



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

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Sri Lanka Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission 2022

Key Findings

July 2022



CFSAM Objectives

Estimate food production and analyse markets

to provide an accurate understanding of the drivers and effects of current food crisis.

Assess the food security situation

across Sri Lanka's 9 provinces and 3 sectors (urban, rural, estate) to provide an insight on the number, location, and characteristics of food insecure households.

Inform decision making processes

of the Government, donors, UN agencies and development partners to design and plan emergency response activities, in order to minimize the impact of the crisis on affected population.



About the Sri Lanka 2022 CFSAM

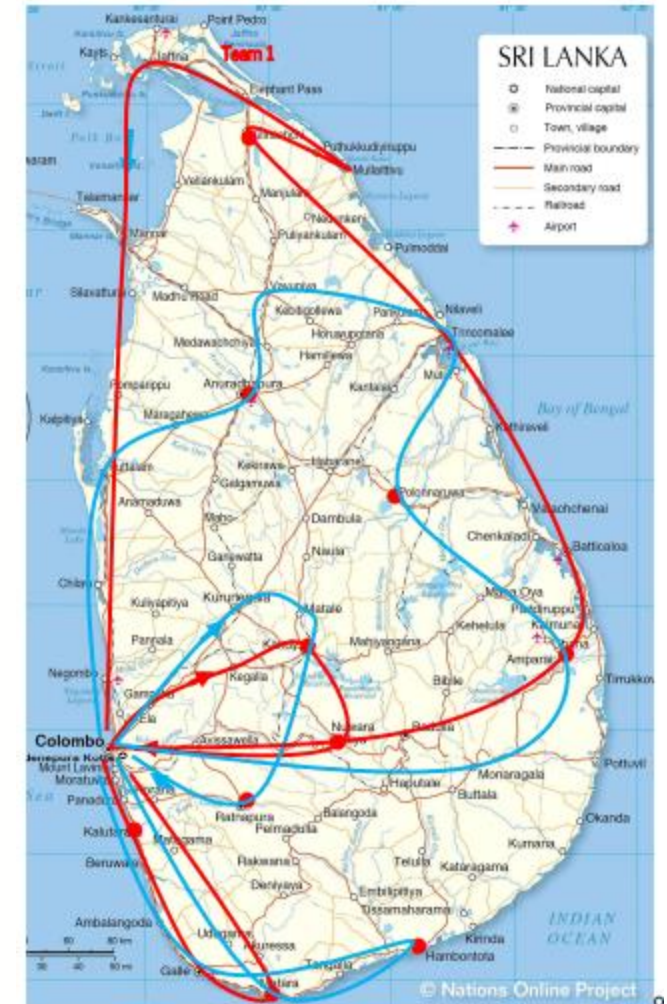


Agricultural production analysis

- 25 districts visited (28th June- 8th July 2022)
- **FAO, WFP, MoA, and UNICEF** as observers.
- General information by relevant institutions
- Visits to District authorities, farmers, fishing communities, households, traders and rice millers.

Food Security household survey

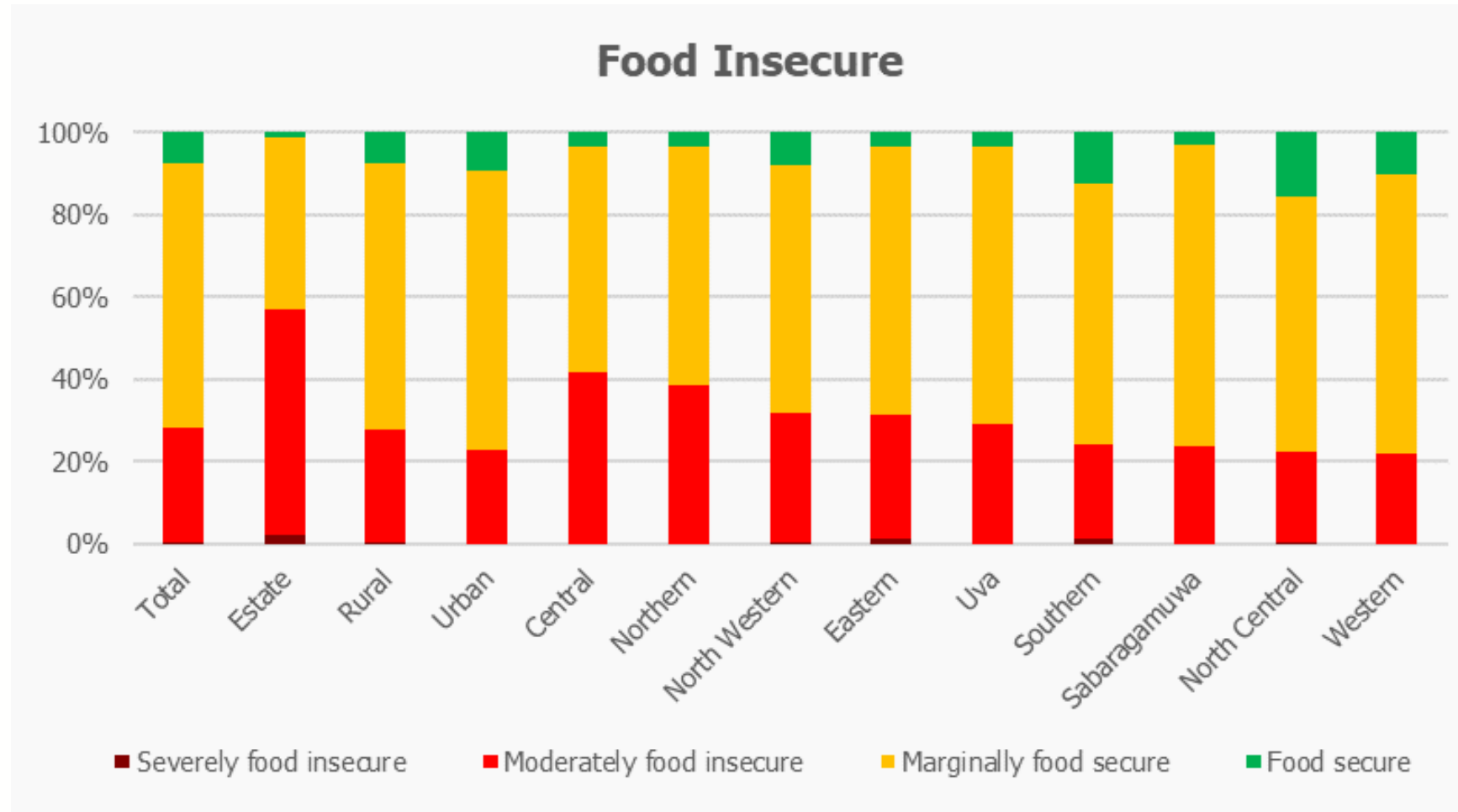
- Covered 9 provinces, rural, urban and state sector.
- 2971 household interviews face to face (1-21st June).
- Representative at province level.



