

The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas:

A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean

2017-2018

Executive Summary



Food and Agriculture
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As in previous reports, this edition of “Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas 2017-2018” is divided into five basic chapters. This edition, however, includes an additional chapter on the potential contribution of agrifood systems to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

Chapter I. Macroeconomic Context: This chapter analyzes the evolution and outlook for financial and macroeconomic markets, which determine the conditions in which agriculture in the Americas will have to operate.

Chapter II. Context of the Agricultural Sector: The chapter begins with an analysis of the region’s main agricultural aggregates (sectoral context), followed by the trends and prospects for the various subsectors (crops, livestock, fisheries, and forests).

Chapter III. Rural Well-being: Based on the household survey data of twelve Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, this chapter discusses the trends of rural well-being before and after the global financial crisis, focusing on poverty, income inequality, and non-monetary indicators of well-being.

Chapter IV. Policies and the Institutional Framework: This section reviews the trends in agricultural policies in the LAC region and among its main trading partners, emphasizing the main support received by the sector.

A synopsis of each chapter of the document is presented below:

CHAPTER I: MACROECONOMIC CONTEXT

The growth of the world economy appears to be accelerating. Following the weak results of 2016, projections suggest that global economic activity will rebound in 2017 and 2018, bringing widespread improvements to countries. However, growth will continue to present weaknesses and uncertainties, especially in some advanced economies and in countries that export raw materials.

During the first half of 2016, the global economy plummeted: the annual growth rate was one of the lowest in the post-crisis period. However, during the second half of the year, global gross domestic product (GDP) gained some traction, largely due to an upturn in advanced economies. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in 2016 world growth rate was 3.1%, with a declining trend compared to previous years, but a significant and hopeful acceleration during the final months of the year.

The situation in emerging and developing economies, however, is less promising, mainly due to falling prices of raw materials over the past few years as well as the slowdown in the Chinese economy. In addition to low prices for raw materials, Latin America has faced a number of other factors, such as the emergence of internal political crises in various countries of the region, uncertainty over U.S. trade policy and the need for longer fiscal adjustments as a result of the reduction in fiscal revenues from trade in raw materials. In fact, between 2014 and 2016, the performance of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was well below that of the group of emerging economies, China and India. The region’s weak economic

performance in 2016 was primarily due to a contraction in investments and consumption in South American countries.

Trade growth in 2015-2016 was less than the growth of global GDP (almost unprecedented in recent decades), although it began to rebound at the end of 2016 due to higher investments. In particular, exporters of raw materials experienced a drastic contraction in investment and imports throughout 2016, a pattern similar to that observed in 2015. The weak growth of global trade in recent years has had a direct impact on trade in LAC, which in 2015-2016 had its worst performance in eight decades (ECLAC 2016b). The deceleration of the decline in commodity prices in 2016, as well as the improvements expected in 2017, should positively impact the terms of trade in the region.

The growth prospects of the global economy have been adjusted slightly upward, thanks to the recovery of investment, prices of raw materials, and activity in the manufacturing sector. World economic growth, which was 3.1% in 2016, is expected to increase to 3.5% in 2017 and to 3.6% in 2018. In LAC, recovery in regional activity is expected to be weaker than at the end of 2016, with expected growth of 1.1% in 2017 and 2.0% in 2018, albeit with marked differences between countries. International trade is expected to grow again, but recent protectionist trends have generated new uncertainties and risks regarding the future of the world economy.

CHAPTER II: SECTORAL ANALYSIS

i. Context of the Agricultural Sector

An important group of countries (including Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Peru and the Dominican Republic) has shown sustained growth in the volume of production and real agricultural income over a ten-year period.

On the other hand, production rose while real income fell in the countries that are the main agro-exporters in South America (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay), given that these countries specialize in the production of cereals and oilseeds, whose international prices collapsed in the last three years. In another group of countries (mostly in the Caribbean region, including Belize, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis), growth rates of production volumes and real income were negative, primarily as a result of droughts, diseases and pests.

Preliminary data for 2016, when compared to 2015, suggests that agricultural production grew in several LAC countries. Agricultural value added (AVA, measured in constant local currency) increased by 10%, 7.9%, 5%, 4.5%, 4.1%, and 3% in the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Mexico and Haiti, respectively. These growth percentages contrast with the decline observed in the case of Guyana (0.3%), Colombia (0.5%), and Chile (3.2%), where growth rates were lower in 2016 than in 2015. Furthermore, several Caribbean countries were affected by Hurricane Mathew and the citrus subsector by Pierce's disease (greening).

