

# Rural Migration News

## Blog 199

JANUARY 2021

### FAO: Ag employs 27% of world's workers, generates 4% of GDP

Agriculture employed a quarter of the world's workers in 2019. The share of the world's workers employed in agriculture fell from 1.1 billion or 40 percent of 2.6 billion workers in 2000 to 884 million or 27 percent of 3.3 billion workers in 2019.

Despite the exit of 169 million Chinese from agriculture over the past two decades, and the exit of 25 million Indians, China and India each have about 200 million people employed in agriculture. There are

225 million people employed in African agriculture, half of the continent's employment.

Women were 37 percent of those employed in agriculture globally, but over 50 percent of those employed in agriculture in many African countries.

The value added by agriculture, forestry, and fisheries was \$3.4 trillion or four percent of the world's \$85 trillion GDP in 2018. By continent,

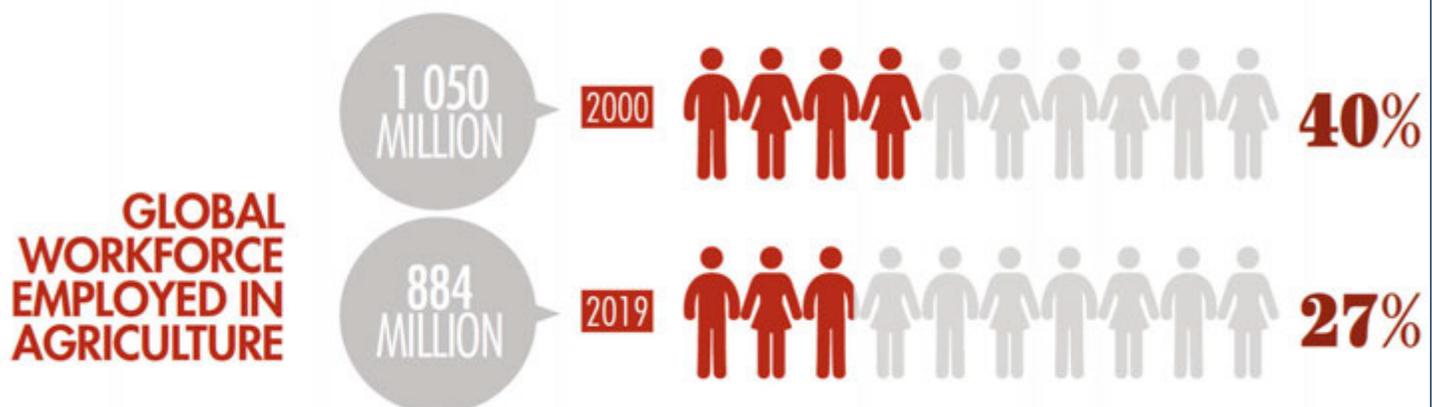
value added in agriculture was \$2.2 trillion in Asia, \$480 billion in the Americas, \$397 billion in Africa, \$328 billion in Europe, and \$45 billion in Oceania. The share of value added contributed by agriculture to GDP fell in Asia over the past two decades as nonfarm economies expanded, but rose in Africa.

Value-added subtracts the value of purchased farm inputs from farm cash receipts, so the gap between farm cash receipts and value added is smaller in developing countries where farmers purchase fewer seeds, chemicals, and fertilizers. China accounted for \$1.1 trillion in agricultural value added, India \$400 billion, and the US \$184 billion.

The Big 4 crops, sugar cane (21 percent of the Big 4 crop tonnage), corn or maize (13 percent), rice (nine percent), and wheat (eight percent) accounted for half of the 9.1 billion tons of primary crops in 2018. Fruits and vegetables were about 20 percent of global crop production in 2018.

Many countries produce the Big 4 crops, but the top three countries account for half or more of the total production of sugarcane, corn, rice,

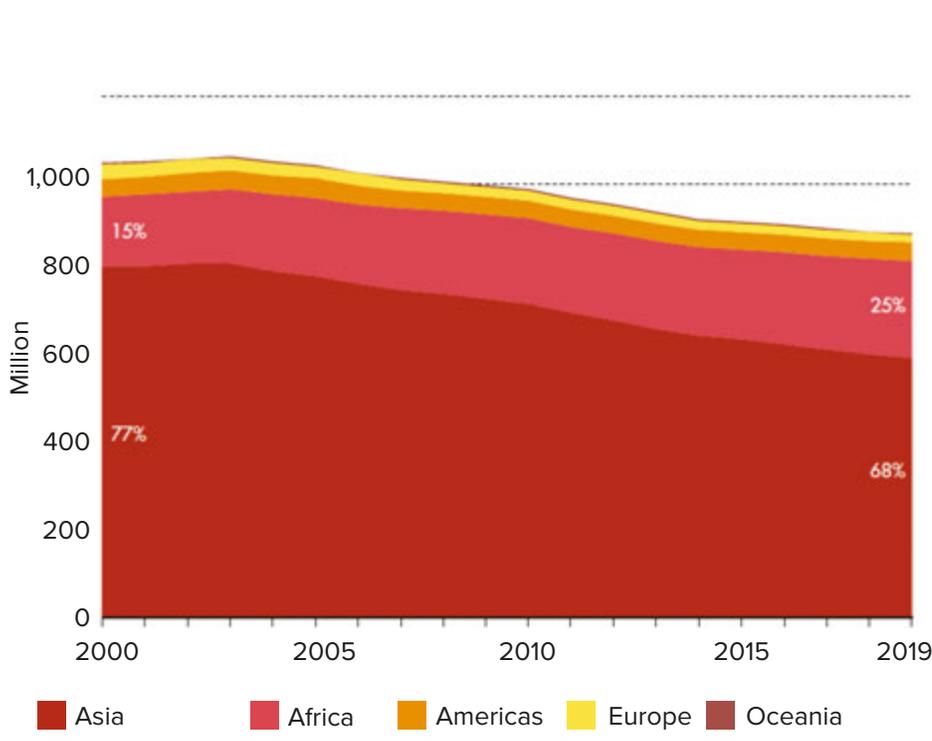
#### Agriculture's share of world employment fell from 40% to 27% between 2000 and 2019



Agriculture employed 884 million people in 2019, or 27% of the global workforce, compared with 1.050 million (or 40%) in 2000.

