

## 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>

# 3,430,123

Confirmed cases  
of Covid-19 in the  
Americas



## Country



Highest number of  
cases in the  
Americas:

USA (1,971,302)  
BRA (707,412)  
PER (199,696)  
CHL (142,759)  
MEX (120,102)

## Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZX>. Data as at 9 June 2020 (14:00 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

## Conversation between Nobel Prize winner Michael Kremer and the Director General of IICA

On Wednesday, 10 June, Michael Kremer, winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics for his studies aimed at alleviating global poverty, will have a talk with Manuel Otero, the Director General of IICA.

As part of the event, *“Opportunities for Digital Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Prompt Response to COVID-19”*, Kremer, who is also a Gates Professor at Harvard University, will present a roadmap for effectively combatting poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, through digital agriculture.



The *conversation* will be transmitted in English (original audio) this Wednesday, 10 June at 7 a.m. Costa Rica time (13 hours GMT), in IICA’s Virtual Conference Room ([www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)) and on Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/iicanoticias](https://www.facebook.com/iicanoticias)).

## The latest from the IICA Blog:

### [Outlook for agrifood trade in the post-COVID-19 era](#)

The new international scenario is characterized by two variables: high levels of **uncertainty** and of **disorder**. Both variables are affecting the potential of international trade.

The **landscape changed** from one dominated by **managed international trade**, based on trade agreements, to one of **ultra-managed trade**, characterized by **four main variables**. **The first** is an increase in sanitary and environmental restrictions that has prompted many governments to restrict the entry of imported products—both goods and services—and that will likely pose greater challenges for international trade in food products.

**Find out the details this week** in a presentation by **Gustavo Idígoras**, *economist, President of the Argentine Oil Industry Chamber and of the Center of Grain Exporters, as well as Professor of the University of Tres de Febrero and the University of Buenos Aires.* <https://bit.ly/3e05KV6>

# 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: CONAB predicts record grain harvest</b></p> <p>According to the most recent survey of the National Food Supply Company (CONAB), the country will produce a record grain harvest of approximately 250.5 million tons, thereby increasing the yield of the previous harvest by over 3.5%.</p> <p>Soybean and corn will make up the bulk of production. Forecasts indicate that soy production will grow 4.7% in comparison to the previous harvest. However, corn production is expected to fall by 0.8% for the first harvest and will then increase by 1.4% in the second harvest.</p> <p><a href="https://glo.bo/30pq26H">https://glo.bo/30pq26H</a></p>	<p><b>Ecuador: Geophysical Institute predicts that ashfall from the Sangay Volcano will continue until August</b></p> <p>Ecuador experiences its strongest winds during June, July and August, which could cause the ash to disperse more widely.</p> <p>This will endanger cattle and agriculture, as pasturelands for cattle grazing and crop cultivation have been affected by the ashfall, which points to the need to introduce measures to address the situation.</p> <p>The volcano has been active since May 2019.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/37eDSKu">https://bit.ly/37eDSKu</a> and <a href="https://twitter.com/IGecuador">https://twitter.com/IGecuador</a></p>
<p><b>El Salvador: The Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) has started to quantify damages from Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristóbal</b></p> <p>Preliminary estimates indicate that damages to grain, vegetable and fruit crops amount to \$22.1 million. The storms ravaged 22,476 quintals of basic grains, 15,121 <i>manzanas</i>* of corn fields, 1,121 <i>manzanas</i> of beans and 1,092 <i>manzanas</i> of rice.</p> <p>The country also recorded losses of tilapia, infrastructure and boats, valuing more than 600,000 dollars. The Ministry is seeking to provide solutions, as well as technical assistance to improve production and to provide a phytosanitary plan.</p> <p><b>*NB: A manzana in El Salvador is a land measurement equivalent to approximately 1.7 acres.</b></p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3hb35dp">https://bit.ly/3hb35dp</a> and <a href="https://bit.ly/3e0yWM5">https://bit.ly/3e0yWM5</a></p>	<p><b>Peru: CONVEAGRO is requesting a rescue fund for more than 660,000 farming families</b></p> <p>According to the newspaper, El Comercio, the President of the National Convention for Peruvian Agriculture (CONVEAGRO) has reported that only 20% of people living at altitudes higher than 4,000 meters have received the government grant.</p> <p>CONVEAGRO is requesting an economic rescue and recovery plan (valuing 5 billion soles) for more than 660,000 farming families, which will also enable more than 200,000 returning residents in rural areas to start a business.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/30rUgpE">https://bit.ly/30rUgpE</a> and <a href="https://bit.ly/2AiMT9n">https://bit.ly/2AiMT9n</a></p>

**Honduras: 13 million quintals of basic grains will be sown in the first harvest**

According to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the country is expecting to produce 13 million quintals of basic grains during the winter season. However, the Secretariat is recommending that producers employ basic drainage system practices and remain on the look-out for the tar spot disease. <https://bit.ly/3h7Gmys>

**Paraguay: Agricultural Credit for Rehabilitation (CAH) has already paid out US\$16 million in credit for COVID-19**

The loans are a means of financial assistance to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. To date, CAH has disbursed \$107.297 billion, benefitting approximately 11,000 producers.

In total, the Ministry of Finance has transferred \$120,000 million to CAH to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/3f6Y8Ap>

## 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.

### **Uruguay: strategy proposes to double exports in five years**

Uruguay's Union of Exporters is looking beyond Covid-19 and seeking to establish a work plan in response to changing markets.

The country is prepared to certify the safety of its food products, but will also have to address tariff-related matters to more effectively access destination markets such as China, to which exports of agricultural goods have fallen 24% compared to the January-April 2018 period. Overall, Uruguay's exports have dipped 18% in comparison to the first five months of 2019.

