

## **FAO-IICA meeting, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 June 2013**

### Overview of FAO activities in Latin America and Caribbean region Regional Statistical Yearbook

In 2012, the Statistics Division of FAO launched a Statistical Yearbook with a very new look and feel. The publication now presents a visual synthesis of the major trends and factors shaping the global food and agricultural landscape and their interplay with broader environmental, social and economic dimensions. In doing so, it strives to serve as a unique reference point on the state of world food and agriculture for policy-makers, donor agencies, researchers and analysts as well as the general public.

The novelty of the Yearbook is not only the content, which fills a global gap of presenting up to date information on agriculture and food security, but the efficient method of production sets a precedent for dissemination. The print publication is generated with the statistical software R in combination with the typesetting program LaTeX, both open source software. The two programs work in concert to provide a seamless process in generating data publications and therefore more efficient dissemination tools.

Thus far, two global Yearbooks have been released. A Pocketbook, which is a reduced version of the Yearbook but presented instead by country, has also been disseminated. In 2012, two regional Yearbooks –from Europe and Central Asia and Africa – have been produced. In 2014, all regions – including Latin America and the Caribbean – will join the suite of products. Each region will produce its own regional Yearbook, with regional-specific information, groupings, maps, and visualizations.

The RLC Yearbook will be released in time for the FAO Latin America Regional Conference, which will take place in the first quarter of 2014.