Wheat Value Chains and Food Security in the MENA Region

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**Project Overview**
- Multi-project supported by US Dept. of Defense MINERVA Initiative and Army Research Office for University-Led Research
- Collaboration with the Nicholas School of the Environment to study food security in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
- Food security is a major challenge facing countries in the MENA region. MENA is the largest wheat-importing region in the world.
- Rank food security of MENA countries based on multiple variables and data sources
- Apply GVC approach to identify vulnerabilities and leverage points in key food commodities in MENA countries
- Identify risks and strategic options to improve food security in the region

**Global Value Chain Analysis**
- Trace the geographic spread of production
- Map the ecosystem of firms, institutions, and policies
- Analyze governance structures & enabling environment
- Determine upgrading trajectories and bottlenecks
- Address economic, social and environmental challenges

**Key Risk Factors in MENA for Food Security**

**Wheat Import Patterns into MENA**

**Next Steps**
- Expand project to look at Maghreb sub-region with a focus on Morocco and Algeria to uncover chain disruptions and implications on social stability
- Conduct social network analysis on the relationship between exporting firms in the Black Sea region and importing actors in MENA using information from field interviews
- Compare and identify the roles that private versus public actors play in the grain chain resilience in MENA

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**Bottlenecks in Egypt’s Wheat Value Chain**
- Government and market failures are putting the wheat value chain in Egypt at risk
- Policies are reactive and do not reflect changes in global markets
- Market risks include shifts in supply, market structure and price volatilities
- Vulnerabilities on the marketing side of the chain impact social stability

**Russia’s Wheat Value Chain**
- Soviet Union was a large grain importer to support protected livestock sector
- Improved in grain yields, despite a drop in egg subsidies.
- Increased domestic supply allowing for more exports.
- Exit as a leading exporter to MENA.
- Agroholdings emerged.
- World economic crisis for Russia, places an export tax on wheat
- Russia is a grain exporter
- Ukraine has better export infrastructure and is an important supplier of animal feed grains

**2014 Russian Wheat Value Chain Vulnerabilities**
- Agricultural sector is a priority sector in Russia
- Russia became a major global supplier in the early 2000s
- Weather, storage and transport are primary challenges
- Multi-national grain players are investing in grain exports from Russia
- Ukraine has better export infrastructure and is an important supplier of animal feed grains

**2014 Ukraine Wheat Value Chain Vulnerabilities**
- Domestic consumption – bread, animal feed
- Exports – Egypt, Turkey, Yemen & Iran
- Agriculture, food security and climate change

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