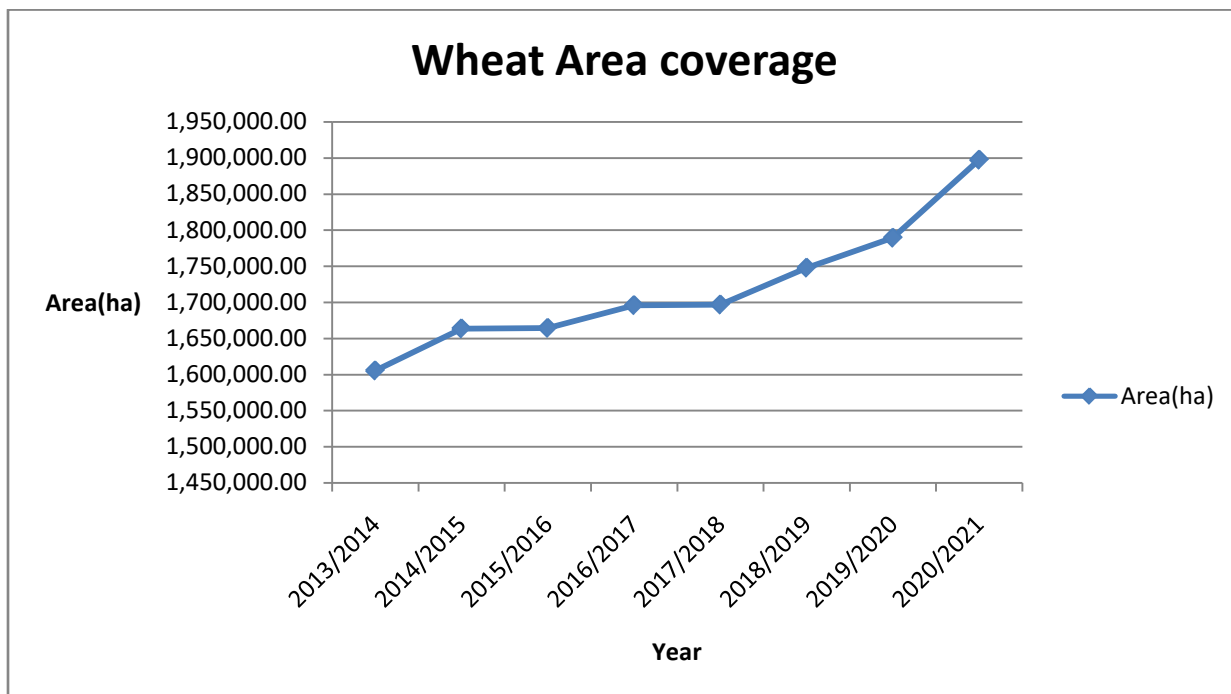


Source: CSA 2013/14 - 2020/21 Crop production data

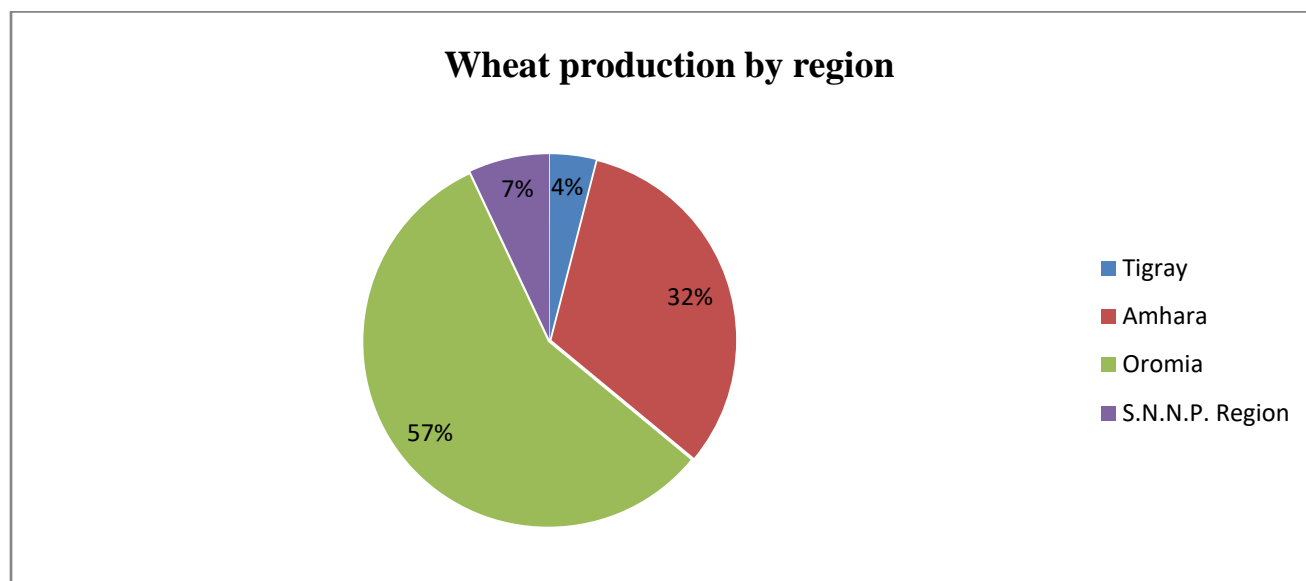
Wheat area coverage in Ethiopia

According to CSA data from 2013/2014-2020/2021 overall increase in area coverage from 1,605,654- 1,897,405 ha. Based on the data there was 18% increment on area coverage in a specified period of time. Exponentially increases from 1,789,372 ha in 2019/2020 to about 1,897,405 ha in 2020/2021.



Wheat Production by region

Wheat is an important commodity in the cropping systems of smallholder producers both for food security and income. The highlands of the central, south-eastern and northwest parts of the country are the main wheat-growing areas of Ethiopia. According to [1] result, Oromia took the lion share (57%) of wheat production in the country, followed by Amhara (32%), Southern nation (7%) and Tigray 4% of total production.



Wheat consumption

Ethiopia has huge potential and a suitable agroecology for growing wheat. However, its agriculture sector, dominated by a traditional farming system, is unable to meet the rising demand for wheat from increasing population and urbanization. According to [8] data wheat consumption in Ethiopia has grown from 5.2 to 6.7 million tons, but the country only produces about 5.7 million tons per year on 1.8 million hectares. According to [6] consumption has been increasing during 2000 to 2014 from 2712-5400 million tons. As a result, of high consumption increments the country pays a huge import bill per year to match supply with demand.

Table 2 Wheat consumption

year	Domestic consumption	Unit of measurement	Growth rate
2014	5250	(1000 MT)	10.04
2015	6800	(1000 MT)	29.52
2016	6000	(1000 MT)	-11.76
2017	6600	(1000 MT)	10
2018	6200	(1000 MT)	-6.06
2019	6650	(1000 MT)	7.26
2020	6800	(1000 MT)	2.26
2021	6700	(1000 MT)	-1.47

Source: USDA, 2021

Wheat import quantity and value