The projections for changes in AVA in 2017 are conservative; they are estimated at roughly 4.9% for Saint Lucia, 3.5% for Chile, 3.2% for Mexico, 2.3% for Costa Rica, 2.1% for Colombia, 2% for Brazil and 1.9% for Guyana. In other countries, the expectations are less than 1.5%.

Furthermore, international commodity prices (in dollars and adjusted for inflation) are on the rise, except for cereals. Cereal prices have fallen by an average of 6.2%, annualized through February 2017. It is the first time in more than a decade that cereal prices have behaved differently from the prices of other food groups. The majority of prices that rose in constant dollars did so to a lesser degree than those in local currencies.

In 2015, global agrifood exports (chapters 1-24 of the harmonized system) fell 11.2% compared to the previous year; however, in LAC they fell by only 7.7%, which confirms that this region performed better than other parts of the world.

Within LAC, the Central subregion recorded the smallest reduction of its exports (2.6%), partly due to the proximity of these countries to the United States, whose economy is currently recovering. Central America was followed, in descending order, by the Caribbean subregion, whose agrifood exports decreased by 6.3%; the Andean subregion, with a 6.5% rate of decrease; and lastly by the Southern subregion, whose exports decreased 10.5%, mainly as a result of the decline in exports of oilseed products. Due to the relative weight of the Southern subregion's trade, it accounted for 93% of the fall in LAC agrifood exports.

Preliminary data for 2016 show an upturn in the growth of LAC's agrifood exports. According to mirror data from the ITC (2017), global agrifood exports fell 3.58% in 2016. In contrast, official data for 2016 for twelve LAC countries available in the COMTRADE database at the time of writing (UN 2017), suggests that the region's agrifood exports fell by barely 0.04%, which is insignificant compared with the fall in global agrifood exports and in LAC's total exports of goods (-2.55%) during the same period.

ii. Agriculture

The fall in international prices, coupled with unfavorable weather conditions, affected the main cereal and oilseed producers and exporters, who, in 2016, experienced reductions in their production and export levels. This situation greatly contributed to reductions in the production of coarse grains and rice in South America. The decrease in corn production in Brazil was offset many times over by the increase in corn production in Argentina, the United States and Canada

and wheat production in Canada, Argentina, and Brazil. On the other hand, in Mexico and most of the Central American and Caribbean countries, cereal production recovered in 2016 after being heavily impacted by El Niño in 2015 and in the first half of 2016. This phenomenon reduced the production of corn and other basic grains (rice and beans) by up to 20% in some countries of the region (Honduras and Nicaragua, for example). Although most Central American countries resorted to imports to recover from the impact of El Niño on domestic prices for staple grains, some countries failed to purchase supplies on the international markets quickly enough, which resulted in temporary shortages and pushed up prices in 2015 and during the first half of 2016.

With respect to tropical crops, changes in climatic conditions and in the performance of international competitors during 2015-2016 enabled some countries in LAC to strengthen their position in the markets. One example is avocado, whose world exports grew at an average annual rate of 15% over the past decade. Mexico has consolidated its standing as the main avocado exporter (accounting for 46% of the global market), as a result of its exports growing at an annual rate of 17%. In addition to avocado, coffee and cocoa have also recovered significantly. With respect to coffee, for instance, the recovery from coffee leaf rust and the improvement of climatic conditions enabled a number of countries including Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica to gain a bigger share of international coffee markets (although Brazil and Mexico experienced significant losses). A similar situation occurred with cocoa. Several LAC countries, such as Ecuador, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia, recovered lost ground in the world market for this product, thanks to the fact that regional production and export growth rates were greater than the global average (although Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon continue to widely dominate the market). LAC countries experienced quite

the opposite situation in the global banana market. Although LAC continues to be the world's largest banana producer and exporter, continued rapid growth during 2015-2016 is increasing African countries' share of the market.

Climate variability and the intensification of mono cropping during the 2015-2016 period created the conditions for the reappearance of plant pests and diseases in some LAC countries, which significantly reduced the region's agricultural potential.

