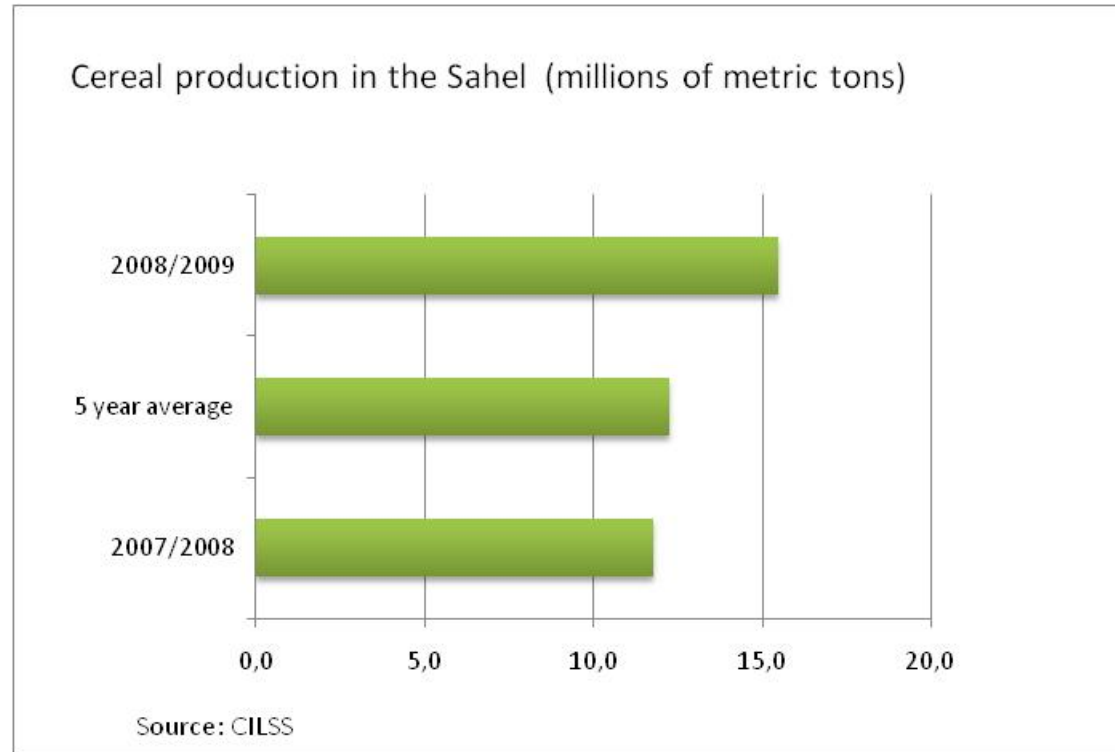




First Regular Session of the WFP Executive Board 2009

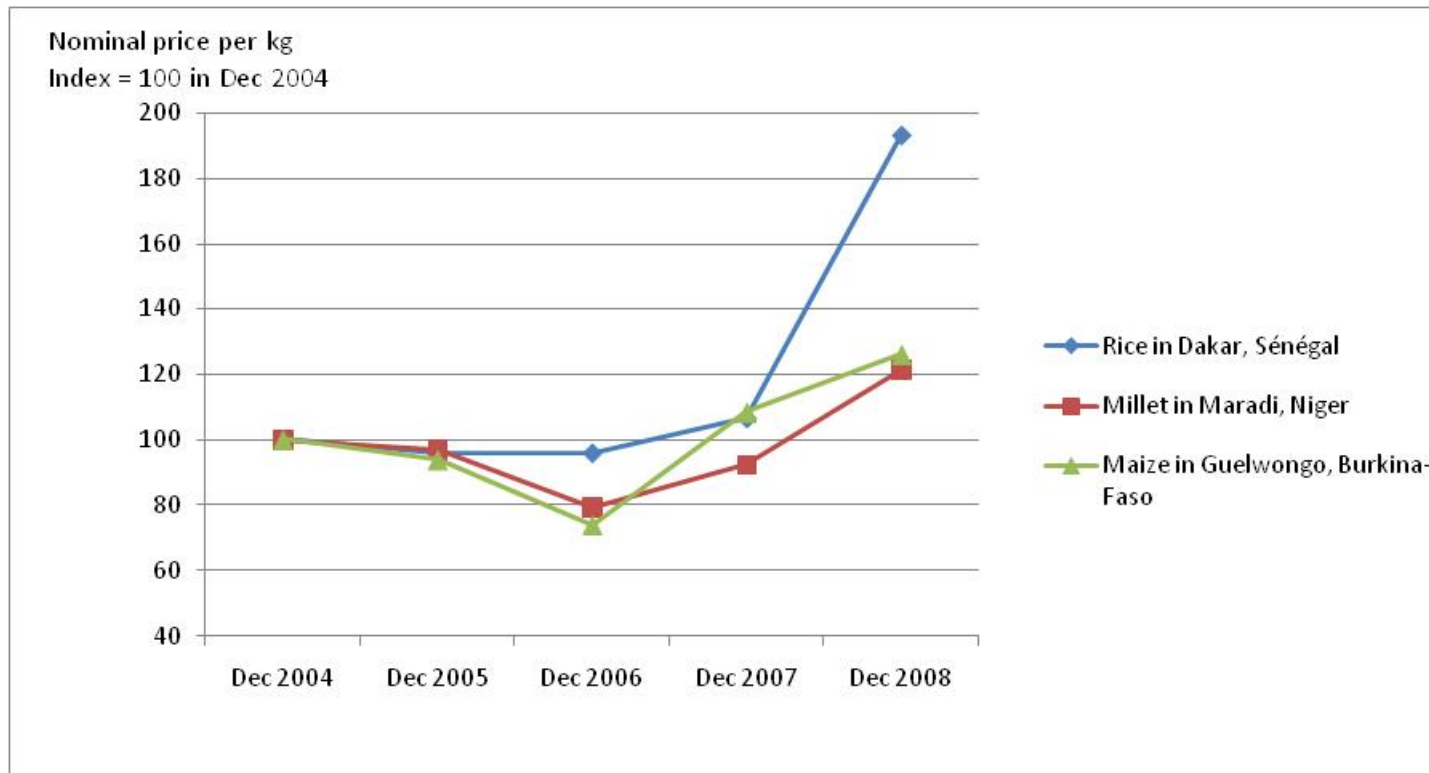
West Africa

Cereal production increases....



