

Foreword

Innovation, Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability in the United States is part of the OECD Food and Agricultural Reviews series. This review was undertaken at the request of the US Department of Agriculture. We are particularly grateful for the support for this study from the USDA UnderSecretary for Research, Education, and Economics Dr. Catherine Woteki.

The review examines the conditions in which farms and businesses in the United States undertake innovation in the food and agriculture sector to become more productive and environmentally sustainable. It starts with an overview of the food and agriculture sector and outlines development challenges and opportunities (Chapter 2). A wide range of policies which influence incentives for innovation are then examined: economic stability, governance and trust in institutions (Chapter 3); a favourable and predictable environment for investment (Chapter 4); capacities and public services enabling business development (Chapter 5); agricultural policy (Chapter 6) and the operation of the agricultural innovation system (Chapter 7).

US policies are analysed following a framework developed by the OECD as part of its work on agricultural innovation and in response to a request from the G20 in 2012 under the Presidency of Mexico to evaluate the extent to which a wide range of policies facilitates productivity growth and sustainability in food and agriculture. The framework has been applied to Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands and Turkey and additional reviews are underway or planned.

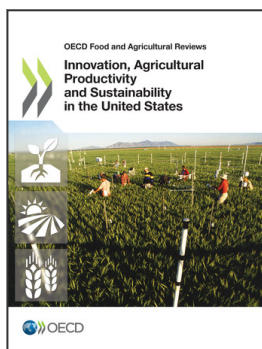
This review was prepared by Catherine Moreddu and Julien Hardelin from the OECD Trade and Agricultural Directorate, with contributions from Paul O'Brien from the OECD Economics Department, and in close collaboration with The Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the leadership of James MacDonald and Keith Fuglie. Lihan Wei provided statistical support. Martina Abderrahmane provided editorial assistance and Michèle Patterson editorial and publication support.

In the USDA Economic Research Service, James MacDonald provided the information for Chapters 2 to 5, with contributions from Roger Claassen, Ron Durst, Thomas Hertz, Lorraine Mitchell, Doris Newton, John Pender, and Peter Stenberg. Anne Effland provided the information for Chapter 6 with contributions from Lorraine Mitchell, and Keith Fuglie led the preparation of information for Chapter 7 with assistance from Kelly Day-Rubinstein, Matt Clancy, and Paul Heisey.

The OECD review also draws on OECD analysis in various economic and social policy fields and includes cross-country comparable indicators developed by the OECD and other international institutions, such as the World Economic Forum.

This report has benefitted from detailed comments from James MacDonald, Anne Effland and Keith Fuglie from the USDA Economic Research Service, and discussion with them and their colleagues. Helpful comments were received from Steve Koenig of the US Farm Credit Administration and Gary Alex at the US Agency for International Development, and from staff throughout the US Department of Agriculture, including Neena Anandaranam, Tammy Basker, Harry Baumes, Roger Claassen, Charles Dodson, Larry Granger, Robert Griesbach, Joy Harwood, Kari Heerman, Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Mark Peters, Jim Radintz, Valerie Reed, Ibrahim Shaqir, Robin Shoemaker, Stacy Sneeringer, Curtia Taylor and Calvin Trice. It has also received valuable comments from Ken Ash, Carmel Cahill, Frank Van Tongeren, Guillaume Gruère, Jussi Lankoski, Jo Cadilhon and Laura Munro of the OECD Trade and Agricultural Directorate. Steve Neff of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service provided valuable support in launching the project.

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