

World agriculture: towards 2015/2030

AN FAO PERSPECTIVE

Edited by Jelle Bruinsma



EARTHSCAN

WORLD AGRICULTURE : TOWARDS 2015/2030

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Explanatory notes

SYMBOLS AND UNITS

ha	hectare
kg	kilogram
US\$	US dollar
tonne	metric ton (1 000 kg)
billion	thousand million
p.a.	per annum
kcal	kilocalories
p.c.	per capita
n.a.	not available
mm	millimetre
km ³	cubic kilometre
mln	million
m ³	cubic metre
mt	metric ton

TIME PERIODS

1998	calendar year
1997/99	average for the three years centred on 1998
1970-90	period from 1970 to 1990
1997/99-2030	period from the three-year average 1997/99 to 2030

GROWTH RATES

Annual percentage growth rates for historical periods are computed from all the annual data of the period using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method to estimate an exponential curve with time as the explanatory variable. The estimated coefficient of time is the annual growth rate. Annual growth rates for projection periods are compound growth rates calculated from values for the begin- and end-point of the period.

COUNTRIES AND COUNTRY GROUPS

The list of countries and the standard country groups used in this report are shown in Appendix I. In the text, the term “transition countries” is used to denote the countries in Eastern Europe (including the former Yugoslavia SFR) and in the former Soviet Union. The term “industrial countries” is used for the countries referred to formerly as “developed market economies”.

LAND DEFINITIONS

Arable area is the physical land area used for growing crops (both annual and perennial). In any given year, part of the arable area may not be cropped (fallow) or may be cropped more than once (double cropping). The area actually cropped and harvested in any given year is the harvested area. The harvested area expressed as a percentage of the arable area is the cropping intensity. Land with (rainfed) crop production potential consists of all land area that is at present arable or is potentially arable, i.e. is suitable for growing crops when developed (see Chapter 4).

DATA SOURCES

All data are derived from FAO sources unless specified otherwise.

Contributors to the book

This book is the product of cooperative work by most technical units of FAO. It was prepared by a team led by Jelle Bruinsma under the general direction of Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department. Members of the team were Nikos Alexandratos (consultant), Josef Schmidhuber, Gerold Bödeker and Maria-Grazia Ottaviani. Paul Harrison edited most of the chapters.

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