*2008/2009 is an estimate that does not include Senegal, for which numbers are being processed

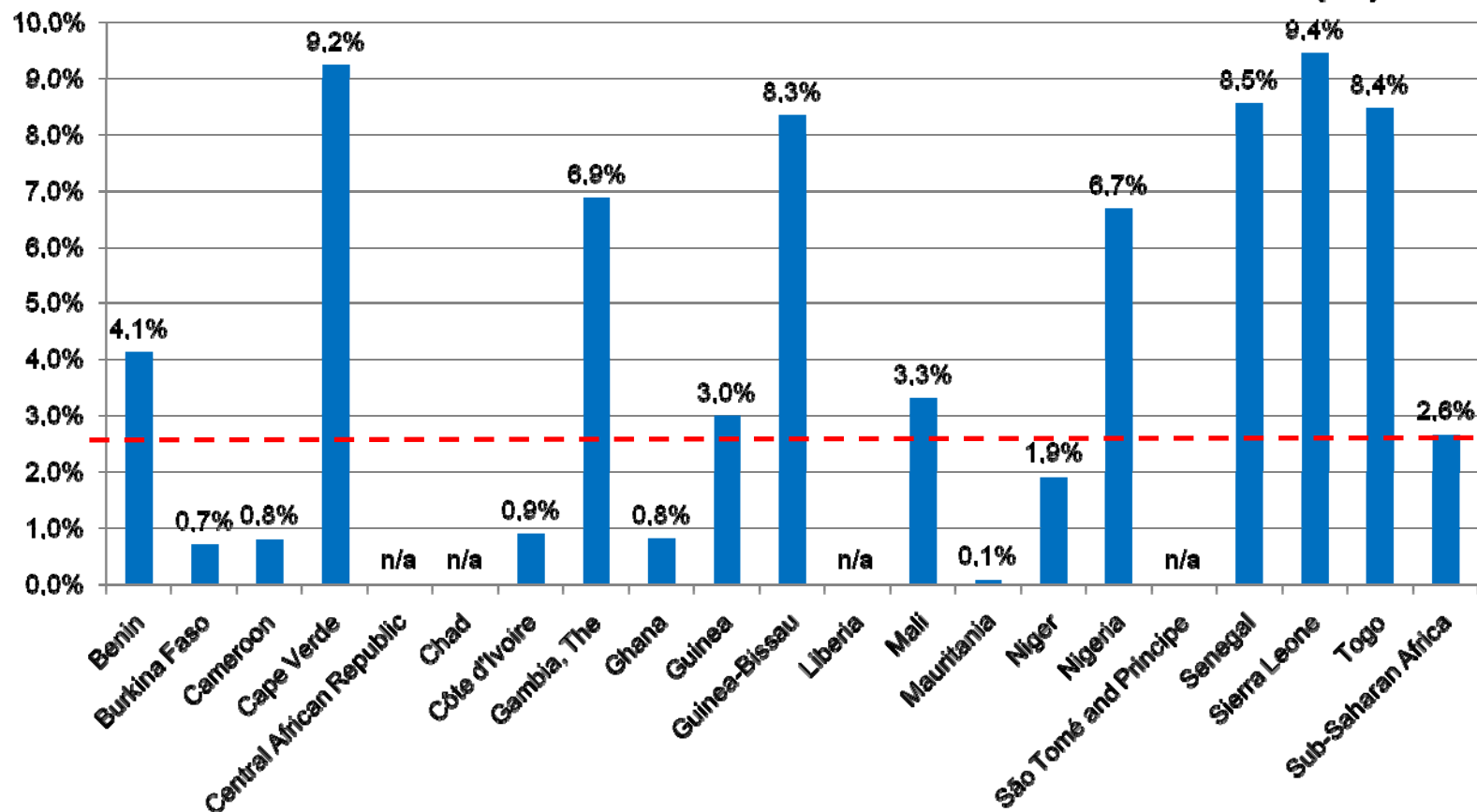
... but prices stay high



Source: Burkina, Senegal and Niger Market Information Systems.

