



A GOOD GRAIN

Millions of people around the world rely on rice as the bulk of their daily diet. This snapshot of the crop's production, consumption and trade shows an overall surplus, but population growth in future decades may affect the situation, writes Emily Elert.


DAILY DEPENDENCE


Average percentage of daily calories derived from rice 1961–2011, per capita. Factors that affect the demand of rice include: rapid economic development; increased gross domestic product; and urbanization in developing countries.


 Region with the largest continued reliance on rice for average daily calories: **ASIA**

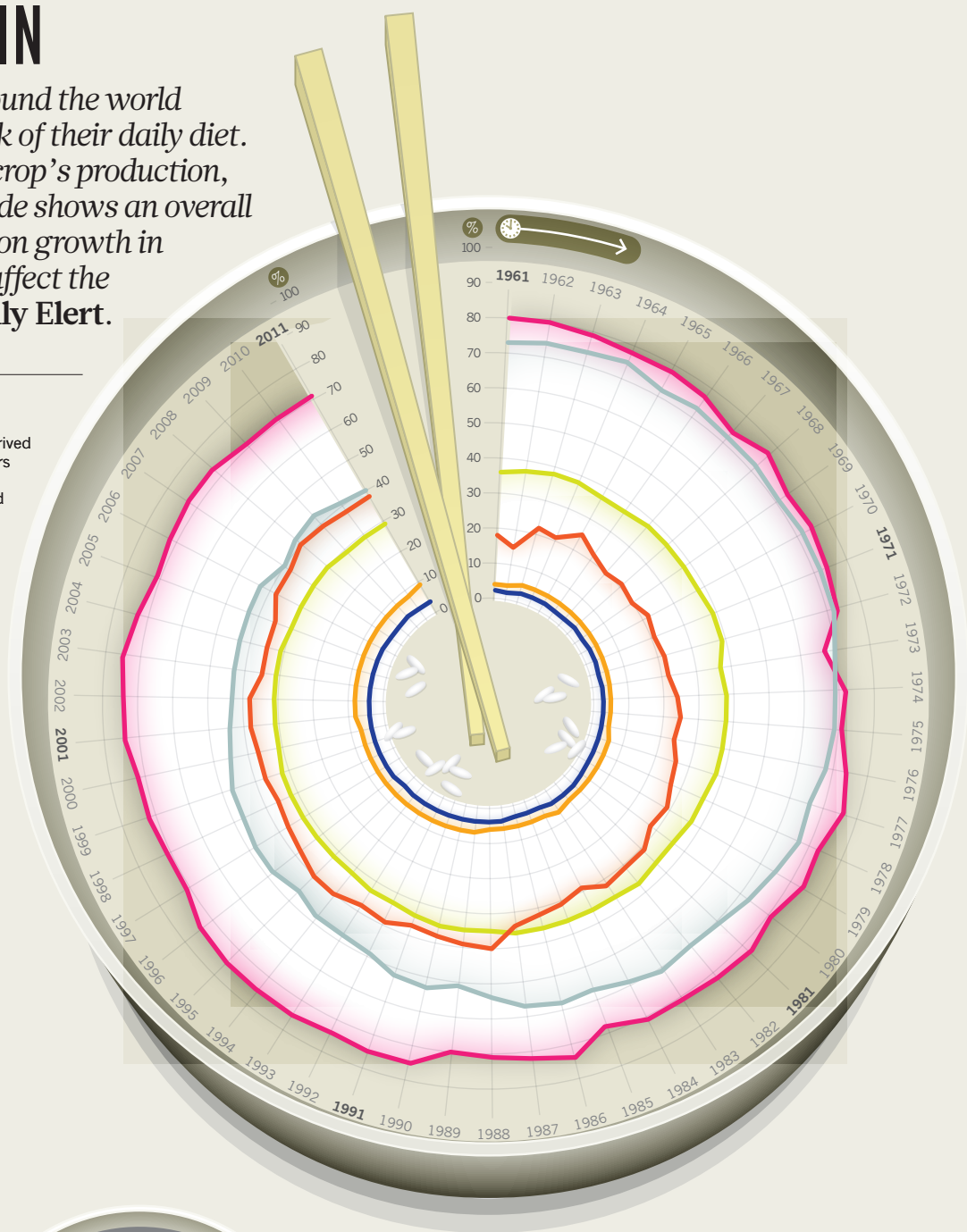
 Country with the largest continued reliance on rice for average daily calories: **BANGLADESH**

