing beta-carotene levels through fortification can turn white varieties to a yellow-orange color, which may lower consumer uptake of the fortified wheat.¹⁹

^{*}Reported values are the average of estimates from two or more sources.

Ongoing research is being conducted to increase the nutritional content of wheat, along with other cereals. CIMMYT (2011) is working in India and Pakistan to explore and identify new traits of nutritional significance, develop low-cost phenotypic and genetic screening for those traits, breed crops with higher protein and micronutrient quantity and quality, and promote biofortified wheat through the HarvestPlus program. The wheat component of the HarvestPlus program is focused on increasing its iron and zinc content, and is targeting areas with high per capita wheat consumption levels. ²⁰ Other nutritional qualities of wheat are also being studied as potential targets, including increased levels of bran, soluble and insoluble fiber, and high-amylose starch. In addition to biofortification efforts, the bioavailability of iron from wheat can be improved through the adoption of processing techniques such as removal of the phytate-rich hull or by combining wheat with foods containing ascorbic acid. ²¹

Closer Examination of the Wheat Value Chain in Bihar

Bihar is located in the northeastern part of India. This section summarizes information about wheat production in this state along the steps of the value chain.

Seed Development

Agricultural research is limited in Bihar. While the state is the home of the Rajendra Agricultural University, most recent estimates indicate that only 0.2% of state GDP is devoted to agricultural research (as opposed to the 0.4% average across other Indian states). Of this allotment, an estimated 95% is allocated to salaries, 5% to establishment expenses, and nothing for operational expenses.²²

At the national level, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes and other state agricultural universities (SAUs) rely primarily on traditional breeding methods to develop improved wheat varieties. ²³ However, new varieties have not been widely disseminated throughout the country due to limited seed multiplication, distribution, and extension facilities. About 75% of state seed production comes from outside of Bihar, and only 27% of the seed that is used in Bihar meets certified wheat seed requirements. ²⁴ A survey of Bihar farmers conducted in 2002-2005 suggested that the largest constraint to wheat cultivation was the limited availability of quality seeds. ²⁵

Credit

Formal sources of credit for agriculture are generally considered inadequate. In a 2008 study, the need for credit was estimated to be over Rs. 113 billion, with banks only allocating Rs. 3 billion towards agricultural credit in that year. ²⁶ Local primary agricultural credit societies have done little to alleviate credit constraints; as of March 2010, their outstanding loans totaled only Rs. 1.71 billion. ²⁷ Most credit institutions are wary of the high loan servicing costs resulting from limited volumes, a lack of reliable information, the high costs of information on demand and supply, and high supervision costs associated with farmers. ²⁸ Thus, farmers often seek credit from informal operations, including some that charge extremely high interest rates. ²⁹

Production

Rice-wheat cropping, in which rice and wheat are grown during different temporal periods of the growing season³⁰, is the most common cropping system in Bihar³¹. Wheat production occurs exclusively in the Rabi season^b, with sowing occurring between mid-November to late December and harvesting taking place between mid-March to the end of April.³² As *Map 1* indicates, wheat production is prevalent everywhere except for the southeastern districts and is particularly heavy in the districts along the western border. Smallholder farmers in Bihar represent 93% of all farming households, but represent only 65% of total land area under cultivation³³. The average rural farm size in Bihar was only 0.75 ha in a 1995/96 Agricultural Census^c, which was significantly lower than the national average of 1.41 ha.³⁴

 $^{^{\}rm b}$ Refers to a crop sown in winter and harvested in summer

^c According to Fujita (2012), the 1995/96 census provides the most recent data for describing the agrarian structure in Bihar.