In spite of good harvests, coarse grain prices are above their levels for the season (millet in Maradi, Niger and maize in Guelwongo, Burkina Faso). Imported rice remains very expensive in Senegal.

West Africa: Remittances as a share of GDP, 2007 (%)



Source: World Bank estimate, November 2008

Many West African countries are highly dependent on remittances. This raises concern that the economic crisis could cause a reduction in these resource flows. Accounting for remittances precisely is difficult due to the widespread use of informal channels.

Economic crisis and commodity prices

Commodity	Real price change, (Dec 2007 – Dec 2008)	Real price change vs. 5-year average (Decembers 2003-2007)
Cotton	-16%	-16%
Cocoa	+15%	+32%
Coffee (Robusta)	-11%	+30%
Palm oil*	-49%	-21%
Groundnuts*	-18%	+15%
Rubber	-50%	-31%

*Novembers

Sources: FAO, International Cocoa Association, International Coffee Association

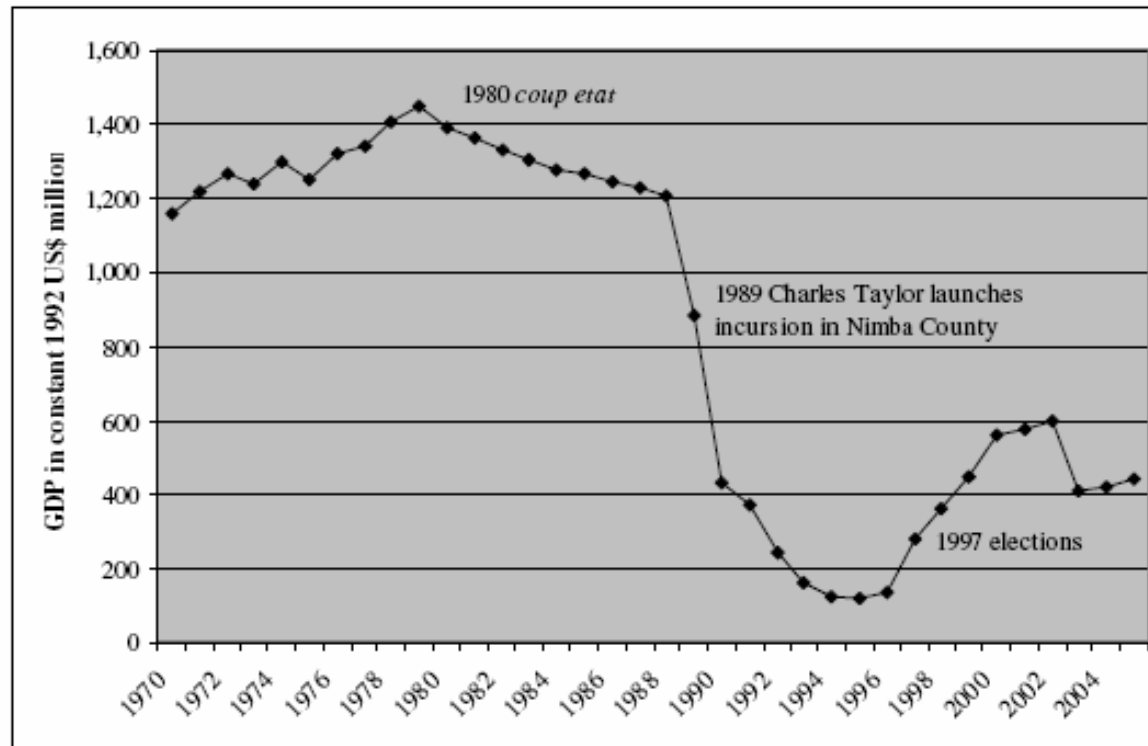
Cotton, palm oil and rubber are the export crops most affected by the drop in commodity prices. According to the OECD, 16 million West Africans derive income from the cotton sector. CFSVAs show that palm oil is an income source for one-third of Liberians and Sierra Leoneans.



School feeding in Monrovia, Liberia.

Liberia: Real GDP trends 1970-2005

Quoted by Ministry of Agriculture



Source: World Development Indicators.

“Unless partners, (...), maintain their efforts to make Liberia more secure and stable over the next few years, the investment made since the end of the war could easily unravel”.

International Crisis Group, January 2009



**Thank you for your
support.**

**WFP Regional Bureau
for West Africa (OMD)**