The government of Ethiopia started importing wheat in 2008/9 market year through Ethiopian grain trade enterprise (EGTE) which increased the domestic supply of wheat at a subsidized price and lowered the domestic market prices. According to [3] data there was an overall increment in quantity of wheat import from 1,076(1000 MT) in 2014 to 1,127(1000 MT) in 2020 while in year 2016 imported more wheat 2,514 (1000 MT).According to [3] data interims of import value there was an overall increment from 403,322 (1000 US\$) in 2014 to 453,483(1000 US\$) in 2020 while in year 2016 the country pay a high bill compared to others year specified in the table (see table 3).

Table 3 Wheat import quantity and value

Year	Import quantity(1000 MT)	Import value (1000 US\$)
2014	1076	403,322

2015	1305	457,337
2016	2514	747,877
2017	1112	345,095
2018	1214	432,402
2019	1438	500,267
2020	1127	453,483

Source: FAOSTAT, 2020

Conclusion and Recommendation

Wheat is an important staple food crop in Ethiopia, especially in urban areas. It is a staple food in the diets of several Ethiopian, providing about 15 percent of the caloric intake for the country's over 90 million population [2]. The result of the study shows there is an overall increment in volume of production, productivity and consumption in specified period of time. The result also reveals there is high wheat demand and supply gap to fill this gap the government of Ethiopia spent a lot of foreign currency. In government side to minimize this gap there is a high initiatives and should continue this and invest in modernizing breeding program and the national agricultural research system also should continue their efforts in generating improved agricultural technologies and recommendations such as crop variety, agronomic practices, crop protection measures as well as other technical advices and practices.

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