

The Issues and Challenges of Food Security in Algeria

تحديات ورهانات الأمن الغذائي في الجزائر

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ملخص

أصبحت الأمن الغذائي قضية استراتيجية كبرى لجميع الدول في الوقت الحاضر. وفي هذا السياق، تُبذل جهود متزايدة ليس فقط لضمان الوصول المستقر إلى غذاء كافٍ لسكان يتزايد عددهم باستمرار، بل أيضاً لمواجهة تحديات أخرى مثل التغيرات المناخية، والتوترات الجيوسياسية، وتقلبات الأسواق. وتُعد الدول التي تعتمد على الواردات لتغطية عجزها في المنتجات الأساسية، مثل الجزائر، عرضة بشكل خاص للصدمات الخارجية. لذلك، يجب أن يكون تعزيز القطاع الزراعي المحلي، وإدارة الموارد المائية، وتقليل الاعتماد على الأسواق الدولية، والتكيف مع التغيرات المناخية في صميم أي استراتيجية تهدف إلى تعزيز الأمن الغذائي في البلاد.

كلمات البحث: الأمن الغذائي؛ أزمة الغذاء؛ القطاع الزراعي الجزائري؛ الواردات الغذائية الجزائرية.

Abstract:

Food security has become a major strategic issue for all countries today. In this regard, increasing efforts are made to ensure not only stable access to sufficient food, responding to the constant growing population, but also to address other challenges, such as climate change, geopolitical tensions, and market volatility. Countries that rely on imports to cover their deficit in staple products, such as

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Algeria, are vulnerable to external shocks. Therefore, strengthening the local agricultural sector, managing water resources, reducing dependence on international markets, and adapting to climate change must be at the core of any strategy aimed at enhancing the country's food security

Keywords: Food security; Algerian agricultural sector; food imports.

1. INTRODUCTION

Food security has become a major strategic issue, to the point of being at the heart of the concerns of many leaders around the world today. It is more than just a matter of food availability; it encompasses economic and physical access to adequate food, the stability of that access over time, and the efficient biological use of food to lead a healthy and active life.

The concept of food security is relatively recent, dating back to the 1970s. Initially, it was limited to the supply, availability, and price stability of food products. During the 1980s, the concept evolved and came to be defined as the physical and economic access of all individuals to the food they need. However, in 1996, during the World Food Summit, a conventional definition was established. According to the FAO, *food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.*⁽¹⁾

In today's world, despite ongoing efforts to feed a rapidly growing global population, millions of people still suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and severe food insecurity. The fight against hunger remains a complex global challenge due to the persistence of multiple factors, such as pandemics, armed conflicts, climate change, and excessive urbanization. The effects of a global food crisis are felt differently across the world's population. In wealthy and developed

(1) <https://www.fao.org/4/x8622f/x8622f04.htm#TopOfPage>. consulted (20/03/2025)

countries, it is mainly reflected in rising food prices, whereas in poorer and developing countries, it takes the form of shortages, famine crises, and widespread malnutrition.

Algeria, as a developing country, has not experienced undernourishment crises despite the difficulties that its agricultural sector has faced in the past. Due to oil revenues, the country has been able to rely on imports to cover food deficits and avoid shortages. However, the rising cost of these imported products has not led to famine or scarcity, but it has placed a heavy burden on the national budget due to the high import bill for essential products such as wheat, coffee, and powdered milk.

This situation has reignited the debate around food self-sufficiency and highlighted the need to ensure food security through a national strategy. In this context, our work seeks to analyze the stakes of food security in Algeria, the challenges facing its agricultural sector, and the threats it must confront. Accordingly, we raise the following central question: ***Is Algeria's food security guaranteed, given its economic challenges due to its dependence on hydrocarbons?***

Throughout this study, we also seek to answer a series of questions arising from our main issue:

- What is the capacity of current agricultural production to meet the population's food needs?
- How can Algeria strengthen food sovereignty while reducing its external dependence?
- Apart from hydrocarbon revenues, does Algeria have the necessary resources to finance its food import bill?

