
NEWS

[Measuring Food Price Volatility](#)

The prices of agricultural commodities have experienced large and unpredictable fluctuations that have attracted the attention of researchers, policymakers, and the media to better understand the mechanisms that govern this phenomenon. It is therefore important to acquire basic tools to assess the level of price volatility to warn of abnormal movements. AGRODEP published the [English](#) and [French](#) versions of [Technical Note 19: Measuring Food Price Volatility](#).

The main objective of the technical note is to provide an overview of the literature that is in constant evolution, and tools for measuring food price volatility. The tools developed in the technical note should help users to understand the complexity of measuring volatility and the caution required in their use. The application of the tools requires their adaptation to the nature of the data generating process and the use of appropriate tests and criteria in order to choose the best approach.

[Food Systems Approach Critical to COVID-19 Recovery](#)

A recent [blog post](#) emphasized the importance of a food systems approach for the Africa south of the Sahara region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the region has largely avoided severe health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (fewer than 5 percent of globally confirmed cases and approximately 89,000 COVID-related deaths), the region is experiencing economic fallout due to national and global pandemic policy responses. Economic growth, value chain functioning, incomes, trade, poverty, and consumption have all been negatively affected, according to IFPRI's [2021 Global Food Policy Report](#).

The GFPR emphasizes that a food systems approach can help prepare national and regional food value chains for future shocks. Such an approach should take a long-term view of factors like climate change, increasing urbanization, shifting demographics, and modernizing value chains and trade systems. By helping informal food value chains enhance their productivity and enter the formal agrifood sector, governments can increase their revenues. This will allow national budgets to better account for disaster preparedness and build in more flexibility to respond to shocks at the macro level. Governments can also increase investments in rural infrastructure, early warning systems, agricultural R&D, education, and health systems.

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