
Black sea grain initiative collapse - IPES-Food reaction (Preview)

1 message

Robbie Blake <robbie.blake@ipes-food.org>
To: robbie.blake@ipes-food.org

17 July 2023 at 14:57

IPES-FOOD (International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems)
Press reaction
For immediate release: Monday 17 July 2023

BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE COLLAPSE - IPES-FOOD REACTION

17 JULY, BRUSSELS - Reacting to the [news](#) that Russia has formally withdrawn from the UN-brokered Black Sea grain initiative today, food security experts from IPES-Food (the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems) had this to say:

Sofia Monsalve Suarez, expert with IPES-Food and secretary general of FIAN International, said:

"Since food prices spiked and hunger surged last year, governments have been relying on stop-gap solutions. The Black Sea grain deal has helped provide some respite, calming highly volatile food markets and preventing last year's food price crisis from being even worse.

"Russia pulling out of the Black Sea grain deal is bad news for the 2.4 billion people suffering food insecurity right now – who could now see food prices rise again, as speculators take their cues from the diplomatic situation. But it was always the most fragile of solutions."

Raj Patel, expert with IPES-Food and professor at the University of Texas, Austin, said:

"With or without the grain deal, governments must urgently provide food guarantees to vulnerable populations, and reduce reliance on global market imports of staple foods - by rebuilding their own food production. Rich nations must cancel [unsustainable debt](#) of low-income countries which is diverting much needed funds from food security."

Notes:

- 2.4 billion people were moderately or severely [food insecure in 2022](#). Hunger rose for the 10th successive year in sub Saharan Africa, and is already at critical levels, with many African countries highly reliant on Ukrainian grain.
- The Black Sea grain deal has helped to calm volatile markets for food and grain, helping stabilise food prices.
- [Some grain](#) from the Black Sea deal has gone to countries most in need of that grain for food consumption, especially those historically reliant on consumption (e.g. North Africa, Sub Saharan Africa, Middle East). Much of the grain has been sold on global markets and been exported to rich nations for animal feed (including China and Spain).
- Russia pulling out of the Black Sea grain initiative could plunge food consumers in dependent countries into food shortage, especially in North Africa and the Middle East, and re-ignite food price rises and volatility.
- Market prices for grain in the past year have closely tracked developments in the Black Sea initiative, as speculators look to it for market signals.
- [Global cereal stocks](#) are stable for this year. Nevertheless, the collapse of the deal now offers an opportunity for financial actors [speculating on food and fertilizers](#) to bid up prices sufficiently to lock in higher prices over a season.
- It's vital that grain can continue to be exported from Russia and Ukraine, and at the same time that import dependent countries become more self-sufficient and [reduce reliance](#) on grain markets for their food security.

Contact:

Robbie Blake | Communications manager, IPES-Food | robbie.blake@ipes-food.org | +32 491 290096
[EN, FR]

IPES-Food (The [International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems](#)) is an independent, expert panel shaping debates on how to transition to sustainable food systems around the world | [@ipesfood](#)



This email was sent to robbie.blake@ipes-food.org

IPES-Food (International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems), Rue de l'Industrie 10, Brussels, Brussels
1000, Belgium

[Unsubscribe](#)