Research Hypotheses

The hypotheses underpinning our study are as follows:

- Algeria's dependence on hydrocarbon revenues is a major obstacle to strengthening its food security.

- Despite the efforts made, agricultural production remains insufficient to meet local demand, which increases Algeria's dependency and compromises its food security.

Research Methodology

In order to provide answers to our central question, our study is based on a review of key books and scholarly articles addressing the global food situation and the factors affecting agricultural production worldwide. As for the case of Algeria, we made use of databases and various reports from international organizations such as the FAO and the World Bank, as well as data from national agencies such as the customs office and the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture.

2. Definition of the Concept of Food Security:

The concern of feeding the population has been a major issue for centuries, but the expression "food security" emerged in the second half of the 20th century. It highlighted the danger of poverty and hunger that would affect a portion of the global population, particularly those living in poor countries.

2.1. Food Security and Self-Sufficiency

The two concepts should not be confused. Food security is *"assured when all people, at all times, have economic, social, and physical access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences, enabling them to lead an active and healthy life"*⁽¹⁾. Food security is not limited to the simple availability of food or the increase in local production, but it must ensure that the entire population (all households) has the necessary resources to access sufficient quantities of products, while ensuring the sustainability of that access.

To strengthen food security, countries can increase local production or rely on imports. However, they must ensure better

(1) BOUCOBZA, Xavier. La méthode de promotion de la sécurité alimentaire. Revue internationale de droit économique, 2012/ 4t. Pages 71 à 85. Page 72.

distribution of food and, especially, ensure an equitable distribution of income so that the most disadvantaged populations can access adequate food. As for self-sufficiency, it is defined as meeting all food needs through domestic production⁽¹⁾. According to these two definitions, food security is a broader concept than self-sufficiency. The latter helps preserve foreign currency reserves to spend on acquiring products not available locally, protects from fluctuations in food prices, particularly staple foods, and guarantees the satisfaction of a country's food needs.

2.2. Food Security: An long-Standing concern

Food security has concerned many thinkers in the past although the term "food security" only emerged in the mid-1970s. However, the concern of ensuring sufficient food for the population has always been at the heart of reflections. In his book "*An Essay on the Principle of Population*" published in 1798, Malthus became widely known in Europe for his theory that the population increases over time in a geometric progression. According to him, demographic growth is unlimited and any increase in population leads to further increases. In contrast, the growth of land production occurs in a very different manner because it depends on the improvement of already cultivated land, and such improvements cannot guarantee continuously increasing yields. Therefore, even under the most favorable production conditions, the means of subsistence cannot grow faster than an arithmetic progression.

Based on these projections, Malthus predicted the expansion of famine, but during the past two centuries, famines that affected the entire world have been rare, except in certain regions. Today, Malthus's hypotheses have not yet been fully verified; they do not entirely reflect reality, as, since their formulation, the world has

(1) La production et la sécurité alimentaire : <https://www.fao.org/4/y3918f/y3918f04.htm#:~:text=L'autosuffisance%20alimentaire%2C%20c',adopt%C3%A9%20par%20de%20nombreux%20pays.> (25/02/2025)

experienced significant demographic growth, while at the same time, the quality of life for the global population has improved⁽¹⁾.

However, Malthus's hypotheses may prove true in the future due to demographic pressure. According to the FAO, the world population could reach 9.7 billion by 2050, with the majority living in cities⁽²⁾(FAO, 2009), meaning two-thirds of the world's population will reside in urban areas. If this population were to adopt the American consumption model, it would require several times more resources than are needed today to satisfy their food needs⁽³⁾.

3. The Stakes of Food Security in the World

Despite remarkable progress in the agricultural sector globally, the world food system remains vulnerable to the challenge of feeding a rapidly growing population, while global supply is becoming increasingly uncertain. Several factors contribute to the vulnerability of this system, including:

3.1. The Rise in Demand for Food Products

The FAO's projections predict a global population increase that will exceed 9 billion by 2050. This situation will lead to changes in the structure of global demand for agricultural products, which will, in turn, put pressure on agriculture to meet the challenge of feeding the world's population. Several factors contribute to this rising demand, including:

3.1.1. The Rise in Global Population

By 2050, the global population will reach 9.7 billion people, with

(1) CARFANTAN, Jean-Yves. Le choc alimentaire mondial : ce que nous attend demain. Edition Albin Michel, 2009. Page 75.

