

Country: Argentina

Committee: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Topic: Combating Food Insecurity and the Risk of Famine

Argentina is a vast country located in the southern part of South America. The eighth largest country in the world, it is the second largest country in South America after [Brazil](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/brazil/), and it's about one-third the size of the [United States](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/united-states/). Argentina is bordered by the Andes Mountains and [Chile](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/chile/) to the west.

Unlike Mexico and South American countries such as Peru and Ecuador, Argentina has fewer native people and a large population, which came from Europe. The population is comprised as much as 95% of people of European descent, mostly from Italy, Spain, and Germany. Much of the native population died from diseases brought in by Europeans.

Since August 2022, rainfall amounts have been well below average across the main cereal producing areas, severely affecting yields of the 2022 wheat crop, harvested between November 2022 and January 2023. The 2022 wheat production is officially estimated at 12.6 million tons, 35 percent below the past five-year average, with crop yields registering their lowest levels since 2008. The prolonged drought conditions have also significantly affected yields of the 2023 maize crop, currently being harvested. Satellite imagery indicates below-average crop conditions in early May in the key cereal producing central eastern and northeastern regions. According to official sources, the 2023 maize production is forecast at 41 million tons, down by more than 25 percent from the past five-year average.

Reflecting the decline in output, only about 1 million tons of wheat grain were exported during the first quarter of 2023, compared to an average of 6.4 million tons exported in the same quarter between 2020 and 2022. Similarly, maize exports are anticipated to decrease in the 2023/24 season due to the reduced exportable surplus.

Extreme weather affects food production globally, especially in fragile ecosystems. Agriculture, forestry, and land use contribute 2.1% of global emissions, making the country a significant emitter. Livestock produces 21.6% of domestic emissions, with agriculture at 5.8%, and land use change and forestry at 9.8%.

In 2016, Argentina submitted its nationally determined contribution (NDC) that identified several agriculture-related priorities. Argentina has prioritized the development of adaptive capacities and the promotion of agriculture’s strategic role as a solution to climate change. In 2020, the country signed the new [United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework](https://argentina.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/MECNUD%202021-2025.pdf) (2021-2025) and confirmed its interest in pushing forward the agenda that seeks to enhance ambition and catalyses action for land use and agriculture.

Argentina is facing challenges in meeting its environmental goals. There's not enough planning for sustainable forest and food management. Government coordination is weak, and getting funding is tough for producers. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) wants to involve all relevant groups in planning. It needs investment to make sure everyone can take part and support provincial plans.