 Country with the largest drop in reliance on rice for average daily calories: **THAILAND**

 Region with the largest increase in reliance on rice for average daily calories: **AFRICA**

 Country with the largest increase in reliance on rice for average daily calories: **GUINEA**

 Regions where reliance on rice for average daily calories remains low: **THE AMERICAS, EUROPE, OCEANIA**

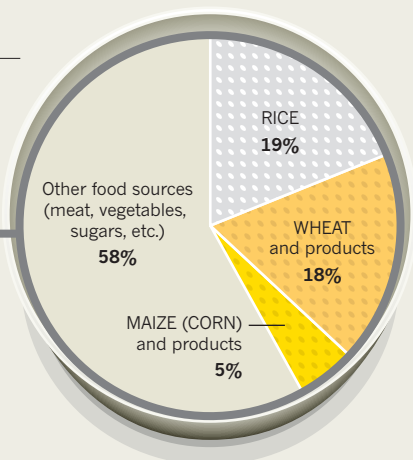


GLOBAL NUTRITION

On average, every day, each person on the planet consumes:

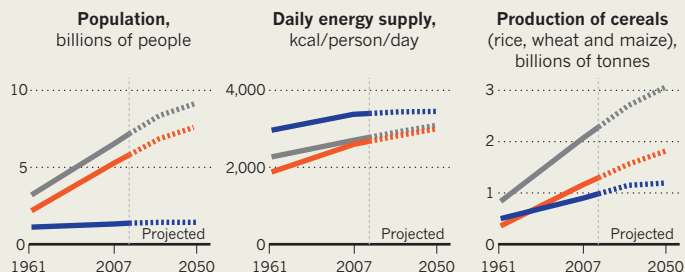
2,868 kcal

42% of our daily energy supply comes from cereal crops (rice, wheat and maize).



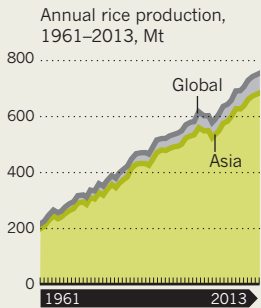
INCREASED DEMAND

■ Global ■ Developed countries ■ Developing countries



PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

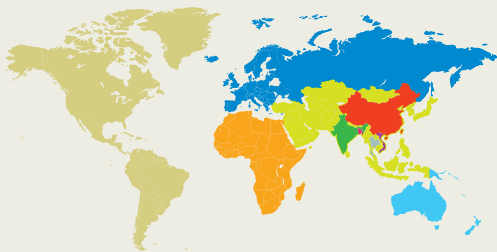
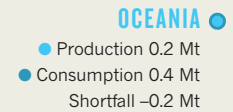
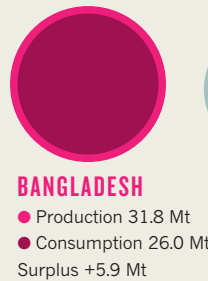
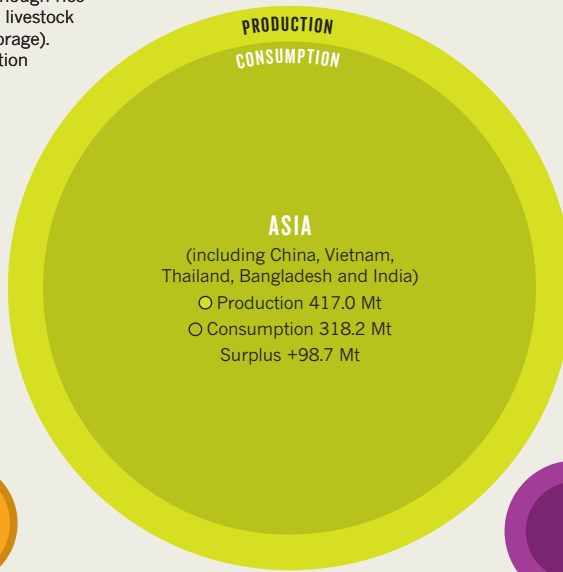
The major rice producers of the world grow more than enough rice to feed their own people. The excess ends up as exports, livestock feed, seed stock or waste (spoiled during transport or storage). Data show the average annual production and consumption from 2007 to 2011, measured in million tonnes (Mt).



