

As a first step, it is necessary to understand which food crops are the most important in Cambodia. Once the list of food crops has been identified, the analysis will focus on the selected crops and will be crop specific. In order to identify the most important food security crops, we rank the food crops based on their contribution to calorie intake, this is shown in Table 1.

Based on the calorie ranking, in the case of Cambodia the vast majority of calories is provided by one single crop, namely rice. Rice alone provides two thirds of total calorie intake for Cambodian households. Maize provides 7 percent of total calories in Cambodia. Most other food items provide less than 5 percent of calorie intake. For sake of completeness, Table 1 also includes non-crop food stuffs as for example meat and fish. The ranking shows that access to animal products remains limited.

Table 1

**Caloric contribution by commodity for Cambodia, 2004**

Ranking	Commodity	Amount of calories (kcal/day/capita)	Calorie share (%)
1	Rice (Milled Equivalent)	1 382	65
2	Maize	159	7
3	Pigmeat	88	4
4	Sugar (Raw Equivalent)	82	4
5	Wheat	63	3
5	Freshwater fish	41	2
6	Cassava	23	1
6	Palm oil	20	1
7	Bananas	16	1
	Sub-total	1 874	88
<i>Total Calories per capita (kcal/day/capita)</i>			2 131

Source: FAOSTAT (2009)

From a food security perspective it is clear that in the context of Cambodia, food security mostly relates to household's access to rice. Thus, the analysis presented in this section will mostly focus on rice. Macro level maize data and domestic price data will also be discussed.



## 2.1 COUNTRY LEVEL VULNERABILITY TO PRICE CHANGES IN KEY FOOD STAPLES

Having defined the list of food crops, the analysis turns to the impacts of increasing food prices at the country level. In order to do this we use net trade data for the two selected commodities.

Price changes can affect a country in different ways depending on whether the country is a net importer or a net exporter of a selected commodity. A net-importer country is defined as a country that consumes more than it produces. On the other hand, a net exporter country will produce and sell abroad more than it consumes nationally. A self sufficient country is defined as a country that consumes all that it produces, i.e. a country for which production is equal to consumption. If a country is a net importer of a good, a price increase in that good is detrimental for the country's welfare. If, on the other hand, the country is a net-exporter of a commodity the country will benefit from an increase in the price of that commodity. Table 2 illustrates Cambodia's net trade position for rice and maize in 2009.

Table 2

### Macro trade data for selected food crops in Cambodia

Item	Production quantity (Tonnes)	Import quantity (Tonnes)	Export quantity (Tonnes)	Net-exporter (%)*
Rice (Milled Equivalent)	4,520,000	50,000	800,000	17
Maize	400,000	0	300,000	75

\* Calculated as  $(Exports-Imports)/Production$   
Source: USDA (2009)

In 2009, Cambodia produced 4.6 million tonnes of rice and exported 17 percent of overall production. Production of Maize was equivalent to 400,000 in 2009, and exports were 75 percent of production. Cambodia is a net exporter of rice and maize, therefore at the country level price increases in these two commodities are beneficial for the country as a whole.