

Thursday, 13 August 2020



## 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>

# 11,151,384

Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Americas



## Countries



Highest number of cases in the Americas:

- USA (5,226,916)
- BRA (3,164,785)
- PER (498,555)
- MEX (498,380)
- COL (422,519)

## Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZx>. Data as at 13 August 2020 (14:00 md CST).

*\*\* This monitor is a dynamic, constantly updated tool created by IICA to analyze and forecast the impact of the world health crisis on food security in the Americas.*

# Analysis and scenarios

## The latest from the IICA Blog:

### [What opportunities will the bioeconomy offer in the aftermath of the pandemic?](#)

The new reality triggered by the pandemic has given rise to variety of **challenges and opportunities** for **national governments**, which the **bioeconomy** can help to address, among them: **internal migration** and opportunities for **international cooperation**.

If we consider both phenomena through the prism of the **bioeconomy**, we can arrive at **possible responses** on **two levels**: the **transnational** and the **local**. In terms of the former, **biology and ecosystems do not recognize borders**, and therefore, solutions and measures that are adopted to capitalize on the **biodiversity** and **natural wealth of the region** require greater **regional cooperation**, both to **avoid the problems** of porous borders, as well as to **bolster the progress** that is being made in terms of associated sciences and technologies.

Greater **cooperation** would allow the various Latin American biomes to make much more **progress and development** in acquiring knowledge. Moreover, to do so, much of this would call for **diplomatic agreements** in **common regions** - the Gran Chaco, the Andean regions, shared aquifers, etc.

**Find out all the details this week** in a post by **Guillermo Anlló**, *Specialist in charge of the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Program at the UNESCO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean*. <https://bit.ly/2PLf7xM>

### [Challenges for countries in the Americas to comply with notification obligations regarding measures to address the Covid-19 pandemic](#)

An IICA study identified technical cooperation actions to respond to the **challenges, opportunities and needs** of member countries to improve their participation in the multilateral trade system. The following are some of the main **challenges** that countries of the Americas face in seeking **to comply with** their *agricultural notification obligations*:

- Difficulties in collecting the information to be notified;
- A lack of specialists;
- Problems in determining which measures or policies should be notified;
- Complexity of the information to be notified or of the process to prepare the notifications; and
- Coordination problems among national institutions.

**Find out all the details this week** in a post by **Adriana Campos Azofeifa**, *Specialist in IICA's International Trade and Regional Integration Program. Adriana has an MBA, with a specialization in Marketing and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations, specializing in International Trade*. <https://bit.ly/33XSz4U>

# Relevant issues for the agrifood sector

Production	
<p>* 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).</p>	
<p><b>Rosario Grain Exchange reduces wheat planting area estimate for 2020-21</b></p> <p>The Rosario Grain Exchange has revised its estimate regarding the wheat planting area for 2020-21, reducing it to 6.5 million hectares, given the scant rainfall in the main production areas of the country.</p> <p>However, its 18 million to 19 million-ton-harvest estimate remains the same. The entity is forecasting that 51 million tons of corn will be harvested in 2020-21.</p> <p><a href="https://reut.rs/3kGDhHH">https://reut.rs/3kGDhHH</a></p>	<p><b>Brazil: Gross Agricultural Production (GAP) will reach R\$ 742.4 billion in 2020</b></p> <p>The estimate, which was calculated based on the July harvest, amounts to R\$ 742.4 billion – a 10.1% increase over 2019. Data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply indicates that there was a 12.3% increase in crops and 6.1% in livestock. Crops represent 66.5% of income and livestock accounts for 33.5%.</p> <p>This year’s results are due to the strong performance of grain crops.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/30SSmOt">https://bit.ly/30SSmOt</a></p>
<p><b>United States: USDA estimates record corn and soybean production for the 2020-21 harvest</b></p> <p>A report by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) on the 2020-21 season, projects that a record amount of corn will be produced—15.3 billion bushels—thanks to favorable climate conditions. The sector will also achieve a record in terms of average output, which is estimated at 181.8 bushels of corn per acre.</p> <p>The Service is projecting that 4420 million bushels of soybean will be produced, with average production at 53.3 bushels per acre.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3iJjE09">https://bit.ly/3iJjE09</a></p>	<p><b>United States: USDA extends deadline for requests for assistance due to COVID-19</b></p> <p>The USDA has extended the deadline for crop and livestock farmers affected by the pandemic to request federal aid, through direct payments from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The agency has also expanded the number of products included in the program.</p> <p>Reuters has reported that additional time was granted after several farm groups requested an extension of the deadline and further information on the support measures. Nine weeks into the program, less than half of the \$16 billion dollars earmarked for the program has been awarded.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3gUsilz">https://bit.ly/3gUsilz</a> and <a href="https://reut.rs/2FmC605">https://reut.rs/2FmC605</a></p>

**Panama: agriculture is the sector that has made the most loan applications amidst the pandemic**

A report by La Estrella de Panamá states that microentrepreneurs in the livestock sector (42% of applicants), agriculture (40%) and trade (13%) accounted for the majority of loan applications during June and July 2020, according to the records of Microserfin – an institution that is part of the BBVA Microfinance Foundation.