Food insecurity



- Nationally, **6.2 million people found to be moderately acute food insecure** (28%) according to WFP's standard measure¹ and in need of assistance.
- Special focus needed for the 66,000 people **severely** acute food insecure, including 18,000 living in the Estate sector.
- Roughly half of HH in the Estate sector (57.1%) and Central (41.6%) province were acutely food insecure at the time of the assessment.

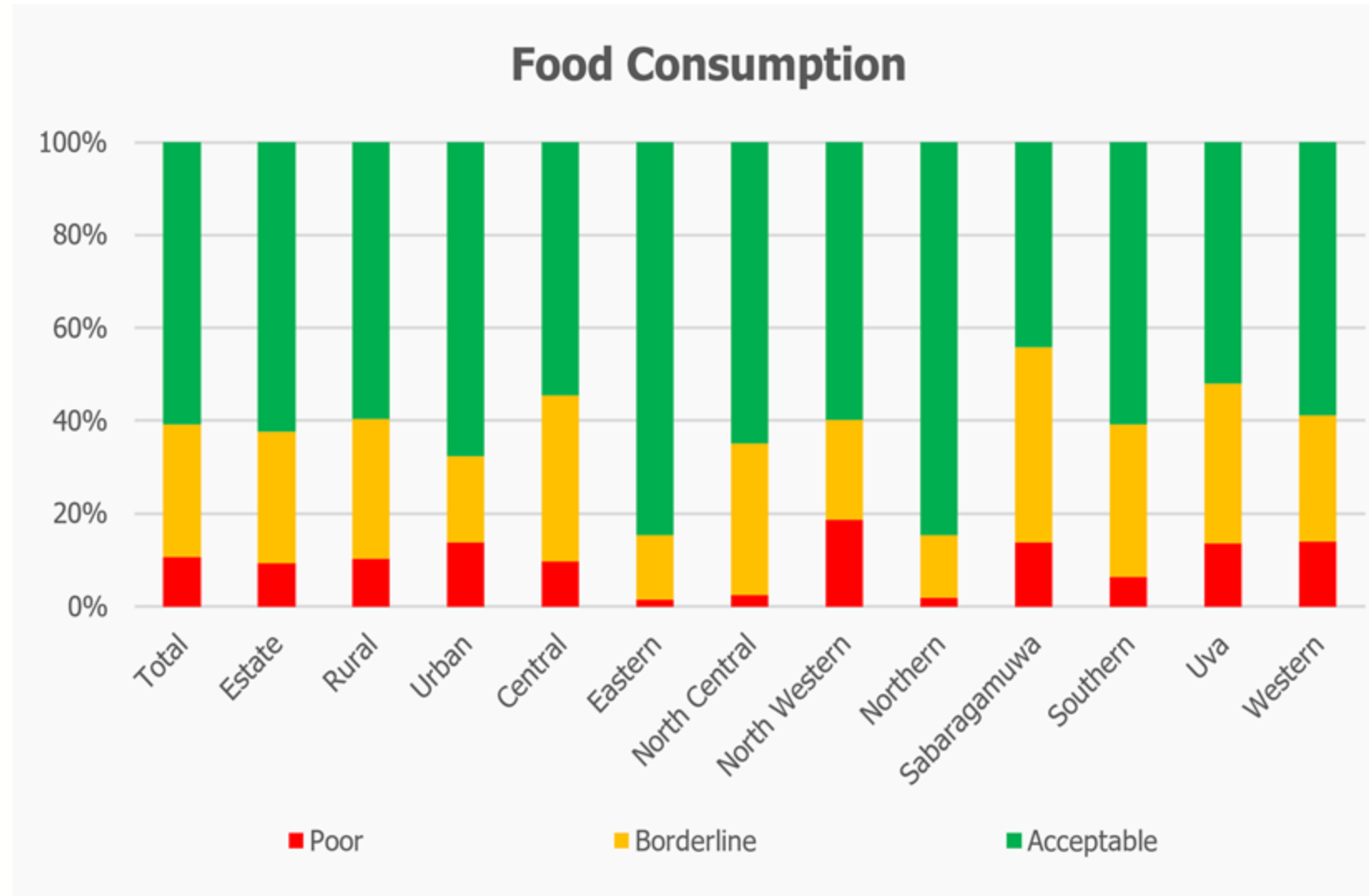


¹ The CARI is a composite indicator which reflects both current status (food consumption) and coping capacity (economic vulnerability & livelihood coping). For more details, see: Technical Guidance for WFP Consolidated Approach For Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), Third Edition, December 2021.

Food Consumption



- **8.7 million people were not consuming adequate diets** at the time of the survey (39.1%).
- Nearly 1 in 3 HH s in urban areas (32.2%) were found to have inadequate food consumption.
- Proportion of households with unacceptable diets has multiplied by 10 since the end of 2021.

