



Highlights from the 2013 FAPDA Global Report

Food and agriculture policy decisions: main trends and emerging issues identified in 71* countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), from 2007 to 2012

About FAPDA

The Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) initiative aims at promoting evidence-based decision making by collecting and disseminating information on policy decisions through a freely accessible web-based tool. The FAPDA tool gathers policy decisions collected since 2008 from more than 80 countries.

This brief presents the results of the 2013 FAPDA Global Report "Food and Agriculture Policy Decisions: Trends, Emerging Issues and Policy Alignments since the 2007/08 Food Security Crisis".



To learn more about FAPDA and the tool, please visit:

- www.fao.org/economic/fapda

- www.fao.org/economic/fapda/tool/



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Since the 2007/2008 global food crisis, governments have focused on ensuring food security, improving food access and availability

- ▶ Governments are gradually moving from universal subsidies for food and fuel towards more targeted interventions to reach vulnerable and food insecure households.
- ▶ A growing number of countries have shifted from short-term, ad-hoc cash or food-based interventions, often implemented in response to emergencies, towards mainstreaming and institutionalizing social safety net programmes.
- ▶ Food stocks have gained momentum after the crisis, with an increasing role of public food reserves for emergency distributions and price stabilization purposes, mainly in Asia and Africa.
- ▶ Governments have initially responded to the crisis with measures restricting exports and facilitating imports to ensure food availability. Subsequently, over the 2009-2012 period, they have modified import tariffs and/or relaxed export restrictions in order to either secure food for consumers or to protect domestic producers.

*COUNTRIES SURVEYED OVER THE REFERENCE PERIOD (2007-2012)

AFRICA

Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

ASIA

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Yemen

LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN (LAC)

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela



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Countries have increasingly implemented measures to support production and manage price volatility and production risks

- ▶ While input subsidy programmes continued to be a major instrument to boost production, a number of countries have taken measure to improve the efficiency of such programmes by replacing a universal coverage with more targeted schemes, focused on vulnerable households and staple grains.
- ▶ Governments have facilitated access to credit for smallholder farmers through various instruments, such as reduced interest rates, credit guarantee schemes and specialized banks.
- ▶ A growing number of countries have progressively adopted insurance and other risk management tools to protect farmers against production shocks. Price stabilization and price support measures have also recently been introduced or expanded to mitigate the impact of price volatility, especially in Asia.
- ▶ Countries have been increasingly addressing market information asymmetries and improving the efficiency of local markets through developing modern and interlinked market institutions, such as warehouse receipt systems, commodity exchange and market information systems.
- ▶ In the context of increasing demand for farmland following the crisis, several countries, especially in LAC, have implemented policy measures aimed at improving access to land and ensuring tenure security for smallholders.

Policy harmonization among member countries of Regional Economic Communities remains a major challenge especially in the wake of the food crisis, while at national level, integrated policy strategies to support food self-sufficiency have received attention in a growing number of countries.

- ▶ Increased trade policy misalignment has been observed in some Regional Economic Communities (RECs) due to unilateral trade restrictions adopted by some countries in response to the food crisis.
- ▶ Regional food or grain stocks have received renewed interest among some RECs, although technical issues have delayed implementation in most cases.
- ▶ A growing number of import-dependent countries, especially in Asia, have revamped food self-sufficiency approach and adopted an integrated policy and strategic framework to increase national production.

TREND IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED POLICY DECISIONS IN THE 71 SURVEYED COUNTRIES OVER THE PERIOD 2007-2012

