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Development flows to agriculture 2011–2020

Global and regional trends

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total development flows* and development flows to agriculture** (DFA) reached their highest level, and grew the fastest, in 2020, as donors mobilized resources to offset some of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **DFA reached USD 14.7 billion in 2020, an increase of 15.2 percent compared with 2019.**
- **In 2020, Africa received the largest portion of DFA (41.8 percent), followed by Asia (30.9 percent), and the Americas (11.2 percent).**
- **In 2020, the leading donors of DFA were the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, Germany, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) and the European Union (EU) institutions.**
- **The top ten recipient countries of DFA in 2020 were Kenya, the Philippines, India, China, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Uganda, Türkiye, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.**
- **With an Agriculture Orientation Index oscillating around 0.5 during the decade, agriculture received a portion of development flows that is smaller than its relative contribution to GDP.**

** This brief focuses on development flows in disbursements only, unless otherwise mentioned, made up of net official development assistance (ODA), other official flows (OOF) and private grants, measured in 2020 constant USD.*

*** The agriculture sector includes crops, livestock, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, as per ISIC Rev. 4, A_01-03.*

DEVELOPMENT FLOWS TO AGRICULTURE

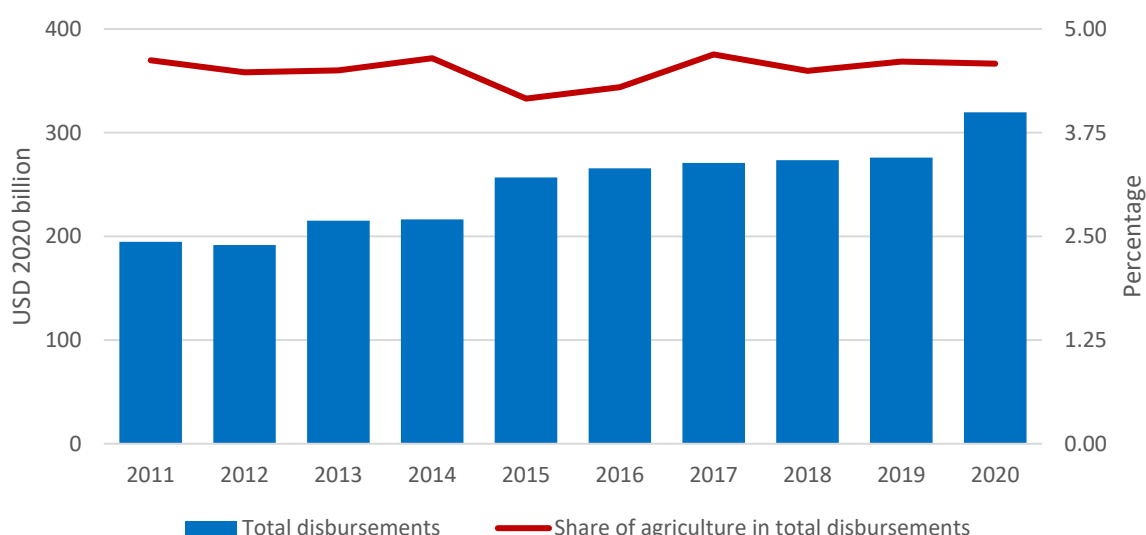
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL

Even as the global economy contracted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both total development flows and development flows to agriculture (DFA) reached their highest level, and grew the fastest, in 2020. Donors mobilized additional resources to offset the drop in foreign direct investment, trade and remittances that affected large parts of the world (Ahmad and Carey, 2021). In particular, they increased net official development assistance (ODA) and bilateral loans to assist low- and middle-income countries' recovery from the pandemic, focusing mostly on health systems, humanitarian aid and food security. At the same time, the donors also increased support to agricultural finance, food crop production and related activities to ease the pandemic impact on food security (Gurria, 2021).



