

Agricultural Production in Somalia: Historical Influences and Future Prospects

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Introduction

Somalia has experienced severe instability over the past 20 years, beginning with the collapse of the Siad Barre regime. Since then, agricultural production has, for many reasons, failed to keep pace with population growth. These reasons include war, ethnic conflict, refugee pressure, international interference, and the lack of a fully functioning government.

Acknowledging and addressing the drastic reduction in agricultural production is key to Somalia's future, but it is rarely considered.

Objective

To understand how food aid and food imports have affected or replaced the domestic production of cereal grains within the country of Somalia.

Methods

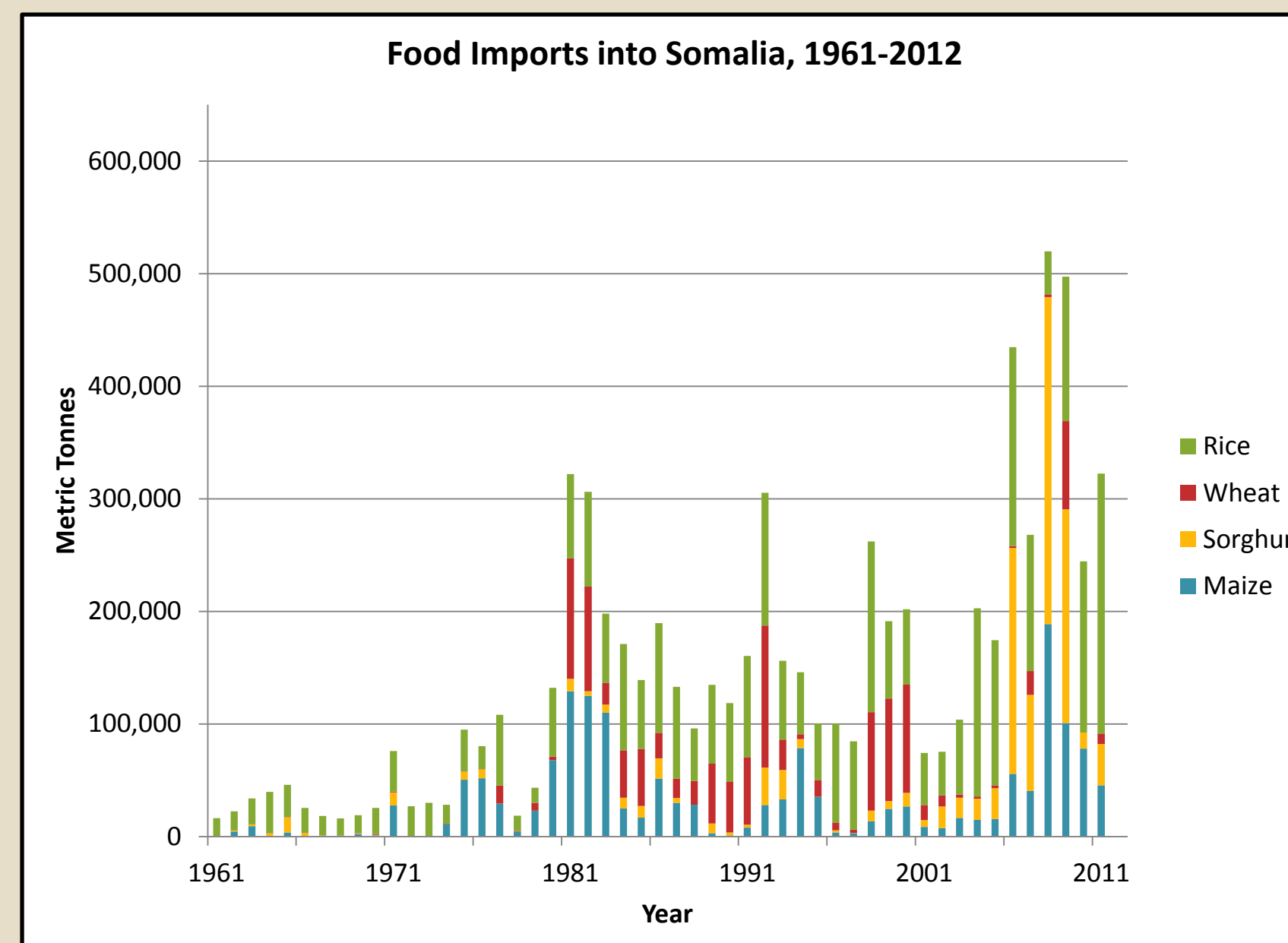
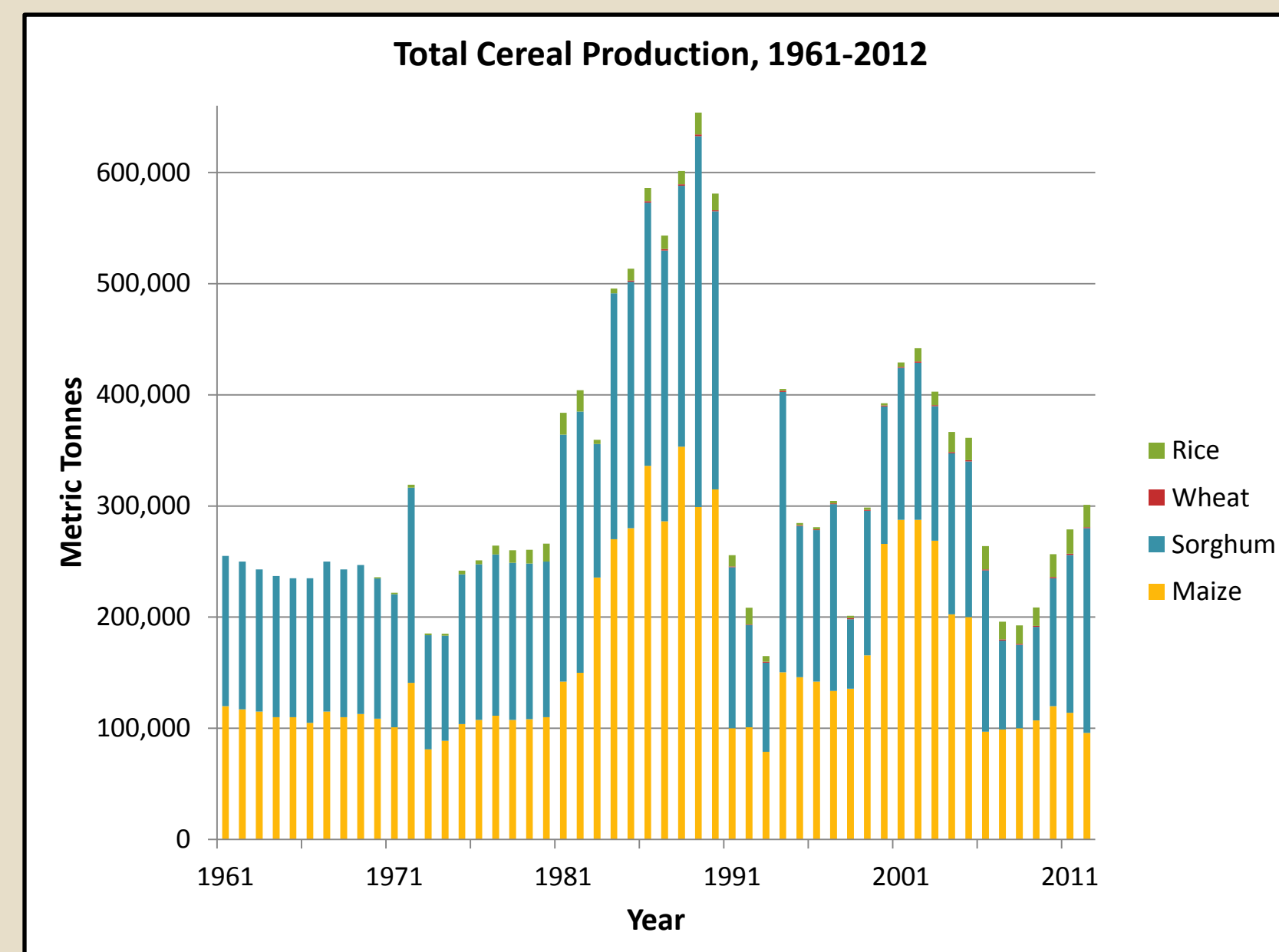
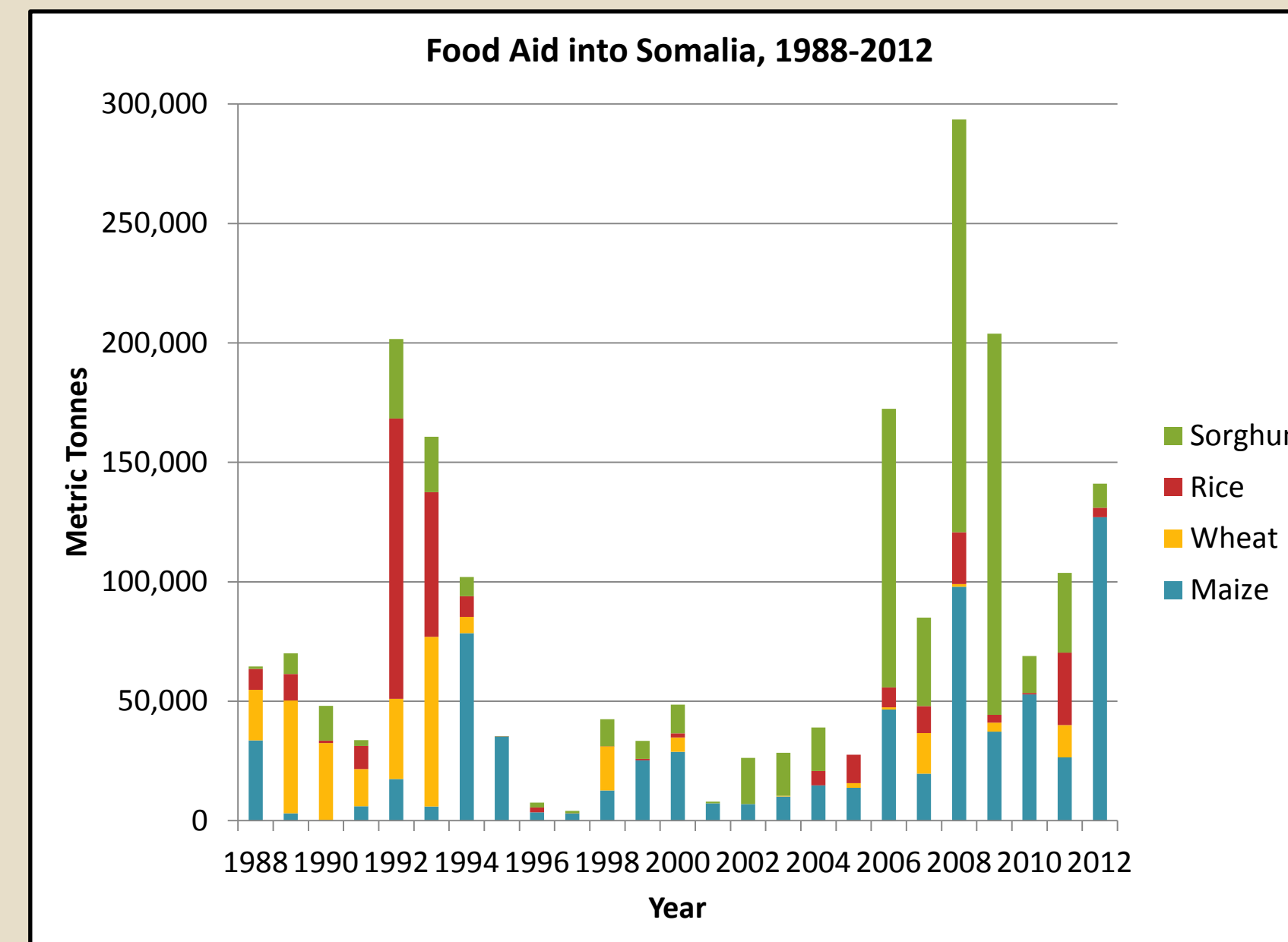
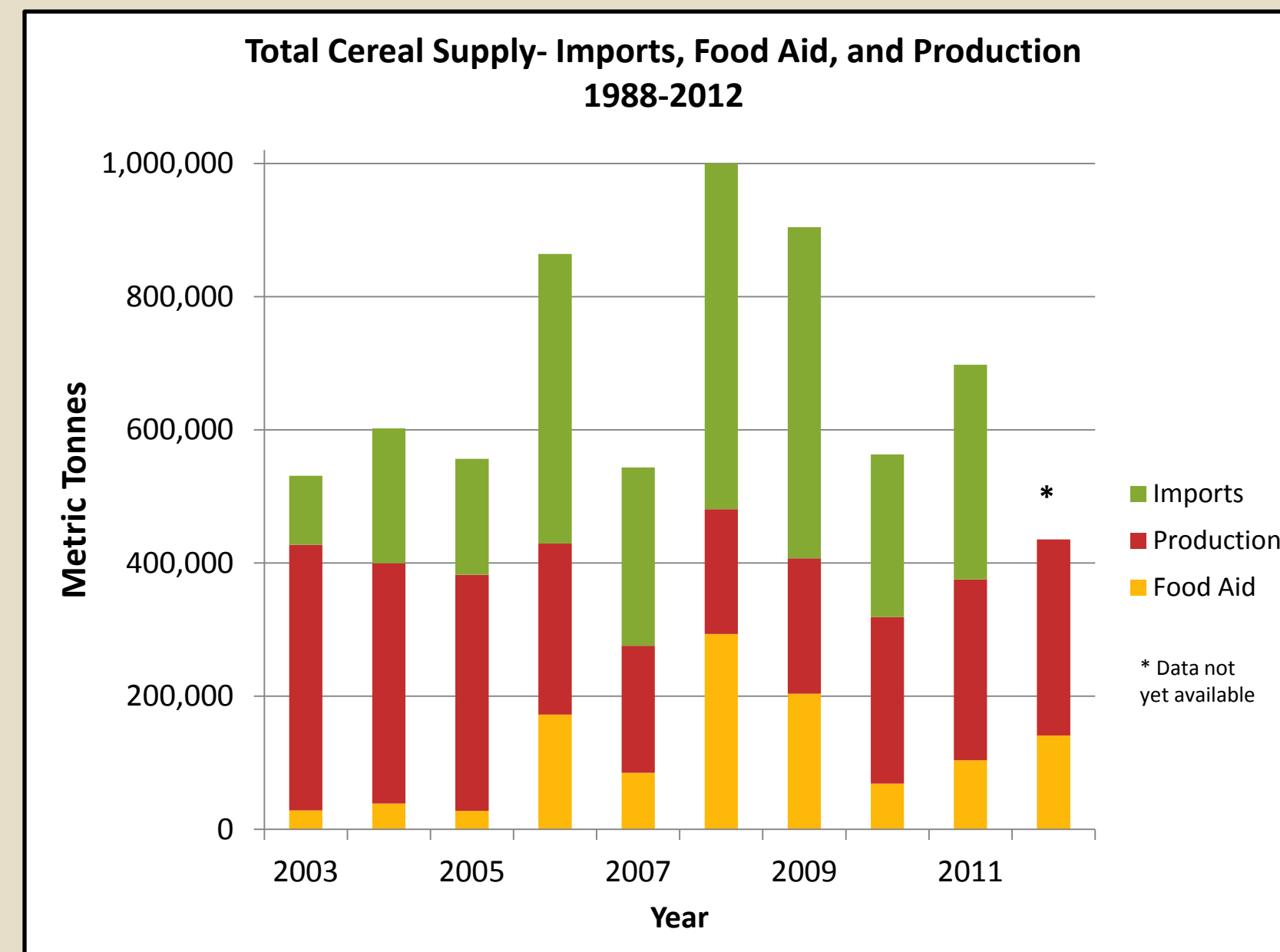
1. Mining the faostat.org and wfp.org websites for historical data on food aid, imports, and production
2. Analyzing these data for trends

