

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/es/monitor>

1,921,701

Confirmed cases of
Covid-19 in the
Americas



Countries



Highest number of
cases in the
Americas:

USA (1,411,466)
BRA (197,838)
PER (76,306)
CAN (74,544)
MEX (40,186)

Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZX>. Data as at 14 May 2020 (15:00 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:

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) launched the series of virtual seminars entitled “**Reflections on the World and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean post COVID-19**”. The initiative seeks to **identify potential solutions and anticipate the policies that will be required to contribute to food security, economic recovery and trade in the wake of the pandemic.**

The series will be comprised of **6 webinars**. The first webinar is summarized below:

[Rebeca Grynspan, Ibero-American Secretary General](#)



“It is imperative to **avoid** the prevalence of an international community that **does not know how to react to these challenges** and in which there is tension between the world’s superpowers with respect to economic, commercial and political matters. The **adoption of multilateral rules** that have been agreed upon by all countries is a fundamental pillar; this will allow for setting global dynamics in motion”.
<https://bit.ly/3609jHJ>

The full webinar is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/IICAnoticias/videos/690986971660194>

[Enrique Iglesias, former president of the Inter-American Development Bank](#)



“**The world to come will usher the need for food,** and Latin America is one of the greatest suppliers.

Through technology, we can accomplish a lot more than we have so far. It is crucial that we **provide direct support to SMEs**, especially those involved in small-scale farming. All of this will enable us to somehow manage the economic issues”.
<https://bit.ly/2Z81U7V>

The full webinar is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/IICAnoticias/videos/690986971660194>

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).	
<p>Brazil: MAPA sets up WhatsApp channel to report food losses</p> <p>The channel will enable family farmers to report any food losses due to trade problems triggered by COVID-19.</p> <p>The agency will utilize the information received to inform the evaluation of new measures for rural producers. https://bit.ly/2WU5i3H</p>	<p>Brazil: grain production for 2019/20 will exceed 250 million tons</p> <p>CONAB reports that despite the impact of climate concerns on soybean and maize production, an estimated 250.9 million tons of grain will be produced in the 2019/20 season, that is, 3.6% more than last year. The area under cultivation is also forecast to increase by 3.5% compared to the previous harvest, amounting to 65.5 million hectares in total. https://bit.ly/3bu4UxX</p>
<p>Peru: Congress to stage a Plenary Meeting on Agriculture this year</p> <p>Congress has agreed to staging the second Plenary Meeting on Agriculture in history (within 4 months), with an agenda to prioritize laws to benefit the country's small producers, who have also been affected by the national emergency. Small farmer associations have asked the Government for a package of 5 billion soles to reactivate the sector, having suffered the effects of the pandemic. https://bit.ly/2T6B3VX</p>	<p>Venezuela: fuel shortages negatively impact the sector in Bolivar</p> <p>The Association of Livestock Breeders and Agricultural Producers of Bolivar issued a statement, declaring that fuel shortages have had an impact on agricultural production in Bolivar, as this has restricted the operation of machinery for planting and harvesting, as well as distribution. Crops remain in the field and are lost, as there is no means of removing them and distributing them. The per liter cost of gasoline is 4 dollars and there are severe restrictions on the amount sold to buyers. https://bit.ly/2WTpanq</p>
<p>Honduras: Government opens a line of credit for agricultural producers</p> <p>The Government has opened a line of credit of 150 million lempiras under the FIRSA Fund, administered by the Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (BANHPROVI). The aim is to assist 1,500 rural producers and is one in a series of measures to reactivate the production chain of the country.</p> <p>The funds will not all be administered through financial intermediaries. Instead, the Government has negotiated with entities that supply agricultural inputs to allow producers to obtain credit in the form of inputs. https://bit.ly/2LstCnR</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: positive forecasts for wheat production drive exports to Brazil

Government entities are analyzing opportunities for wheat from Buenos Aires (the country's leading wheat production province) in the Brazilian market. Brazil may increase purchases from Argentina in light of the pandemic.

According to *Ámbito*, the farming area would continue to span around 6.5 million hectares. The wheat harvest is expected to total about 20 to 21 million tons. <https://bit.ly/2WYsBcu> and <https://bit.ly/2TOrdoH>

Argentina: EU certifies Argentinian lemon as a non-fruit fly host crop

Following the issuance of the certification, it will no longer be necessary to continue fruit fly monitoring on lemon farming units.

Nevertheless, production units must continue to conduct traditional monitoring for citrus canker and black spot.