Disbursed development flows increased by 63 percent during the last decade from USD 195 billion to USD 320 billion in 2020, and the share of development flows to agriculture fluctuated around 4.6 percent for most of the period. Compared to 2019, donors increased their total disbursements by 15.9 percent or USD 44 billion, and agriculture saw an increase of 15.2 percent, or USD 2 billion, reaching USD 14.7 billion in 2020 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Development flows and agriculture share, 2011–2020

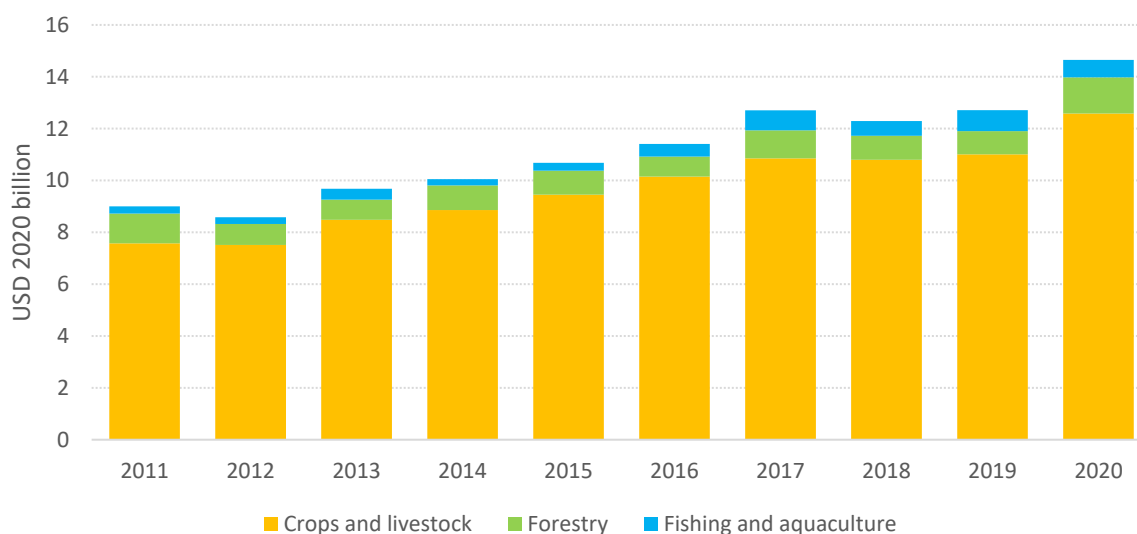


Source: FAO. 2022. FAOSTAT: Development Flows to Agriculture. In: FAO. Rome. Cited August 2022. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/EA>

DEVELOPMENT FLOWS TO CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY, AND FISHING AND AQUACULTURE

Disbursements to crops and livestock represent the vast majority (around 85 percent) of the total disbursements to agriculture, followed by forestry (around 10 percent) and fishing and aquaculture (around 5 percent). Disbursements to crops and livestock increased by 14 percent from USD 11 billion in 2019 to USD 12.6 billion in 2020, while those to forestry increased by 57 percent from USD 0.9 billion in 2019 to USD 1.4 billion in 2020. Disbursements to fishing and aquaculture decreased by 17 percent in 2020, from USD 811 million in 2019 to USD 670 million – although this follows a remarkable increase of 41 percent between 2018 and 2019. Overall, development flows increased by 66 percent for crops and livestock during the last decade, 22 percent for forestry and 139 percent for fishing and aquaculture (Figure 2).

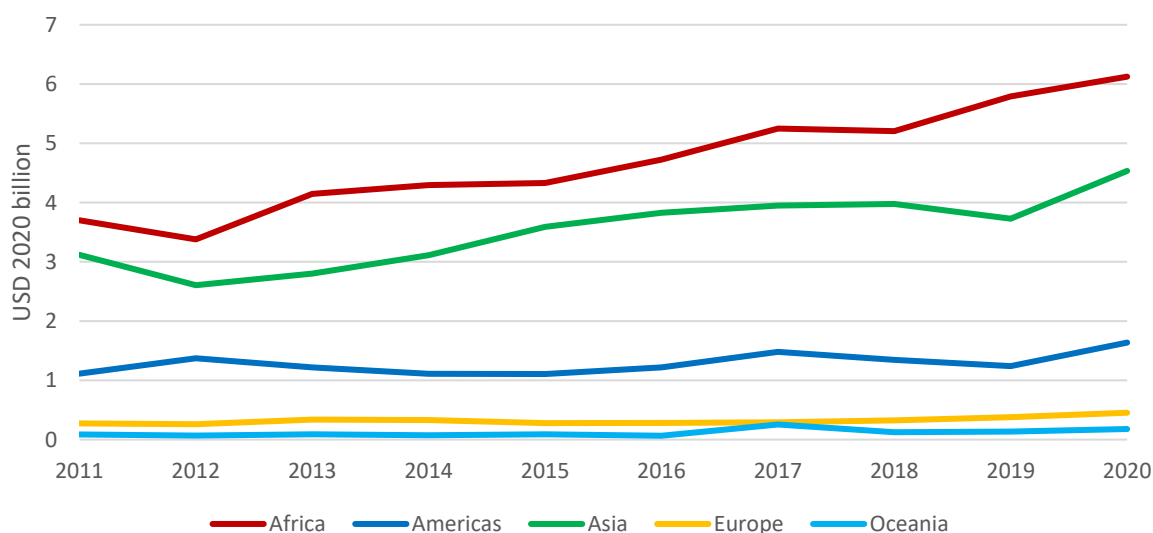
Figure 2: Development flows to agriculture by sector