### Asia had 68% of Global Ag Employment in 2019, and Africa 25%

Employment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing by Region



and soybeans. Brazil was the top producer of sugar cane (40 percent of global tonnage), the US of corn and soybeans (35 percent), and China led in rice (25 percent).

World meat production was 342 million tons or about 90 pounds per person in 2018. About 90 percent

of this meat was pork (35 percent), chicken (33 percent), and beef (20 percent). China is the leading producer of pork, while the US leads in chicken and beef production, followed closely by Brazil.

World milk production was 843 million tons in 2018, led by India with

22 percent of the total and the US with 12 percent. China produced 35 percent of the world's 77 million tons of eggs in 2018.

World fish production totaled 180 million tons worth \$400 billion in 2018, including 54 percent wild or caught fish and 46 percent farmed fish. China was the leading producer of both caught and farmed fish.

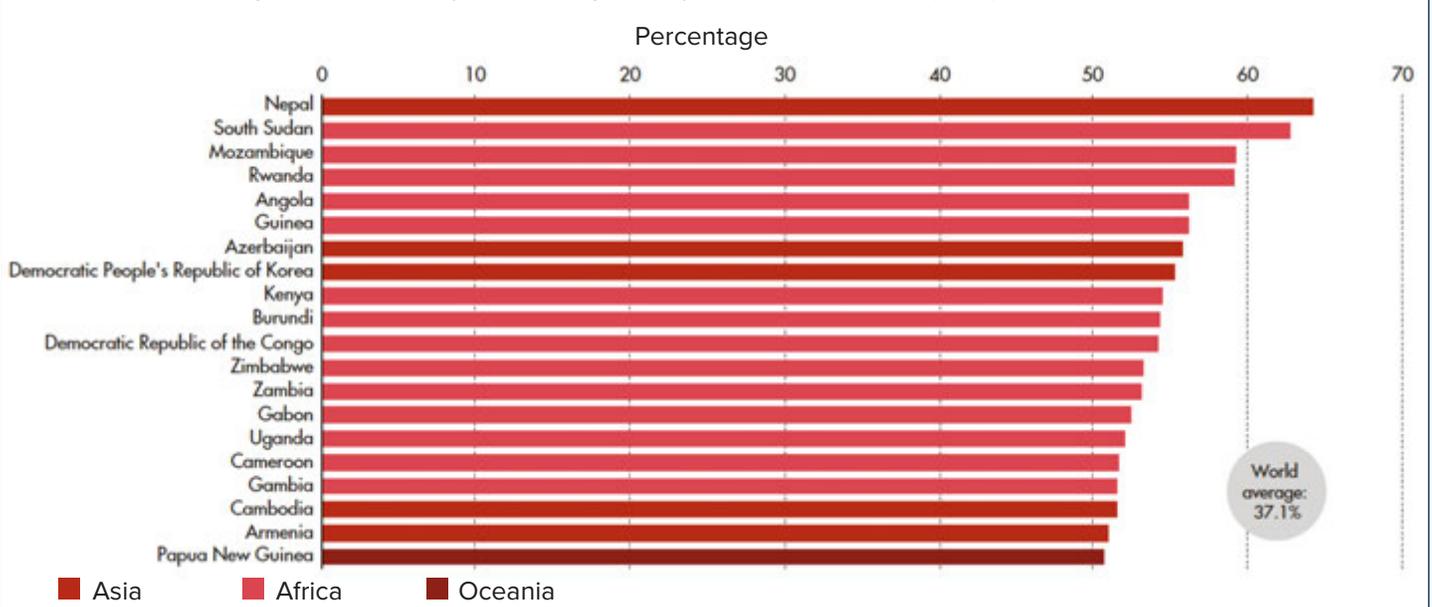
Some \$1.4 trillion worth of farm goods were traded over national borders in 2018, over 40 percent of the total value of farm production and up sharply from \$380 billion in 2000. Fruits and vegetables represented 23 percent of trade in farm commodities, followed by cereals, 14 percent, and fish and meat, each 11 percent.

The Americas, Oceania, and Europe are net food exporters, while Africa and Asia are net food importers. The US accounted for nine percent of the world's farm exports, followed by the Netherlands and China, six percent each.

Some 690 million people were considered undernourished in 2019, with 55 percent in Asia. However, Africa had the highest rate of under-

### Women Were 37% of People Employed in Ag Globally, but Over 50% in Some Countries

Share of Women in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Employment, Top Countries (2019)



nourishment at 19 percent in 2019, almost double the less than 10 percent undernourishment rate of other continents.

Some 13 percent of the world's adults (18 and older) were obese in 2016, including over a quarter of adults in Europe and North America. Rates of obesity are rising everywhere.

