

A stylized map of Europe and Central Asia is shown in yellow. Overlaid on the map are several vertical bars in various colors (purple, orange, green, blue, red) that vary in height, resembling a bar chart. The background is a dark blue with a repeating pattern of light blue numbers (0-9) and green geometric shapes (squares and triangles) at the bottom.

FAO Statistical Yearbook 2012

**Europe and Central Asia
Food and agriculture**



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be key to effectively addressing the many challenging environmental issues of our time, including climate change, water scarcity, atmospheric and sea pollution, as well as land degradation. Agriculture has a clear role in providing ecosystem services to protect the environment and in preserving our planet's natural resource base. As the sector is now intertwined with almost every aspect of the development agenda, a major challenge is to capture and to monitor the multiple roles of agriculture.

Providing reliable and timely information on the status of food and agricultural sectors in multiple contexts is at the core of the FAO mandate, and in particular of the FAO Statistics Division, and the statisticians who work in the various FAO regional and country offices around the globe. Concerted efforts are being made by FAO and our partners to enhance country capacities in providing more, better quality and timely statistical information in response to the continuous need to improve the quality, quantity and scope of agricultural and rural statistics, particularly in assisting policy-makers and analysts.

In response to the demand for a more comprehensive region-specific set of statistics and indicators which are amenable to an ever-widening audience, we have attempted to meet the challenge through this statistical yearbook which is a thematically-driven, statistical snapshot of the major trends and issues related to food and agriculture in Europe and Central Asia.

We hope you will find this book informative and useful.



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