In the short term, the Southern subregion is expected to see increased production of its most important crops (corn and oilseeds), thanks to the combination of a larger cultivated area and higher yields resulting from favorable climatic conditions and an increase in international prices. Increased production in South America (primarily in Brazil and Argentina) would compensate for potentially lower production in North America (especially wheat production in the U.S. and Canada). This positive performance would enable South America to play a leading role in the growth of world crop exports. By recovering the world's main consumers, South America will be able to increase its participation in global exports of cereals and oilseeds.

A reduction in the growth of the demand for cereals and oilseeds from LAC is expected in the long term, primarily due to a reduction in the population growth rate, a slowdown in the economies of the largest food consumers, and decreased use of crops for fuel, as well as any self-sufficiency policies that could be implemented by the main agricultural powers. At the same time, due to the availability of suitable land for farming, some LAC countries, such as the U.S., Canada, Brazil and Argentina, are expected to increase their participation in the production and export of crops at the global level.

Within this scenario, agricultural production and trade in LAC will face significant

challenges, which will force the countries of the region to create policies geared toward increasing productivity, reducing inequity within agrifood chains, increasing resilience, and reducing the environmental impact of its production systems. These actions will play a critical role in agriculture developing its full potential to contribute to the achievement of the goals established in the 2030 Agenda.

iii. Livestock

Livestock production in LAC continues to grow at a rapid pace. Although the countries of the region represent only 9% of the world's population, they produce around a quarter of the world's meat and poultry. Additionally, the region accounts for approximately 10% of the global production of eggs and milk and about 7% of pork production. LAC is clearly emerging as a major world supplier of animal protein. This growth in demand is occurring at a time when, as noted in the 2030 Agenda, concerns about resource scarcity, climate change and the need for more equitable development are becoming increasingly important. In LAC, the rapid growth of livestock production is more the result of higher inventories than the adoption of technologies to improve performance. Currently, there are several related issues affecting the livestock industry in LAC, including political uncertainty, foreign investment in agriculture, technology and animal diseases.

Going forward, the continued growth of the livestock industry in LAC will depend increasingly on improved efficiency resulting from the adoption of new technology and vertical integration. Intensification, sustainability, environmental impacts, climate change and public policies will affect the rate and course of production expansion. Key factors for the continued strong performance of the meat industry in LAC include low grain prices, the intensification of production, higher per capita incomes, continued change

in consumer preferences from beef and lamb to chicken and pork, and policies designed to stimulate production and minimize environmental impacts.

Livestock is one of the fastest growing agricultural sub-sectors in developing countries, but experience shows that rapid growth per se does not necessarily translate into benefits for the poor. In order for growth in the livestock sector to contribute efficiently to poverty alleviation, strategies should primarily focus on eliminating obstacles in the access of rural households to assets, particularly land and capital. As small and medium-scale producers increase their production, the demand for services, inputs, feed and genetic resources is likely to increase, which will require greater involvement of the private sector to complement public sector services.

Animal diseases will represent a constant threat, considering the rapid growth of the livestock industry in LAC. Additionally, climate change will create new problems of disease emergence or resurgence. Countries will continue to strengthen their systems for conducting surveillance and addressing health emergencies at all levels, with the main challenge of extending these services to small-scale livestock producers. Given that many animal diseases cross borders easily, effective multinational cooperation will prove useful in monitoring and controlling diseases. It will also be necessary to strengthen the minimum health standards established by regional, sub-regional and national institutions to address cross-border animal health and food safety crises, as well as improve the efficiency of actions in the early stages of outbreaks (monitoring and preparation).

To meet the challenges associated with the sustainable development of the livestock sector, it is important to implement comprehensive public policy strategies that go beyond the sectoral scope by addressing topics related to investment, financing, innovation, sustainable development and social inclusion.