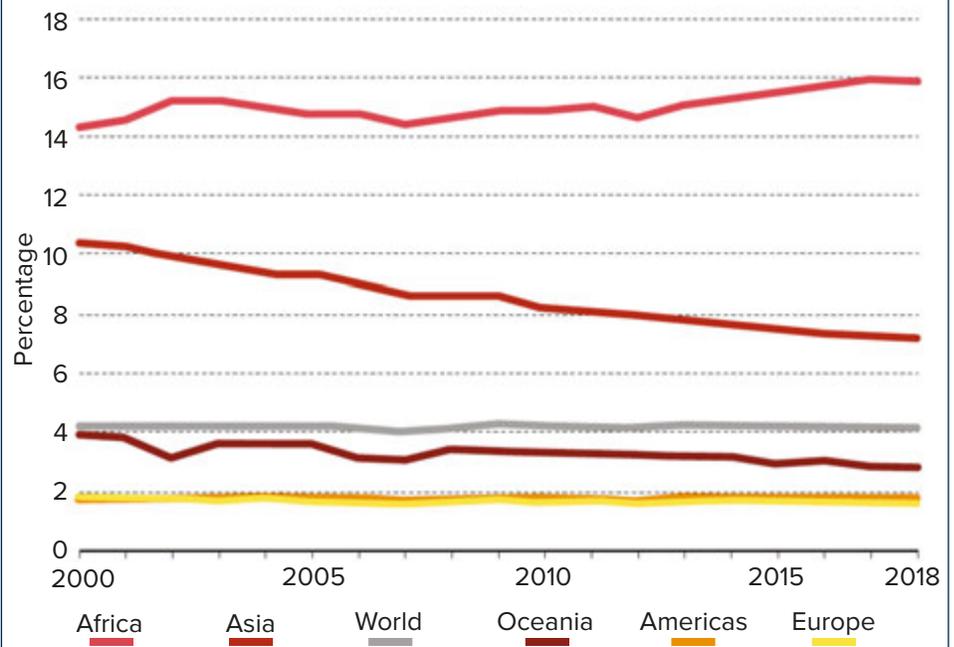
The share of adults who are obese is highest in Pacific Islands and the Middle East. In some of the 20 most obese countries, there is both child undernourishment and adult obesity. In Egypt, for example, a quarter of children are undernourished and a third of adults are obese.

SDG target 12.3 aims to reduce food losses between farms and consumers. The FAO estimated that 14 percent of the food produced in 2016 was lost, including a quarter of the root and tuber crops such as cassava and potatoes and over 20 percent of the fruits and vegetables that were harvested.

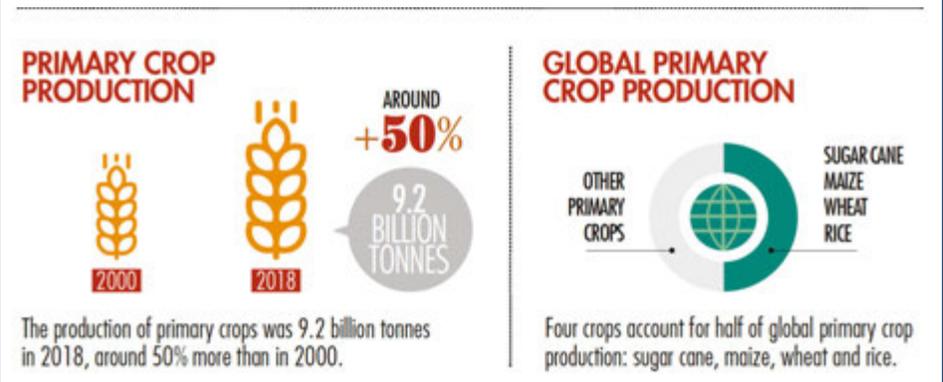
The FAO was created in 1945. Its statistical yearbook includes sections on economics, production, food security, and the environment. Annex Table 8 includes employment in agriculture by continent and country.

### Ag's Value Added is the Highest Share of GDP in Africa and Asia

Share of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Value Added in Total GDP by Region (USD 2015 Prices)

