

## Foreword

**T**he Agricultural Outlook 2015-2024, is a collaborative effort of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It brings together the commodity, policy and country expertise of both organisations and input from collaborating member countries to provide an annual assessment of prospects for the coming decade of national, regional and global agricultural commodity markets. The special feature on Brazil has been prepared in collaboration with analysts associated with the Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (MAPA) and Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa). However, OECD and FAO are responsible for the information and projections contained in this document, and the views expressed in the special feature do not necessarily reflect those of Brazilian institutions.

The baseline projection is not a forecast about the future, but rather a plausible scenario based on specific assumptions regarding the macroeconomic conditions, the agriculture and trade policy settings, weather conditions, longer term productivity trends, and international market developments. The projections of production, consumption, stocks, trade and prices for the different agricultural products described and analysed in this report cover the years 2015 to 2024. The evolution of markets over the outlook period is typically described using annual growth rates or percentage changes for the final year 2024 relative to a three-year base period of 2012-14.

The individual commodity projections are subject to critical examination by experts from national institutions in collaborating countries and international commodity organisations prior to their finalisation and publication in this report. The risks and uncertainties around the baseline projections are examined through a number of possible alternative scenarios and stochastic analysis, which illustrate how market outcomes may differ from the deterministic baseline projections.

The complete Agricultural Outlook, including more detailed commodity chapters, the full statistical annex and fully documented Outlook database, including historical data and projections, can be accessed through the OECD-FAO joint Internet site: [www.agri-outlook.org](http://www.agri-outlook.org). The published Agricultural Outlook 2015 report provides: an overview of global agriculture and its prospects; an in-depth analysis of the outlook for Brazilian agriculture and a consideration of some of the challenges facing the sector; and snapshots for each commodity with associated statistical tables. The more detailed commodity chapters are contained in the OECD's iLibrary version of the report.

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