Map 1: Production across Bihar Districts

Source: Government of Bihar, Department of Agriculture (http://krishi.bih.nic.in/Statistics.html)

Inputs

The common inputs to wheat production in Bihar include seed, fertilizer, irrigation, and human and mechanical labor.^d Wheat area under improved variety (IV) seed increased from 70% of total area cultivated in 1982 to 91% in 1999, but then declined to 76% in 2006-07.^{35,36} One survey found that 77% of farmers used IV seed, although 58% reported non-availability of quality seeds as a barrier to higher productivity.³⁷ Perceptions of poor quality may contribute to the depressed seed adoption rates, which are the second lowest among major wheat-producing states in India after Madhra Pradesh. Low demand for IV seed may be fueled in part by reports that plants grown using state-supplied seed did not produce any grain, while farmers in the same district that used traditional seeds did not experience this problem.³⁸

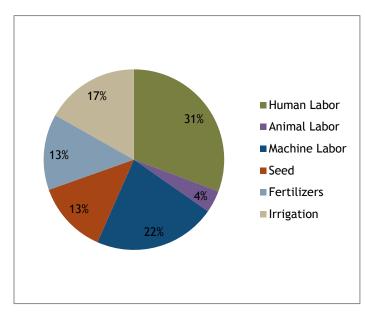
At the same time, the seed replacement rate has increased from 8% in 2003-04 to 11% in 2005-06, with 25% representing the necessary rate for continued agricultural growth since a self-pollinated crop like wheat must be replaced once every four years.³⁹ This is one of the lowest seed replacement rates in the country.

Estimates of fertilizer use vary significantly, ranging from 98 kg/ha to 179 kg/ha for the 2007-08 season. 40,41,42 Estimates for the 2010-11 season suggest the average fertilizer usage is around 183 kg/ha, still below the 200+ kg/ha usage in bread basket states such as Punjab and Haryana, but higher than other wheat-producing states. 43 However, a survey of Bihar wheat farmers found that the high cost of fertilizers was the second most significant constraint to wheat cultivation. 44

Tubewell irrigation is the primary source of irrigation (as opposed to canal), which relies on pump power to draw up the water. Irrigation is estimated to be available to 92% of Bihar farmers, covering 68% of area harvested, but is only used on

^d Herbicides and insecticides are not commonly used in Bihar's wheat cultivation.

Figure 5: Cost of Wheat Production per Hectare



^{*} Source: Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, 2011

about 57% of the area. ⁴⁵ This differential can be attributed to the high price of diesel fuel, which has increased almost 50% over the past five years and is required for tubewell irrigation. ^{46,47,48} Thus, despite the widespread use of irrigation, drought is still a significant problem in Bihar. Combined, flooding and drought affect between a quarter and a third of farms in Bihar's high wheat-producing districts. ⁴⁹

As Figure 5 suggests, labor costs account for the largest share of the cost of production. Agricultural wages have increased almost 20% per annum for the last three years. ^{50,e} Additionally, Bihar has one of the lowest levels of mechanization among Indian states, with about 5 tractors per 1000 ha (compared to over 56 tractors per 1000 ha in Punjab). ⁵¹

Yield Gap

Wheat yield gaps in Bihar, defined as the difference between actual and potential yields, are significant. Average wheat yields in Bihar are 2.19 MT/ha, whereas experimental yields on research farms and frontline

demonstrations have reached 4.5-5.5 MT/ha.^{52,53} A number of studies shed light on potential causes of these low yields. Timing of sowing made a significant difference in yields: farmers who delayed sowing their wheat until December had yields 50% lower than those who sowed in November.⁵⁴ Limited availability of small duration rice and wheat varieties is a key factor in late sowing.⁵⁵ Another factor is imbalanced soil nutrients. Soils in Bihar are increasingly low in potassium, and while fertilizer use has increased overall, it is heavily skewed toward nitrogen-based fertilizers. One study in 2005 found the use of Potash increased yields by 1.2 t/ha.⁵⁶ A 2011 survey of 60 wheat farmers in Bihar suggested the following as the most significant constraints to productivity: limited availability of IV seeds, high cost of fertilizers, and lack of market facilities.⁵⁷ Other factors cited include lack of mechanization, frequent droughts and/or floods, and wheat diseases such as foliar blight disease.⁵⁸

