

## Foreword

Global agriculture has evolved into a highly diverse sector, with operations that range from small subsistence farms to large multinational holdings. Farmers' products are sold fresh in local markets, but also across the world through sophisticated and modern value chains. Beyond their traditional role of providing humankind with food, farmers are important custodians of the natural environment and have become producers of renewable energy.

In order to meet the high expectations society places on agriculture, public and private decision makers require reliable information on the likely trends of global demand, supply, trade and prices and the factors driving them. To this end, the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook* is an annual reference that provides a comprehensive medium-term baseline scenario for agricultural commodity markets at national, regional and global levels.

In addition to providing a plausible baseline scenario for agriculture markets in the coming decade, the *Outlook* identifies a widening set of risks to agricultural markets that can help policy makers better anticipate and manage them. These include the spread of plant and animal diseases and the growing risk of extreme climatic events, as well as possible supply disruptions from growing trade tensions.

This *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028* foresees that the demand for agricultural products will grow by 15% over the coming decade. The way in which this demand is met will determine the sector's impact on the natural resource base, notably land, water, and biodiversity. Rising food production also comes with higher greenhouse gas emissions, with nearly one quarter of all emissions coming from agriculture, forestry and land use change.

Unsurprisingly, there are now mounting pressures on agriculture to reduce its carbon footprint, and to help mitigate climate change.

At the same time, roughly two billion people derive their livelihoods from agriculture. Many of the world's poorest people will continue to live in rural areas and will depend on agriculture for an important share of their incomes. Some 820 million people worldwide remain undernourished, while millions suffer from other forms of malnutrition, such as micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.

This report supports the work of our Members in their efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030, as committed under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in the 2015 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement.

This year's *Outlook* includes a special chapter that focuses on the prospects and challenges for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. While highly diverse, the region has become the largest exporter of agricultural commodities in the world and is expected to further reinforce this position in the coming decade. The region is also home to 57% of the world's primary forests and the source of 40-50% of the world's biodiversity. Tailored and concerted policy responses are needed across Latin America and the Caribbean to create an enabling environment that supports rural livelihoods, while protecting the natural resource base and promoting mutually beneficial trade relationships with food importing regions.

This report complements wider collaborative efforts between our two organisations, including through the G20 and G7 processes. In particular, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) complements this medium-term *Outlook* by providing short-term information that contributes to enhanced market transparency and better co-ordination of policy responses for food security.

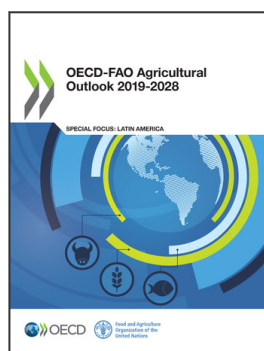
We hope that this new edition of our joint *Outlook* will once again provide our Member governments, as well as all other stakeholders, with useful forward-looking market information and analysis. These insights can empower countries to make informed policy decisions that will benefit their citizens and protect the natural resources that they depend upon. Our organisations are committed to working together to ensure a sustainable use of our natural resource base for improved global food security and nutrition, and to making a meaningful contribution to help achieve the SDGs.



Angel Gurría  
Secretary-General  
Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and Development



José Graziano da Silva  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the United  
Nations



**From:**  
**OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028**

**Access the complete publication at:**  
[https://doi.org/10.1787/agr\\_outlook-2019-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/agr_outlook-2019-en)

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2019), "Foreword", in *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028*, OECD Publishing, Paris/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/bcea7dd6-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).