

FOREWORD

The FAO Statistical Yearbook provides a selection of indicators on food and agriculture by country. The data are drawn from FAOSTAT, the Organization's corporate statistical database (available at <http://faostat.fao.org/>), as well as several FAO divisions and other sources within the UN system. FAOSTAT is based on data submitted by member countries in response to standard questionnaires, supplemented by a review of national sources and estimates or imputations to cover critical gaps. It brings together data from different domains and sources, and provides time series and cross sectional data relating to food and agriculture.

The new series of the FAO Statistical Yearbook started in 2004 and it consolidates and replaces four previous FAO publications – the FAO Bulletin of Statistics and the FAO Production, Trade and Fertilizer Yearbooks. The Yearbook covers a wide spectrum of statistics and indicators belonging to several thematic topics. It serves as a reference guide to economists, policy-makers and analysts.

Although the structure of the Yearbook remains unchanged covering the same seven thematic topics (resources, agricultural production, international trade, consumption, prices, distribution, and human welfare), users will notice changes within some of the sections. New tables have been added, some others modified and some deleted. This is mainly in response to feedback from users for which we are most grateful.

All thematic tables cover the same countries, even if no item in a particular table is relevant for a particular country. World totals refer to all countries including those that are not shown. Included in this Yearbook are summary general notes, glossary of terms used and a list of country names in the six languages of the Organization.

In presenting this publication, the FAO Statistics Division would like to acknowledge the combined efforts of statisticians, and data processing staff around the world, in particular staff in ministries of agriculture and statistical offices, in international institutions and in non-governmental organizations, whose efforts have made this publication possible. The important contribution of these institutions and individuals, together with that of the staff of FAO country offices and the staff of the FAO Statistics Division, merits recognition.

Director, FAO Statistics Division

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