(2) The urban future: what lies ahead for food security?

[https://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/insights/news-insights/news-detail/the-urban-future--what-lies-ahead-for-food-security/en#:~:text=Over%2050%25%20of%20the%20world's,3%20of%20the%20world%20population. \(2/03/2025\)](https://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/insights/news-insights/news-detail/the-urban-future--what-lies-ahead-for-food-security/en#:~:text=Over%2050%25%20of%20the%20world's,3%20of%20the%20world%20population. (2/03/2025))

(3) CARFANTAN, Jean-Yves. Op, Cit, page 75.

most of this increase occurring in developing countries, primarily concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and East and Southeast Asia⁽¹⁾.

3.1.2. The Rise in the Rate of Urbanization

In 2009, the global urban population was estimated to be 49%, but this rate is accelerating, with 2.5 billion people expected to live in cities by 2050. Therefore, over 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas⁽²⁾. This increase will primarily affect developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, where the majority of the population is still concentrated in rural areas.

3.1.3. The Rise in Incomes

The increase in the global population's income is another determining factor that will not only lead to an increase in global demand for food products but also to their diversification. The average annual global economic growth rate is projected to be 2.7%, while it is expected to reach 4% in developing countries by the end of 2026⁽³⁾. This growth will raise the standard of living in many regions of the world and, consequently, diversify dietary patterns in developing countries.

3.2. An Unstable Global Agricultural Production

Agriculture faces a great challenge as it must meet the monotonous global demand while responding to the growing food needs of an increasing population and the needs of other sectors like biofuels . However, the production in this sector faces both human and

(1) The urban future: what lies ahead for food security?

[https://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/insights/news-insights/news-detail/the-urban-future--what-lies-ahead-for-food-security/en#:~:text=Over%2050%25%20of%20the%20world's,3%20of%20the%20world%20population\).](https://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/insights/news-insights/news-detail/the-urban-future--what-lies-ahead-for-food-security/en#:~:text=Over%2050%25%20of%20the%20world's,3%20of%20the%20world%20population).) consulted (2/03/2025)

(2) *Ibid*

(3) Global Economy Stabilizes, But Developing Economies Face Tougher Slog. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/01/16/gep-january-2025-press-release>. JANUARY 16, 2025

natural obstacles, leading to uncertain global supply growth. Among these obstacles are:

3.2.1. The Costs of Using Natural Resources

The growth in the global supply of agricultural products requires expanding cultivated land areas. However, recently, the use of land for food production has been competed for by other uses such as animal feed, biofuels, and biodiversity⁽¹⁾. The expansion of cities is another constraint, leading to a reduction in agricultural land.

Without sufficient expansion of agricultural land, the global supply of agricultural products would fall short of demand. Some analysts argue that increased yields in certain regions of the world could balance supply and demand, but such productivity increases cannot ensure this balance without harming the environment⁽²⁾. In other words, when countries are unable to expand cultivable land, they will resort to increasing the yields of existing land, but this would be very costly-either in terms of the price of agricultural inputs or the environmental impact.

Finally, countries that lack the means to increase cultivated areas or raise the yields of existing land will have to resort to imports to ensure their food security. This is an unfavorable option for poor countries, placing them under the constraint of international food aid. The decline in agricultural land is not the only challenge agriculture will face in the future; soil degradation (desertification, degradation of water resources) is also a significant concern.

3.2.2. The Costs of Chemical Inputs

On the one hand, modern agriculture relies on fossil fuels to operate the entire agricultural apparatus (irrigation pumps, tractors, etc.); on the other hand, it uses fertilizers and pesticides to enhance

(1) BRUNEL, Sylvie. La nouvelle question alimentaire, *Hérodote*, 131(4), 14-30, 2008. Page 27.

