# FAO Statistical Yearbook 2012

Africa Food and agriculture



# FAO STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 2012 Africa Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Africa Accra, 2012

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### Introduction

### **Foreword**

The objective of the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is to improve sustainable nutrition and food security in the African continent. To realize this vision, RAF focuses its work on promoting sustainable increases in agricultural production, enhancing sustainable use and management of natural resources, supporting market access and sanitary measures for better trade, and promoting information and knowledge management and sharing. The issue of better monitoring progress, learning from experiences and improving further activities is one of great importance to RAF and statistical data constitute important input.

The "FAO Statistical Yearbook 2012: Africa Food and Agriculture", which RAF is pleased to release, aims to disseminate statistical information that will help all stakeholders to access, easily and quickly, a set of statistics on food and agriculture related to the current themes and domains of interest in the region. The document provides users in Africa and abroad with statistics and reliable indicators on food and agriculture that can be used for policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation. These statistics and indicators cover a wide range of themes: agricultural production, productivity and growth, investment, rural population and well-being, poverty, rural employment, gender, food security, food safety and nutrition, natural resource use in agricultural activities (e.g. land, water and forest), climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity.

The 2012 Statistical Yearbook uses a new publication format, promoted by the FAO Statistics Division. It goes beyond the traditional compilation of tables by including more graphs, maps and text, highlighting the main trends and issues observed in the data. This new format responds to new demands for a more comprehensive set of statistics and indicators that provide a broader and more in-depth examination of the various roles of agriculture.

This edition responds to the specific needs of African users by providing indicators for each country as well as aggregate indicators for Regional Economic Communities and for the entire African continent. Indicators for other regions of the world are presented for easy comparison.

We hope you will find this book informative and useful

Maria Helena Semedo Assistant Director-General,

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for Africa

FAO Chief Statistician

Religion

Statistics Division

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