The sustainable development of the livestock sector involves optimizing its performance while linking aspects related to production, the environment and social justice. This requires the development and implementation of initiatives aimed at contributing to the efficient use of resources, strengthening resilience, guaranteeing equity and social responsibility in livestock activity, strengthening public policy frameworks that favor the development of a sustainable livestock industry, coordinating and harmonizing the institutional capacities of the entities responsible for supervising interactions between livestock producers and the environment, and promoting the adoption of new production technologies for sustainable livestock activity. Consensus among governments and diverse stakeholders in pursuit of a transformative vision of economic, social and environmental sustainability would comply with the SDGs. Family livestock producers are important actors in the development process and play a strategic role in achieving food and nutritional security in rural areas. Greater integration of family producers in markets will not only help to meet future demand for high-quality animal products, but will also create more opportunities for producers to move up the social ladder and, eventually, out of poverty.

iv. Fisheries and aquaculture

Fisheries and aquaculture production in Latin America is growing at an above-average rate compared to other regions of the world. This trend is being driven primarily by aquaculture, since the region has the largest area in the world with potential for aquaculture expansion.

Regional aquaculture is maintaining a steady expansion rate of over 6% in terms of volume, driven by an increase in the production of species traditionally important at an industrial level (salmon in Chile and tilapia in Central America, mainly in Honduras and Costa Rica). The production of cultivated shrimp, however,

has not followed this trend, as demonstrated by its low prices in international markets as a result of the global economic slowdown and an excess of inventories.

Various emerging species, whose production volumes have increased, are gaining ground in markets. Some examples are the Peruvian scallop and some Amazonian species (*paiche*, surubí and pintado) in Brazil. The gradual consolidation of technology for cultivating these species has stimulated greater investment and the expansion of fishing areas.

On the other hand, production by capture fisheries has exhibited a downward trend in recent years, after achieving maximum production levels in the late 1990s. This trend has been influenced by a significant reduction in the Peruvian anchovy catch, one of the most important fisheries, which fell primarily as a result of climate-related effects. Other marine fisheries such as the Chilean jack mackerel, have also shown a contraction in volume, which has forced regulatory authorities to enforce a low catch quota.

Other fisheries, such as lobster in the Caribbean region and shrimp in the Atlantic region (Mexico, Central America and Colombia) have remained stable, with a ban in all countries on incorporating new fishing boats; this has also been the case for prawns in Argentina.

Production volumes for inland fishing (lakes, ponds and rivers) have, for the most part, increased; however, some important basins such as the Colombian Orinoquía region have experienced drastic reductions. Fishing in these ecosystems continues to be the basis of food security for thousands of families, many of whom are indigenous peoples. Given the broad geographic dispersion of these communities, it is highly likely that official data available significantly underestimates both production and the number of fishermen who depend on this activity in the region.

Both the fisheries and aquaculture subsectors face common challenges in the immediate future, such as the negative effects of climate change and weak institutional frameworks. Illegal fishing and overfishing, in particular, continue to threaten the sustainability of fishery resources, while high prices for production inputs remain a constraint for aquaculture.

The sustained increase in the global demand for fishery and aquaculture products will continue to drive aquaculture expansion in the region; as a result, it is important to promote policies that support small-scale producers, in order to maximize the social benefits of an economy based on national waters, referred to as a blue economy.

v. Forests

The total forest cover in LAC spans 935.5 million hectares, which represents 46% of the region's total land area. Despite this abundance, the region has not yet found a way to take advantage of this important resource in a sustainable manner. Although the rate of forest loss is slowing in the region, and has been cut by almost half in the last quarter century (it is currently equivalent to 0.23% per year), it is still high compared to the global annual rate of 0.13%. By contrast, the region's limited planted forest area, which has increased from 1% to 2% over the same period, is low compared to the global value of 7%. This data aside, the important contribution of forests to sustainable development, as well as the preservation of environmental services, is partly evidenced by the actions that countries in the region have undertaken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forests. One example is the expansion of the region's protected forest area from 114.6 million hectares in 1990 to 305.4 million hectares in 2015, representing 32.8% of the total forest area. Additionally, around 18% of forests in

the region have been specifically designated as areas for the protection and conservation of biodiversity, and it is estimated that around 147 million hectares of forest in LAC are under an official forest management plan.

Forests make it possible to diversify the income of rural populations, especially those that are most vulnerable. In many cases, however, trade in as well as use and exchange of wood and non-timber forest products, which constitute an important source of income for a large part of the rural population in some countries, are not reflected in national accounts and are categorized as “informal activities.” Estimated income from informal wood products (USD 8.98 billion), non-timber forest products (USD 3.64 billion) and environmental services (USD 164 million) corresponds to 26% of the gross value added of the forestry sector to the regional economy (USD 49 billion).

