

FAO Statistical Yearbook 2014



Latin America and the **Caribbean**
food and agriculture



FAO STATISTICAL YEARBOOK

2014

Latin America and the Caribbean
Food and Agriculture

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for the Latin America and the Caribbean**

Santiago, 2014

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ISBN 978-92-5-108149-5 (print)
E-ISBN 978-92-5-108150-1 (PDF)

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Foreword

The Latin America and Caribbean region is made up of many diverse countries, from small islands states to large countries whose economies are becoming more and more important to the global economy. With high mountains, arid deserts and temperate and tropical areas, the rich variety of agricultural ecosystems found within the region is immense.

As a whole, the region is endowed with a wealth of natural resources and has by and large experienced a period of tremendous economic growth over the last decade. Nevertheless, 47 million people remain undernourished in the region. Most of these people live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Bringing an end to hunger in the region and ensuring that everyone has access to a secure supply of safe, nutritious food in the future will require policies that can balance economic growth with environmental sustainability and social equality. To strike this difficult balance, policymakers and the public that they work for will need to have on hand reliable data on a range of issues related to food and nutrition security, poverty, agricultural production and natural resource management. This information needs to be constantly updated in order to respond to changing conditions in the region and in the world.

As a contribution to this effort, FAO has prepared this Regional Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Yearbook presents a visual synthesis of the major trends and factors shaping the regional food and agricultural landscape and their interplay with broader environmental, social and economic dimensions. It serves as a reference document on regional food and agriculture for policymakers, donor agencies, researchers and analysts, and the general public.

FAO's preparation of regional and global Yearbooks is part of a much broader effort by the organization and its national and international partners to improve the quality of statistical data related to food security, agriculture and the sustainable management of natural resources. A key element of these efforts is the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, which has been undertaken to address the lack of capacity in many countries to produce and report agricultural data. The Global Strategy, on which regional activity programmes are based, is built on three major pillars: producing a minimum set of core data and determining national priorities, integrating agricultural statistics into national statistical systems, and fostering the sustainability of agricultural statistics through governance and statistical capacity development.

The organization is committed to working with partners and member states in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve agricultural and rural statistics and see that this information is put to use to safeguard food security and ensure more sustainable food production.

Raúl Osvaldo Benítez
Assistant Director-General
and Regional Representative
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Pietro Gennari
FAO Chief Statistician,
and Director,
Statistics Division

Acknowledgements

The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAORLC) and the FAO Statistics Division (ESS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations would like to acknowledge the collective effort of statisticians and other staff in national statistical offices, ministries of agriculture and other ministries and government departments in this region that constantly provide data to FAO. In addition we would like to acknowledge the ongoing cooperation with regional and international institutions and non-government organizations, whose efforts have made this publication possible.

This publication was jointly prepared by FAORLC and ESS. The work was carried under the guidance of Raul Benitez (Regional Representative and Assistant Director General, FAORLC) and Pietro Gennari (Chief Statistician, FAO, and Director, ESS). Production was managed by Veronica Boero (FAORLC) and her team in Santiago, which included Byron Jara (RLC), Benjamin Kiersch (RLC), Hivy Ortiz Chour (RLC), Salomon Salcedo (RLC) and Jan Van Wambeke (RLC); and Amy Heyman (ESS) and her team in Rome, which included Filippo Gheri (ESS) and Shira Fano (ESS). Contributors were Nienke Beintema (the International Food Policy Research Institute – IFPRI), Riccardo Biancalani (NRC), Andrea Borlizzi (ESS), Chiara Brunelli (ESS), Carlo Cafiero (ESS), Cinzia Cerri (ESS), Rocio Condor-Golec (Climate, Energy and Tenure Division – NRC), Piero Conforti (ESS), Elisenda Estruch (Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division – ESW), Alessandro Ferrara (NRC), Karen Frenken (Land and Water Division – NRL), Nandini Gunewardena (FAOLW), Gary Jones (International Monetary Fund – IMF), Arvydas Lebedys (Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division – FOE), Erdgin Mane (ESS), Robert Mayo (ESS), Verena Nowak (Nutrition Division – ESN), Michael Rahija (IFPRI), Simone Rossi (NRC), Mirella Salvatore (NRC), Nadia Scialabba (NRC), Gert-Jan Stads (IFPRI), Nathalie Troubat (ESS), Sachiko Tsuji (Statistics and Information Service – FIPS), Francesco Tubiello (NRC), Stefania Vannuccini (FIPS), Nathan Wanner (ESS) and Firas Yassin (ESS). A special thanks goes to Andrea Alcibiade (ESS), Guido Barbaglia (ESS), Giorgia DeSantis (ESS), James Edge (ESS), Carola Fabi (ESS), Amanda Gordon (ESS), Nicola Graziani (ESS), Fabio Grita (ESS), Michelle Kendrick (ESA), Francesca Pittueo, Adam Prakash (ESS), Gordon Ramsay, Nicholas Sakoff (ESS), Nicola Selleri (ESS), Sylvaine Thomas (ESS), and Boris Veytsman.

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