

Food Security Monitor for the Americas

Full Report on the Agrifood Sector in the Americas during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Previous editions available at: <https://iica.int/en/monitor>

25,636,920

Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Americas



Countries



Highest number of cases in the Americas:

USA (12,698,809)
BRA (6,118,708)
ARG (1,381,795)
COL (1,262,494)
MEX (1,060,152)

Relevant issues for the agrifood sector

Production

* Measures related to the agrifood production sector, and information on impact channels and areas affected in the countries of the Americas (products grown or harvested during this time of year).

Argentina: September sees 6.9% interannual contraction in economic activity

Estimates of the National Institute of Censuses and Statistics (INDEC) indicate that there was a 6.9% interannual contraction in the Monthly Economic Activity Index (EMAE). Over the first nine months of

El Salvador: coffee production will decline

According to a report by *La Prensa Gráfica*, based on data from the El Salvador Coffee Association (ACAFESAL), approximately 30 to 40% of the projected 2020-2021 harvest was lost. Close to 150,000 quintals

<p>the year, the EMAE fell 11.9% compared to the same period in 2019. The seasonally adjusted series showed a 1.9% increase over the preceding month of August.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3654DIB</p>	<p>of the country's coffee crop were destroyed, due to the impact of Hurricanes Eta and Iota. The report stated that the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) considers that the temperature conditions and humidity may increase the incidence and severity of coffee leaf rust in the region. https://bit.ly/33jRXFJ</p>
<p>Guatemala: prospects for agricultural production dim in the aftermath of Eta and Iota</p> <p><i>La Prensa Libre</i> has reported that authorities in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAGA) have advised that recovering from the damage wrought by Eta and Iota could take months and may even include the first quarter of 2021.</p> <p>MAGA's preliminary data on Eta reveals that 108 municipalities and 181,953 families were affected, involving 30 crops covering a total area of 119,913.54 hectares. These figures illustrate the current situation and will be used as the basis to develop recovery plans.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2JfcdB3</p>	<p>Honduras: devastation in the agriculture sector after the passage of Eta and Iota</p> <p>Preliminary information from the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) indicates that the agriculture sector has been hard hit by the passage of Eta and Iota. The value of the damage is being calculated and steps are being taken to continue with the harvesting of crops, such as coffee.</p> <p>An article by <i>La Tribuna</i> has informed that SAG will need much more than 2 billion lempiras (the fund that the sector established prior to the hurricane) to reactivate the agrifood sector affected by the rains.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3m1QECG and https://bit.ly/2Ja89Cf</p>
<p>Jamaica: despite weather and Covid-19, agricultural output rises</p> <p>Based on data from the <i>Jamaica Observer</i> newspaper and information from Wayne Henry, Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the real value added for the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries was estimated to have increased by 2%. According to the analysis, favorable weather conditions were a contributing factor, as were certain government initiatives, such as the Production Incentive Program (that provided inputs) and the Agriculture Excess Buy-Back Program to purchase agricultural surpluses (given the reduced demand caused by Covid-19).</p> <p>https://bit.ly/39IWdsl</p>	<p>Panama: economic activity plummeted 18.9% during the first six months of 2020</p> <p>According to a report by Panama's Office of the Comptroller General, based on data from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), during the first six months of 2020 (January – June), the Panamanian economy contracted 18.9% (compared to the same period in 2019), due to the pandemic and the ensuing global economic crisis.</p> <p>Activities in the agriculture sector continued, achieving overall growth of 4.3%. Most notably, banana production increased by 43%, egg production by 8.9%, and to a lesser extent, vegetable production, by 2.5%.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3q0Dqs9</p>

Trade

*Trade-related measures taken by the countries, description of the impact on products usually exported during this time of year, problems in trade logistics and global supply chains.

Argentina increased exports of fresh fruit in 2020

Even as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded, Argentina managed to export 7,972,020 tons of fresh fruit in the first ten months of the year, achieving a 6% interannual increase in these exports. Of the total, pear exports accounted for 321,278 tons. Argentina is currently the third largest pear exporter in the world. Another strong performer was lemon, of which Argentina is the seventh largest producer globally. Other fruit exports included blueberries, kiwis, pomegranates, and cherries. These exports were destined for the European Union, the United States, Russia and Brazil.