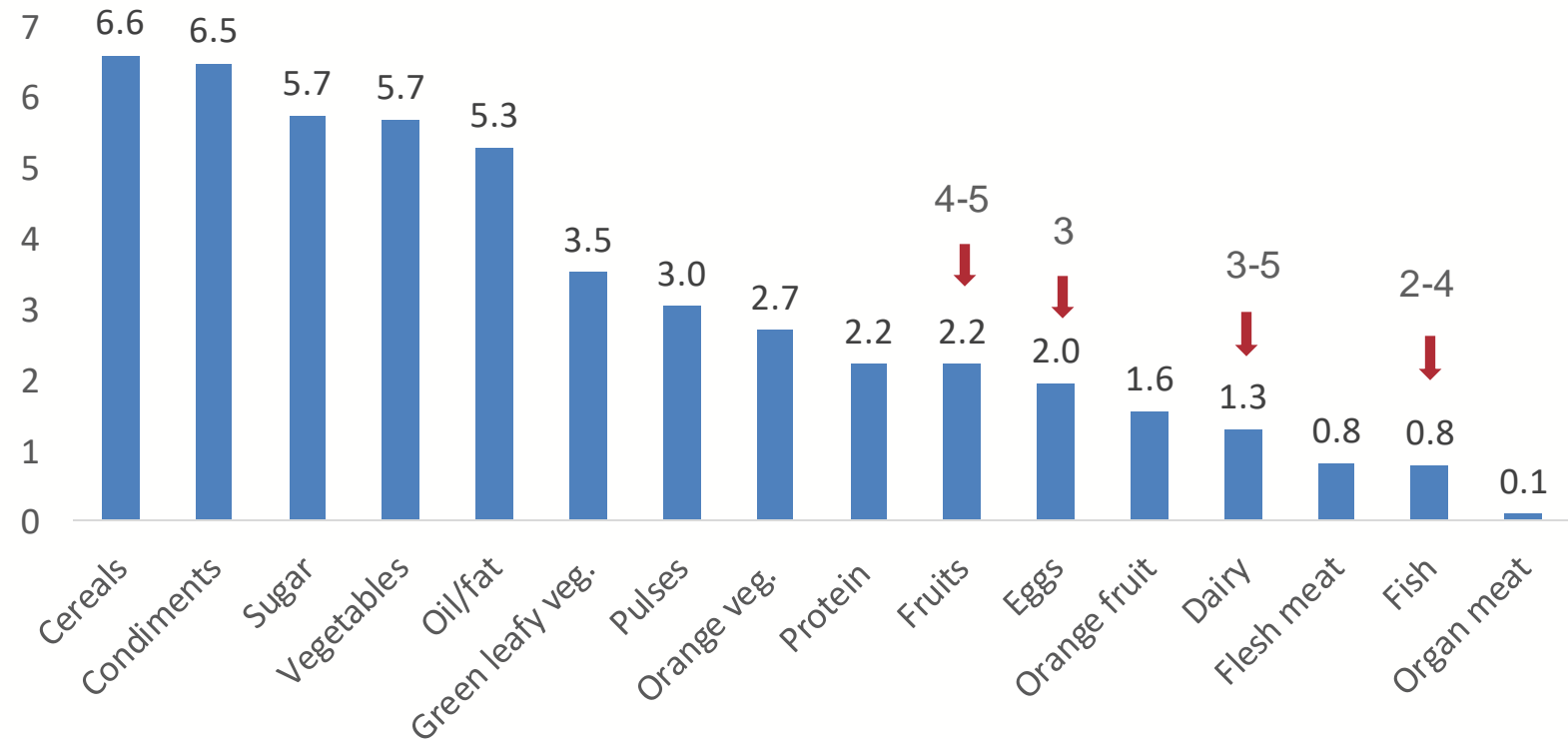


Food consumption pattern



- Meals are based on cereals, condiments, sugar, vegetables,
- Overall, animal protein is consumed 2 days per week.
- 43 percent of HH did not consume any source of iron-rich food groups in the previous week.

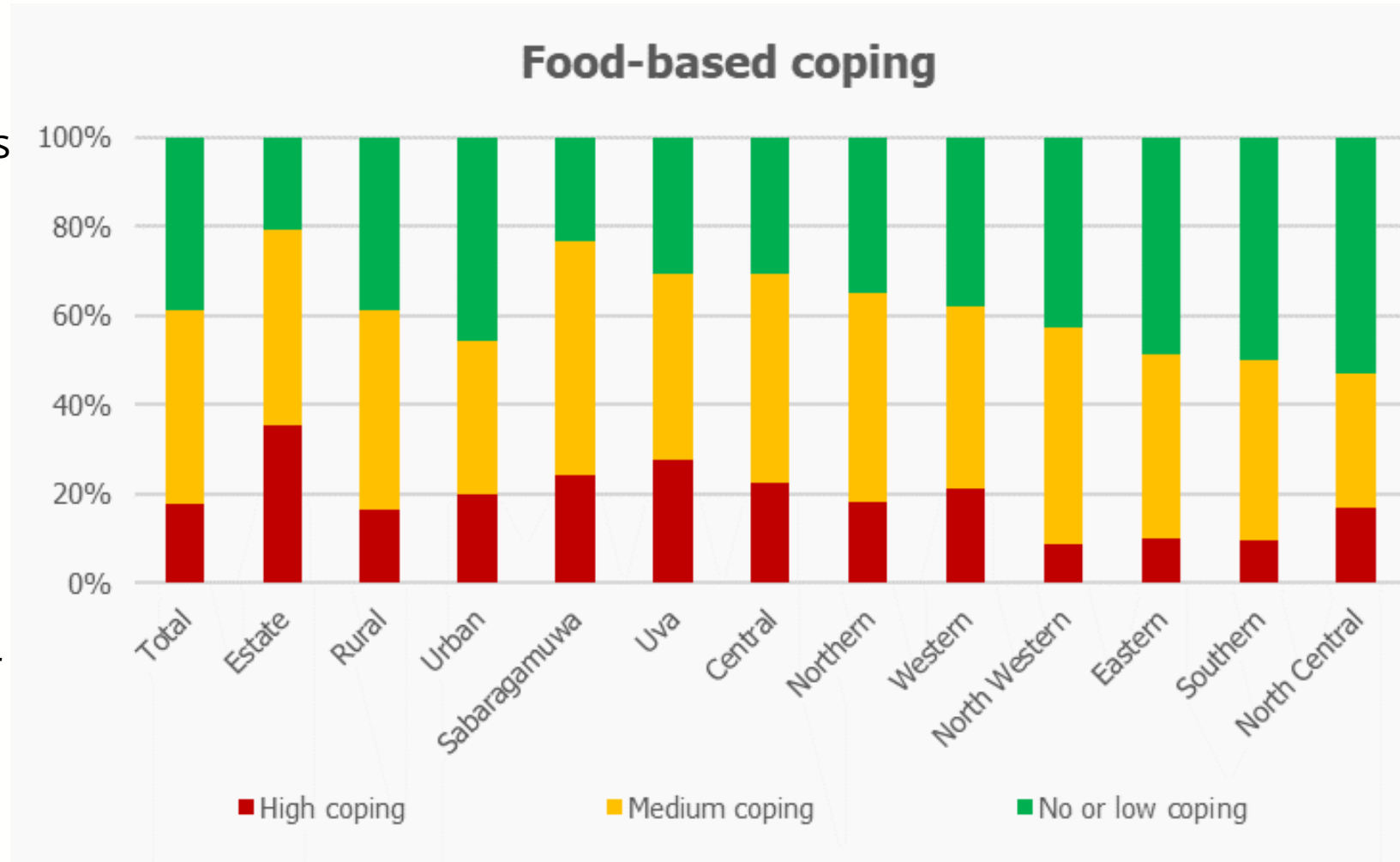
Average number of days per week consumption



