

Foreword

Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries: Monitoring and Evaluation 2009 is the 19th edition of a series which is published in alternate years with the shorter version, Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries: At a Glance. These two publications examine agricultural policies in OECD countries in response to the request by OECD ministers to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the principles for agricultural policy reform.

The OECD uses a comprehensive system for measuring and classifying support to agriculture – the Producer and Consumer Support Estimates (PSEs and CSEs) and related indicators. They provide insight into the increasingly complex nature of agricultural policy and serve as a basis for OECD’s agricultural policy monitoring and evaluation.

The Executive Summary synthesises the key findings of the report. Part I provides an overview of developments in agricultural policies in OECD countries. A special feature of this year’s report is the impact of the financial and economic crisis on agriculture and the policy responses by governments. The 2008 US Farm Act, the Health Check of the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy and the new Growing Forward policy framework in Canada are also highlighted. Part I also looks at broad trends in support to agriculture in OECD countries and draws some conclusions about the progress in agricultural reform. This Part concludes with an overview of agri-environmental policies in OECD countries. Part II summarises the developments in agricultural policies in each individual OECD country (with the European Union categorised as one country for this purpose) and Part III contains detailed background tables with OECD indicators of agricultural support.

The Executive Summary and Part I are published under the responsibility of the OECD Committee for Agriculture. The remainder of the report is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD.

Acknowledgements

This edition was prepared by the Trade and Agriculture Directorate of the OECD with the active participation of member countries. The following people from the OECD Secretariat contributed to drafting this report: Olga Melyukhina (co-ordinator), Jesús Antón, Ken Ash, Adeline Borot de Battisti, Carmel Cahill, Dimitris Diakosavvas, Hsin Huang, Joanna Komorowska, Shingo Kimura, Jussi Lankoski, Wilfrid Legg, Roger Martini, Alexandra de Matos Nunes, Catherine Moreddu, Kevin Parris, Véronique de Saint-Martin, Frank van Tongeren, Václav Vojtech and Dongjin Yoon. Alexandra de Matos Nunes co-ordinated the preparation of the main tables and graphs. Statistical assistance was provided by Joanna Komorowska, Véronique de Saint-Martin and Noura Takroui-Jolly. Editorial assistance was provided by Adeline Borot de Battisti, Alexandra de Matos Nunes, Catherine Moreddu, Michèle Patterson, Theresa Poincet, Véronique de Saint-Martin and Louise Schets. Administrative services were provided by Françoise Bénécourt, Michèle Patterson and Louise Schets. Technical assistance and programming in the preparation of the PSE/CSE database was provided by Eric Espinasse and Frano Illicic. Other colleagues in the OECD Secretariat made useful comments in drafting the report.

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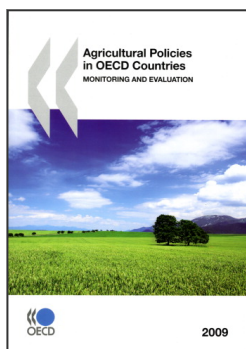


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From:
Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries 2009
Monitoring and Evaluation

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/agr_oecd-2009-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2009), "Foreword", in *Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries 2009: Monitoring and Evaluation*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/agr_oecd-2009-1-en

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