



## Wheat Matters – Today and Tomorrow



**Wheat** is the grain at the center of (Indo-European) civilization.

– Rachel Laudan  
renowned author on the history of food

**215 million hectares** – the area on which wheat is grown each year, worldwide.

- Equivalent to Greenland.
- Sown from Scandinavia to the Southern Cone of South America – more regions than any other staple crop.



Nearly **US \$50 billion-worth** of wheat is traded globally each year.

**2.5** Billion people in **89** countries = Wheat consumers worldwide



Wheat is first among the three major staple crops as a source of protein in developing countries.

**North Africa and West and Central Asia** – Wheat is the dominant staple crop and provides as much as half of all calories consumed in these regions.



**60% MORE WHEAT THAN TODAY...**

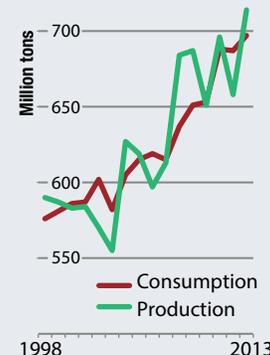


The amount the world will need to grow to meet consumer demand by 2050.

## Wheat and Food Security Rise and Fall with Grain Markets

### Wheat consumption:

In **8** of the last **15** years, world wheat **production** has **fallen short** of demand.



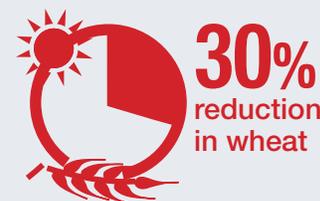
Extreme weather events and trade dynamics have **destabilized wheat markets three times since 2000**, causing price spikes that especially harm resource-poor consumers.

**80% HIGHER THAN IN 2005** = \$ The Price of Wheat Today

This affects poor consumers – including smallholder farm households – who spend most of their income on food.

### As much as 30 percent –

the reduction in South Asia's wheat yields forecast by climate change experts, if farmers continue to use current varieties and practices.



## We can grow more wheat responsibly to meet rising demand:

- Improved varieties and more effective agricultural practices generated remarkable **wheat production increases** that have fed expanding populations since the 1960s.
- The yield gains from those technologies have added US \$500 million-worth of grain to wheat harvests each year and **kept wheat grain prices at historically low levels** until 2005, benefiting farmers and poor consumers.
- New **technology and better policies** can power wheat-based farming to meet the crop's accelerating global demand, which is driven by emerging and developing countries.