Food-based Coping



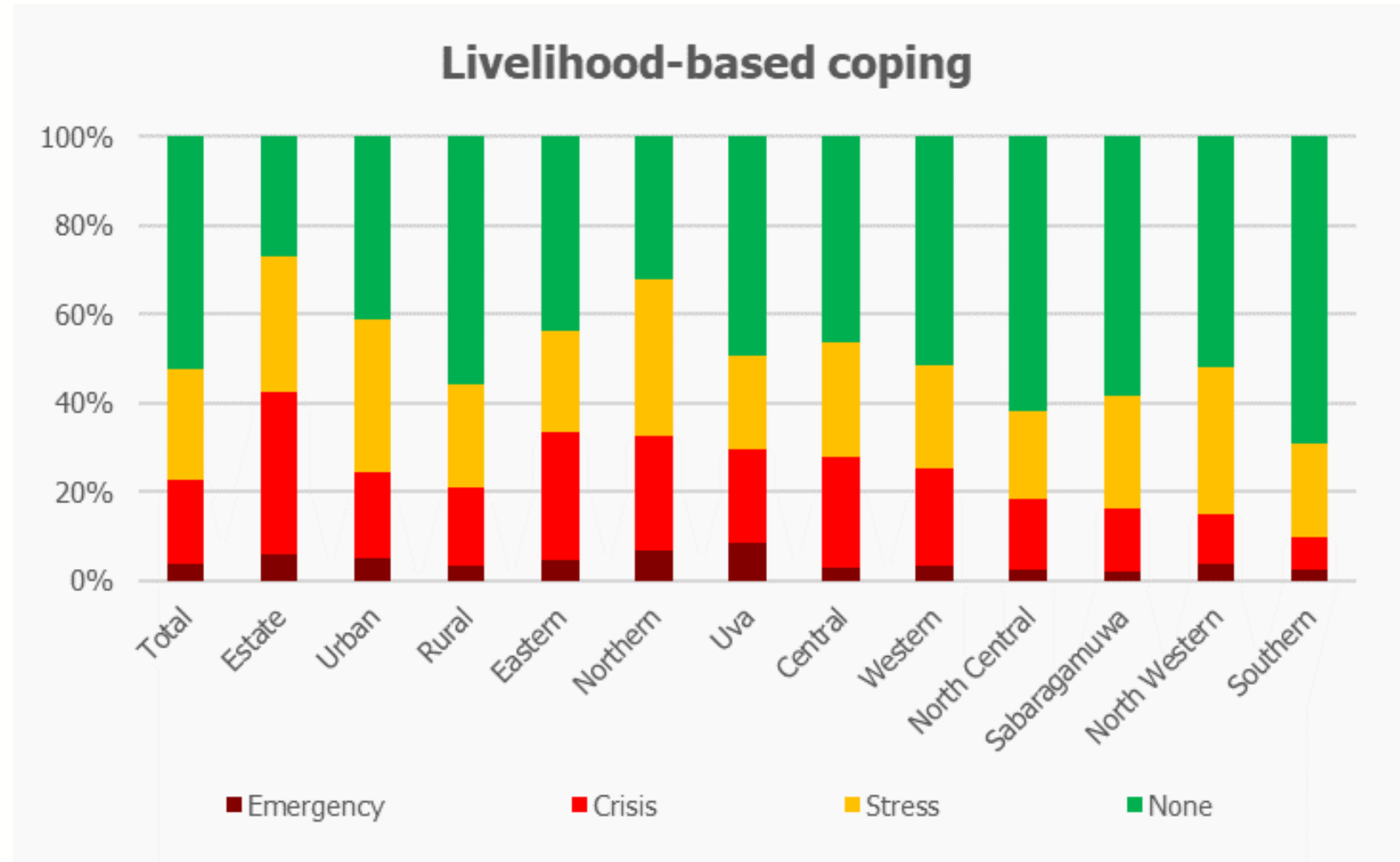
- A majority of HHs (61.1%), 13.5 million people, were regularly using food-based coping strategies because they did not have enough food or money to buy food (including eating less preferred foods and limiting portion sizes).
- Countrywide, 5.3 million people, were reducing the number of meals at the time of the assessment (24%) and similar percentage were reducing the consumption of adults in order for children to eat, being the women the last one to eat.