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) also contribute to the nutrition and health of local populations. It is estimated that around 5.6 million tons of edible NTFPs are consumed annually, which corresponds to 15.7 kcal/person/day in LAC. With respect to health, about 28% of households in LAC use plant-based medicines on a daily basis, many of which come from forests. In LAC, wood energy constitutes 13% of the region’s energy matrix, and 16% of households use wood as a primary fuel for cooking. Fuelwood represents 7% of the total fossil fuels supply, which is about the same percentage as hydroelectric power, which accounts for 8% of the total. The region has 36% of global carbon stocks contained in 22% of the world’s forest area. At the regional level, it is estimated that 73.4 million people live in houses that use forest products as the main construction material, which corresponds to 12% of the total number of households. With respect to employment, the forestry sector employs 0.5% of the total workforce in the region.

Forests in LAC cover a little less than half of the region’s land area. The forests provide products

and services that contribute to socioeconomic development and to the protection of the environment. They are essential to the lives of millions of people, mainly those who live in rural areas or in a state of poverty, since they provide food and other non-timber products, energy, medicine, and important ecosystem services, which constitute irreplaceable elements for the sustainability of their means of subsistence and livelihoods. Responsible and sustainable forest management, as well actions aimed at the sustainable development (preservation, restoration, protection and production) of natural resources in forest ecosystems, will be critical to the region’s achievement of the SDGs.

CHAPTER III. RURAL WELL-BEING

This chapter presents an analysis of trends and changes related to regional rural well-being between 2002 and 2014 (before and after the global economic crisis), focusing on poverty, women, income inequality, non-monetary measures of well-being, and the SDGs.

The analysis is based on data from rural household surveys administered in twelve LAC countries. The surveys categorize households under five mutually-exclusive types, based on the primary occupation of household heads: 1) wage agricultural, 2) wage non-agricultural, 3) autonomous agricultural, 4) autonomous non-agricultural and 5) inactive.

The data show a stable transition of agriculture toward non-agricultural sectors. Between 2002 and 2014, rural LAC saw its agricultural sectors (wage and autonomous) shrink by more than one-fifth, while the wage non-agricultural sector increased by 50 %. Although this developmental transition halted during the peak of the global financial crisis (2007-2010), the region managed to weather the recession with existing social programs. However, the expansion of the inactive sector indicates that there is a significant skills mismatch between

households leaving agriculture to enter the non-agricultural sector. In particular, skilled jobs in non-agriculture are vacant for three times as long as unskilled jobs; as a result, the region must provide training opportunities to ensure that companies in the non-agricultural sector have a skilled workforce to draw from.

Other important trends related to rural well-being include: a) significant reductions with respect to the poverty rate, poverty gap and income inequality, probably as a result of recent social policies; b) an increase in the number of households headed by women; and c) continued inequality with respect to non-monetary measures of well-being, such as housing quality and level of education. This shows that, although poverty and income inequality have decreased, poor rural households continue to face difficulties due to unmet basic needs.

These results underscore the need for an integrated approach to policies in order to ensure continued economic development, reduced inequality, and gender parity in the short- and long-term. This approach should include, in the first instance, training programs via public-private partnerships that are geared toward reducing the skills mismatch observed throughout the region. These programs would ensure that workers possess the skills required by companies and would also reduce government costs if companies are providing the training. Secondly, the approach should incorporate policies that support women and girls, in order to ensure that women have equal skills, pay, and access to information. This could stem the cycle of gender inequality as women direct resources towards girls' education. Lastly, investments in public housing should be addressed by means of public works programs. This would revert inadequate access to basic housing while also providing work for vulnerable households and providing retraining opportunities to facilitate the transition from agriculture to non-agriculture.

CHAPTER IV. POLICIES AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Governments continuously strive to make public spending more effective and efficient, in order to tackle challenges and take advantage of opportunities for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas. They also seek to adequately respond to commitments undertaken at global forums and to changes in the global financial and social contexts. This chapter analyzes the most recent innovations in the management of public agricultural policies, while making reference to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Across the world, policies are evolving toward a market approach that allows farmers to make better decisions, although this trend is less apparent in LAC countries. In general, despite certain differences between sectors, producer support policies in LAC favor transfers associated with prices and market management (including the input market). This makes them a disincentive to innovation and the improvement of productivity. Countries that make significant efforts to modify the type of support provided to producers allocate more public resources to the provision of general services for producers collectively (rather than direct transfers to individual producers). Such services include research and development (R&D), inspection, marketing, promotion, agricultural education, infrastructure and public storage, with more lasting impacts and multiplier effects.

