

PROVIDING DATA AND HELPING TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

About FAO

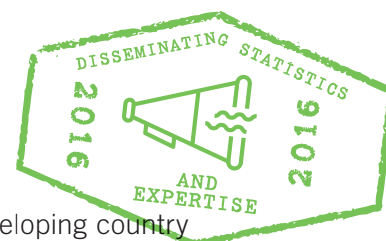
Established in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), with three main goals: to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; to eliminate poverty and drive forward economic and social progress for all; and to promote the sustainable management and use of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic material, for the benefit of present and future generations.

How is FAO involved with implementing the WHO FCTC at global level?

FAO is indirectly involved with implementing the WHO FCTC at global level. FAO shares international concern over the harmful effects of tobacco smoking and the rising incidence of smoking-related diseases, which cause personal and social distress as well as economic losses. FAO is also concerned with the health of tobacco farmers during cultivation and harvesting, particularly their exposure to harmful pesticides.

Within the context of inter-agency cooperation, especially within the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, FAO has studied various aspects of the global tobacco economy. As part of this work, it published the 2003 publication *Projections of tobacco production, consumption and trade to the year 2010*, which it is currently updating. The revised version will be available in 2017 and will cover projections for the next decade.

The major trend observed in the 2003 report, covering 1970–1998, was that demand for tobacco products increased rapidly and world tobacco leaf consumption increased by about two per cent annually, from 4.2 million tonnes to 6.5 million tonnes of tobacco leaf equivalent in dry weight. Consumption in developed countries declined by about 0.2 per cent annually, while consumption in developing nations increased at a rate of 3.1 per cent annually.



Much of the increase in developing country consumption was accounted for by China, where consumption increased from a little under 0.7 million tonnes in 1970 to 2.6 million tonnes in 2000. The revised version of the report will enable the WHO FCTC Secretariat to see how the situation has changed in the intervening years. In particular, it will enable examination of the treaty's impact on tobacco supply and demand since coming into force in 2005.



In 2016, FAO produced the FAO commodity and trade policy research working paper No 51: *Trends in Foreign Direct Investment in Food, Beverages and Tobacco*. This showed that globally, the share of foreign direct investment (FDI) in food, beverages and tobacco, in total FDI flows, increased in the late 2000s after decades of decline, amid rising food prices. Five economies received a third of all FDI in food, beverages and tobacco between 2003 and 2014: China, the Russian Federation, USA, Brazil and Mexico.

How is FAO involved with implementing the WHO FCTC at country level?

FAO has more than 70 country offices and most of them are part of the UN Country Team (UNCT) programme. It supports UNCT efforts towards tobacco control. FAO produces country fact sheets on food and agriculture policy trends, as well as technical notes on tobacco (see box right).

It is working with the FCTC on Article 17, which seeks to secure economically viable alternatives to growing tobacco. FAO supports Member States' efforts to provide alternative livelihoods for farmers. As the FAO works throughout the agriculture value chain (from farm to fork), it is well positioned to support Member States in implementing Article 17, with support of the FCTC and other development partners.



EXAMINING MALAWI'S RELIANCE ON TOBACCO

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2014, FAO produced the *Technical note: Analysis of price incentives for tobacco in Malawi 2005–2013*. In 2011, tobacco accounted for half of Malawi's total agricultural exports; it exports semi-processed, unmanufactured tobacco. As more than 95 per cent of this tobacco is produced by small-scale farmers, the crop is of vital importance for rural households' incomes and food security. FAO works to assist farmers in Malawi and elsewhere to find alternative livelihoods to tobacco. Although this work is not conducted in an official capacity under the WHO FCTC, it contributes to Article 17 of the treaty.



Where can FAO's publications be accessed?

FAO publications are available to download at:
www.fao.org/publications/en/



PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

FAO's view on challenges and responses to implementing the WHO FCTC

“We need to focus on providing alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers, especially smallholder farmers. Their decision to grow tobacco is usually based on economic rationale. Providing viable alternatives must address not only production but support for market systems as well. We need to find a sustainable value chain for those who are shifting to alternative crops.”

How can Parties approach FAO for support?

Contact: Ahmad Mukhtar, Economist (Trade and Food Security)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Liasion Office Geneva
Palais des Nations, Room A-584
8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: 00 41 22 9172777; Email: ahmad.mukhtar@fao.org

