FAO Statistical Pocketbook

2012

World food and agriculture



FAO STATISTICAL POCKETBOOK



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Sri Lanka

Introduction

Agriculture has returned to the top of the policy agenda. Beyond its essential role in ensuring food security, agricultural development is now increasingly perceived as pivotal in strategies to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable development. In addition, policy makers agree that agriculture will be key to effectively address challenging issues of our time, including climate change, water scarcity, environmental pollution and land degradation.

After being neglected for decades, the renewed recognition of the importance of agriculture has led to commitments and concerted efforts by policy-makers and those within the international development community. This process has increased the need to measure agricultural performance and evaluate the effectiveness of policy and investment decisions.

Reliable and timely statistics provide the foundation for designing, implementing and monitoring successful strategies to reduce poverty and hunger. They ensure that scarce resources are used efficiently and governments be held accountable for their actions.

Building on the FAO Statistical Yearbook, the leading statistical reference related to agriculture, this pocket book provides an easy access to major trends and issues in world food and agriculture. The pocket book is divided into two main sections, one thematic and one country-specific. It covers over 30 dimensions of food and agriculture along four main focus areas:

The setting measures the state of the agricultural resource base, by assessing the supply of land, labour, capital, inputs and the state of infrastructure. It also examines the pressure on the world food system stemming from demographic and macroeconomic change.

Hunger dimensions gauges the state of food insecurity and malnutrition, measuring the multitude of factors that give rise to and shape undernourishment.

Feeding the world evaluates the past and present capacity of world agricultural production and the role of trade in meeting changing food, feed and other demands.

Environmental sustainability examines agriculture in the context of the pressure it exerts on the environment, including the interaction of agriculture with climate change, and how it can provide ecosystem services in relation to the bio-based economy.

Employing over 350 indicators drawn from data sources within FAO, sister UN agencies, the World Bank and other international organizations, and combining comprehensive coverage in small size, the pocket book is a handy resource that can be consulted in multiple settings. The pocket book strives to serve as a rapid reference point for policy-makers, donor agencies, researchers and analysts as well as the general public. It is hoped that it will contribute to a better diffusion, understanding and use of statistics for the benefit of people around the world.

How to use the book

Data are made available for virtually all countries in the world, excluding principalities and minor territories. We follow the M49 convention of the United Nations Statistics Division in reporting "geographical regions for statistical use". See (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm).

The most recent data are given - typically 2010 or 2009, but when country data have not been reported for the reference year, an asterisk (*) is placed on the year label to indicate "closest to" that year.

Concepts, methods, definitions and sources can be found at the end of the publication.

Acknowledgements

This book has been prepared by a team from the FAO Statistics Division led by Adam Prakash and Denis Drechsler, with substantial technical assistance from Michael Kao, Filippo Gheri and Matthieu Stigler.

People and demography

A combination of declining mortality rates, prolonged life expectancy and youthful populations in regions characterized by high fertility has contributed to world population growth. While growth rates have been slowing since the late 1960s, the world's population has nevertheless doubled since then to 6.9 billion. Population growth is generally the highest where income levels are low; and it is an increasingly urban phenomenon. For the first time in 2008, more people lived in cities than in rural areas.

World population growth across decades

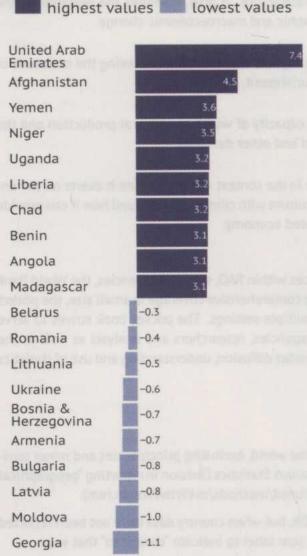
reinchie developojen	1990-	2000
	1999	2010
	% p.a.	
Developed	0.40	0.40
East Asia	1.22	0.75
Latin America		
& Caribbean	1.66	1.24
South Asia	2.04	1.56
Sub-Saharan Africa	2.65	2.50

Annual population growth (% p.a., 2000-10)

