

Thursday, 29 October 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>

20,064,715

Confirmed cases of
Covid-19 in the
Americas



Countries



Highest number of
cases in the
Americas:

USA (8,836,861)
BRA (5,439,641)
ARG (1,116,609)
COL (1,033,218)
MEX (901,268)

Analysis and scenarios

The latest from the IICA Blog:

[Youth matters in agriculture](#)

So how do we work together with the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners to **ignite the love for farming** among our **young people** when the trend is to work in other sectors such as information and communications technology services, finance or tourism?

**** 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.*

Show them the Money!

The IICA Delegation in Barbados recognized that many students in Barbadian schools **lacked access to technical training** and education in farming and were not being encouraged to **perceive agriculture** as a **viable** and profitable future **career**.

In 2012, IICA initiated the **Youth Farm Summer Programme**, an eight-week **intensive training plan** in **crop and livestock farming**, with a focus on diversified vegetables, and meat for local markets.

The primary **purpose** of the Youth Farm is to show young people that there is money in agriculture.

Give young farmers a voice!

For the **young progressive farmers** that have graduated from the Youth Farm Program and are working hard to **build their agribusinesses** in Barbados, it is vital that these agripreneurs are offered a voice, and that we take note of what they have to say.

In July 2020, the IICA Delegation in Barbados, with financial support from the Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust, created a platform **for sharing** information and knowledge products that supports business development for youth in agriculture.

The Future Farmers Project, seeks to provide a space to **foster continued innovation** in agriculture, and to give youth **a voice** at the national **policy-making** level.

The **response** so far has been **tremendous**, and IICA Barbados has produced its first **Future Farmers Project Report**, featuring the views and experiences of our youth entrepreneurs.

*Find out all the details this week in an article by **Roxanne Waithe**. She has a PhD. in education from the University of the West Indies with a focus on technical and vocational education and training. She provides expertise in the field of training and certification for persons at all levels involved in the agrifood sector and has proven experience in developing and managing national and regional projects.*

<https://bit.ly/37PrK56>



Roxanne Waithe is a Technical Specialist at the IICA Delegation in Barbados

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>Argentina: 11.6% interannual contraction in the economy in August</p> <p>Argentina's Monthly Economic Activity Estimator (EMAE) registered a 11.6% interannual contraction in the economy during the month of August. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, INDEC, between January to August there was a 12.5% cumulative decline in the EMAE vis-à-vis the same period in 2019. The Agriculture, Livestock, Hunting and Forestry sector declined 2.2% in August 2020 in comparison to August 2019.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3oCAj9a</p>	<p>Brazil: rural insurance coverage now exceeds 10 million hectares</p> <p>According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, MAPA, this year more than 10 million hectares have been insured, with the support of the Rural Insurance Premium Subsidy Program (PSR), which tops the record set in 2014, when 9.9 million hectares of crop were insured.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2HMPhJ2</p>
<p>Colombia: FINAGRO disburses record level of rural credit</p> <p>Colombia's Portafolio newspaper reports that figures from the agricultural financing fund (FINAGRO), indicate that between January and September 2020, the entity disbursed loans of more than \$17.3 billion, representing a 30% increase in value over the same period in 2019. An assessment by type of producer and number of loans reveals that 73% of the beneficiaries have been small farmers.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/35FDAMk</p>	<p>Costa Rica: Government strikes agreement with ICAFE to allow entry of Nicaraguans for the coffee harvest</p> <p>CRHoy has reported that as of 1 November, the government will allow exceptional and controlled entry of Nicaraguans to assist in the harvesting of coffee. According to the advisory, ICAFE developed an entry protocol in collaboration with the government, which includes the use of authorized transportation providers, testing and 14 days of quarantining.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3kBzD1C</p>
<p>Ecuador: Ministry of Agriculture launches banana pricing scheme</p> <p>Ecuador's daily newspaper, El Universo, has advised that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has established a new mechanism, which has set four minimum support prices for each box of bananas in 2021.</p> <p>The system sets prices, according to the season, and allows for the signing of contracts with the annual weighted average price equivalent to the minimum support price of \$6.25. According to El Universo, the system includes an incentive for organized small- and medium-scale farmers, which consists of a Support Fund to promote the Productivity Plan. https://bit.ly/2Ty9XHc</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.

Mexico's exports increase for the first time in 2020 thanks to agriculture

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), following a drop in exports due to COVID-19, Mexico's exports increased for the first time in September. Despite a 14.4% cumulative decline in exports during the first few months of 2020, non-oil extraction activities (+25.4%) and agriculture (+19.3%) have been the main sources of growth this year. In September, the agricultural products that experienced the greatest growth were plaiting materials (40%); cereals (30%); meats and edible offal (29%); and coffee, tea and spices (27%). Within the agriculture sector, export values are still highest for fruits and vegetables, compared to other product groups. <https://bit.ly/2TvJp1>

Peru: Agricultural and citrus exports grow

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, agricultural trade has proven to be one of the engines of recovery, given the sector's importance for global food security. According to the IICA Blog, based on a comparison of the March to July period in 2019 and 2020 (representing five months of the COVID-19 pandemic), "in 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries, agricultural exports in dollars grew by 6.8%, while exports of total goods fell by 18.7%".

This corresponds to data available for 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay).