Land Tenancy

In a report on agrarian land reform in Bihar released in 2010, the Department of Agriculture reported that as many as 50% of agricultural households in some areas of Bihar leased land in the year 2000. Households with smaller landholdings were far more likely to lease than farmers with larger landholdings. Land tenancy arrangements have forced some farmers to cultivate multiple plots that are not spatially connected. Lack of formal regulatory structure for tenancy means that poor farmers face greater uncertainty and risk in crop cultivation. Both of these factors discourage efficient land management and investment in land improvement measures. The report suggests that legalizing and regulating tenancy, encouraging contract farming, buying available land for redistribution and provision of credit for land purchase all might help alleviate the issues associated with land tenancy.⁵⁹

Environmental Considerations

Wheat production in Bihar^f has contributed to a number of environmental and natural resource management problems that lower agricultural productivity and threaten long-term regional food security. These problems include physical and chemical deterioration of soil, leaching of agrochemicals into water, overuse of soil and groundwater resources, and greenhouse gas emissions. ^{60,61,62} Zero tillage production systems have been shown to mitigate some of the environmental

e Suggested causes include an employment guarantee law and increased construction that makes laborers increasingly scarce.

f Research is primarily at the level of the Indo-Gangetic Plains, which stretches across Northern India, bounded by Pakistan Punjab in the west and Bengal and Bangladesh in the east.

impact of wheat production in the state and have also been found to increase wheat yields compared to conventional tillage systems in Bihar and other areas in Northeastern India and Bangladesh. 63,64

Climate change will affect global wheat production by changing temperatures and rates of precipitation. Several studies have predicted that South Asia will be one of the areas where agricultural yields will be most adversely affected by global warming.^{65,66} A study on wheat production in Northern India and Bangladesh predicted that rising temperatures would reduce the amount of "ideally suited" wheat acreage by 51% in the year 2050.^{9,67}

Upcoming EPAR briefs will discuss the environmental implications of wheat production in greater depth.

In 2008, the Department of Agriculture in Bihar released a" Roadmap for Agricultural Development" for the period of 2008-2012 designed to address constraints to agricultural productivity growth in Bihar. While information on implementation and impact of the program is limited, it identified the following constraints to increased cereal production in Bihar and recommended a number of solutions. The Department of Agriculture recently released a new "Roadmap" for 2012-2017.

Production Constraint	Proposed Policy Solution
Access to improved seeds	Subsidized seed program to facilitate development of local seeds supplies
Insects, pests and disease	Training farmers in in Integrated Pest Management (ISM) practices coupled with the establishment of Plant Protection Centers to distribute subsidized bio-pesticides.
Poor soil quality	Chemical fertilizer use coupled with periodic use of organic "bio-fertilizers" to replenish soil nutrients

^{*} Source: Bihar Department of Agriculture, "Roadmap for Agricultural Development. Available at krishi.bih.nic.in/pdf/Road_Map_Eng/Agriculture_Eng.pdf

Gender in South Asian Rice Production

Although we are not aware of any studies discussing division of labor by gender in wheat production in Bihar, a number of studies have discussed the role of women in rice production in neighboring areas in South Asia. Pandey et al (2010) reported that the female labor contribution to agricultural production has increased in South Asia over the past thirty years, but there was substantial variation across regions. In Bangladesh, 80% of the labor was carried out by men and 20% by women. In the Indian states of Orissa, Western Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh, division of labor in rice production between males and females was 61% to 39%, 72% to 28%, and 26% to 74% respectively. If the division of labor in Bihar is similar to that of Uttar Pradesh, rates of female participation in agriculture are likely to be high.

In a more detailed gender analysis of rice production of two farming villages in Uttar Pradesh (the state just to the west of Bihar), Paris et al (1996) found that women did the majority of transplanting, weeding, harvesting, and threshing labor in rice production. Men did the majority of labor for land preparation, seeding, irrigation, and application of fertilizer. A review on the role of women in agriculture by Halim and Mahbubul-Alam (1995) found a similar division of labor for areas of Indonesia and Philippines.

