

Agriculture in Africa, 2016

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1 Introduction

This paper uses data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to examine the relationship between yield, production, and area harvested in Africa.

2 Data

The data is drawn from 2016 FAO data. Each variable (described in more detail below) is aggregated by country. So, for example, all the yield data for Togo in 2016 is aggregated into one amount for the whole country.

2.1 Variables

The dataset contains the following three variables:

- *Yield*. The harvested production per unit of harvested area for crop products (in hectogramme per hectare).
- *Production*. The amount, in tonnes, of crops produced in the year.
- *Area Harvested*. The area from which a crop is gathered (in hectares).

3 Maps

The figure on the following page shows yield (panel 1), production (panel 2), and area harvested (panel 3) data by country in Africa for 2016. Notice that the production and area harvested maps are missing quite a bit of data because FAO was unable to provide this data.

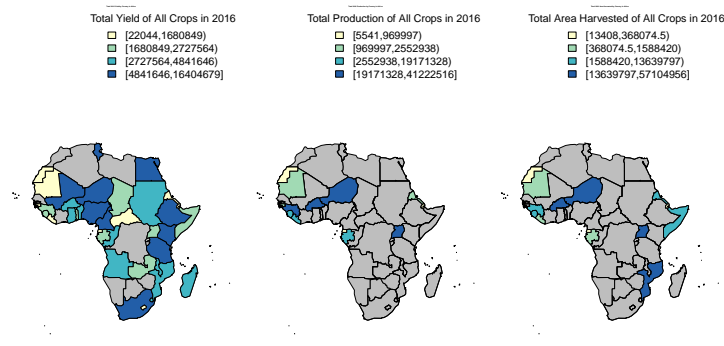


Figure 1: Total 2016 Yield, Production, and Area Harvested by Country

4 Conclusion and Next Steps

While my initial goal was to explore agricultural data in Africa, my ability to draw conclusions was limited by insufficient data. The substantial amount of missing data makes clear that insufficient data exists on agricultural productivity in Africa. Exploratory Google searches indicate that this is the case for many different kinds of data in the region.

Given this, a logical next step is to advocate for increased funding for and prioritization of data collection in Africa, particularly data measuring agricultural productivity.