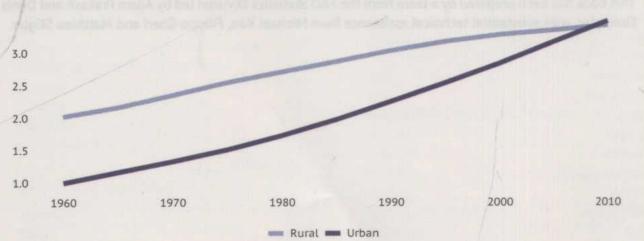
Countries with lowest values

Median age in countries (years, 2010)





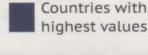
Urban and rural population of the world (billion, 1960-2010)

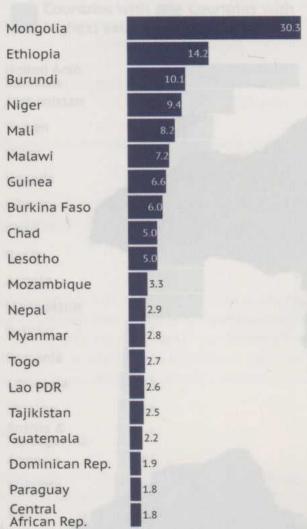


Capital and investment

Investment drives growth and development. It is particularly important in agriculture given the sector's strong impact on welfare. Indeed, countries that have successfully reduced poverty and hunger are usually those with high investment rates per agricultural worker. Investment in new machinery, infrastructure and technology are vital to produce more, and more efficiently in the future. However, measured against GDP, there has been a slow-down in the rate of capital formation in primary agriculture in both developed and developing countries.

Agricultural capital formation (% of GDP, 2006-2007)

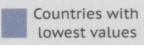




Agricultural capital stock across regions

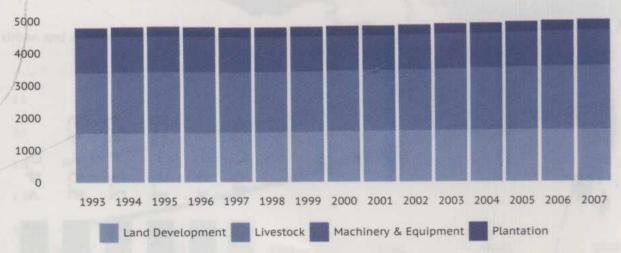
	2006	2007
	billion US\$	
Developed	2 0 2 4	2 0 1 6
East Asia	755	761
Latin America & Caribbean	708	713
South Asia	663	675
Sub-Saharan Africa	414	422

Agricultural capital formation (% of GDP, 2006-2007)





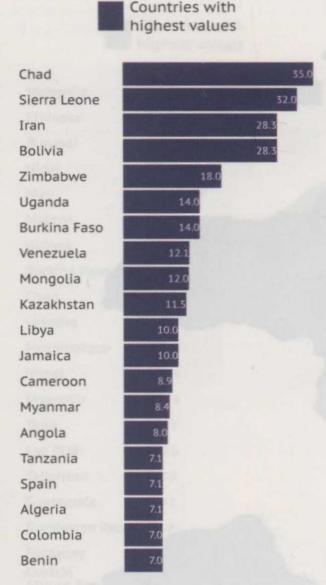
Components of world agricultural capital stock (billion US\$, 1993-2007)



Infrastructure

One of the key factors holding back agricultural development in many low-income countries is the absence of adequate rural infrastructure. The availability of rural transportation networks, electrification, storage and cooling facilities would be a prerequisite for agriculture sectors to thrive. Improved infrastructure links farmers to markets, reduces transactions costs and increases the competitiveness of the agriculture sector.