Despite growth in markets such as the United States, Algeria and Canada, there have been fall-offs in products such as soy, meat and cellulose, and therefore the Union is proposing a plan to double sales and access to markets.

<https://bit.ly/3f5bWeP>

### **Peru: agroexports continue to rank second among the sectors with the highest foreign sales**

Between January and April 2020, mango and citrus fruits contributed to boosting agricultural exports from Peru.

Compared to the same period in 2019, exports grew by 3%, primarily due to an increase of 13% in fresh fruit exports.

Exports of fresh grapes and avocado increased by 30% and 11%, respectively, as did exports of mango and citrus fruits, which rose by 23% and 52%, respectively. The Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom were the primary destination markets.

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

### **"New silk road" is China's post-Covid-19 trade strategy**

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) is conducting a study to analyze China's new trade strategy. Following a 6.8% drop in its GDP during the first quarter of 2020, and faced with the threat of a second wave of the virus, China intends to introduce profound agricultural reform aimed at boosting food security.

The country is seeking to reactivate its infrastructure project, which involves 70 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa, in order to foster trade, especially with grain suppliers; it is also seeking to modernize the agriculture sector and to grant subsidies for products such as corn and pork.

### **Colombia: agrifood sector prepares to access international markets**

The Internationalization Factory Program of Colombia's Ministry of Trade has launched the process to access foreign markets. The program seeks to assist close to 800 companies of the agrifood, 4.0 industry and metal-mechanic sectors, among others, in their economic recovery post Covid-19.

The Program provides consultancy services and guidance to foster an export culture, expand the exporting network, and diversify products for export.

The Program has already launched the process of evaluating obstacles to internationalization. Next, it will assist companies in developing action plans and implementing improvements to access foreign

<p>From a logistical standpoint, the country is interested in major agricultural suppliers of corn, soybean and cotton, such as Argentina, Brazil and the United States. <a href="https://bit.ly/2Acivh0">https://bit.ly/2Acivh0</a></p>	<p>markets or, if they have already done so, improving their participation in those markets and acquiring new destinations for their products. <a href="https://bit.ly/2AQ72n8">https://bit.ly/2AQ72n8</a></p>
<p><b>Increased grain production and demand for food during the pandemic benefits the agriculture sector</b></p> <p>Global demand for commodities has quickly recovered following the closure of the Chinese market due to the coronavirus pandemic. This is reflected in greater meat exports from countries like Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.</p> <p>The production of grains in Eastern European countries and Brazil has facilitated this recovery process. It is estimated that Brazil will boost its production by more than 40% over the next decade, while Asian countries and China are expected to increase their food consumption by more than 40% by 2040, which would benefit many Latin American countries, which are food producers.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/37i0Z7a">https://bit.ly/37i0Z7a</a></p>	<p><b>Dubai is the latest destination for Chilean berries</b></p> <p>The Middle East, one of the most food-dependent regions in the world, is showing greater interest in Chilean products such as nuts, frozen salmon, fresh apples, fresh grapes and frozen berries.</p> <p>The latter product has recently entered Dubai’s market as an organic product that meets environmental standards.</p> <p>This is proof that Chile continues to improve its exports and that its fruit and fresh produce sector remains strong amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/2UtlJmX">https://bit.ly/2UtlJmX</a></p>

<h2>Supply</h2> <p>*Measures taken by Ministries of Agriculture in different countries regarding food security.</p>	
<p><b>Ecuador’s women have their sights set on the international market</b></p> <p>Ellen Mortensen’s childhood was filled with the smells of flavored vegetable and fruit preserves being prepared at her home in Quito – a tradition born out of her father’s Danish heritage.</p> <p>As a teenager, she enjoyed preparing preserves herself, later deciding to sell them on the local market in 2015, after patenting her brand, La sazón Laurel. This was the beginning of Conservas Laurelis. She currently employs up to five people, two of them as permanent staff, and produces 20 different products. Conservas Laurelis has a small factory in Quito in a location equipped for food preparation,</p>	<p><b>Demand for agrifood products from Argentina grows, but demand for minerals drops</b></p> <p>Global demand for agricultural commodities, especially meat, has quickly recovered. This has directly benefited Argentina’s exports of animal protein, which have shown a remarkable recovery over the past 30 days, with sales to China rising by more than 30%. In the post Covid-19 era, Brazil will see the greatest growth in agricultural production; its grain harvest for 2020 is expected to exceed 230 million tons, while its farming area is expected to expand to more than 60 million hectares.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3f84DD2">https://bit.ly/3f84DD2</a></p>

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<https://bit.ly/2MGBa76>

### **Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture explore funding options to support agriculture**

The ministers and secretaries of Agriculture of 14 Caribbean countries learned about funding opportunities they will be able to access to implement recovery actions in the agriculture and rural sectors to address the impact of Covid-19.

During a videoconference, representatives of financial institutions, development organizations and donors informed the ministers of funding alternatives and resources available to strengthen agriculture, with special emphasis on food security, resilience, economic recovery, technological innovation, sustainable use of resources and the preservation of biodiversity, among other areas.

<https://bit.ly/3hbik5Y>

### **Mexico fosters the production of organic food**

With a view to fostering production, driving the commercialization of certified organic products in more competitive markets, and providing consumers with greater guarantees, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development updated the Guidelines for Organic Farming Operations. The Agreement modifies several articles of the ordinance that was issued in 2013, and directly benefits about 47 thousand Mexican organic producers, especially medium and small-scale farmers.

<https://bit.ly/2MLf7w8>

### **U.S. meat industry attempts to get back to normal; shortages and workers' health are a concern**

There are now more than 11,000 coronavirus cases tied to Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods and JBS.

<https://wapo.st/2AQ4vth>