As direct support for agriculture is reduced and the effects of climate change become more pronounced, integrated risk management policies have been actively promoted in recent years, although in the case of small-scale agriculture they are still at the embryonic stage. The main obstacle to the implementation of these types of policies and their respective instruments is the need to ensure that risk transfer mechanisms are sustainable and viable

for governments (given the limited public funding available) and profitable for the private sector, without undercutting the proactive role that farmers should play in addressing their own risks. This chapter describes the progress achieved in adopting risk management instruments, including methods for protecting farmers from risks posed by variations in prices and income, as well as methods adopted by the State to protect them from catastrophic or systemic risks.

This chapter also presents other innovations related to policies for promoting a more intensive and sustainable agriculture. Methods for providing direct support to producers are compared with other more effective measures, such as: a) promotion of access to, and the use of, quality seeds; b) driving of agricultural mechanization to foster greater integration among producers, manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of machinery services; c) a series of private initiatives and public policies for the sustainable management of natural resources, geared toward improving the balance between mandatory, conditional and voluntary programs, although there is limited experience in LAC with respect to environmental conditionality, which should gain importance in the future. Furthermore, the chapter reports on the manner in which markets are evolving toward regulations that promote a more rational use of natural resources in production processes.

A topic that is gaining importance in LAC countries is the implementation of systems for monitoring and evaluating agricultural policies, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency, strengthening accountability processes, and responding to the need to monitor progress achieved with respect to international commitments (for example, the 2030 Agenda). The greatest challenge for LAC will be institutionalizing policy evaluation processes so that they form an integral part of the agricultural policy cycle.

Trade negotiations currently underway are shaping a new trade agenda in the Americas that seeks to establish new intraregional economic relations with Asia and Europe. The economic integration agenda in LAC will focus primarily on strengthening the bonds between members of the Pacific Alliance, between the Pacific Alliance and the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), and between Mexico and the rest of LAC; in the two latter cases, these bonds will be strengthened by the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Lastly, this chapter analyzes the actions that LAC countries have undertaken to actively participate in global agreements on climate change, including the signing and legislative ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as the inclusion of actions or references to the agricultural sector in their intended and determined contributions, in which the sector is addressed with a focus on adaptation.

In order to advance toward meeting the goals associated with the SDGs, a series of coherent, multi-objective, effective and efficient policies that are managed at various levels of intervention are required. These policies should generate the conditions necessary to enable countries to respond in an adequate and timely manner to market signals; to make the best decisions regarding what, when and how much to produce; to adopt technologies and to create innovations that make it possible for them to compete equally with producers from more advanced regions. Domestic market development policies will also be necessary in order to support regional integration and vice versa. Future integration processes will need to respond to the specific needs of agricultural producers in terms of infrastructure, transportation and services (for example, trade information) and address the complexity of regulations.

FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE 2030 AGENDA

This chapter proposes a policymaking methodology aimed at strengthening the food system, which takes the 2030 Agenda as a frame of reference and relies on network analysis.

The analysis in this chapter allows for identifying two major policy areas. The first, sustainable production and consumption, encompasses production, processing and packaging, and consumption activities, the food security function and the SDG target of capacity-building (17.9). The second area, pertaining to food security and social well-being, encompasses the use of and access to food security, the social well-being function and the SDG target of hunger eradication (2.1).

The chapter highlights the importance of policy coordination and linkage between

different sectors in order to strengthen the competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability of the food system, primarily between the agricultural sector and the financial and trade, health and education, water and energy, and environmental sectors. This coordination is important within the context of the 2030 Agenda and is particularly relevant for policies relating to food systems.

The targets recognized as priorities can be used to identify relevant policies on food and nutrition, increasing productivity, fostering sustainable production and consumption, promoting the production and consumption of renewable energy, production development, environmental management and climate change, market access, inclusion and social protection, recovery of agricultural and agroindustrial waste, and cooperation for development. The chapter also identifies monitoring challenges and highlights the importance of network analysis to support policymaking that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda.