

FOREWORD

This is the twentieth issue of the publication *Selected indicators of food and agriculture development in Asia-Pacific region*. It presents data on selected items for the years 1992-2003, except some tables that provide information for the period 1991-2001. Most tables show two types of information: annual figures for 1992, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 and the exponential growth rate for the period 1992-2002. The indicators are grouped under the following headings: Agricultural land and population, Agricultural inputs, Production indices, Staple food crops, Edible oil crops, Horticultural crops, Fibre crops, Other crops, Livestock, Agricultural trade, Fisheries, Forestry, Nutrition and Other indicators. A table reporting the status of organic farming in the region has been added.

Countries of the region are shown under two groups: "Developing countries" and "Developed countries". For comparison purposes, figures relating to "Rest of world" and "World" are also presented. Data for new member countries in the region have been included in this year's publication and a new format has been adopted. Please note that country data for the Central Asian countries were not reported before 1992 and for the Marshall Islands and Palau before 1995. Consequently data for these countries are not presented for 1991.

For almost all commodity tables, data are retrieved from the FAO computerized data base, especially FAOSTAT, or from the FAO Yearbooks. These, in turn, are based on information supplied by member countries.

The growth rates shown in the present publication have been worked out using the exponential growth method to indicate the overall regional performance and also to highlight inter-country differences.

Various units of FAO including the Statistics Division and the Information Systems and Technology Division have cooperated with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in the preparation of this publication, providing computer programmes and data bases for the production of tables. This collaboration is duly acknowledged.

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