Transportation and Storage

Transportation in Bihar is severely limited. The length of surface roads per square kilometer in Bihar is well below the national average. ⁶⁸ More significantly, only about 30% of villages are connected by roads; however, they are so poorly

^g The paper defines ideally suited wheat environments to be irrigated, low rainfall, relatively cool environments with high yield potential.

maintained that these connections are only seasonal.⁶⁹ Thus, transportation costs consume a large portion of value chain margins.⁷⁰

Storage facilities are also insufficient. Estimates of total storage space range from 1,200,000 MT to 1,340,000 MT, whereas authorities estimate a need of at least 2,500,000 MT. There are only about 120-130 rural godowns or warehouses available to serve over 1,700 markets, suggesting the limited options available to farmers to dispose of their surplus grains. Fewer than 19% of the markets are wholesale assembling markets. On average, one market, of any type, accounts for about 52 square kilometers. The state government is moving to address this shortage by construction 423 godowns, increasing storage space by 284,000 MT.

Procurement

About 25% of produced grain reached the market in 2011, an increase from 10% in 2001. 74,75 This low proportion may be a product of, among other things, poor transportation options or limited marketing. The national government plays a relatively small role in the wheat market in Bihar compared to other states; in the 2011-12 season, only about 10% of Bihar production was procured by the central government, the second lowest proportion across all of the states that sold any wheat to the state or central government. 76,h Those who do sell to the central government complain of delayed payments. Thus, most farmers are forced to sell at less than remunerative prices to local itinerant traders. 78

Wheat straw and other residues provide additional value to farmers as fodder for livestock, an important industry in Bihar as it is the fourth largest producer of meat in India. Wheat and rice straw provide 92% of the dry fodder consumed by livestock in Bihar, and there is room in the market for increased production as current levels only meet 82% of demand. Generally, farmers sell their straw to truckers or traders immediately after harvest to avoid spoilage. These traders then transport the fodder to fodder-deficit districts, generally in the north. A 2012 study by Singh et al. suggests that collecting and storing the fodder represent significant opportunities for increasing the amount of fodder procured, transported, and sold.⁷⁹

Marketing

Wholesale and retail data from Patna (Bihar's capital) and an annual farm harvest price aggregate for all of Bihar show that the gap between the farm harvest price and the retail price has increased from about Rs. 2/kg in 2000 to almost Rs. 4/kg in 2012 (see *Figure 6*). Bihar prices are generally higher than those of other states, which hurts domestic competitiveness. 80

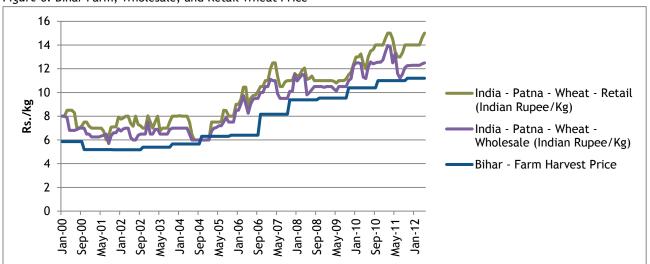


Figure 6: Bihar Farm, Wholesale, and Retail Wheat Price

Source: FAO GIEWS Price Tool; Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 2010

^h The Indian government procures different crops including wheat to provide a secure market to farmers at predetermined prices that will ensure farmers are remunerated above the cost of production.

Processing and Milling

Processing wheat in Bihar includes, to differing degrees, packing and bagging, sorting and grading, weighing, and transporting. The initial processes are generally taken on by the producer, whereas the latter processes are taken on by traders, wholesalers, or retailers. However, only 12% of rural markets have the appropriate facilities for the more involved activities like sorting, grading, and weighing.⁸¹

Milling occurs in two different forms, roller mills, and chakkis. The chakkis are the traditional wheat millers, producing 'chakki atta' (flour) through a process similar to a stone grinder. On the individual level, 'chakki atta' is preferred for its texture and taste. The roller mills are more modern and produce more refined, sifted flour. ⁸² The milling sector is mostly small-scale and highly fragmented. ⁸³ In Bihar, there are numerous local chakkis where families can take small increments of wheat to be ground. Construction of larger roller mills had remained stagnant over most of the last 20 years before a state government subsidy of 30% of investment costs led to the doubling of mill construction. ^{84,85,86} This construction also coincided with increased consumption of biscuits, cakes, and other goods demanding flour. Value addition processes such as fortification to improve shelf life and add nutrients are rare. ⁸⁷