“Although microenterprises make up 84% of Panama’s production system, many of them are not members of traditional banks, and therefore the country must continue to focus on strengthening financial inclusion”.

<https://bit.ly/2FcUp7J>

**Peru: Government is working to implement a second FAE-Agro program for S/2000 million**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is already aiming to implement a second phase of the FAE-Agro credit program, which would begin once the resources from the first phase have been exhausted. The second phase would also be at a cost of S/2 billion.

The FAE-Agro program is seeking to revitalize the 2020-21 agricultural season, and therefore applicants need not present their property title, but may submit any of the documents listed in the rules.

<https://bit.ly/3h15cjG>

## 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: country is promoting exports of agricultural equipment and products to Africa**

The initiative will open up new markets for Argentina and strengthen the quality and price competitiveness of its products, while providing added value to consumers and allowing it to utilize its capacity to increase its trade with African countries.

The initiative will focus on dairy, meat and genetic by-products.

<https://bit.ly/2Y0fuZH>

### **Mexico: agrifood sector strengthens actions in a bid to compete with the United States and Canada**

In light of the economic situation arising from the pandemic, Mexico is aiming to streamline its procedures and conditions, in a bid to increase trade and make better use of existing trade agreements.

<https://bit.ly/3h7G7Uh>

### **WTO advises that travel and transport related costs could climb**

A study revealed that business trips to maintain trading relationships and manage global value chains have been disrupted by the pandemic. Furthermore, the shift towards the digitalization of customs procedures has reduced physical controls. These two factors could affect trade costs at the global level.

<https://bit.ly/3aobwiy>

### **Paraguay: opening of ports to improve trading in agricultural products**

This will allow free passage to barges with Paraguayan agricultural products, valuing close to US\$45 million. Paraguay and Brazil have also announced that they are in discussions to make headway in Annex B of the Treaty of Itaipu, which relates to the construction of locks in the Paraná River, near the right bank of the Itaipu Binacional Dam.

<https://bit.ly/3ayGq89>

### **New trade measures have been affecting trade between countries**

Covid-19 has created enormous challenges throughout the world and has forced authorities in several countries to introduce economic and trade measures to deal with the associated impact. Governments have implemented numerous measures to respond to the crisis, some that restrict trade and other that facilitate it, both directly and indirectly.

<https://bit.ly/2XUMpyD>

### **Colombia: export operations at Santa Marta port have remained stable**

The terminal has been able to ensure that its export operations of coal, vegetable oil and container shipments, mainly banana, have not been disrupted. Furthermore, the port has played a vital role in facilitating the importation to Colombia of bulk containers of products such as: corn, flour, bean, and soybean, among other cereals.

<https://bit.ly/3anplbJ>

## Supply

\* Measures taken by Ministries of Agriculture in different countries regarding food security.

### **IICA commits to collaborating with the GEF to boost agricultural sustainability**

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Minister of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, who will begin serving as the CEO of the GEF ([Global Environment Facility](#)) as of [September 1](#), will receive support from IICA in order to implement actions aimed at strengthening the adaptation of agriculture to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on soil management and recovery, good agricultural practices and payment for environmental services, among other areas.

Manuel Otero, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), reiterated his support for Rodríguez and expressed his interest in developing joint initiatives with the GEF, as part of the strategic partnerships that the hemispheric organization promotes to attract more resources for and foster innovation in agriculture. <https://bit.ly/3173Yxl>

### **IICA launches challenge to establish a Rural Youth Community of the Americas**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) launched a Rural Youth Challenge, aimed at developing proposals for creating the Rural Youth Community of the Americas.

The Director General of IICA, Manuel Otero, participated in the launch event for the challenge, which seeks to encourage youth between the ages of 18 and 35 in the Americas to propose joint ideas and solutions for overcoming post-Covid-19 challenges in agriculture. Individuals participating in the challenge must develop an innovative and viable proposal for establishing a Hemispheric Rural Youth Community. The project must describe specific activities to foster networking, the development of solutions, etc. <https://bit.ly/2Y9q3K2>

### **Bioeconomy in Argentina: a sleeping giant?**

In Argentina, the Circular Economy falls under the concept of Bioeconomy, which includes not only food production, but also sectors such as energy and pharmaceuticals, *inter alia*, but also relates to the transformation of biomass into a wide variety of products.

According to the National Secretariat of Agroindustry, in 2017, the Bioeconomy generated 16.1% of Argentina's GDP—86.695 billion dollars—and between 2012 and 2017, the sector grew 8.3% (at constant prices), more than twice the level of growth of the national economy.

<https://bit.ly/3akZV3E>

### **Innovation and adaptation for growth in Colombia**

Agriculture is a sector that has been driven by initiatives that have helped thousands of farmers, who are reactivating the economy amidst the pandemic. The commitment that the government made in the Peace Agreement in Havana, as emphasized in the first point, recognized the enormous debt owed to rural areas in terms of comprehensive rural reform and the imperative need to reactivate these areas.

<https://bit.ly/2YOB2Fz>

### **Mexican pig farmers joins forces to work for food security**

Participating at the launch of the Mexican Organization of Pig Farmers (OPORMEX), which brings together the country's pork producers under one organization, the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, urged the farmers to join the Mexican Government in its fight to ensure food security.

<https://bit.ly/3avyrIT>