(2) CARFANTAN, Jean-Yves. Op, Cit, page 76

land productivity. The increase in agricultural production depends on the increase in inputs such as machinery, fertilizers, etc., and consequently, more fossil energy is required.

In this regard, the FAO emphasizes reducing the global food system's dependence on fossil fuels to ensure the ability to feed the global population in the future. According to the organization, agriculture's reliance on fossil fuels makes it vulnerable and less able to meet the population's needs. In other words, rising fossil fuel prices lead to higher production costs, which, in turn, result in higher food prices.

3.2.3. Global Warming

Climate change will cause a decline in agricultural yields, which will negatively affect food prices. This phenomenon initially leads to water scarcity in many regions of the world, which will reduce irrigated land areas. In other words, irrigated areas will not be able to increase as significantly as in the previous century⁽¹⁾ due to water scarcity.

3.3. Speculation on Food Products

The rise in food prices is justified by the fundamentals of the economy and the laws of supply and demand. In other words, it is driven by an unstable supply due to weak investment in the agricultural sector, the conversion of crops to other uses such as biofuels production, and natural uncertainties like weather conditions, alongside growing demand caused by the increase in the global population.

However, other factors also contribute to the rise in food prices, such as the surge in raw material prices (oil and gas) and speculation. To protect themselves from price fluctuations in commodity markets, sellers and buyers resort to futures contracts. However, only 2% of these contracts lead to actual delivery⁽²⁾, and the rest are negotiated

(1) CARFANTAN, Jean-Yves. Op, Cit, page 78

(2) FAO. Flambée des prix sur les marchés alimentaires, Perspectives Economiques et Sociales, Juin 2010.

before the expiration date (delivery). Investors acquiring these futures contracts are not interested in the products or commodities themselves, but seek to sell them for speculative profit.

3.4. Armed Conflicts

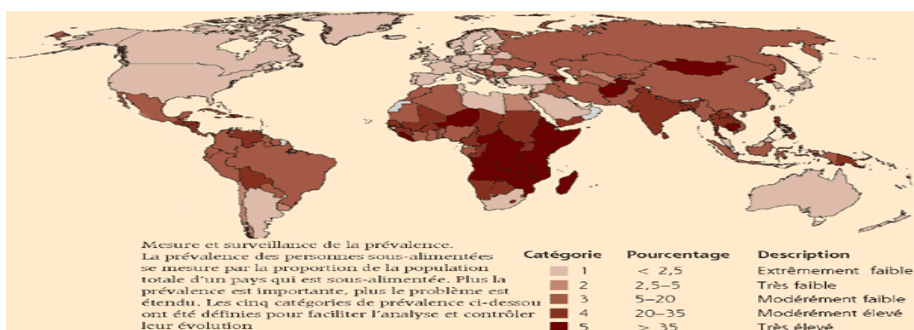
These human-made catastrophes are a fundamental cause of food insecurity. They affect millions of people living in low-income countries, leading to supply disruptions and difficulty accessing food. In such conditions, peace and political stability remain essential elements to ensure a country's food security.

4. Food Security in Algeria: Current Situation

4.1. Algeria's Ranking According to the Global Hunger Index

Figure 1 shows that Algeria has not experienced severe food crises, even during periods when it lacked significant financial resources. Between 1997 and 1999, it was ranked among the countries with a very low rate of undernourishment. In other words, the percentage of the Algerian population suffering from hunger during this period ranged between 2.5% and 5%.

