

PUBLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Extreme heat and agriculture. FAO-WMO joint report. Rome, Geneva: FAO and WMO 2026; 108 p. ISBN 978-92-5-140656-4. This joint report on extreme heat and agriculture brings together the scientific and operational expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to assess how extreme heat is reshaping food production and food security. Drawing on the latest climate observations, agrifood systems analysis, and research, it provides a comprehensive assessment of risks that have too often been under-recognized in climate and development planning and identifies priority areas for policy attention and strategic investment. The findings of this report make clear that building the resilience of agrifood systems requires coordinated and sustained action. Adaptation must be scaled across agrifood systems globally and be carried out at a pace that keeps ahead of the rate at which the damaging changes materialize. Climate-resilient practices, improved water and land management, the development of heat-tolerant crops and breeds and strengthened risk governance can reduce vulnerability and protect livelihoods.

Food Outlook – Biannual report on global food markets. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2026; 137 p. ISBN 978-92-5-140448-5. This new edition of the Food Outlook is released amid heightened economic uncertainty. While the global economy has shown resilience, the growth outlook for 2026 has become more fragile and remains uneven across regions. Inflation remains subject to considerable uncertainty, with geopolitical tensions, volatile energy markets, and fertilizer price developments posing serious risks of renewed cost pressures. At the same time, the interaction between evolving policy settings, shifting trade dynamics and exchange rate movements continues to cloud prospects for global trade and growth. In addition to market assessments, this June 2026 edition features a special article on the use of alternative fuels in international maritime shipping. Additional topics include an analysis of how energy markets influence sugar market dynamics through ethanol linkages, as well as an update on fertilizer markets. The market indicators overview includes recent developments in futures markets, ocean freight rates, the global food import bill, and food price indices.

Karasik R, Nizzetto L, Howell D, Thompson RH. **A review of the international and regional policy landscape for the management of plastics used in agriculture.** Environment and Natural Resources Management Working Paper, No. 112. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2026; 52 p. ISBN 978-92-5-140628-1. Plastics are deeply embedded in modern agriculture, yet global governance frameworks have not kept pace with their growing environmental and health risks. This report provides a comprehensive review of international and regional policy instruments addressing plastics in agri-food systems, identifying critical gaps, emerging trends, and opportunities for transformative action. The policy landscape is fragmented, lacking coherence, coordination, and incentives for national action plans. To close these gaps, the report provides a review of the relevant international regulatory framework for agri-plastics, by describing 50 international and regional policy document or policy document compilations that address, either directly or indirectly, plastics used in agriculture.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

The United Nations world water development report 2026, water for all people: equal rights and opportunities. Paris: UNESCO Publishing 2026; 157 p. ISBN 978-92-3-100853-5. This report presents the latest state-of-the-art knowledge regarding different aspects of water and gender equality. Like in all previous editions, UNESCO endeavoured to produce a balanced, evidence-based and objective account of the current state of knowledge, relying on the latest and most reliable data available. Although primarily targeted at policymakers, decision-makers, water resources managers, academics and the broader development community, this report will also be well received by other specialists and a wider public, including those who are engaged in the alleviation of poverty and humanitarian crises, the pursuit of universal access to water supply and sanitation, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also benefited largely from the inputs and contributions of several other UN-Water Members and Partners, as well as from numerous universities, research institutions, scientific associations and non-governmental organizations, who provided a broad range of relevant materials.

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Global AIDS Monitoring 2026. Indicators and questions for monitoring progress towards the Global AIDS Strategy 2026-2031 targets. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2026; 224 p. The Global AIDS Monitoring 2026 guidelines provide the core metrics and indicators needed to track country progress against the Global AIDS Strategy 2026–2031. The strategy focuses on reaching 16 top-line targets to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and ensuring sustainability of the HIV response beyond. The indicators and policy questions in this document are designed for use by national AIDS programmes and other government entities and partners to assess a country's HIV response, and to measure progress towards achieving national HIV targets in a standardized way aligned with international standards to enable global aggregation.