<https://bit.ly/39bsKkt>

World Health Organization prepares World Trade Report 2020

The WTO study reports that countries have gradually begun to adopt policies aimed at promoting innovation and digitalization. The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the uptake of e-commerce and digital innovation. However, since these policies could produce both positive and negative consequences, the reports stresses that countries must work together to minimize the negative impact.

It must be pointed out that between 1960 and 2018, the agriculture sector was one of the sectors that was the slowest to implement digitalization, although there has been a considerable increase in recent years. On the other hand, the report confirms that investments in innovation in developing countries tend to focus on agriculture. <https://bit.ly/3l2Es3a>

Jair Bolsonaro refers to the export of sustainable agricultural products at the G-20 Leaders' Summit

During the G-20 Leaders' Summit, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro expressed his country's commitment to sustainable development, which must be in full swing in order to integrate conservation into economic and social prosperity. The President mentioned that Brazil is a resilient country that is open to integration and interested in a sustainable future. He also indicated that the country exports many sustainable agricultural products to guarantee the food security of at least 1.5 billion people. Bolsonaro highlighted the progress achieved within the framework of the Mercosur, EFTA, South Korea and Canada agreements. All of these efforts are driving countries' economic reactivation in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis.

<https://bit.ly/3721Dpp>

Goods Trade Barometer signals the capacity for recovery of international trade

According to the WTO's latest Goods Trade Barometer released on 20 November 2020, world merchandise trade appears to have rebounded strongly after plummeting in the midst of the pandemic.

The improvement was driven by a significant surge in exports. However, it is unclear whether this growth can be maintained in the long run. Merchandise exports and trade in agricultural raw materials accounted for most of this growth. It is worth noting that trade in agricultural raw materials rose to an index value of 103.6; the WTO considers any readings greater than 100 to be above-trend.

<https://bit.ly/332SyLU>

From our IICA Specialists.

IICA survey identified 68 horizontal cooperation experiences

A recent survey of the IICA Delegations, spearheaded by the Office of the Chief of Staff and the Directorate of Technical Cooperation, identified a total of 68 Horizontal Cooperation experiences or practices, with the potential to be systematized. Luis Carlos Vargas, Technical Specialist of the Center for Knowledge Management and Horizontal Cooperation Services explained the process in detail and the results.

What is horizontal cooperation at IICA?

Horizontal Technical Cooperation is an instrument to facilitate experience-sharing among regions and countries, in a bid to jointly address existing needs, always through reciprocal cooperation. As a multilateral institution, each year IICA supports actions of this type throughout the hemisphere. Moreover, the current situation has made South-South Cooperation (another term for Horizontal Cooperation) increasingly important.

-Why is IICA engaging in horizontal cooperation?

IICA is a bridge, a hub that brings together parties; it can contribute to countries by supporting South-South Cooperation throughout the hemisphere. Through our actions, we can create linkages and enable one country to support another, based on its experience and knowledge, and in so doing to resolve a need that that country may have. IICA has a vast network throughout the hemisphere that can make a difference. Each year, the Institute executes approximately 300 technical cooperation actions in the countries, 15 to 20% of which are horizontal cooperation actions. In the last 20 years, we have undertaken more than 1,000 initiatives in extremely relevant areas, such as agricultural health, traceability, food security, water resource management, and climate change, among other issues.



Luis Carlos Vargas, Technical Specialist.
Center for Knowledge Management and
Horizontal Cooperation Services.

-What were the main results of the survey?

The results will inform the development of this portfolio of capacities and we have begun to document and systematize these experiences, in conjunction with our Delegations, in a bid to strengthen, disseminate and capitalize on these best practices. Having gathered information on experiences in all member countries of the Institute, it is no surprise that each country has something to offer and excellent initiatives to highlight and share. There are several very interesting experiences. For example, there is the Pro-huerta Program in Argentina that was also shared with and implemented in Haiti. On the other hand, Mexico's Moscamed program focuses on biological control, with an impact valuing more than 5 billion dollars annually. Furthermore, the Farm Management Platform in Brazil has enabled the modernization of important animal traceability tools, such as the Animal Transit Guide – GTA – which has facilitated the tracing of more than 200 million animals. There are many excellent experiences that we will be sharing in the near future as part of our efforts to disseminate best practices.