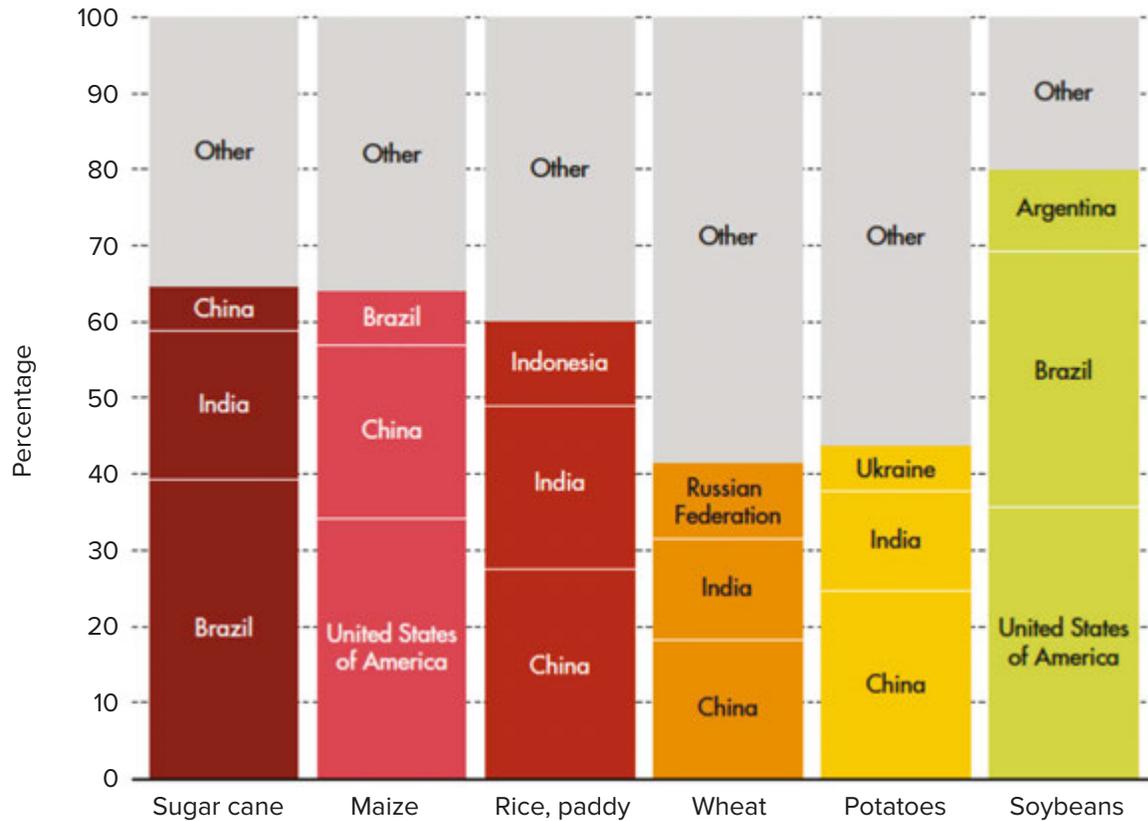


### Sugar Cane, Corn, Wheat, and Rice Accounted for Half of Primary Crop



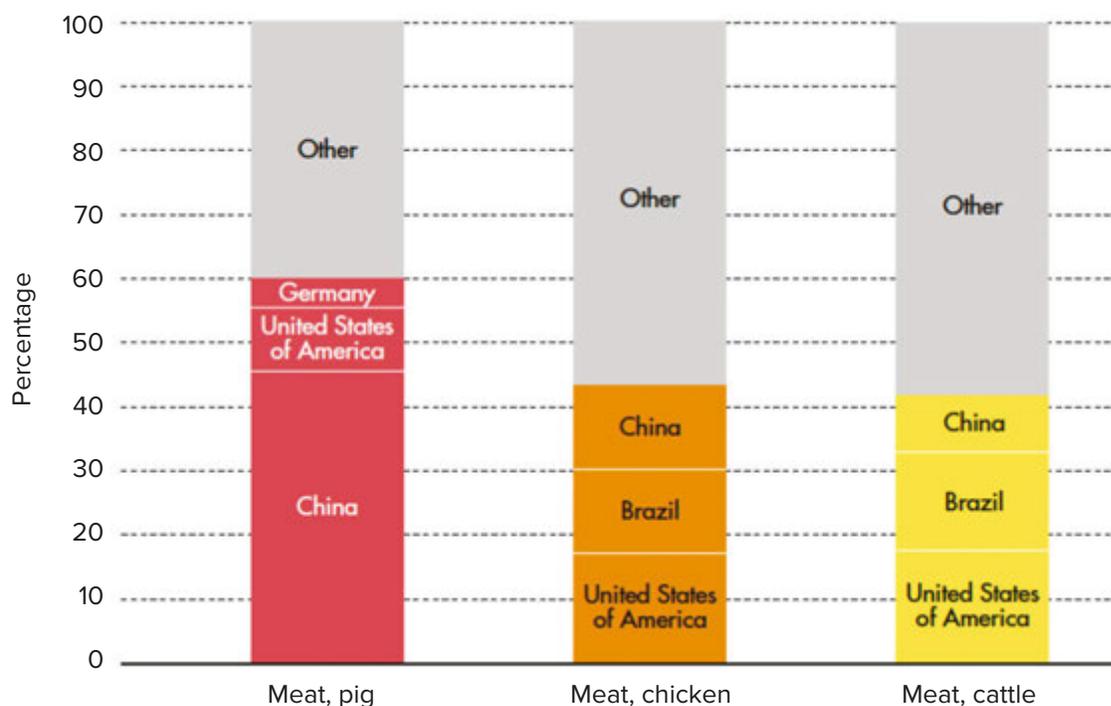
### The Top 3 Countries Accounted for Over Half of the Production of Each of the Big 4 Crops

World Production of Main Primary Crops by Main Producers (2018)



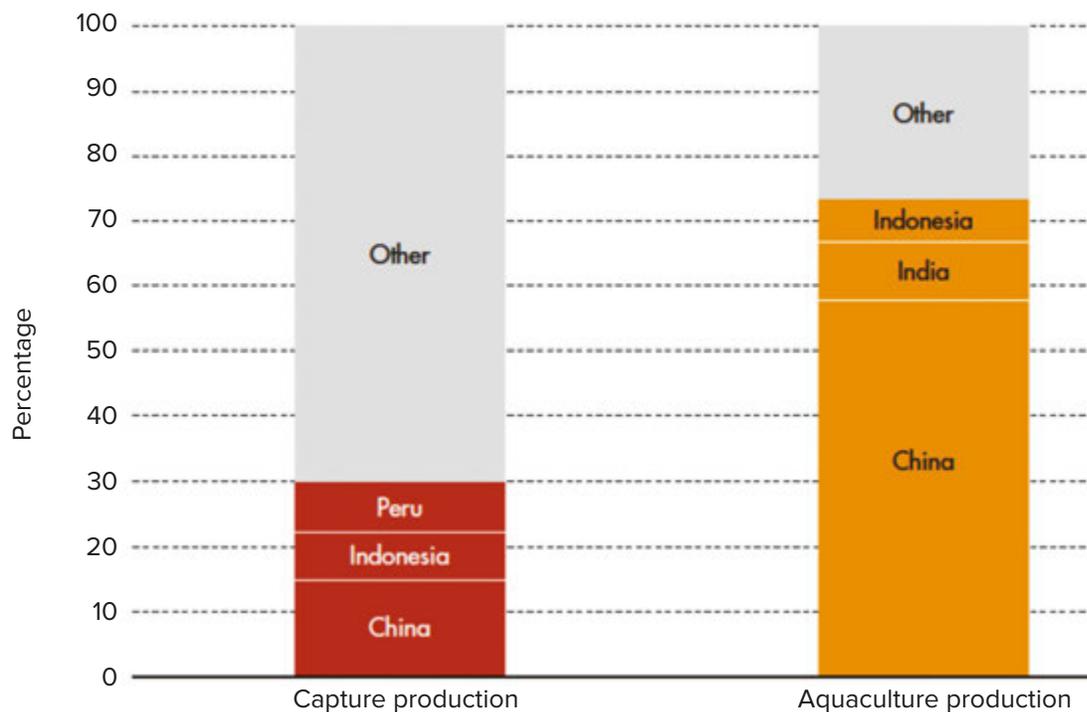
### China is the Leading Producer of Pork, and the U.S. is the Leading Producer of Beef and Chicken