Livelihood-based Coping



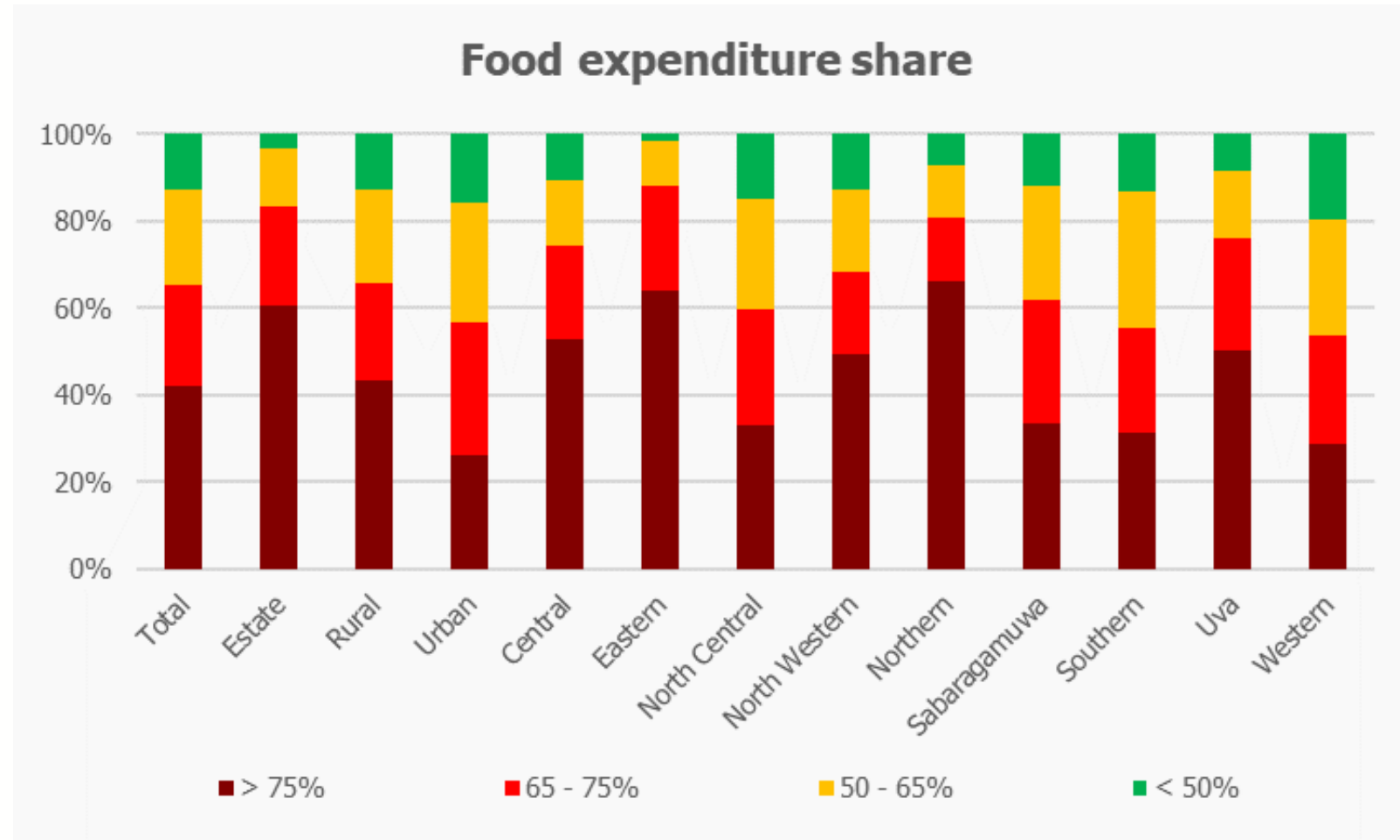
- Nearly half of the households (47.7%) reported using livelihood coping strategies because they did not have enough food or money to buy food.
- 5 million people are already applying crisis and emergency coping strategies that are likely to severely impact their medium- to long-term capacity for income generating activities and food security.



Food expenditure share



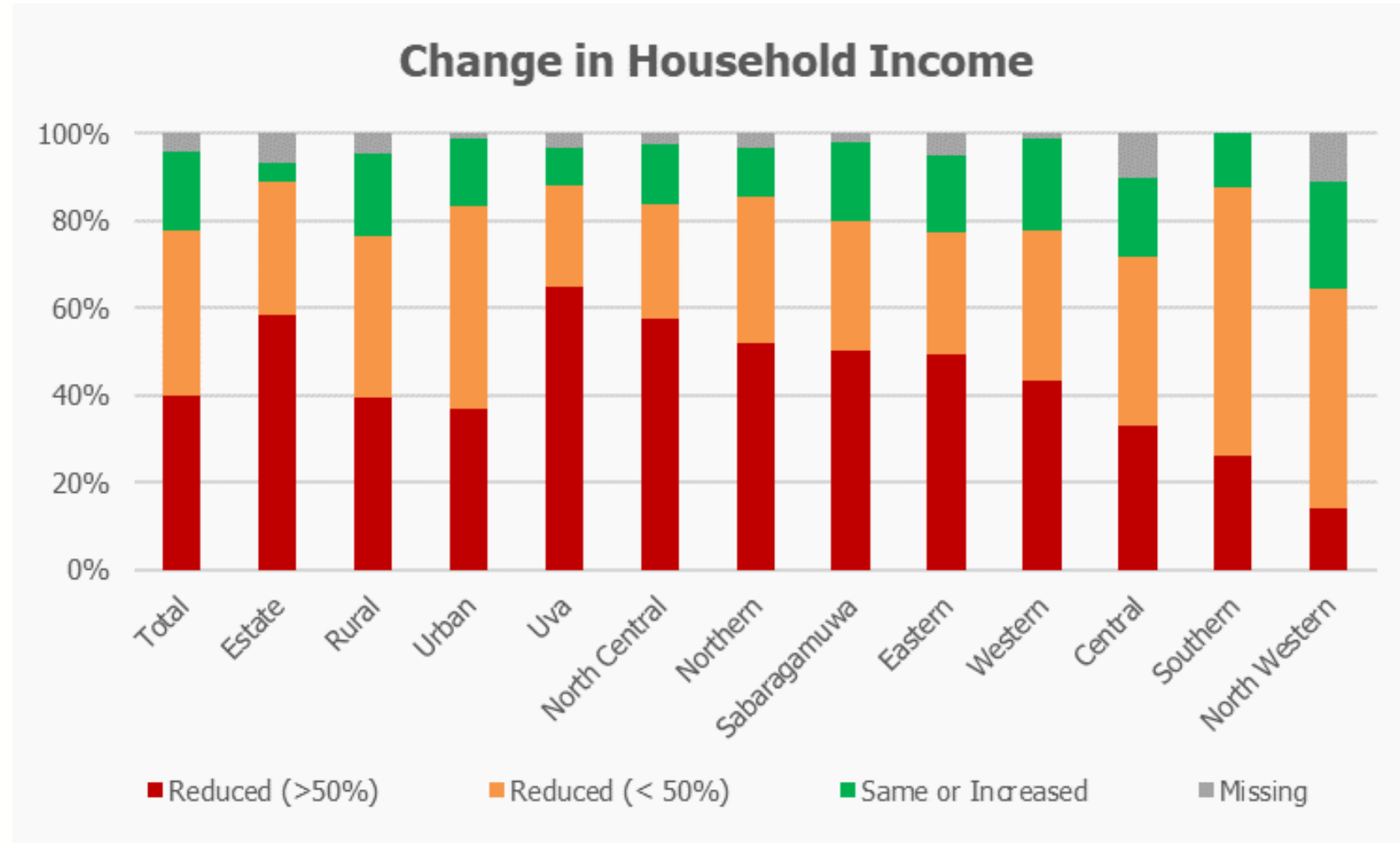
- 2 in 5 HHs (41.8%) were directing more than 75% of their expenditures towards the purchase of food.
- High shares of expenditures towards food was especially pronounced in the Estate sector (60.3%) as well as the Eastern (64.0%) and Northern (66.2%) provinces
- Food inflation: 80.1% - June
93.7% - August



Income change



- 2 in 5 HHs (40.1%) reported that their income had decreased by more than 50% compared to the same three-month period last year.
- Households with at least one person having a disability were more likely to report large reductions in their income.