<https://bit.ly/2zB6UqY>

Chile: China solidifies its standing as the second destination for table grapes from Chile

According to data from ASOEX, exports of Chilean table grapes to various destinations reached 602,000 tons, which is 6.83% less compared to the previous season.

Despite the logistical challenges posed by the pandemic, it is worth noting that China is the second largest destination for Chilean table grapes, after the United States. <https://bit.ly/2y2qpZb>

El Salvador: exports drop by \$250 million in April

The Central Reserve Bank reported a 12.9% drop in the export of goods, which totaled US\$1.68 billion in April. The decrease is due to reduced exports from the manufacturing sector.

On the other hand, the food and agriculture sectors reported increases of \$51.5 million and \$10.4 million, respectively. <https://bit.ly/2WAsfdn>

Mexico: beef exports to U.S. set to increase

The Mexican industry attributes the export growth to new safety measures adopted by the industry. According to Reuters, the president of Mexico's main cattle growers' association predicts up to 12% growth in U.S. exports this year, compared to last year's volume.

According to the USDA, as at the first week of May, Mexican beef exports to its northern neighbor totaled nearly 87,000 tons, up roughly 8,000 tons compared to the same period last year.

Paraguay: soybean exports fall during first four months of the year

According to the Paraguayan Chamber of Cereal and Oilseed Exporters and Marketers, soybean exports were down 7% in April, compared to the same period last year. Between January and April, 2,715,497 tons of soybean were exported.

Argentina is still the primary destination for Paraguayan soybean, accounting for 84% of sales, followed by Brazil, which accounts for 6% of sales. <https://bit.ly/3fO2spg>

<p>In 2019, Mexico was the third-largest supplier of beef to the United States. https://reut.rs/2LvmZkN</p>	
<p>China to allow imports of barley and blueberries from U.S.</p> <p>China will allow imports of barley and blueberries from the United States that meet the relevant requirements, according to a Customs notice.</p> <p>The move comes after China agreed to boost its imports of U.S. agricultural products by an additional \$32 billion over two years as part of a Phase 1 deal. https://reut.rs/2Z4euVW</p>	<p>China: record-level soybean imports from Brazil</p> <p>Brazil's soybean shipments to China reached a monthly record of more than 9 million tons in April, raising questions as to whether China will be able to meet the objectives of the trade agreement with the United States.</p> <p>According to a report by the Financial Times, the combination of several factors has made imports from Brazil more profitable: a record-level harvest, the fall of the Brazilian real against the U.S. dollar, and lower shipping costs. https://on.ft.com/2Alkejx</p>

Supply

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

IICA launched a series of seminars to develop solutions for agriculture in the wake of the pandemic

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has launched a series of virtual seminars entitled “Reflections on the World and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean post COVID-19”. The initiative seeks to identify potential solutions and anticipate the policies that will be required to contribute to food security, economic recovery and trade in the wake of the pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/3fM1Qk3>

Nota de la traductora: Corregir el link

The chairpersons of the parliamentary commissions on agriculture of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay discuss challenges during covid-19

During a virtual meeting convened by Brazil’s Parliamentary Agricultural Front and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Chairpersons of the Agriculture Commissions of the Chambers of Deputies and Senators of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay exchanged information and experiences dealing with Covid-19.

The parliamentarians discussed ways to guarantee food supply and protect rural producers in the aftermath of the pandemic; they also shared the scenarios facing each of the countries in the region. The goal is to further strengthen parliamentary actions so that alternative proposals and public policy options can be considered at a legislative level. <https://bit.ly/2WQsBLG>

Washington state issues emergency rule to protect farm workers; worker advocates fear it won't save many lives

The farmworkers who pick your apples will enjoy a few more protections from COVID-19 under new emergency rules issued Wednesday by the state of Washington.

The development comes after labor unions sued the agricultural powerhouse, claiming it was not acting fast enough to protect this essential workforce during the pandemic. <https://bit.ly/361mcBG>

Soy protein: an option during the food emergency

In Argentina, soy protein as a meat substitute is booming, given that it does not require cold chain equipment and involves a lower risk of contamination.

It can also be used to prepare a wide range of products, from *empanadas* to potato cakes.

<https://bit.ly/2WYnJ74>

Brazilian agricultural production reaches peak levels in 31 years

The gross value of agricultural production is expected to reach R\$697 billion in 2020, an increase of 8.6% compared to 2019. It is the highest value in the last 31 years, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA). The value of crops grew by 10.4% and generated R\$462 billion. Livestock, on the other hand, increased by 5.4%, to R\$234.9 billion.

<https://bit.ly/360LgZo>