Source: FAO. 2022. FAOSTAT: Development Flows to Agriculture. In: FAO. Rome. Cited August 2022.
<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/EA>

Africa received the largest proportion of DFA in 2020 (41.8 percent, or USD 6.1 billion), followed by Asia (30.9 percent, or USD 4.5 billion), the Americas (11.2 percent or USD 1.6 billion), Europe (3.1 percent, or USD 453 million) and Oceania (1.2 percent, or USD 179 million). While disbursements to Oceania were the smallest in 2020, they increased by 105 percent since 2011, compared to 65 percent for Africa and Europe, 47 percent for the Americas and 46 percent for Asia (Figure 3).

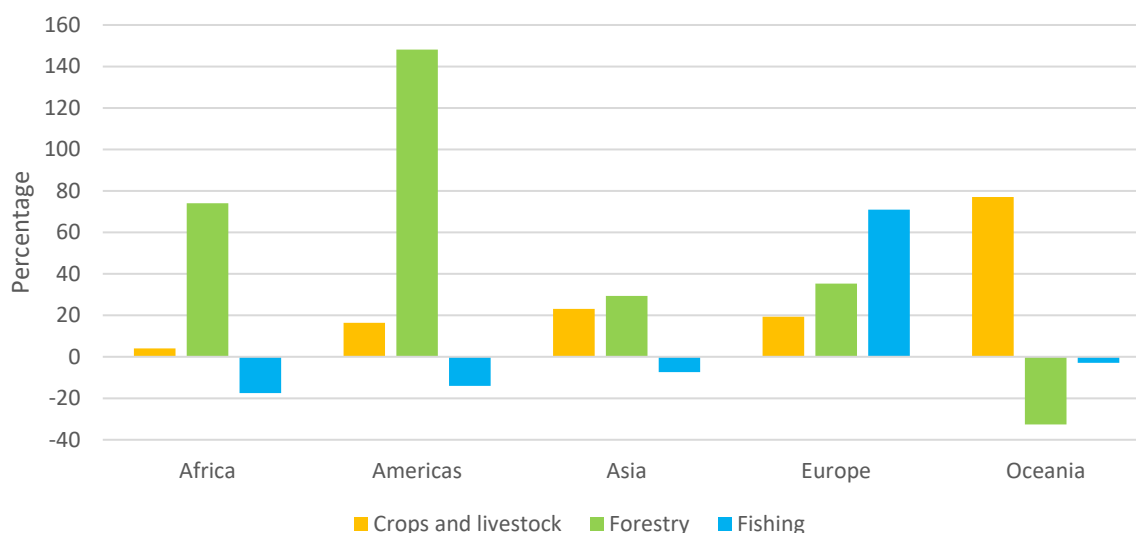
Figure 3: Development flows disbursed to agriculture by region 2011–2020



Source: FAO. 2022. FAOSTAT: Development Flows to Agriculture. In: FAO. Rome. Cited August 2022.
<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/EA>

The largest increases in disbursements between 2019 and 2020 occurred for forestry in the Americas (148 percent) and Africa (74 percent), and crops and livestock in Oceania (77 percent). In fact, disbursements to crops and livestock increased in all regions, while they increased in all regions except Oceania for forestry and declined in all regions except Europe for fishing and aquaculture (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Change in development flows disbursed to crops and livestock, forestry, and fishing and aquaculture by region between 2019 and 2020

