most cereals import-dependent countries in the period from 2015 to 2017, the majority are small island developing states and countries in the Near East, where the natural conditions are not favourable to cereals production (see Figure 51).

The composition of the dietary energy supply, detailed in food balance sheets, varies greatly between the regions, with notable evolutions between 2000 and 2017 (see Figure 52).

Cereals were the most important contributor to the dietary energy supply in all regions, with shares in 2017 ranging from 25 percent in Oceania to around 50 percent in Asia and Africa. Fats and oils is the second major food group in all the regions but Africa. Regional specificities include the high share of roots, tubers and pulses in Africa, of sugar in the Americas, and of fats and oils in Oceania. Between 2000 and 2017, the most visible changes in the composition of the food supply took place in Asia (where the share of cereals dropped by 6 percentage points while that of fats and oils, meat, fruit and vegetables, and dairy and eggs increased significantly).

The average protein supply increased in all regions between 2000 and 2017 (see Figure 53). The growth in developing regions was as fast or faster than the world average of 10 percent: 15 percent in Asia, 13 percent in Africa, 10 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean. The share of protein from animal origin went up across all regions as well (as a consequence of the increased share of meat, fish, and dairy and eggs in diets observed in Figure 52): it is highest in Oceania and lowest in Africa. Strong disparities also prevail between regions in terms of levels and composition. Protein supply was highest in Northern America and Europe in 2015−17, with 105 g per person per day compared with 61 g per person per day for Africa – the primary reason for this is the difference in the availability of protein from animal-sourced sources.