



# State of Food and Agriculture Report, 2022

**For prelims:** State of Food and Agriculture Report, 2022, Food and Agriculture Organization, Sustainable Development Goals

**For Mains:** State of Food and Agriculture Report, 2022, Government Policies & Interventions

## Why in News?

Recently, the 2022 edition of the State of Food and Agriculture report by the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) was released.

- The **flagship report is produced each year.**
- The report looked at how automation in our agrifood systems can contribute to achieving [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and offers recommendations to policy makers on how to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks.

## What is Agriculture Automation?

- Agricultural automation, which includes **anything from tractors to artificial intelligence**, plays an important role in making food production more efficient and environmentally friendly.
- But it can also **deepen inequalities if it remains inaccessible** to small-scale producers and other marginalised groups.

## What are the Highlights of the Report?

- The report looked at 27 case studies from all over the world, representing different technologies.
  - Only 10 of the 27 service providers are profitable and financially sustainable.
- There is an **unequal progress toward mechanization among regions**, according to available statistics on the number of tractors per 1,000 hectares of arable land.
- High-income countries in North America, Europe and Oceania were highly mechanised by the 1960s. But regions dominated by **low-and middle-income countries were less mechanised.**
- Crucially, **there are wide disparities in the spread of automation** between and within countries, with adoption being particularly limited in sub-Saharan Africa.
  - For instance, **Japan had more than 400 tractors per 1,000 hectares of arable land**, compared with just 0.4 in Ghana in 2005.
  - Agriculture reliant on human and animal power continues to dominate in sub-Saharan Africa, limiting productivity.

## What are the Recommendations?

- An agricultural automation policy should ensure that **agrifood systems are sustainable and**

**resilient.**

- **Policymakers should avoid subsidising automation** in such labour-abundant contexts.
  - Agricultural automation can lead to unemployment in places where rural labour is abundant and wages are low.
- Policymakers **should focus on creating an enabling environment for adopting automation.**
- **Social protection should be provided to the least skilled workers**, who are more likely to lose their jobs during the transition.

## What is the Food and Agriculture Organization?

### ▪ About:

- FAO is a specialised agency of the [United Nations](#) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- [World Food Day](#) is celebrated every year around the world on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the [World Food Programme](#) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

### ▪ Initiatives Taken:

- [Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \(GIAHS\)](#).
- Monitors the [Desert Locust](#) situation throughout the world.
- The [Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC](#) is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
- The [International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) was adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Conference of the FAO in 2001.

### ▪ Flagship Publications:

- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA).
- The State of the World's Forests (SOFO).
- [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#).
- The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO).

[Source: DTE](#)

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