

**Socio-economic indicators
relating to the
agricultural sector and rural development**

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M-64

ISBN 92-5-101497-3

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FOREWORD

This publication provides a compendium of internationally comparable series of statistical indicators which are currently available using the data bank of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, called the Interlinked Computerized and Processing System on Food and Agricultural Commodity Data (ICS). It is being issued at this time as the first in a series of publications containing socio-economic indicators which the Statistics Division is planning to prepare regularly in the future.

Urgent needs for socio-economic indicators data relating to agriculture until now have been met by ad hoc compilations, such as one prepared in 1971 for the appraisal of progress in the agricultural sector during the UN Second Development Decade. In 1973, the Sixth Session of the Statistical Advisory Committee of Experts recommended that the Statistics Division expand its work in the field of indicators, particularly those which could be compiled from the FAO data bank (ICS) or for which data could be obtained easily from member countries.

The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), held in Rome in July 1979, called upon Member Governments to monitor and evaluate progress towards their national goals and goals prescribed by WCARRD for agrarian reform and rural development, and to report to the 1983 Conference setting benchmarks in 1980 from which progress can be measured. The FAO Conference later the same year considered that if countries provided data for a set of socio-economic indicators measuring changes in agricultural production and rural living, it would be a suitable way for them to report. To assist Member Governments in this reporting, FAO has collaborated with other UN agencies in drawing up a proposed set of indicators covering all the WCARRD "Areas of Concern".

Preparing the latter set of indicators requires data sets which in many instances countries do not yet have available. Furthermore, their usefulness will often depend on whether the data have been disaggregated by sex, rural/urban population, socio-economic groups, etc. Country programming of long-term development of statistical services is being encouraged, and guidelines are being prepared so that in the future such data may be available more widely and also be internationally comparable. Meanwhile it is hoped that country-wide data for some important indicator series relating to the agricultural sector, presented in a format conducive to international comparison, will meet the needs of certain analyses and policy deliberations.

This publication is being issued in provisional form in order to solicit comments and suggestions from various types of users for its future improvement. Its scope is limited to indicators for which the basic data are of sufficient standardization and country coverage that they have been included in the computerized FAO data base. The need to restrict the publication to a reasonable size dictated the choice of presenting the data for all countries together for a given indicator, rather than all indicators for a country, and also the number of years, time-period averages and growth rates which could be shown. Future publications including additional indicators, country tables, and longer time coverage are under consideration, and readers' reactions to the present volume will serve as a guide in planning them. Comments and suggestions should be addressed to the Director, Statistics Division, FAO, Rome.

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I. INTRODUCTION

This publication presents data series on thirty-three socio-economic indicators. They are derived from FAO's data bank in the Interlinked Computerized and Processing System on Food and Agricultural Commodity Data (ICS) which contains data on individual years from 1966 to date. With the exception of fertilizer data, which are reported according to the fertilizer year (July-June), all information refers to calendar years.

The indicators presented here were selected from 350 indicators listed in A Systematic Approach to Social Indicators within FAO's Concerns (FAO, Consultant Report, Rome, 1978). The latter paper made general proposals for a programme of work on social indicators and social statistics relating to agriculture, food and nutrition and rural development in view of the work being carried on in this field, especially in other international organizations, and particularly in view of FAO's specific needs for key indicators integrated around its programme objectives. A Systematic Approach listed 350 indicators under 13 main topics and sub-topics as appropriate and also indicated for which indicators data on their components were already compiled on FAO's Interlinked Computer System. From this latter group, for practical reasons, a further selection had to be made, taking into consideration those "Areas of Concern" cited by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development which relate most directly to activity in the agricultural sector.

Published Sources of Data

The data used in compiling the indicators are published in the annual publications of the FAO Statistics Division: Production Yearbook, Trade Yearbook, Fertilizer Yearbook, and other regular publications, such as Food Balance Sheets. Data for Indicator No. 12 on gross domestic product, total and agricultural, were taken principally from World Bank sources, and in a few cases were updated with data from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations and from national sources.

Time Reference

The data used in the publications of FAO have, with very few exceptions, the calendar year as the time reference period. For the 1970's it was possible to calculate the ten-year average covering all the years 1971 through 1980. For the 1960's, for technical reasons, the averages cover only the four years 1967 through 1970. The growth rates for the two decades cover the same periods.

Growth Rates

The term "growth rate" has been used throughout as the column heading. In some instances the term "rate of change" might have been applied more appropriately, as will be evident to users when these rates are negative. Growth rates were calculated using the compound average method. Users are advised to interpret these rates with caution as in most instances they have been calculated from ratios which involve more than one variable.

Country Groups

In addition to indicators for individual countries, the weighted averages appropriate to each indicator have been prepared for the world, continents and certain other groups of countries. These groupings are determined by region and/or by type of economy. Listings of the countries included in each group are given below.

Developed Market Economies

Region A - North America: Canada, United States.

Region B - Western Europe: Andorra, Austria, Belgium-Luxembourg, Denmark, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany (incl. West Berlin), Gibraltar, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal (incl. Azores and Madeira), San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (incl. Channel Islands and Isle of Man), Yugoslavia.

Region C - Oceania: Australia, New Zealand.

Region D - Other developed market economies: Israel, Japan (incl. Bonin and Ryukyu Is.) South Africa.

Developing Market Economies

Region A - Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spanish North Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Upper Volta, Western Sahara, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Region B - Latin America: Antigua, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (incl. Galapagos Islands), El Salvador, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, US Virgin Islands, Venezuela.

Region C - Near East: Africa: Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan. Asia: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Gaza Strip (Palestine), Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen.

Region D - Far East: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, East Timor, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Region E - Other developing market economies: America: Bermuda, Greenland, Saint Pierre and Miquelon. Oceania: American Samoa, Canton and Enderbury Islands, Christmas Island (Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Johnston Island, Kiribati, Midway Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Pacific Islands (Trust Territory), Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wake Island, Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Centrally Planned Economies

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