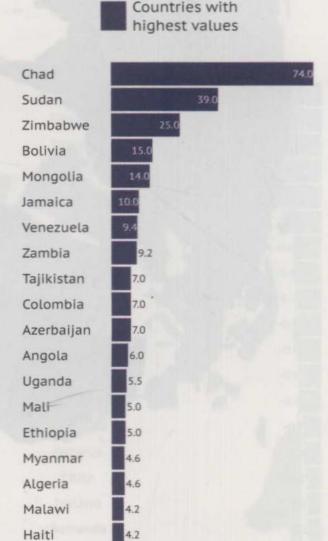
Lead time to import (days, 2009*)



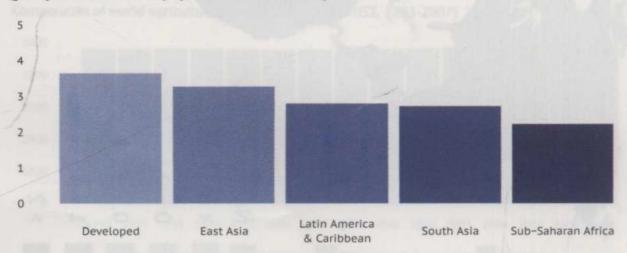
Share of rural population with access to electricity

	%, 2008
Developed	99.5
East Asia	86.5
Latin America & Caribbean	74.0
South Asia	51.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	14.3

Lead time to export (days, 2009*)



Quality of infrastructure (1=poor; 5=excellent, 2010)



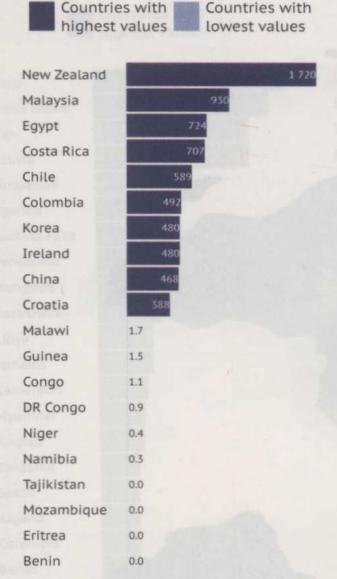
Liberia

4.0

Inputs

Adequate access to inputs is vital for agricultural productivity growth. Expanding fertilizer use has boosted production in Asia and parts of Latin America. Similarly, plant breeding has helped to bolster productivity by adapting cultivated varieties to local conditions and by making them more resilient. In other regions, notably sub-Saharan Africa, the uptake of agricultural inputs is relatively low as it is often cheaper to expand cropland to meet higher production.

Fertilizer consumption per hectare of arable land (kg, 2008)



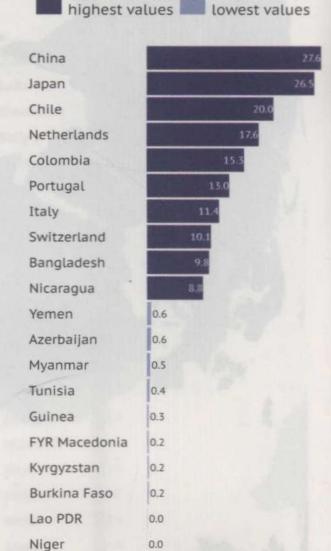
Energy use by agriculture as a share of total energy use

%	, 2009
Developed regions	1.7
East Asia	1.9
Latin America & Caribbean	3.9
South Asia	3.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.2

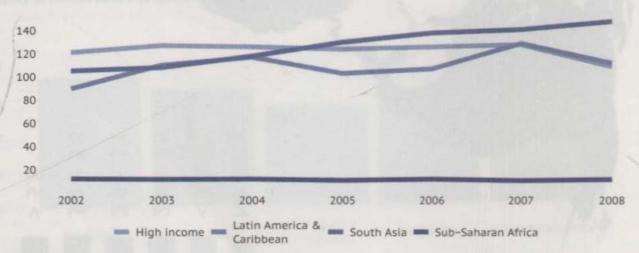
Pesticide consumption per hectare of arable land (kg, 2008)

