

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>

23,900,721

Confirmed cases of
Covid-19 in the
Americas



Countries



Highest number of
cases in the
Americas:

USA (11,424,275)
BRA (5,911,758)
ARG (1,329,005)
COL (1,211,128)
MEX (1,011,153)

Analysis and scenarios

The latest from the IICA Blog:

[Bioeconomy projects in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica take center stage at the global summit](#)

During a workshop at the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2020, the major global event on the bioeconomy, participants were given a broad overview of the bioeconomy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The presentation also covered concrete experiences in areas such as green chemistry and biofuels in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica and their impact on the environment, rural development and job creation.

**** 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. The views expressed herein are not necessarily the opinion of the Institute, but a reflection of developments worldwide.*

The workshop, which was organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Group of Producing Countries from the Southern Cone (GPS), was entitled, “The Regional Bioeconomy as a Key Driver to Build Up Resilient Economies – Lessons Learned from Latin America and the Caribbean”.

Workshop participants included Federico Torres, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT) of Costa Rica; Carolina Balian, Advisor to the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay; Arturo Luna, from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia; Gonçalo Pereira, from the Universidad Estadual de Campinas; and Daniella Sardi, of the National Federation of Oil Palm Growers of Colombia.

The workshop also included Ramiro Costa, from the Argentinian Grain Exchange; Marcelo Regúnaga from the Group of Producing Countries of the Southern Cone (GPS); Guy Henry, a representative from CIRAD; Bernardo Silva, of Think Brazil; and Eduardo Trigo, Advisor to IICA’s Bioeconomy and Production Development Program.

With respect to public policies, Federico Torres, presented Costa Rica’s bioeconomy strategy, the main purpose of which is to promote sustainable production through the equitable use of biological resources, the recycling of biomass and development in new sciences and technologies.

On the other hand, Carolina Balián and Arturo Lina, spoke on policy development experiences in Uruguay and Colombia, respectively, which are banking on the bioeconomy as a strategic solution to promote sustainable development.

Business cases in Colombia, Brazil and Argentina

Colombia is the fourth largest producer of palm oil in the world and it is capitalizing on the potential of the bioeconomy, promoting its competitiveness and sustainability, as well as its greater adoption in rural territories, said Daniella Sardi.

Thanks to public-private efforts, biodiesel in Colombia has spurred value-addition in agriculture, rural development, environmental sustainability and the transformation of the country’s energy matrix.

According to Ramiro Costa, Argentina is another country that has had success in this area: sustainable intensification has served as a strategy, combining innovation and the use of best practices and lessons learned.

On the other hand, Gonçalo Pereira emphasized how second generation technology in Brazil will enable the country to make more efficient and sustainable use of biomass, not only for production of food, but also of multiple high value-added bioproducts, for example in the area of bioenergy, biochemistry and biocosmetics, among others.

The event ended with a panel discussion of experts, moderated by Marcelo Regúnaga. In it, Henry and Silva discussed how to overcome bottlenecks and scale up best practices and lessons learned in terms of policies and businesses in the region.

The Global Bioeconomy Summit is the major global event on the bioeconomy, and it takes place virtually every year from 16 to 20 November. Find out all the details at: <https://bit.ly/2lQu6WG>

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>Brazil: the value of agricultural production in 2020 estimated at R\$ 848.6 billion</p> <p>Data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply indicates that the Gross Production Value (GPV) of agricultural products in 2020 is estimated at R\$ 848.6 billion (a projection based on October data), which is equivalent to a 13.14% increase over last year.</p> <p>There was a 16.9% real increase in the value of crops, whereas livestock value increased 6.1%. This was due to the agricultural prices paid to producers and exporters. Various products saw record sales in 2020, such as corn, soyabean, beef and pork.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3kPHfwQ</p>	<p>Chile: economy contracted 9.1% during the third quarter</p> <p>The Quarterly National Accounts of Chile's Central Bank have indicated a 9.1% decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the third quarter of 2020 in comparison to last year. The Covid-19 health emergency continued to constrain the movement of people and the normal operations of production establishments.</p> <p>On the other hand, seasonally adjusted figures showed a 5.2% increase in GDP with respect to the previous quarter.</p> <p>There was a decline in all activities, except for public administration and trade. Agricultural and forestry activities fell 3.2%, with fruit farming heading the list.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2Kdj8LG</p>
<p>Colombia: economy declined 9% during third quarter</p> <p>Data from The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) reveals that the Colombian economy contracted 9% in the third quarter of the year, with trade, construction and mining being the activities that most contributed to this decline. Seasonally adjusted data showed that in comparison to the preceding quarter, the GDP grew 8.7% in the third quarter of 2020.</p> <p>Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fisheries grew 1.5% during Q3 of 2020 vis-à-vis the same period in 2019 and the seasonally adjusted series revealed a 2.1% increase over the previous quarter.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2IRNxyI</p>	<p>Guatemala: one in every four agro exports companies were impacted by Eta</p> <p>According to the Prensa Libre newspaper, the Guatemalan Association of Exporters (Agexport) has informed that the passage of Eta incurred damage to at least 1 in every 4 agroexport companies. Among the most affected crops were ornamental plants, fruits, coffee and green beans. The bee sector and the aquaculture sector also reported losses.</p> <p>According to the report, at least 5% of agroexporters reported total destruction of these crops, equivalent to between 60% and 100% of their cultivated land area.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3nBFiWt</p>