Figure 1: Percentage of Undernourished People by Country (1997–1999)

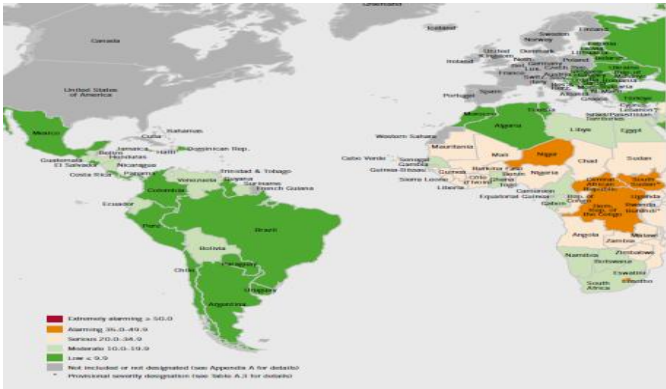


Source : La production et la sécurité alimentaire, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/Y3918F/y3918f04.htm> consulted (20/03/2025)

The GHI (Global Hunger Index), calculated annually by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), highlights the successes and failures in reducing hunger and provides better insight into its underlying causes. According to this index, Algeria is

classified in 2024, as shown in Figure 2, among the countries with a low level of hunger, even though the country is still far from achieving food self-sufficiency. The index has shown a clear improvement in recent years, moving from a situation of moderate hunger risk in the 1990s to a situation of low hunger risk since 2010.

Figure 2: Global Hunger Index



Source: <http://www.ifpri.org/topic/global-hunger-index>. Consulted (15/03/2025)

According to this index, the number of undernourished people in 2024 is estimated at 2.5% of the population compared to 2.9% in 2016. This rate has seen a significant decrease, dropping from 8% in 2000 to 2.9% in 2016 and then to 2.5% in 2024.

The prevalence of stunting among children under five has also seen a considerable decline, falling from 23.6% in 2000 to 11.5% in 2016 and to 9.8% in 2024. Similarly, the mortality rate in this age group has experienced a remarkable drop, from 4% in 2000 to 2.6% in 2015 and to 2.2% in 2024. Finally, the prevalence of wasting among children under five slightly increased in 2000 (3.1%) and 2016 (4.1%), but in 2024, it saw a significant decline, recording a rate of 2.7%.

4.2. The Agricultural Sector in Algeria

Algeria is a vast country, ranked first in Africa in terms of size, with an area of 2,381,740 km². However, the total agricultural area is estimated at 44.0 million hectares, representing 18.5% of the country's

total surface area. The Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA) is estimated at approximately 8.5 million hectares, or 19.5% of the total agricultural area. As for irrigated land, it remains limited, having increased from 300,000 hectares in the early 2000s to 1.4 million hectares in 2024, which represents about 3.3% of the total agricultural land⁽¹⁾.

4.3. The Contribution of the Agricultural Sector to GDP

According to Graph No. 3, Algerian agriculture recorded, in 2008, the lowest contribution rate to GDP in its history, reaching around 5.5%. The following year (2009), this rate increased sharply to nearly 8%. After a decline over two consecutive years (2010 and 2011), it began to rise again, reaching a level close to 10% in 2015. From that point onward, Algerian agricultural production experienced rapid growth. In fact, its added value represented nearly 13% of GDP in 2020.

However, a slight decline was observed due to reduced cereal cultivation during the 2021–2022 periods, caused by unfavorable weather conditions. Starting in 2023, agricultural production resumed its upward trend. In 2024, agricultural production is estimated at nearly 35 billion dollars, representing 18% of Algeria's GDP⁽²⁾.

Figure 3: The Contribution of the Agricultural Sector to GDP



Source : World Bank Database

(1) <http://fr.madr.gov.dz/statistiques-agricoles/>. Consulted (20/03/2025)