Results

By comparing current production with its peak in the 1980's, we see:

- A 57.5% decrease in maize production
- A 48.3% decrease in sorghum production
- A 59.7% decrease in total cereal production
- The number of people required to be fed by each acre of land has increased from 8 people/acre to 15 people/acre

Results (cont.)



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- There has been a 269.9% increase in population (2,756,400 to 10,195,100 people)
- White maize and Sorghum are the most important cereal grains in Somalia
- The amount of grain produced per person has decreased from 80kg per year (804 calories/day) to 20 kg per year (201 calories/day)

Conclusions

- Decreased cereal production has been drastic
- Improving agricultural production to 1980 levels is crucial to the development of Somalia
- Food Aid and Imports have increasingly replaced domestic production of cereals
- Providing half the daily nutrition of an adult from maize (.27kg/day/person) would require Somalia to increase its production from 294,340 tonnes of cereal to 1,004,727 tonnes, which equates to a 241% increase in maize production

Suggestions for the Future

- Source Food aid from surrounding countries to boost prices rather than depress them
- Use emergency food aid as a short-term tool
- Focus efforts on rebuilding agricultural capacity, with an emphasis on white maize and sorghum

Acknowledgements

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1969: Siad Barre takes control	1991: Barre regime overthrown	1992: Famine declared	1990s-2000's Ethnic Wars	2005: ICU gains power	2006: ICU Removed	2008: Al-Shabaab emerges, world food prices spike	2009: U.S. stops all food aid	2011: Famine declared	2013: U.S. recognizes Somali gov't
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