Honduras: 9.5% cumulative decline in economic activity up to September

Data from the Central Bank of Honduras reveals that economic activity in the country, calculated by means of the Monthly Economic Activity Index (IMAE) showed (original series) a 9.5% cumulative decline up to September (and a 2.8% increase over the same period in 2019). On an interannual basis, there was a 4.3% contraction in the Index, due to the performance of the Manufacturing, Trade and Transport Industries.

On the other hand, Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries contracted 3.1%, given the decline in coffee production and a lower demand for cantaloupe and watermelon exports.

<https://bit.ly/3nBpgM7>

Uruguay: scant rainfall affects crops, particularly soybeans

El Observador has reported that water shortages in the country are affecting winter and summer crops, particularly soybean. In some areas, activity is at a standstill, as farmers await more moist conditions for the soil.

The report noted that the lack of water and low soil moisture have slowed the incidence of disease and fungus but have reduced output.

<https://bit.ly/3nB5ArL>

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.

ECLAC highlights the bioeconomy as a driver for economic recovery in Latin America

In its report, “Building a New Future”, ECLAC proposes six pillars for post-Covid-19 recovery, namely: a new energy matrix; urban electromobility; the digital revolution; the health care manufacturing industry; the bioeconomy and circular economy; and sustainable tourism. The bioeconomy includes agriculture, agroindustry, food production and health-related products.

ECLAC recognizes that achieving these objectives is by no means a magical formula and although difficult, may be essential to the long process of recovery. IICA itself has developed discussion sessions and forums, such as the [IICA Blog](https://blog.iica.int), where it emphasizes the importance of working jointly on these pillars, especially the bioeconomy and circular economy, elements that add value to products and trade, promoting a more sustainable environmental, economic and social climate.

<https://bbc.in/32YQ1m2>; <https://blog.iica.int>

Support for agricultural recovery in Central America

In the wake of the weather events, Eta and Iota, the Presidents of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Honduras had a virtual meeting with the President and managers of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). They sought access to immediate funding for the region – the world’s most vulnerable region to climate change, which has been further affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

The aim is to rebuild economic and social infrastructure and to support agriculture, specifically farmers who have lost their crops. All of this is taking place, even as the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19 looms large, which is something that could aggravate the situation. In response, CABEI called for united efforts to reduce the costs of Agricultural Insurance Premiums and Mechanisms. He also discussed the support to be provided to SMEs for emergency response, cash subsidies and the strengthening of partnerships with governments and the private sector for economic recovery.

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

Covid-19 lock-down measures have impacted the demand and availability of hot beverages

As a result of the lock-down measures and the restrictions on movement, the stock rate and product availability of hot beverages have changed considerably.

In South Korea, Japan and the United Kingdom, wholesale chains have reported fewer available units of herbal and fruit tea, instant coffee and black tea and therefore they have removed these SKUs from their pages online.

On the other hand, Canada, Indonesia and Mexico have reported that stocks of black tea and fresh

Slow-down in G-20 trade restrictions as Covid-19 affects the economy

The WTO’s latest Trade Monitoring Report on G20 trade measures reports numerous trade-facilitating and support measures introduced by G20 economies in response to the economic downturn, in order to pave the way for a strong economic recovery. Almost three out of every ten COVID-19 restrictive measures on goods taken by G20 economies had been repealed by mid-October. Most of them were export restrictions.

In the services sectors, heavily impacted by the pandemic, most of the 68 COVID-19 related measures adopted by G20 economies appeared to be trade facilitating.

<p>ground coffee pods have been depleted. Yet, China, Germany and the United States are rapidly replenishing supplies and informing clients when they are out of stock.</p> <p>This data is extremely useful to track the performance of agrifood products in response to the economic and health crisis, identifying opportunities in international markets and their challenges https://bit.ly/3pzM4OI</p>	<p>Over 400 support measures in direct response to the pandemic, collectively worth several trillion dollars, were put in place by G20 economies up until mid-October.</p> <p>These emergency support measures are central to governments' strategies to address the pandemic-induced economic downturn and lay the groundwork for a swift recovery of output and trade. They appear to be temporary in nature. The G-20 is made up of several of the largest economies in the world, such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, the United States and Mexico.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/399O5ek</p>
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