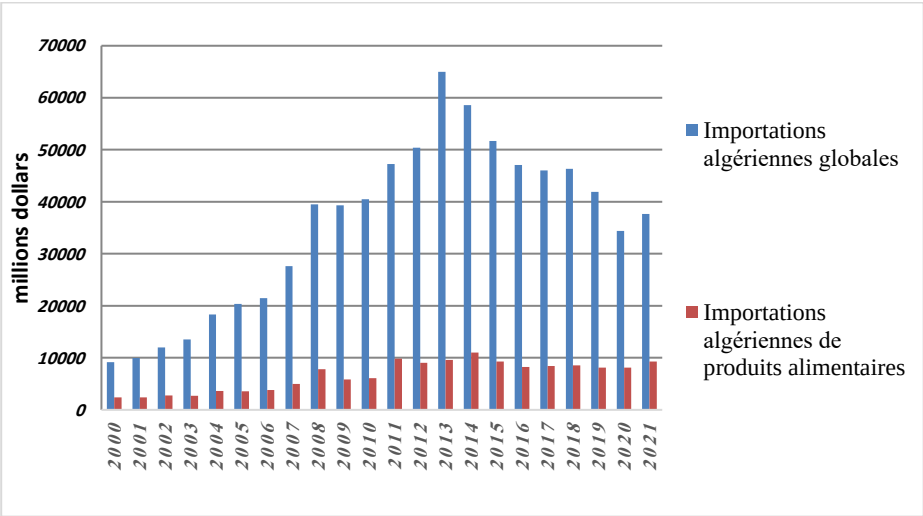
(2) The agricultural sector contributes 18% to the GDP. <https://www.aps.dz/economie/171046-le-secteur-agricole-contribue-au-pib-a-hauteur-de-18>. (20 Mai 2024 18:17)

4.4. Algerian Imports of Food Products

Despite the increase in the added value of agriculture in Algeria’s GDP, the country's food import bill remains very high. According to Figure 4, Algerian imports of these products have experienced rapid growth since 2006, reaching their peak in 2014 with an estimated amount of \$11 billion. The following year, they saw a slight decline thanks to restrictive measures adopted by the government to reduce the import bill and, consequently, the trade balance deficit. Despite the downward trend in Algeria’s overall imports, food imports appear to have stabilized at around \$8 billion per year. In 2021, they were estimated at \$9 billion.

Despite efforts to diversify its economy, Algeria remains highly dependent on hydrocarbons, which accounted for more than 90% of export revenues in 2023. Moreover, almost all import bills, whether food-related or not, are financed by oil revenues. However, this situation cannot last indefinitely, as the state’s budget revenues can be directly affected by falling oil prices.

Figure 4: Algerian Imports of Food Products



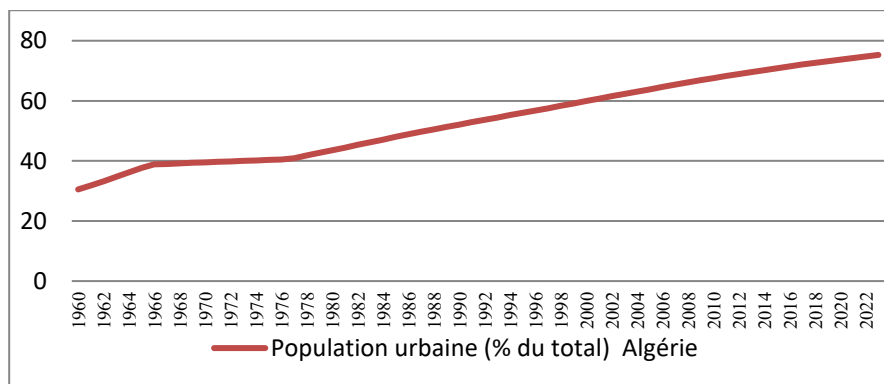
Source: Personal compilation based on data from Algerian Customs

4.5. The Pressure of the Algerian Population on the Agricultural Sector

The Algerian population was estimated at 46.344 million inhabitants in 2023. According to the Office for National Statistics' projections, the population could exceed 50 million by 2030. This population growth will lead to increased needs for food, water, and housing, while the Algerian economy still struggles to reduce its dependency on hydrocarbons. Therefore, Algeria faces the challenge of revitalizing its economy to ensure a stable income for its population, enabling easy and permanent access to healthy and sufficient food.

The Algerian population is highly urbanized and has experienced considerable growth since the late 1970s. It rose from 40% of the total population in the mid-1970s to 50% by the end of the 1980s. In 2000, the urban population was estimated at nearly 59%. By 2015, this figure had increased by almost 10%, reaching 70% of the total Algerian population. By the end of 2022, more than 75% of the Algerian population lived in urban areas.