EUROPE
 ● Production 2.7 Mt
 ● Consumption 3.5 Mt
 Shortfall -0.8 Mt

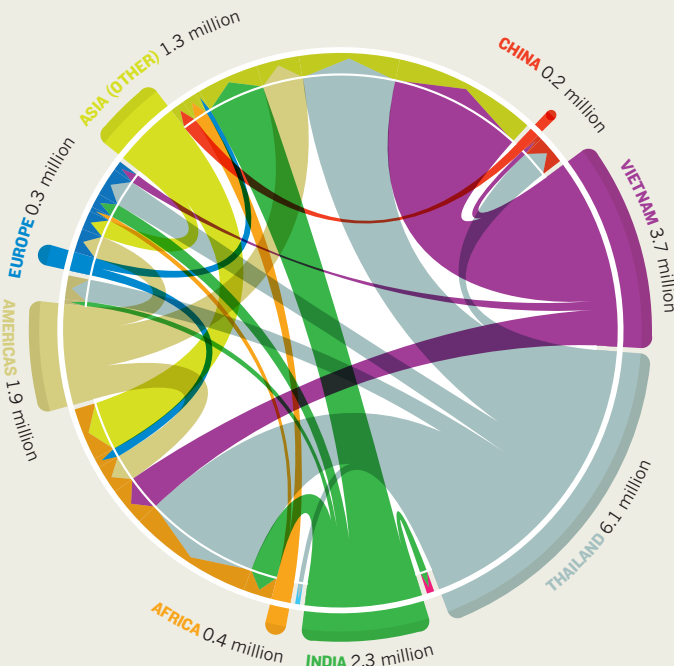
AFRICA
 ● Production 15.8 Mt
 ● Consumption 20.6 Mt
 Shortfall -4.8 Mt

AMERICAS
 ● Production 23.2 Mt
 ● Consumption 15.8 Mt
 Surplus +7.5 Mt



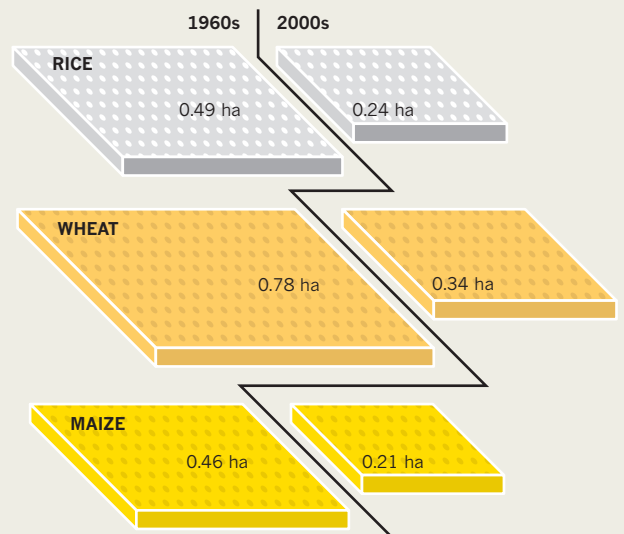
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Most rice is consumed in the country where it is grown, but increasing demand in Africa has led to broader global trade. Data show the average annual export amount in tonnes from 2007 to 2011.



SPACE TO GROW

Improved rice strains and modern agricultural techniques have meant that farmers can produce higher yields on a smaller area of land. The figure shows the average area of land needed to produce 1 tonne.



Data source: Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations, Statistics Division.