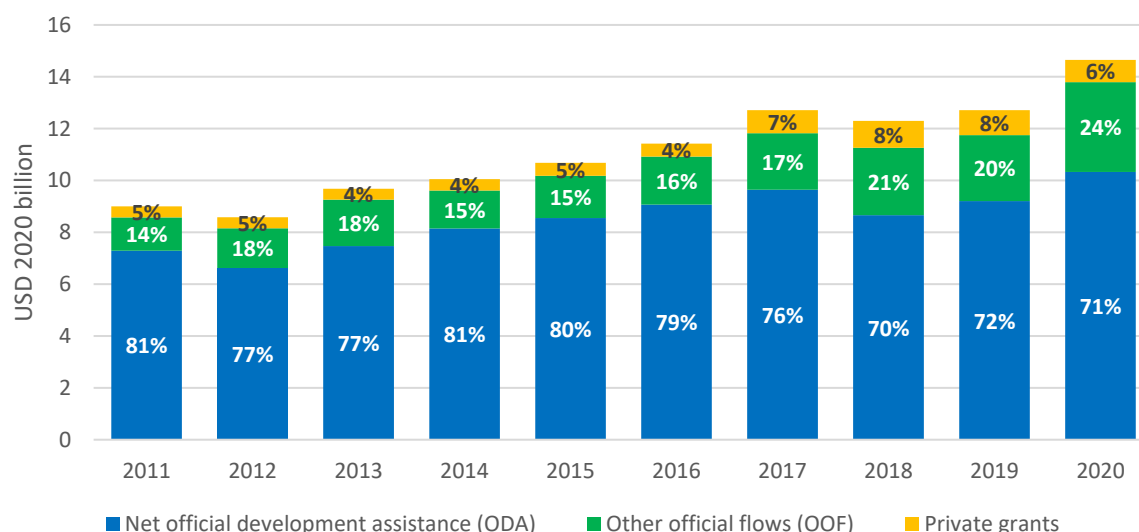


Source: FAO. 2022. FAOSTAT: Development Flows to Agriculture. In: FAO. Rome. Cited August 2022. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/EA>

Donors have been increasing resources mobilization during the last decade. Other official flows (OOF)¹ increased from USD 1.3 billion in 2011 to USD 3.5 billion in 2020 (+170 percent), faster than net ODA (+42 percent) and private grants (+102 percent). The share of OOF in DFA increased from 12 percent in 2011 to 24 percent in 2020 and that of private grants from 5 percent to 6 percent (with a peak of 8 percent in 2018), while the share of net ODA in DFA declined from 81 percent to 71 percent (Figure 5).

¹ Net official development assistance (ODA) is government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Net ODA includes grants, the provision of technical assistance and “soft” loans whose criterion “is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent)” remains in force for these instruments. Other official flows (OOF) are aids that do not meet (ODA) criteria. OOF includes grants to developing countries for representational or essentially commercial purposes; official bilateral transactions intended to promote development, but having a grant element of less than 25 percent; and, official bilateral transactions that are primarily export-facilitating in purpose. This category includes export credits, the net acquisition of securities issued by multilateral development banks at market terms, subsidies (grants) to the private sector to soften its credits, and funds in support of private investment.

Figure 5: DFA disbursements on agriculture by resource flow



Note: Percentages indicate the shares in the total; they may not tally due to rounding.

Source: FAO. 2022. FAOSTAT: Development Flows to Agriculture. In: FAO. Rome. Cited August 2022.
<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/EA>

TOP RECIPIENTS OF DFA DISBURSEMENTS

The top ten recipient countries of DFA in 2020 were Kenya, the Philippines, India, China, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Uganda, Türkiye, Indonesia, and Bangladesh. Kenya became the top recipient country since 2019, receiving USD 1 723 million (4.6 percent of the total disbursements) in 2020, followed by the Philippines, India and China, to which OOF had been mainly disbursed. Türkiye and Indonesia also received a high portion of OOF. Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Uganda and Bangladesh received DFA mainly as net ODA (Figure 6).

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