Key messages on household Food Security



Countrywide, **6.2 million people** are estimated to be **moderately acute food insecure** and **66,000 severely acute food insecure** (Estate: 18,000) .

- **8.7 million people are not consuming acceptable diets.**
- About half of households reported limiting their portion sizes due to inability to access sufficient food and **5.3 million people were skipping meals.**
- To cope with the lack of food, **5 million people are using crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies** that are likely to impact their medium- to long-term capacity for income generating activities and food security.
- Household food security and nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate as the crisis continues.

Who?

- Non educated HH heads, large families, low income HH, Samurdhi beneficiaries, daily wage labourers, female headed HHs, HHs with pregnant and lactating women, children under 5 or with persons with disabilities.

Why?

- Limited household purchasing power as a result of inflation and livelihood disruption.
- The lack of fuel and increased transport cost is also impairing the physical access to markets.



Poor agricultural production in 2022



Key Factors constraining production

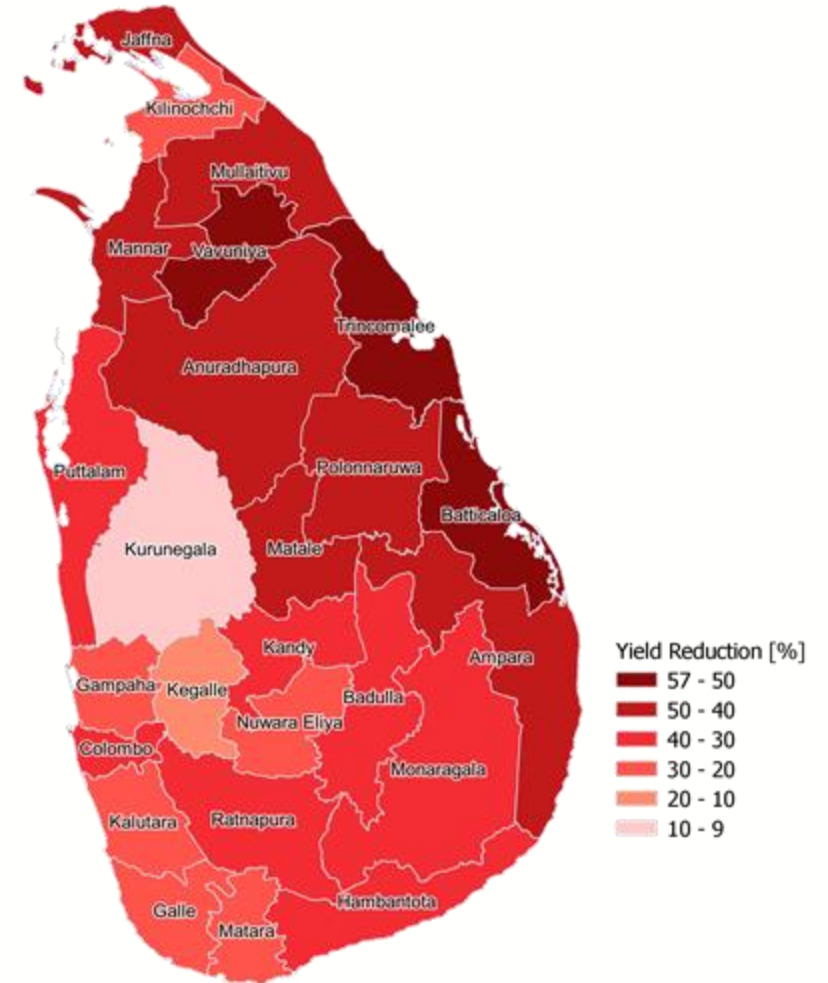
- Limited application of chemical fertilizers, pesticide and herbicides
- Lack of knowledge on organic principles and inadequate quantities and use of organic fertilizer
- Increased production costs
- Fuel crisis – Market disruptions



Maha 2021/22 paddy production



- Harvested area unchanged from 2021
- Yield 2.4 tonnes/hectares from 4 tonnes/hectare
- **40 % decrease in output**
- North, North-Central and Eastern provinces in the dry zone the most affected: yield declines of 45% to 57 %