World Production of Main Meat Items, Main Producers (2018)



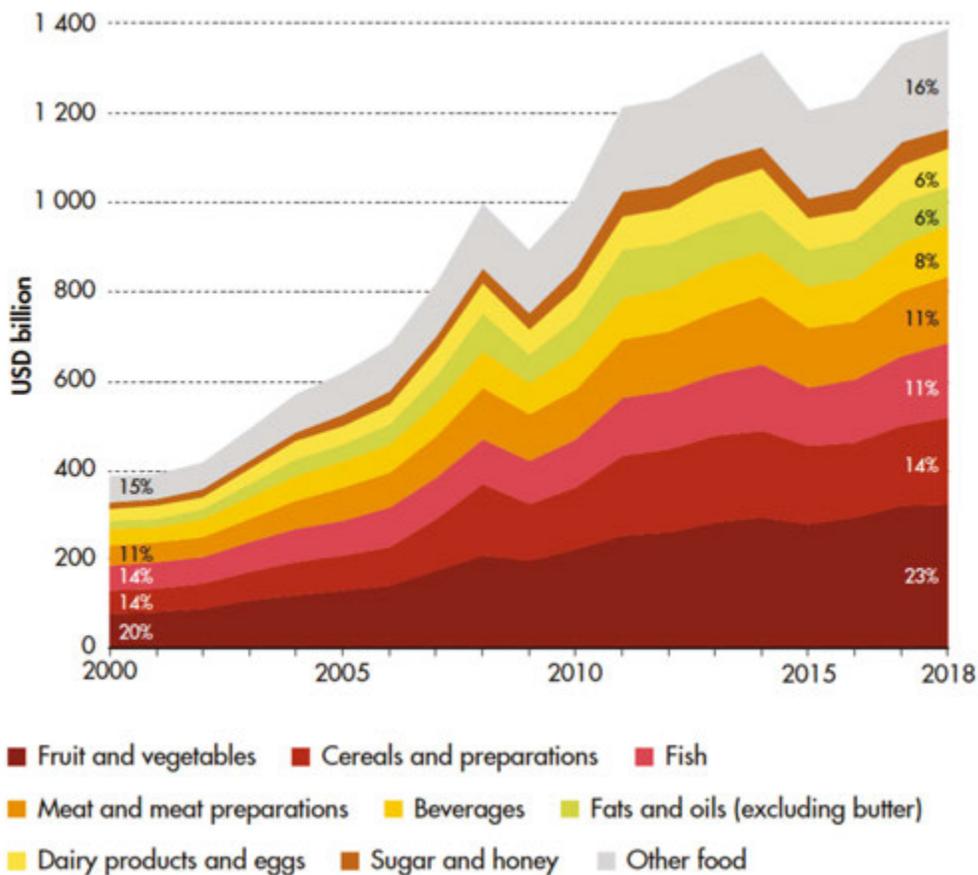
### China Accounts for Over a Third of Fish Production, Including Over Half of Farmed Fish

World Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Production by Main Producers (2018)



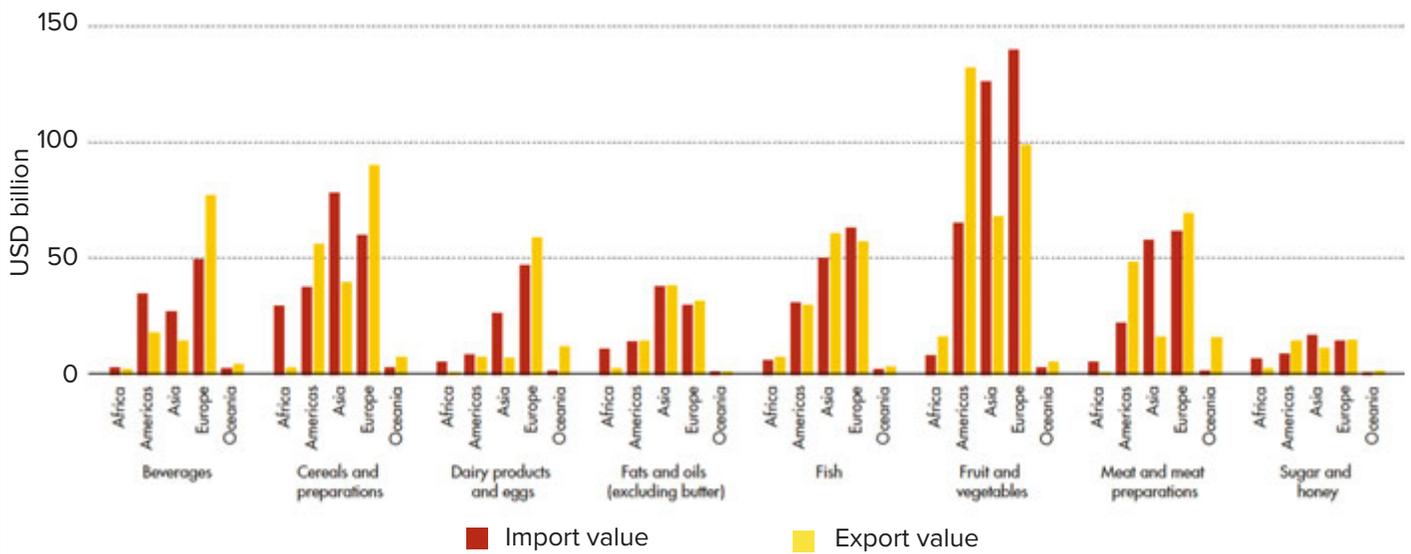
### Fruits and Vegetables Accounted for a Quarter of World Food Exports in 2018

