

Thursday, 30 April 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>

# 1,317,470

Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Americas



## Countries



Highest number of cases in the Americas:

- USA (1,056,402)
- BRA (80,246)
- CAN (53,977)
- PER (36,976)
- ECU (24,934)

## Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZX>. Data as at 30 April 2020 (14:00 am 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 interdependence between biofuels, energy and agriculture](#)

What is the direct or indirect **link between the price and consumption of petroleum and agricultural markets**, by way of liquid biofuels?



The Bioeconomy and Production Development Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is conducting research to determine, document and analyze this **connection**.

**More on this topic in this week's post** by *Agustín Torroba*, *Magister in Energy and International Biofuel Specialist at IICA*: <https://bit.ly/35k88m6>

### [Short circuits and street markets as sustainable trade alternatives](#)

The health crisis and its repercussions, coupled with the **food production potential of Family Farming**, should prompt countries, through their institutions, **to review existing and traditional approaches to trade**.

In general, we must seek to guarantee a food supply that is safe and of the highest quality, while ensuring access to food at prices that are affordable to consumers and competitive for producers. Therefore, we must **facilitate the creation or modernization of decentralized trade circuits** that facilitate market access for family farmers.

**More on this topic in this week's post** by **Mario León**, Manager of IICA's Territorial Development and Family Farming Program, with input by Fátima Almada, José Arze and Joao Torrens. <https://bit.ly/2zFGOTG>

# Relevant issues for the agrifood sector

<h2>Production</h2> <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>Brazil: Consultancy firm, Datagro, increases its 2019/2020 projections for Brazilian corn production to 102.18 million tons</b></p> <p>Combined production throughout the country for both years’ harvests is expected to reach 102.18 million tons. However, Datagro specified that there is still some uncertainty about the harvest in the second year, given the drought affecting Paraná, the southeast region and part of the central east region.</p> <p>The company is predicting a 2% increase in soybean in comparison to the previous harvest. <a href="https://bit.ly/3d4t03G">https://bit.ly/3d4t03G</a></p>	<p><b>Bolivia: Associations warn that expired agrochemical permits may endanger the winter planting season</b></p> <p>According to the Association of Agricultural Input Providers (APIA) and the Bolivian Association of Suppliers of Agricultural Inputs, Goods and Services (APRISA), sanitary restrictions are hindering processes to renew permits and warn that this may jeopardize the supply of pesticides in the market and the winter planting season, given the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service’s (SENASAG) refusal to extend the deadline to register agrochemicals. <a href="https://bit.ly/3f5CGg6">https://bit.ly/3f5CGg6</a></p>
<p><b>United States: JBS has re-opened their plant to slaughter pigs, but not to produce meat</b></p> <p>Following an executive order by President Trump stating that meat plants should continue to function during the pandemic, JBS announced that it was reopening its plant to cull up to 13,000 pigs per day, but not to produce meat for consumers.</p> <p>On the other hand, according to a Reuters report, Smithfield Foods has indicated that it is evaluating reopening its shuttered plants and Tyson said it would work with the USDA. <a href="https://reut.rs/3aY0rnb">https://reut.rs/3aY0rnb</a></p>	<p><b>Mexico: SADER has issued an official standard to drive the development of apiculture</b></p> <p>The standard establishes conditions for honey production and sales, in a bid to drive apiculture development in the country, while protecting bees and safeguarding consumers from fraudulent trading of adulterated honey in the market.</p> <p>According to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), apiculture directly and indirectly benefits more than 43,000 families. The country produces 57,000 tons of honey and is the third largest exporter in the world. <a href="https://bit.ly/3dea5DJ">https://bit.ly/3dea5DJ</a></p>
<p><b>Dominican Republic: The Ministry of Agriculture has informed the President about measures to protect agricultural producers</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture has assured that the Dominican people have a guaranteed food supply. Some measures include support to producers that were food suppliers to hotels and restaurants.</p>	<p><b>Costa Rica: impact of Covid-19 on the agriculture sector is estimated at approximately 18.395 billion colones.</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) makes a distinction between impact and losses, given that some products included in the list could be sold through various</p>

