

## 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>

# 12,067,140

Confirmed cases of  
Covid-19 in the  
Americas



## Countries



Highest number of  
cases in the  
Americas:

- USA (5,553,164)
- BRA (3,456,652)
- PER (558,420)
- MEX (537,031)
- COL (502,178)

## Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZX> . Data as at 20 August 2020 (12:00 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:

### [Bioinputs for agricultural use in Argentina: public policies to transition towards sustainable agriculture](#)

A variety of stakeholders recognize the potential of bioinputs, placing these technologies at the intersection of political, social, academic and industrial interests.

-In Argentina, the **top** stakeholder is the State, which, by means of several programs, promotes research and development (R&D) and encourages the adoption of bioinputs among producers. To support these processes, in 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture created an Advisory Committee on Bioinputs for Agricultural Use (CABUA), to facilitate consultation processes with various stakeholders on matters related to bioinputs.

-The **second** stakeholder is the private sector (initially SMEs, but now also multinational companies that produce inputs), which considers that bioinputs afford an opportunity to develop or diversify its activities. In 2017, with IICA's support, the Argentine Chamber of Bioinputs (CABIO) was created to represent this sector.

**Find out all the details in this week's blog post by agricultural engineer *Frédéric Goulet*, who holds a doctoral degree in Sociology and is a researcher at the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (CIRAD) and *Matthieu Hubert*, a researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and the National University of San Martín (UNSAM) in Argentina. <https://bit.ly/3gkrNGp>**

### [The status of seed systems in specific countries and their role in food security](#)

**Production systems** in Latin America **vary greatly** due to different production conditions, crops, as well as economic, political, social and cultural factors. This diversity affects agricultural productivity levels and **is reflected by seed systems**, which also vary greatly between countries and even between crops, which are characterized by a **high level of duality**. One issue worth highlighting is the need for updated **information** on all aspects related to seeds; for instance, each country should have a national list or catalogue of registered varieties with the potential to be certified or marketed. An updated list of this kind is important for both farmers and seed distributors. According to a **survey** carried out by IICA between November 2019 and January 2020 among **leading individuals involved in seed systems**, the process of registering varieties and their cost can **vary** greatly within a single country.

**Find out all the details in this week's blog post by *Adelaida Harries*, a consultant specializing in seed systems and biotechnology with an extensive career and broad experience in seed policies, regulations, the evaluation and registration of plant varieties, quality control, intellectual property for plant breeder's varieties, as well as the import and export of seeds. <https://bit.ly/3aGl2wx>**

# Relevant issues for the agrifood sector

<b>Production</b> * 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><b>Brazil: 2020-2021 sugarcane harvest to reach 642.1 million tons</b></p> <p>According to the National Supply Company (CONAB), the country is expecting to produce 642.1 million tons of sugarcane during the 2020-2021 harvest, which will allow for producing a record 39.3 million tons of sugar, representing an increase of 32%.</p> <p>With respect to ethanol, the country is expecting to produce a total of 30.6 billion liters, of which 27.9 billion will correspond to sugarcane and 2.7 billion to corn.</p> <p><a href="https://glo.bo/34jNXGr">https://glo.bo/34jNXGr</a></p>	<p><b>Chile: Berry producers in the province of Biobío prepare for harvest</b></p> <p>With the berry harvest season just a few months away, producers and other chain stakeholders are preparing to establish guidelines for harvesting the fruit during the pandemic.</p> <p>According to the <i>Diario Concepción</i> newspaper, berries account for a significant percentage of the farming area at the regional level—about 1,800 hectares, which is more than 90% of the province of Biobío.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3hflqEP">https://bit.ly/3hflqEP</a></p>
<p><b>Costa Rica: Ngöbe-Buglé indigenous people will enter the country to harvest coffee under a strict protocol</b></p> <p>The Ngöbe-Buglé indigenous people from Panama have been granted an exception to enter Costa Rica, although they may be rejected or deported from the country should they fail to comply with established protocols.</p> <p>To be allowed into the country, these farmers must get a medical checkup on arrival, present a binational health card, and complete an isolation period before being provided with private transportation to the coffee farms. Periodic inspections will be carried out on coffee farms to verify compliance with the protocol for coffee farming. <a href="https://bit.ly/32bee7h">https://bit.ly/32bee7h</a></p>	<p><b>Ecuador: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock delivered more than 6,100 property titles</b></p> <p>Despite the pandemic, between March and July, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) delivered 6,165 land titles for a total of 10,964.01 hectares. The titles were delivered using a “door to door” modality (directly to the beneficiaries’ homes) to reduce the risk of infection.</p> <p>According to El Comercio, the land titles were delivered to producers in 21 provinces throughout the country, benefiting about 8,000 people.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3kWMLie">https://bit.ly/3kWMLie</a></p>

**Honduras: economy contracted by 10% during the first half of the year**

According to the Central Bank of Honduras, the Monthly Index of Economic Activity (IMAE) reported an accumulated fall of 10.0%. An inter-annual decrease of 13.4% was reported for the month of June, which represents an improvement compared to April and May, as a result of the gradual reactivation of some economic activities.

The agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing sector experienced a 2% decrease due to the reduction in coffee, melon, watermelon and banana farming.

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

**Paraguay: Agricultural Credit Agency has disbursed more than PYG 230 billion in loans to farming families**

To date, about 23 thousand families have received loans representing more than 230 billion *guaraníes*.

According to *La Nación* and data reported by the Agricultural Credit Agency (CAH), 10% more loans were granted during this period compared to the same period in 2019; despite the pandemic, the default rate is just 3%. CAH is currently developing a new credit line for soil improvement.

<https://bit.ly/3l3jPVR>

## 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.

### **Peru: Exports fall by just 2% thanks to the diversification of the Peruvian market**

Peru has been undertaking efforts to diversify its destination markets and its exportable goods amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The country has capitalized on virtual trade missions to secure new markets for its products. The agricultural inputs sector has been one of the “winners” during the pandemic, due to the fact that the supply chain for agricultural products has not been disrupted—on the contrary, demand for these products has been on the rise.

<https://bit.ly/329b0kT>

### **Chile: Public and private sectors meet to identify challenges related to trade facilitation**

Representatives of Chile’s Export Promotion Bureau (ProChile), the Undersecretariat of Foreign Affairs, the Regional Ministerial Secretariat of Agriculture and the Agricultural and Livestock Service participated in a meeting aimed at fostering greater coordination between public and private entities as well as joining efforts to counteract the economic effects of the pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/3j1Lm8a>

### **Brazil: New inputs for the future of agriculture and the importance of technology**

Agricultural producers must achieve good results from their harvests. To this end, it is crucial to invest in technology and facilitate access to all available inputs. Genetics is undoubtedly the number one engine, but it isn’t the only one.

Other technologies such as fertilizers, phytostimulants and biological products also yield benefits for plants, which translates into higher yields.

<https://bit.ly/31gFYbA>

### **Spain: E-commerce soars**

The coronavirus pandemic is driving the adoption of e-commerce. As a result of quarantine measures, new consumers have been trying online shopping, those who were already online buyers have increased the frequency of their purchases, and many SMEs that were not yet selling their products online have begun to consider this option.

According to a study by digital advertising and marketing association IAB, confinement measures have modified buying habits. One out of every two people interviewed have increased the frequency of their online shopping, and 45% have begun buying physical products online (which they did not do before the pandemic). While most consumers intend to resume the frequency of their pre-Covid online purchases, a quarter of the respondents stated that their experience over the past few months will lead them to increase their online purchases.

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

## Supply

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

### **Entrepreneurs call for enhanced cooperation and public-private sector partnerships to bolster agriculture**

Promoting public-private partnerships will be essential in strengthening and sustaining the boom in agriculture amidst the pandemic, as well in spurring the economic reactivation of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. This was the view of two prominent entrepreneurs in the region: Jens Mesa, Executive President of Colombia's National Federation of Oil Palm Growers (FEDEPALMA), and Hugo Sigman, CEO of Argentina's Grupo Insud – a conglomerate of businesses involved in the life sciences; agribusiness; information and culture; and nature and design.

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

### **Mexico, the United States and Canada bet on agricultural trade to drive post-pandemic economic recovery**

During a high-level virtual dialogue organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), agricultural authorities from Mexico, the United States and Canada highlighted the ways in which intraregional trade can contribute to overcoming the challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. They also agreed that the trade agreement between the three countries, known as the USMCA, will contribute to bolstering economic recovery efforts in the wake of the health crisis.

During a dialogue with Manuel Otero, Director General of IICA, Frédéric Seppey, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Market and Industry Services Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC); Ken Isley, Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-FAS); and Miguel García-Winder, Under Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico, discussed the influence of the USMCA on food supply and the role that multilateralism will play in the future. <https://bit.ly/2CgOMEq>

### **Mexico's agriculture sector will reach a 14-billion-dollar surplus in 2020**

Despite the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the developing region that has been affected the most by the Covid-19 pandemic (as illustrated by the fact that its trade in goods fell by 17% between January and May of this year), ECLAC estimates that agriculture will be the only sector to experience growth, with a projected increase in value of 2% by the end of 2020.

<https://bit.ly/3aHIA6p>

### **Organic farming prevents food shortages among families in Huánuco, Peru**

Until 2010, Lucia Inga Tapia and her 70-year-old mother, Idelberta Tapia Salazar, planted white potatoes and then sold them to intermediaries, like many other small-scale farmers in the town of Pacapuchuro, Huanuco. However, by incorporating a few agro-ecology projects, they began to grow organic avocado, which enabled them to improve their income. "The field provides us with everything we need to survive; we just have to learn how to manage it", explained Lucía Inga, based on her experience in recent years.

<https://bit.ly/34hLKLP>

### **Livestock and agriculture lead funding for micro-entrepreneurs in Panama**

Amidst the pandemic, microentrepreneurs in the livestock and agriculture sectors have received the greatest amount of funding to guarantee the continuity of their businesses, according to a report by Microserfin. According to the BBVA Microfunding Foundation in Panama, loans totaling more than USD 454 thousand were disbursed in June and July. The average amount of loans provided to guarantee business continuity was USD 1,669. <https://bit.ly/3aU9Fm1>