Important Trends in Wheat

Increasing Consumption of Wheat-Based Productsⁱ

Consumption of wheat-based products such as biscuits or bakery products has increased across the population of Bihar over the past 20 years. Whereas in 1993 only about 29% of rural households and 50% of urban households in Bihar consumed biscuits on a monthly basis, that proportion increased to over 70% for both rural and urban households. By 2009, 1% and 4% of rural households consumed cakes or bakery bread respectively on a monthly basis, up from 0% and 2% just five years earlier. Frequency of bakery bread consumption has fallen among urban households from 16% of households in 2005 to 13% in 2009. Cake and pastry consumption has increased from >1% of urban households to over 2% in the past five years.

Potential Substitution of Maize for Wheat Production

Bihar has the highest maize yields in India, ^{88,89} and reports suggest that maize may become an increasingly attractive crop for producers. ^{90,91} Nationally, demand for corn has increased in the animal feed sector and industrial use sectors. ⁹² However, there is no strong evidence that maize is currently displacing wheat production; as was shown in *Figure 4*, wheat area cultivated has risen at a faster rate than maize area cultivated in the past five years.

India's Demand is Expected to Outpace Supply

Over the next twenty years, Indian demand for wheat is projected to exceed domestic supply, with the gap between supply and demand becoming more pronounced toward 2030. India is expected to be one of the highest wheat demanding and supplying nations in the world, second only to China. EPAR Brief No. 199 discusses these national trends in more detail.

Please direct comments or questions about this research to Leigh Anderson and Mary Kay Gugerty, at eparx@u.washington.edu.

¹ Taken from author's analysis of data from the past four National Sample Survey Organisation's Household Consumption Reports.

^j These estimates are based on the IFPRI IMPACT model, which examines future scenarios for global food supply, demand, trade, prices, and food security for 30 commodities. It is specified as a set of 115 country-level supply and demand equations where each country model is linked to the rest of the world through trade. FAO data from the year 2000 is the input data for the projection model. More information on model methodology is available at http://www.ifpri.org/book-751/ourwork/program/impact-model

Appendix 1: Wheat in Orissa

Wheat production in Orissa is minimal and has generally decreased over the past 15 years. Production ranges from below 20,000 MT to over 40,000 MT on an area between 13,000 and 24,000 ha (see *Figure 7*). For comparison, Bihar produced between 3.5 and 5.5 million MT of wheat on around 2 million ha of land during the same period. Wheat area cultivated in Orissa has fallen 5,000 ha from 1992 to 2008, while production has fallen 14,000 MT. Yields have been low and decreasing throughout the period, ranging from 1.25 MT/ha to 1.75 MT/ha. Rice production accounts for around 90% of grain production in Orissa.

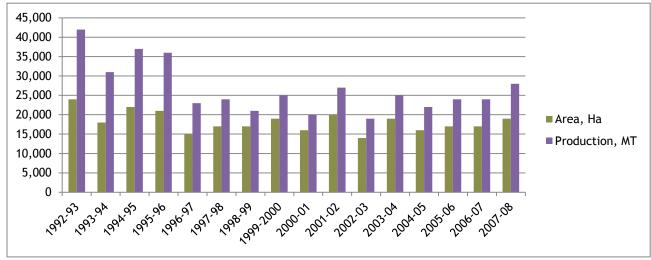


Figure 7: Wheat Production in Orissa

Source: Government of Orissa, 2011

Wheat consumption in Orissa is also relatively minor, accounting for 4% of per capita cereal consumption (see *Figure 8*). 93 While wheat consumption was higher in 2008 than in 1993, consumption has fallen in both urban and rural populations over the past few years. Compared to the national average, Orissa consumes considerably less wheat than most parts of India. Based on the minor significance of wheat in Orissa, our analysis does not proceed to describe the wheat value chain in Orissa.

Orissa Rural Wheat Consumption

All-India Rural Wheat Consumption

Orissa Urban Wheat Consumption

Orissa Urban Wheat Consumption

All-India Urban Wheat Consumption

All-India Urban Wheat Consumption

All-India Urban Wheat Consumption

Figure 8: Wheat Consumption in Orissa

Source: Government of Orissa, 2011

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