<p>It was reported that the land preparation program for small farmers is being strengthened, and they will receive seeds and fertilizers.</p> <p>The government has also introduced support to cover costs to refrigerate or freeze strawberries, as well as a pledge program, involving 1.5 million chickens.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Agricultural Bank, there was an agreement to extend the due date for credit repayment. <a href="https://bit.ly/3aVb0XU">https://bit.ly/3aVb0XU</a></p>	<p>mechanisms, before writing them off as a complete loss.</p> <p>The figure takes into account the impact on various products intended for local consumption.</p> <p>There has been a reported €2,397 million impact on the flower and foliage industry, which has been affected by the interruption of exports as well as by the closure of hotels, restaurants and venues for special events.</p> <p>There has also been a €925.5 million impact on onions, €404.2 million on coffee; €166.5 million on plantains; and a €162,2 million impact on vegetables. <a href="https://bit.ly/2Yhpted">https://bit.ly/2Yhpted</a></p>
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<h2>Trade</h2> <p>*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.</p>	
<p><b>Ecuador asks Colombia to allow entry for its truck drivers</b></p> <p>Colombia is being asked to allow the entry of Ecuadorian truck drivers to transport goods to mutually agreed collection centers during the period of the pandemic (8-10 km from the common border). The goods will be further distributed from the centers. If the Colombians fail to agree, they will face a similar restriction in Ecuador.</p> <p>The request has been made since Colombia is no longer allowing Ecuadorian truckers free passage to collection points and is now stipulating that Colombian drivers will have to bring in the products. <a href="https://bit.ly/2VTcUEm">https://bit.ly/2VTcUEm</a></p>	<p><b>Colombian exports of agricultural products, food and beverages are on the rise</b></p> <p>DANE has indicated that external sales of agricultural products, food and beverages amounted to US\$640.2 million, a 2.1% increase in comparison to March 2019, which can be explained by an increase in exports of live bovine cattle.</p> <p>Yet, overall Colombian exports fell by 28.5% in March, as a result of a 52% decline in fuel sales. <a href="https://bit.ly/2VOYISa">https://bit.ly/2VOYISa</a></p>

### Canada: McDonald's Corp will import beef due to difficulties in the supply chain

The company announced the temporary measure to deal with limitations faced by Canadian meat processors due to Covid-19.

The company plans to temporarily remove Angus burgers from the menu. <https://reut.rs/3aUOePU>

### Peru: agricultural exports grew 8.9% during the first two months of the year

Agricultural exports grew 8.9% in the first two months of the year.

The sector accounted for 53.3% (US\$ 1161 million) of the total value of exports.

On the other hand, total Peruvian exports fell 5.8% during the same period. <https://bit.ly/2xn5C29>

### Mexico: Covid-19 has affected tomato sales in Mexico

Producers are experiencing difficulties in selling tomato, both locally and overseas, despite the sector's efforts to sell at points of sale that remain open, such as supermarkets. In Sinaloa, the country's main tomato producing region, demand has fallen by 40% in some outlets, such as hotels and restaurants. <https://reut.rs/2Wc8U0y>

### Trade measures in the context of the pandemic (WTO and ITC)

Below is a list of trade measures related to agrifood products notified during the past week (28 to 30 April):

- **Mexico:** Measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at facilitating trade, in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Indonesia:** Validation of Electronic/Digital/Scanned Phytosanitary Certificates to facilitate trade (SPS).
- **Indonesia:** Requirement for a Certificate of Declaration free from COVID-19 and a Certification of Laboratory Analysis that the consignment (live animals) has tested negative for COVID-19 from an accredited or authorized laboratory in the importing country for any importation of live animals from an exporting country that is not free from COVID-19 (SPS)
- **Egypt:** Measures to temporarily prohibit exports of a number of products, including vegetables (HS 0708, 0713, 1106, 2004, 2005), in response to the COVID-19 emergency situation

WTO: <https://bit.ly/3dOh5YJ>

ITC: <https://bit.ly/2YdwEnB>

## Supply

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

### **A technical support strategy has been implemented for coffee producers**

In response to the emergency triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA) has implemented a strategy to provide virtual technical support to coffee producing families, providing information on measures to safeguard their health and to prevent the deterioration of their production systems. <https://bit.ly/3f8ix9h>

### **Digital platform seeks to bolster the food supply**

Central American countries, as well as the Dominican Republic and Mexico have a new digital tool focusing on the food supply, which aims to strengthen food security in the region amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. It is known as the Regional Agrifood Supply System for Food Security (SAAR). <https://bit.ly/3bZTenM>

### **Coordinated action between countries will be key to overcoming the crisis in the agrifood sector**

According to the IICA Mexico Office, in order for countries to overcome the global health crisis, they should refrain from adopting measures that impede the trade of agricultural goods, while standardizing phytozoosanitary measures and establishing intraregional channels to manage food surplus, demands and supplies. <https://bit.ly/2KKKdTy>

### **Chilean oranges, lemons and avocados firmly established in the United States market**

Oranges, lemons and avocados were the only fresh fruits, within the Top 10, that recorded double-digit growth in sales in dollars in the United States' retail trade. In contrast, sales in the overall category fell below last year's levels, for the first time since the beginning of March. <https://bit.ly/2Ykd2hC>

### **Brazil - Baskets of family farming products prepared and delivered**

The website of the Frei Humberto Training and Research Center in Brazil posted a list of 57 affordably priced products, cheaper than standard prices in supermarket chains.

The items make up a basket of family farming products, produced without the use of pesticides. <https://bit.ly/2y6TC5k>

### **Mexico backs its agriculture sector to guarantee food supplies**

Members of various parliamentary factions of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico all agreed that supporting the agriculture sector, particularly small farmers, will be critical to ensuring that citizens have access to food during the Covid-19 pandemic. <http://comunicacion.senado.gob.mx/index.php/informacion/boletines/48056-respalda-el-senado-al-sector-agropecuario-para-garantizar-el-abasto-de-alimentos.html>