

DPRK SEEKS SOLUTIONS FOR SHARP DROP IN FOOD SHORTAGES

Recently, the North Korean press has been repeatedly reporting on the fall in grain production around the world and the rising international grain prices, displaying concern as all efforts are being put forth to resolve the 'food issue'.

(North) Korean Central Television broadcast on the 20th, "Internationally, food prices have risen steeply, raising a great amount of concern," and, quoting results of an international survey announced on the 10th, "Globally, the price of foodstuffs has risen an average of 48 percent from the end of 2006 until now."

Previously, on the 18th, the broadcasting station introduced the fact that the food situation was worsening, quoting an announcement from the UN Food and Agriculture Association (FAO) when reporting that "last year, grain stocks amounted to 2100 tons less than the previous year, the smallest reserves in 25 years."

Pyongyang Broadcasting also reported on the 9th, "This year, from January until now, global food prices have risen approximately 20 percent in comparison to the same period last year," expressing "serious concern" over the quickly rising food prices around the world.

Last year North Korea suffered serious flood damage, which led the North, in the latest New Year's Joint Editorial, to call for "Prioritization of the Lives of the People" and stress, "In the current times, there is no matter more pressing or more important than the people's food shortage, the people's eating problem."

North Korea also recently held a cabinet meeting during which discussion of the food supply issue exposed the seriousness of the situation. The Chinese Shinwha News also reported on the 20th that a cabinet meeting had been held in the North and this year's economic issues had been discussed, quoting the 'Democratic Chosun', a publication of the DPRK cabinet.