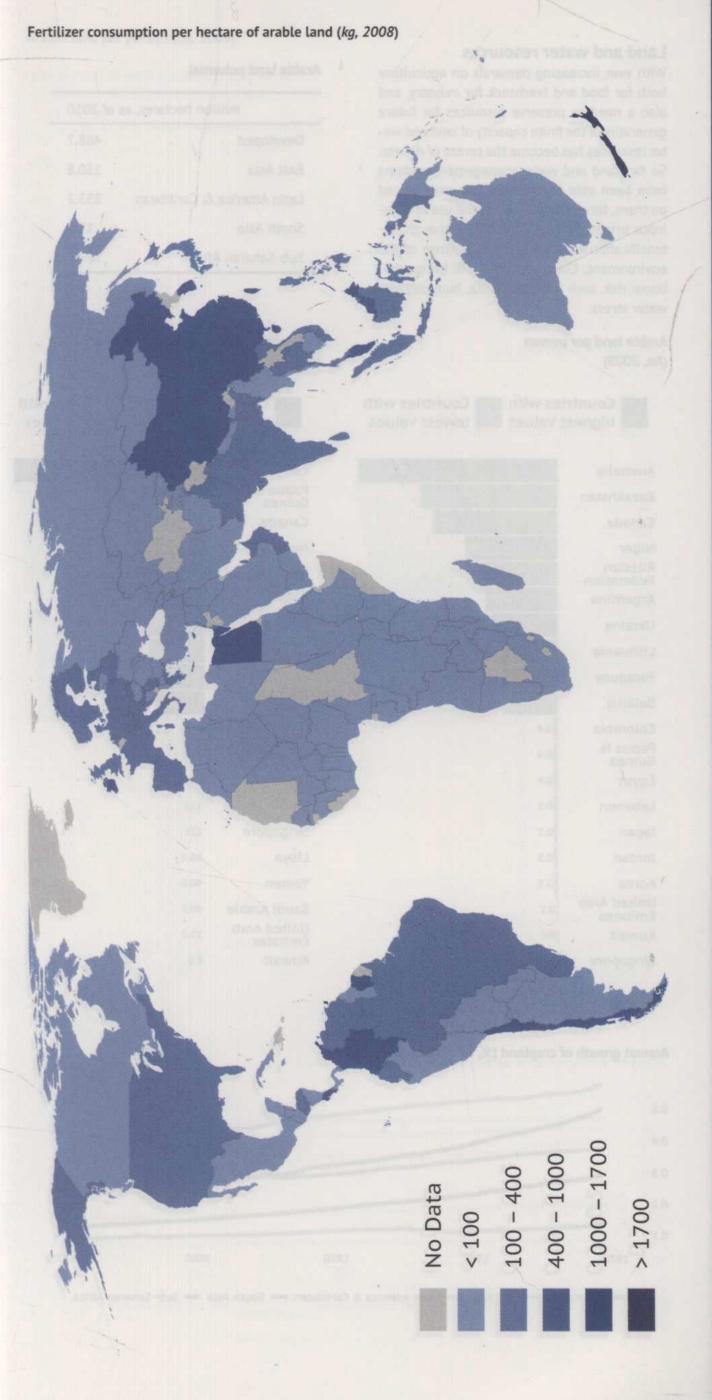
Countries with

Countries with



Fertilizer consumption per hectare of arable land (kg, 2002-08)





Land and water resources

With ever increasing demands on agriculture both for food and feedstock for industry, and also a need to preserve resources for future generations, the finite capacity of land and water resources has become the centre of debate. So far, land and water management systems have been able to meet the demands placed on them, for example through the use of high-input irrigated agriculture. Often though, intensification has come at the expense of the environment. Climate change will bring additional risk, such as temperature, humidity and water stress.

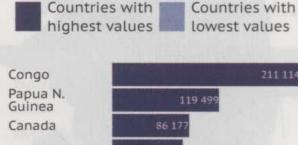
Arable land per person (ha, 2009)

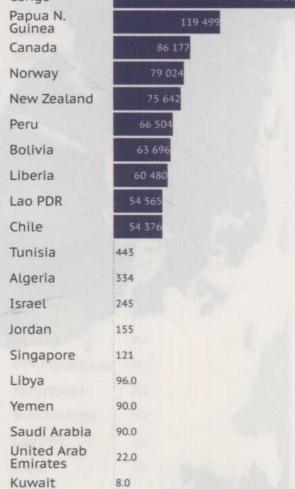


Arable land potential

million hectares, as	of 2010
Developed	488.7
East Asia	130.8
Latin America & Caribbean	855.2
South Asia	13.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	779.0

Renewable water resources per person $(m^3, 2008)$





Annual growth of cropland (%, 1970-2009)

