

## **Tajiks Urged to Store Food**

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Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon has urged his countrymen to store two years' worth of food reserves ahead of what is expected to be a harsh winter.

Rakhmon said in a statement Wednesday that rising global commodity prices have made effective use of agricultural resources imperative. The World Bank estimates that three-quarters of Tajikistan's population is engaged in farming, but food scarcity still remains an acute problem.

Hundreds of thousands of working-aged men have left the country for work, mainly in Russia, leaving behind a largely female rural workforce.

(AP)

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