Figure 5: Evolution of the Urban Population in Algeria



Source: Personal compilation based on World Bank data

This transformation is bound to affect consumption patterns. The demand for food products, whether plant-based or animal-based, will increase as urban populations grow. Therefore, this urbanization must be accompanied by the establishment of efficient distribution

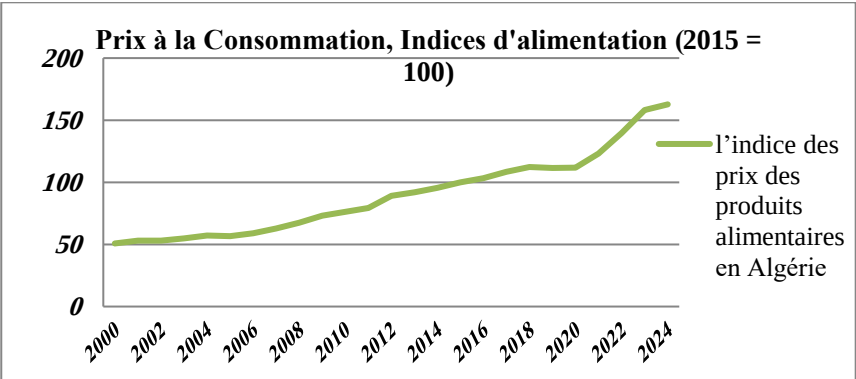
networks to avoid shortages and effectively combat price increases, hence preserving household purchasing power and ensuring access to healthy food.

The downside of this urbanization is the excessive use of agricultural land for infrastructure and housing projects to meet the rising housing demand. In other words, farmland is being sacrificed for construction purposes. In fact, in 2013, the Minister of Agriculture, Rachid Benaïssa, stated on Algerian radio that 150,000 hectares had been diverted from their agricultural use since independence⁽¹⁾.

4.6. The Evolution of Food Prices in Algeria

Figure 6 illustrates the evolution of food prices, which have risen sharply since 2006. Before this period, fluctuations in the index were relatively stable. However, starting in 2006, the price index saw a significant increase, reaching nearly 10% in 2012 compared to 2013. Since then, prices have continued to rise, though at a variable pace, stabilizing in 2019 and 2020. However, from 2021 onwards, the index skyrocketed, showing a 23% increase in 2021 and 39% in 2022. In 2023, the variation reached 58% compared to the base year of 2015.

Figure 6: The National Food Price Index in Algeria



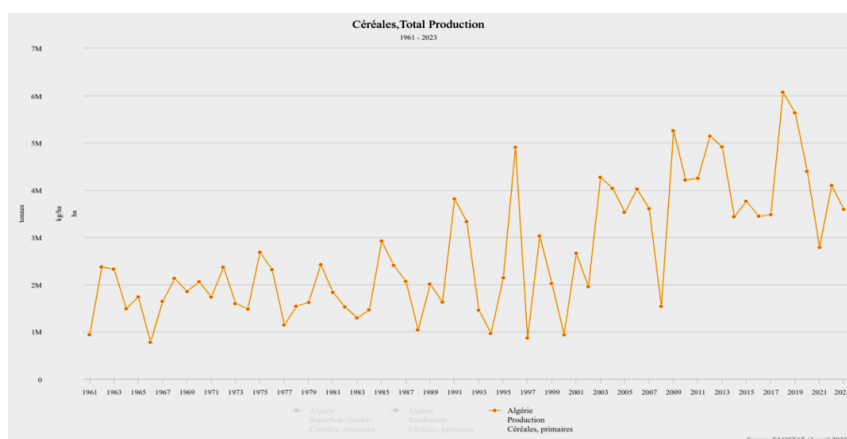
Source: Personal compilation based on FAO data

(1)<https://www.algerie360.com/algerie-plus-de-150-000-ha-detournes-de-leur-vocation-agricole/> (Consulted 20/02/2025)

The rising cost of food products is making it increasingly difficult for the population to access various foodstuffs, which can lead to social unrest. For example, this situation triggered waves of protests in several cities around the world in 2008, known as the "food riots". As a result, implementing policies to combat food price inflation remains essential, especially during periods when wage increases lag behind inflation.