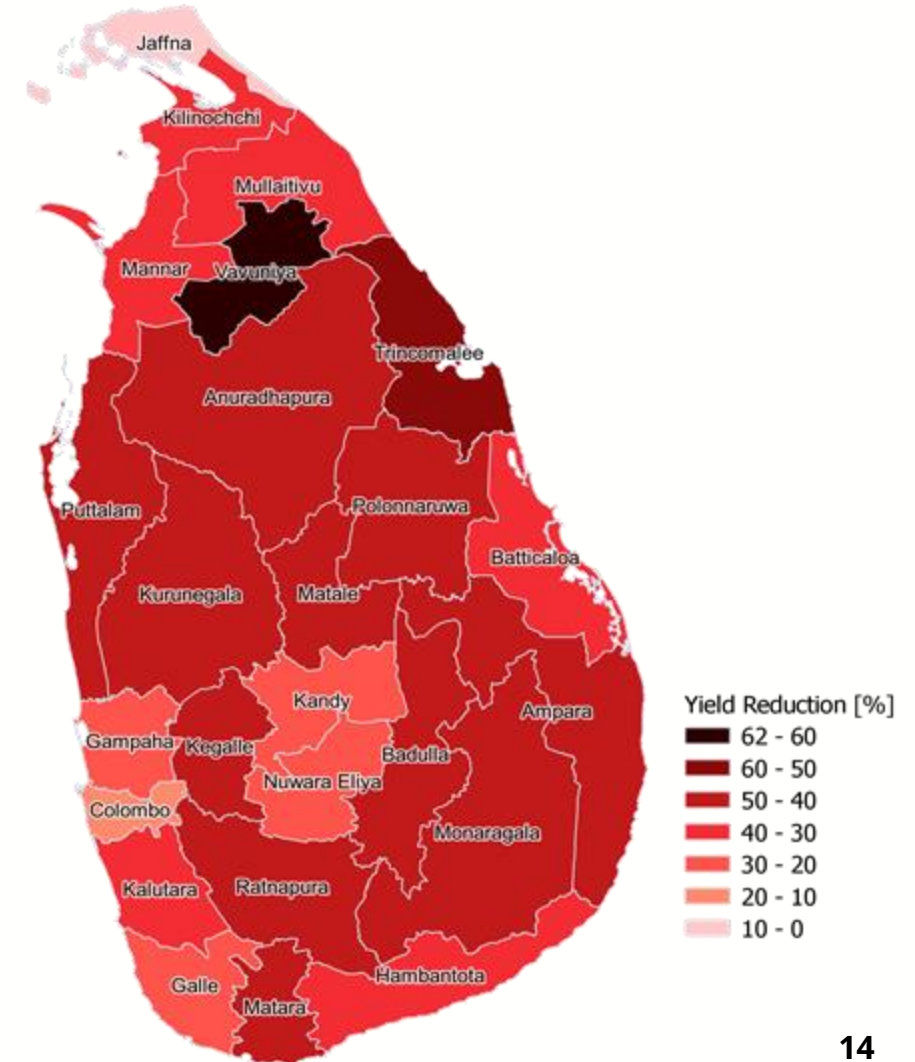
Yala 2022 paddy production



- Planted area decreased from 2021
- Yield \approx 2.4 tonnes/hectares from 4.2 tonnes/hectare
- **\approx 50 % decrease in output**

Observation of crops in the fields

- widespread plant stunting
- widespread presence of weeds
- widespread yellowish color of paddy fields



2022 - Production of other crops, livestock and fisheries



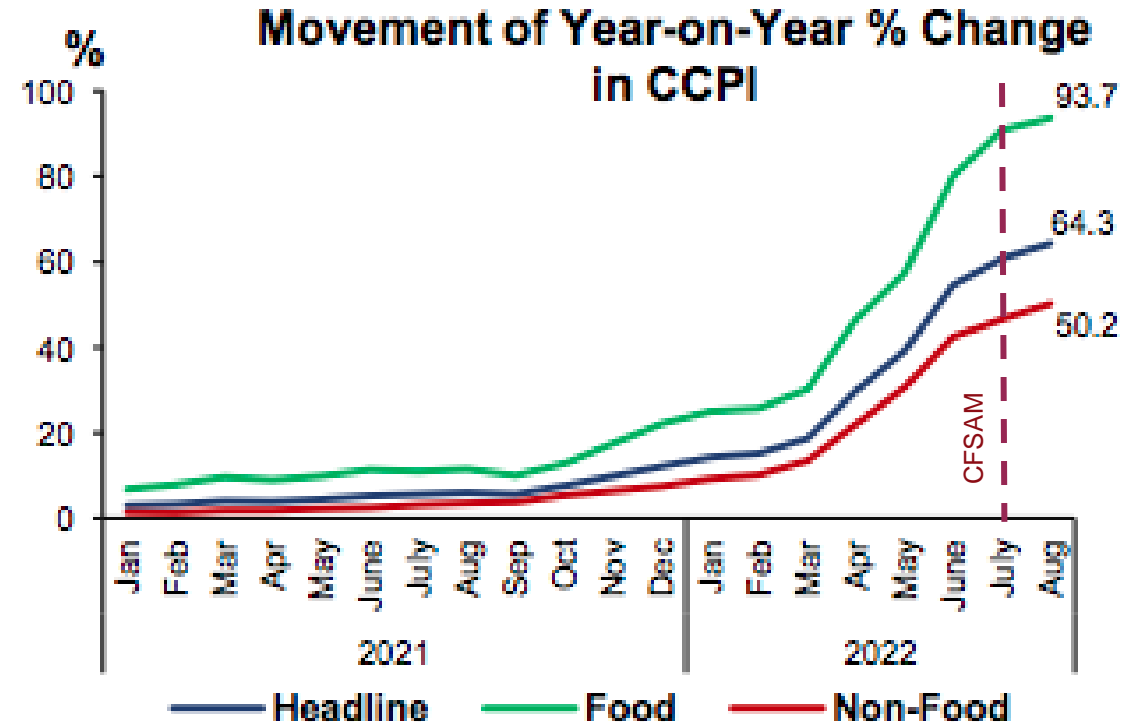
- **Maize** output 60 % down year-on-year, only 30 percent of country's needs
- Livestock herds and production reduced in 2022, particularly **chicken** and **eggs**, with many farms forced to halt operations
- **Vegetable and fruit crops** were also severely affected
- Export-oriented **tea, rubber** and **coconut**, significantly reduced - contraction export earning
- **Marine fishery** curtailed as deep waters are out of reach



Food Markets



- Prices of food commodities have been on a steady increase since the last quarter of 2021 and reached record or near-record highs in August 2022, with the food inflation rate in Colombo reaching nearly 94 percent year on year, up from 90 percent in July.



Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2022.