Value of World Food Exports



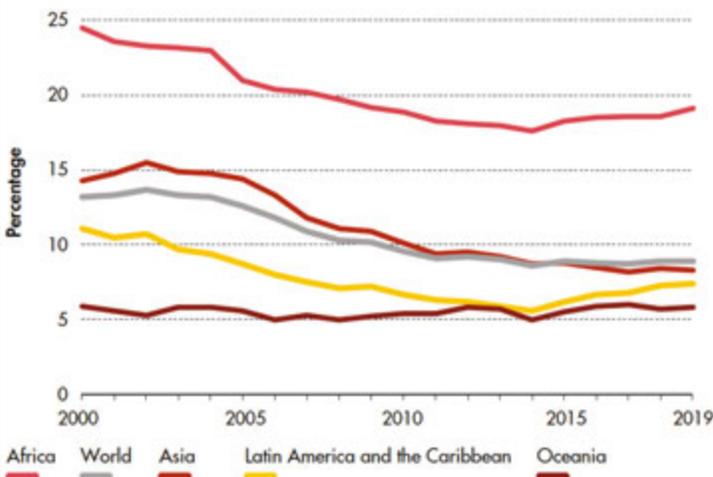
## The Americas are Net Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables, While Asia and Europe are Net Importers

Food Imports and Exports By Main Categories and Region (2018)