Algeria is one of the world's largest importers of cereals. According to FAO data, in 2023, the country's cereal import bill was estimated at USD 3.5 billion, compared to USD 4.5 billion in 2022. However, this decline is marginal in terms of volume, with 10.4 million tonnes imported in 2023, compared to 11.4 million tonnes in 2022.

Figure 7: The Evolution of Local Cereal Production in Algeria



Source: FAO database

National cereal production remains very low, which explains the reliance on imports to cover the deficit. After a notable increase since the 2000s, local production, as shown in Figure No. 7, experienced a drop in 2008. However, the following year (2009), it reached a historic volume estimated at 5.25 million tonnes. Local cereal production is far from stable, as it undergoes significant fluctuations. Between 2013 and 2015, it dropped to less than 3.5 million tonnes per year. But in 2019, it reached 6 million tonnes, a volume never

recorded before. However, from 2020 onwards, the trend reversed, and production fell to less than 3 million tonnes in 2022.

Cereals are highly price-volatile products, due to intensive speculation on global markets, economic and geopolitical events, and climate change. These factors drive up their prices and, consequently, raise domestic prices due to imported inflation. To limit the effects of external shocks and especially to reduce its dependence on imports, Algeria has increased its efforts to strengthen local cereal production. In this context, cereals have been placed at the heart of the priorities defined by the National Strategic Crop Development Plan. It is within this framework that Algeria signed a partnership agreement with Italy involving a US\$420 million investment. This project covers an area of 35,000 hectares in the wilaya of Timimoun and aims to develop the cultivation of wheat and various legumes⁽¹⁾.

Moreover, Algeria implements a subsidy policy for basic food products to safeguard household purchasing power. However, this policy proves very costly for the economy, especially when food prices rise. In a context where the national economy depends primarily on hydrocarbon revenues, as its main financial source, these subsidies are increasingly becoming a burden for the state, and any attempt to revise the current subsidy system would result in a significant impact on the population.

5. Conclusion

The global economic landscape is marked by increasing interdependence among economies. This situation has facilitated the transmission of shocks from one country to another. The agricultural sector, like all others, has not been spared by these shocks; it is directly exposed to the uncertainties of international markets, price

(1) Algeria-Italy: Strategic agreement to build cereals, agri-food megaproject in Timimoun. <https://www.aps.dz/en/economy/52752-algeria-italy-strategic-agreement-to-build-cereals-agri-food-megaproject-in-timimoun> (Consulted 5/03/2025)

fluctuations, trade policies, and geopolitical events. In this context, food security, which means ensuring populations have regular and sufficient access to food, is a major issue, as it is essential for the social and economic stability of a country.

The Algerian agricultural sector has experienced strong momentum in recent years. However, it faces several challenges: it must meet the growing demand resulting from a population estimated at 40.4 million in 2016, which could reach 50 million by 2030. It must also contend with the increasing rate of urbanization. In 2022, more than 75% of Algerians lived in urban areas. This rate is expected to rise alongside population growth, which will negatively affect agriculture due to the loss of hundreds of hectares each year to urban sprawl, particularly in the northern regions, as well as due to climate-related challenges, especially drought.

The challenge is not only to provide food for these millions of people, but also to ensure them a stable income that allows easy access to their nutritional needs. The Algerian economy is heavily reliant on hydrocarbons, which account for 90% of export revenues. This dependency makes Algeria vulnerable, as oil revenues finance the country's food import bill, which was estimated at USD 9 billion in 2021. To reduce external dependency, the country is promoting local agriculture, which currently contributes 18% to GDP. However, despite these efforts, the agricultural sector still struggles to meet local demand, especially for staple products like cereals.

Ultimately, the risk of food insecurity lies not only in the agricultural sector's inability to satisfy domestic demand for basic products, but also in Algeria's dependency on hydrocarbons, a situation that could weaken its foreign exchange reserves, which are at risk diminishing in the medium term. While Algeria's food security is not currently under threat, the country remains vulnerable due to the absence of viable alternatives to hydrocarbons to finance its imports.

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