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

Virtual business roundtables held more frequently during the Covid-19 pandemic

Business meetings aimed at supporting small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in gaining access to international markets for their products, have provided companies with an opportunity to swiftly and safely identify potential customers for their products and services. PROCHILE recently organized a large business roundtable with 136 importers from 23 markets. As a result, close to 160 exporters have been able to meet with potential buyers. On the other hand, IICA, together with SIECA, FAO and ALADI, organized two business roundtables for the agrifood sector. The most recent activity, in which 374 people from 22 countries participated, generated USD 11 million of expected business. <https://bit.ly/31QHxg8> <https://bit.ly/31SEIR5>

Pandemic generates new consumption trends and habits in Latin America

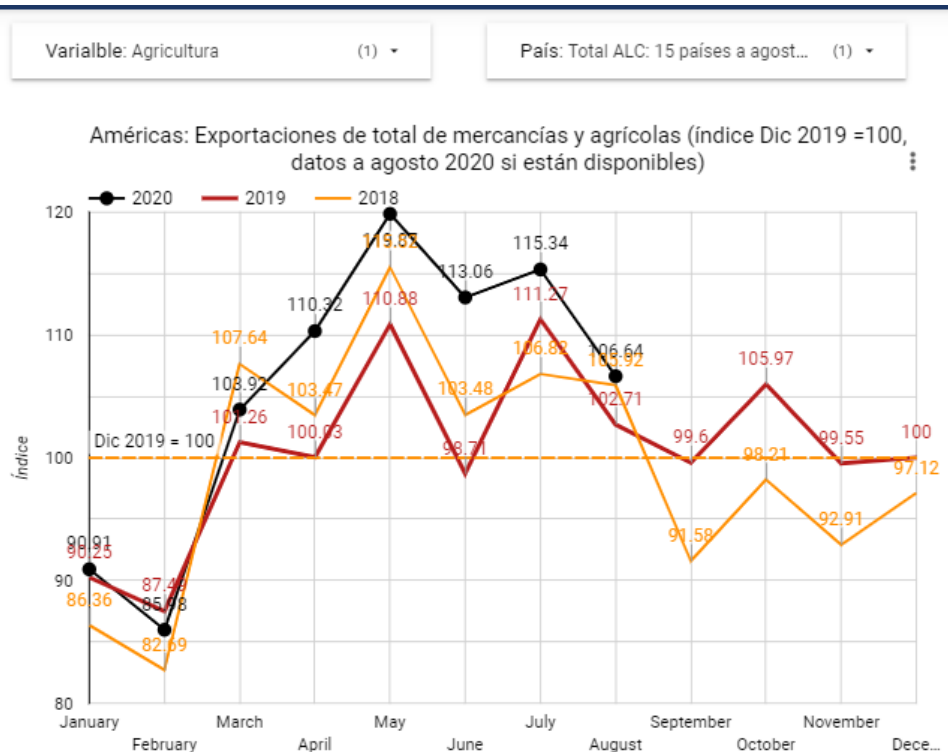
According to the Export Promotion Agency of Costa Rica (PROCOMER), the Latin American population is becoming increasingly interested in healthy eating as a way to ward off the COVID-19 virus and overcome the negative effects of quarantine. This regional trend is benefiting the agriculture sector. In an effort to eat healthier, people are buying more foods of vegetable origin, fruits and vegetables due to their ability to boost the immune system; they are also monitoring their daily food and drink intake and avoiding the consumption of animal products that could carry diseases that are potentially dangerous for humans. On the other hand, greater access to information on various ingredients will force the agribusiness sector to improve its labeling and advertising.

<https://bit.ly/2TAjZYp> <https://bit.ly/37QBIZu>
<https://bit.ly/2TuYQic>; <https://bit.ly/3e7Fp8t>

Agrifood trade during Covid-19

Thanks to Honduras, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay and Costa Rica, the value of agricultural exports from Latin America and the Caribbean increased by 3.8 percent in August 2020 compared to the same month in 2019.

Peru in particular experienced a significant recovery. Following several months of falling exports, the country reported a 36.8 percent increase in agricultural exports in August 2020, compared to August 2019.



Fuente: IICA (CAESPA) con datos de www.TradeDataMonitor.com

Nota: el total mundial y el total para ALC se calculan para cada mes del año 2020 y se indica el número de países que se incluyen según disponibilidad de datos al mes de cálculo. Por ejemplo: ALC a agosto incluye 15 países con datos disponibles a ese mes. AGRICULTURA incluye capítulos 1 al 24 del sistema armonizado y la partida 5201 (algodón sin cardar ni peinar)

Find out all the details in this week's post by specialist **Joaquín Arias** of IICA's Center of Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA), available on the #IICABlog at <https://bit.ly/3oIEnoH>.

From our IICA Specialists

Orlando Vega Charpentier

Specialist in Sustainable Bioenergy and Strategic Partnerships. Bioeconomy and Production Development Program.

“Amidst the pandemic, the means provided by the bioeconomy to sustainably manage biomass and agricultural organic waste afford an opportunity to increase the resilience and adaptability of agricultural production systems”.

Forum: Ibero-American strategic partnerships in the field of bioenergy: The role of biomass and waste networks in energy sustainability and opportunities in the aftermath of COVID-19

IICA represented the Latin American Bioeconomy Network during a virtual event jointly organized by the Research Center for Energy, Environment and Technology (CIEMAT) of the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain and the Ibero-American Network of Biomass and Rural Bioenergy Technologies (Red ReBiBiR), which is funded by the Ibero-American Program on Science and Technology for Development (CYTED) with support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

The forum sought to give visibility to the Ibero-American networks for bioenergy, biomass and waste, whose partnerships will play a key role in meeting many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the aftermath of COVID-19.

For IICA in particular, the event afforded an opportunity to raise awareness of, support and promote the bioeconomy as a driving force for regional development and recovery in an environmentally friendly manner.

The full webinar is available at: <https://bit.ly/34yLxDC>