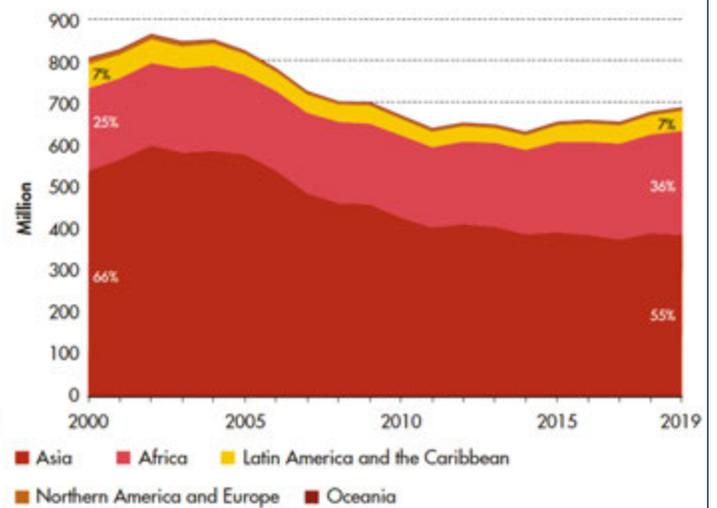


## Some 690 Million People were Undernourished in 2019, Including Almost 20% of Africans

Prevalence of Undernourishment by Region

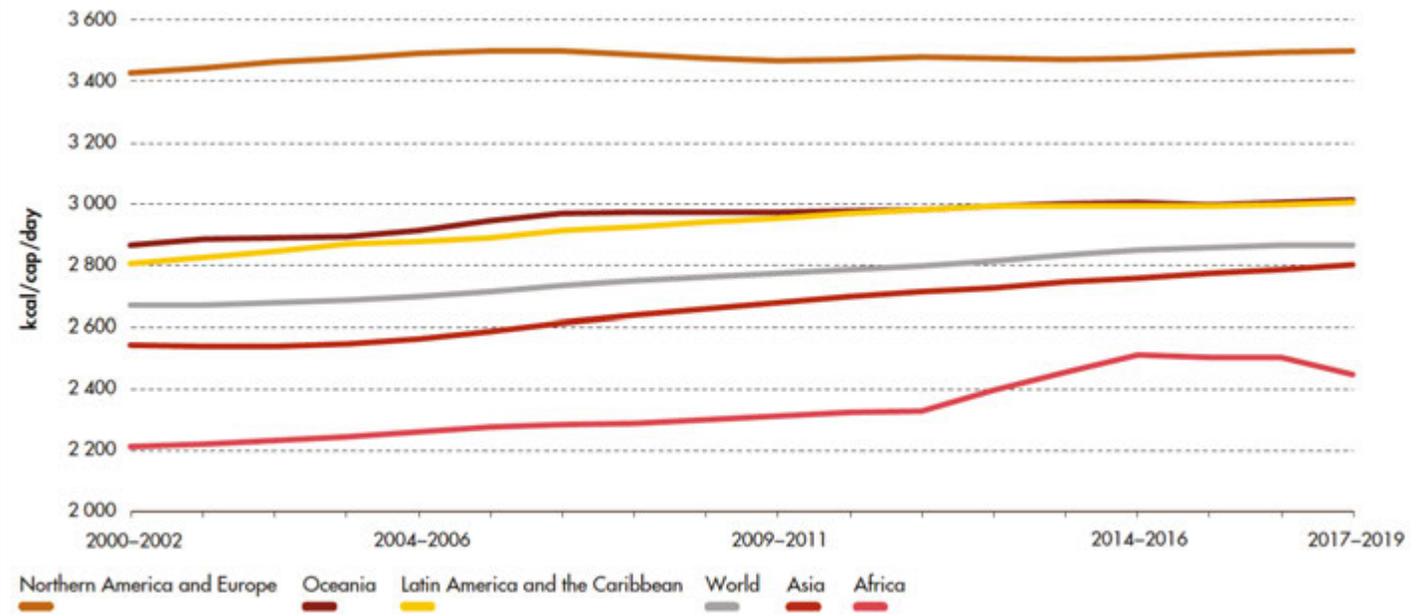


Number of People Undernourished by Region



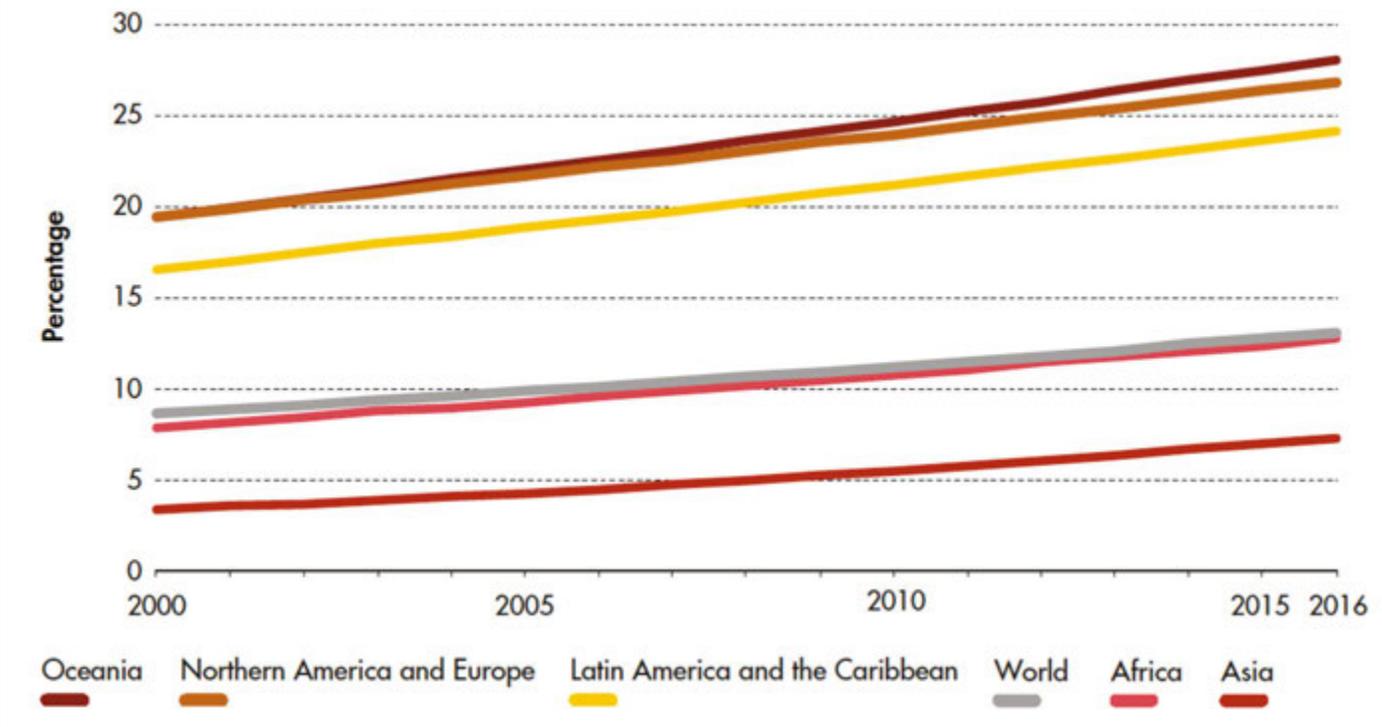
## Europeans and Americans Have the Most Calories Per Person Per Day Available

Average Dietary Energy Supply by Region



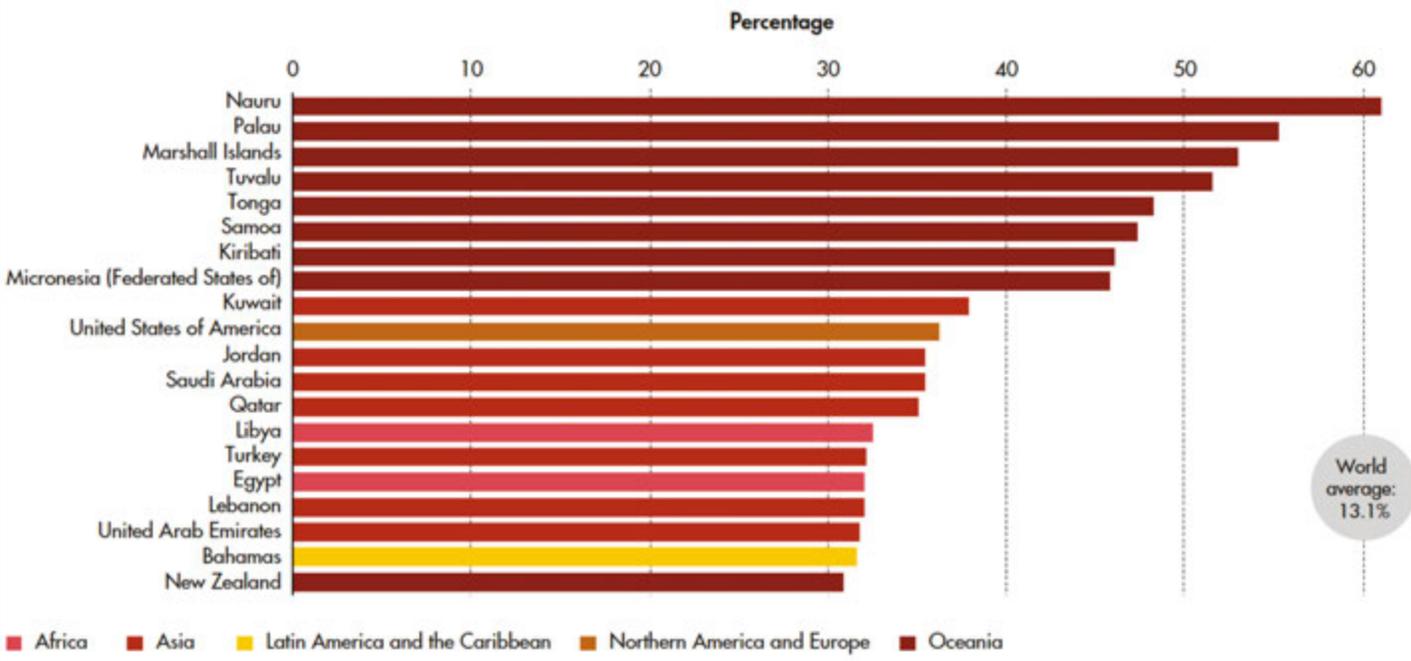
## A Quarter of Adults in Europe and North America Were Obese in 2016