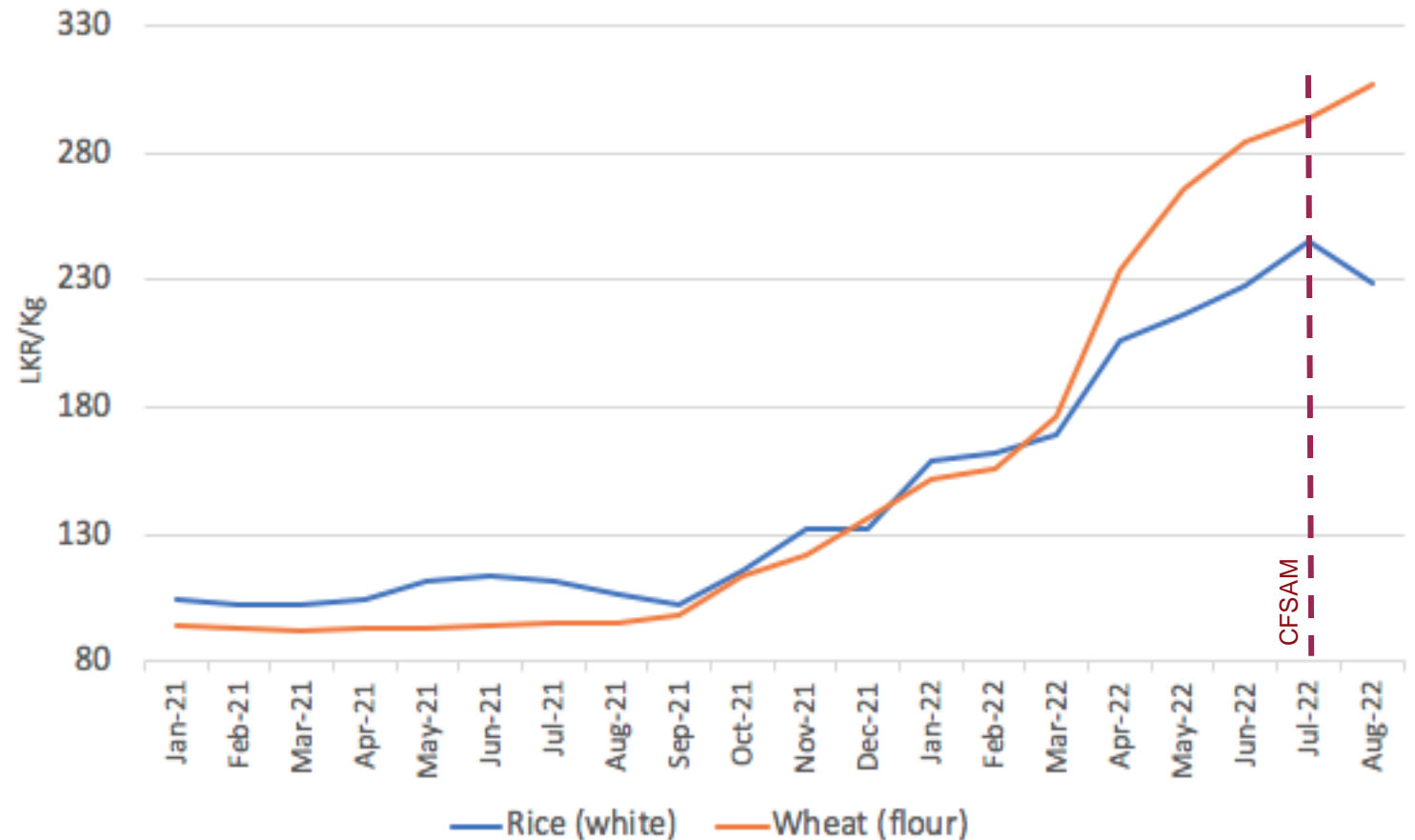


Food Markets



- **Domestic prices** of rice on increase since September 2021. In July 2022 they were 1.5 times more than in July 2021. In August 2022 some easing due to the "Yala" harvest.
- **Wheat (flour) prices** increased since September 2021. In July 2022 they tripled the July 2021 level.
- Prices of **sugar, dried milk, onion, locally produced chicken meat, eggs and coconut oil** at record or near-record levels in July 2022.

Rice (white) and wheat (flour) retail prices (nominal terms) in Colombo, January 2021 – August 2022



Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2022.





Sri Lanka - Cereal supply and demand balance sheet, 2022 ('000 tonnes)

	Rice (milled) ^{1/}	Maize	Wheat	Total
Domestic availability	2 288	187	0	2 475
Production	2 038	187	0	2 225
Stock drawdown	250	0	0	250
Total utilization	3 052	603	1 019	4 675
Food use	2 697	86	971	3 754
Feed use	0	500	0	500
Seed requirement	81	2	0	82
Post harvest losses	275	15	49	338
Import requirements	764	416	1 019	2 199
Imported quantities January-June 2022	472	35	425	932
Remaining import requirements	292	381	594	1 267

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding.

^{1/} Paddy to rice milling rate of 68 percent.

Source: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to Sri Lanka, 2022.



Highest concerns about the upcoming Maha season



If **no immediate action is taken** to support the "Maha" season and availability of and access to seeds of quality, fertilizers and pesticides remain constrained, livelihoods of farmers continued to be eroded,

Small-scale farmers are expected to **reduce the planted area to paddy,**

The livestock and fisheries sector are **unlikely to recover,**

Prices of food are likely to **increase further**

Reliance on imported foods could intensify,

Driving a **severe reduction** of **food availability** and **food access**, with **negative effects on food and nutrition security** during the upcoming lean season, between October 2022 and March 2023



The CFSAM recommends



Development partners to **support immediately** small-scale farmers by

- **Helping to provide essential inputs** in order to enable the return to self-sufficiency in domestic production, particularly for **paddy** and **maize**, and support **home gardening programs**
- **Delivering cash transfers** and **financial assistance** to support farmers', livestock and fisheries productive units to access fuel and restore productive capacities
- **Providing** high-nutrient animal feed, vaccines and veterinary health kits at subsidized prices to livestock owners

And to provide technical and institutional assistance for achieving

- the diversification of agricultural and farming systems, including **Integrated plant nutrient management** and **Integrated pest management schemes**
- an upscale of training on better agricultural practices, including land preparation and the efficient use of chemical and organic fertilizers





The CFSAM recommends

- To safeguard nutrition of the most vulnerable by enhancing access to nutritious diets and essential nutrition services.

Immediate food assistance should be provided prioritizing:

- **The 6.3 million people estimated to be moderately or severely acute food insecure;** a number that is likely to increase in the coming months.
 - Estate sector, female-headed HHs, pregnant/lactating women, children U5, HHs with member/s having a disability, Samurdhi beneficiaries and urban poor HHs in the informal sector.
 - Programmes for treatment of acute malnutrition and malnutrition prevention amongst children U5 and PLW.
 - **School meal programme.**
- Establish a **food security and nutrition monitoring system** to track the situation as the economic crisis continues.





Farmers, rural households and the most vulnerable need **immediate livelihood and food assistance!**





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THANK YOU