Prevalence of Obesity in the Adult Population by Region



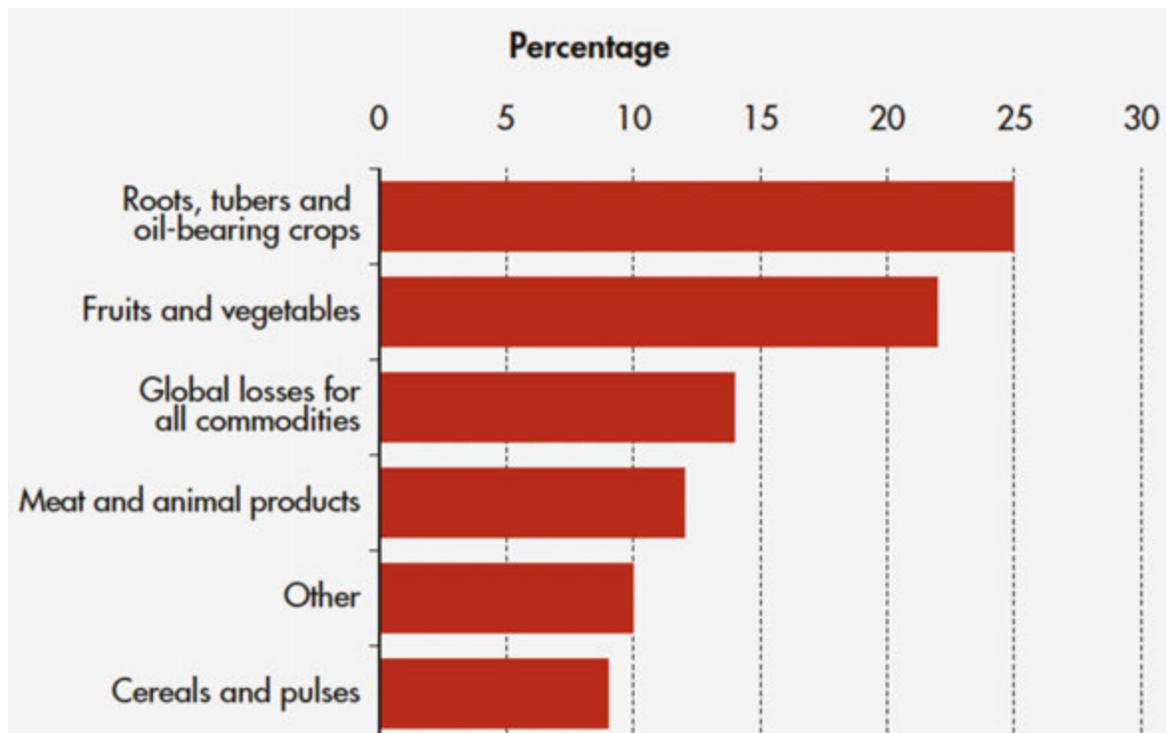
### Half or More of Adults are Obese in Some Pacific Islands

Prevalence of Obesity in the Adult Population, Top Countries (2016)



### Over a Fifth of Fruits and Vegetables are Lost Between Farms and Consumers

Food Losses From Post-Harvest to Distribution by Commodity Groups (2016)



## Half or More of Adults are Obese in Some Pacific Islands

TABLE 8.  
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE (THOUSAND PEOPLE)

COUNTRY	2000	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
World	1 047 925	1 042 185	986 359	917 411	910 742	904 367	896 161	889 396	884 355
Africa	160 586	181 446	195 891	204 513	206 909	210 652	214 351	218 579	223 497
Americas	40 659	43 791	41 412	40 665	40 684	40 713	41 305	41 691	42 021
Asia	809 217	786 559	723 224	649 388	640 544	630 715	618 960	607 878	598 160
Europe	34 733	27 864	23 538	20 562	20 340	19 991	19 228	18 903	18 333
Oceania	2 730	2 525	2 294	2 283	2 266	2 297	2 319	2 345	2 344
Afghanistan	2 937	3 576	3 472	3 751	3 831	3 886	3 887	3 987	4 074
Albania	578	514	449	438	444	441	436	434	427
Algeria	1 385	1 560	1 182	1 092	1 079	1 096	1 078	1 075	1 071
Andorra									
Angola	2 422	2 923	4 234	5 191	5 366	5 565	5 761	5 968	6 175
Antigua and Barbuda									
Argentina	93	198	215	97	47	23	11	18	17
Armenia	469	422	410	387	385	363	336	327	321
Australia	433	355	360	327	314	316	318	327	323
Austria	226	201	213	203	191	186	170	163	159
Azerbaijan	1 277	1 442	1 603	1 669	1 680	1 712	1 737	1 757	1 734
Bahamas	6	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4
Bahrain	5	6	8	8	8	8	9	9	10
Bangladesh	29 131	25 680	26 112	26 028	26 016	25 995	26 190	25 984	25 876
Barbados	6	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Belarus	621	577	523	475	464	465	512	546	529
Belgium	79	87	61	56	54	58	55	48	47
Belize	21	19	23	25	26	28	27	28	28
Benin	1 292	1 457	1 598	1 671	1 711	1 747	1 772	1 792	1 823
Bhutan	157	179	186	179	197	199	201	203	205
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1 403	1 603	1 385	1 549	1 330	1 455	1 555	1 688	1 700
Bosnia and Herzegovina	244	201	205	172	173	180	178	169	164
Botswana	99	129	157	179	179	179	181	182	183
Brazil	11 655	13 489	11 114	9 640	9 492	9 186	8 594	8 567	8 634

### References

FAO. 2020. Statistical Yearbook. World Food and Agriculture.

<http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-publications/ess-yearbook/en/#.X5BMtkJKiQU>

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