UNAIDS Gender Assessment Tool. Towards a gender-transformative HIV response. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2025; 120 p. The Gender Assessment Tool (GAT) for national HIV responses is intended to assist countries in assessing the HIV epidemic; examining the context and response from a gender perspective; and making the HIV responses gender transformative, equitable and rights based to eradicate gender and HIV-related disparities and to ensure an effective response to HIV. It focuses on women, girls and gender diverse people with multiple and intersecting identities that are often marginalized, invisibilized and/or left out.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO- OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Improving quality of care through the OECD Patient Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS). Using patient-reported data to support health policy. Paris: OECD Publishing 2026; 43 p. The report focusses on the Patient-Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS), an OECD programme designed to assess primary care from people's perspective, and to support improvements in quality and in how people centred health services are. The first cycle of PaRIS, which ran between 2018 and 2025, surveyed over 107,000 patients using primary care services and more than 1,800 primary care practices in 19 countries, and provides a large, internationally comparable dataset that countries can use to benchmark performance, identify gaps, and track reforms using measures reported directly by primary care users. Drawing on interviews and written exchanges with country delegates and national project managers of PaRIS in March 2026, this report identifies how PaRIS results have been disseminated, interpreted and used in health policy and practice in the 19

countries that participated in PaRIS Cycle 1 (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechia, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United States and Wales (United Kingdom)). The analysis follows a Knowledge to Action framework, a structured way to examine how evidence is adapted to the local context, communicated, applied, monitored and sustained.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Rounding N, Arif L, Berg J, et al. **Does a general-purpose large language model improve physicians' clinical reasoning?** ILO Working Paper 175. Geneva: International Labour Organization 2026; 42 p. ISBN 978-92-2-043559-5 (print) ISBN 978-92-2-043560-1 (web PDF). This paper investigates whether access to a general-purpose large language model (LLM) improves physicians' clinical reasoning across diverse healthcare contexts, as well as the possible implications of using an LLM in healthcare settings. Using a randomized controlled trial with 249 physicians in Indonesia, Kenya, and the Netherlands, the study finds that LLM access enhances performance on standardized clinical vignettes in all three countries. The results reveal substantial heterogeneity. Performance distributions overlap, and some physicians with LLM access perform worse than those without, indicating that access alone does not guarantee improvement. Higher usage is associated with better outcomes, and less specialized physicians appear to benefit more, implying that LLMs may help reduce skill gaps. Importantly, the findings emphasize that LLMs function as complements rather than substitutes for clinical expertise. However, the study identifies important risks, including automation bias, hallucinations, and context misalignment, underscoring the importance of careful integration, training, and governance.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Guidelines for drinking-water quality: fourth edition incorporating the first, second and third addenda. Geneva: World Health Organization 2026; 647 p. ISBN 978-92-4-012122-5 (electronic version) ISBN 978-92-4-012123-2 (print version). The WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality provide an authoritative basis for the setting of national regulations and standards for water safety in support of public health. The fourth edition incorporating the first, second, and third addenda of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Guidelines for drinking-water quality (GDWQ) builds on over 65 years of WHO guidance on drinking-water



quality. This guidance has formed an authoritative basis for the setting of national regulations and standards for water safety in support of public health. The Guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for protecting public health through the management of drinking-water quality risks, from catchment to consumer. They support the development of health-based targets, risk-based management approaches and independent surveillance. This latest version incorporates updates that reflect new evidence and substantive implementation experience to better support the effective application of the Guidelines in a range of settings.

Global status report on blood safety and availability 2025. Geneva: World Health Organization 2026; 147 p. ISBN 978-92-4-012154-6 (electronic version) ISBN 978-92-4-012155-3 (print version). The Global status report on blood safety and availability 2025 provides a comprehensive assessment of the status, trends and challenges of national blood systems worldwide, based on data reported by Member States to the WHO Global Database on Blood Safety. Drawing on information from 168 countries representing the vast majority of the global population, the report analyses governance and financing of blood services, blood collection and donation patterns, component preparation, laboratory screening for transfusion-transmissible infections, clinical use of blood and blood components, hemovigilance systems, and the availability of plasma-derived medicinal products. It examines progress towards establishing well-governed, effective and sustainable national blood systems and highlights regional and income-related differences in blood availability, safety and access. This report documents developments in policy, regulation, quality assurance and service organization, while identifying persistent gaps that affect the sufficiency, safety and equitable availability of blood and blood products,

particularly in low- and middle-income countries. It also reviews trends in blood donation, transfusion practices and plasma collection, and includes country case studies illustrating approaches to strengthening blood systems.

Pesticide residues in food: report 2025. Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues. Geneva: WHO and FAO 2026; 962 p. ISBN 978-92-4-012296-3 (electronic version) ISBN 978-92-4-012297-0 (print version). This report presents the outcomes of the 2025 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), including evaluations of pesticide residues in food, toxicological assessments and dietary exposure analyses conducted to support international food safety standards and Codex maximum residue levels. The publication documents the review of 38 pesticides, including new compounds and substances under periodic review, covering toxicology, metabolism, residue behaviour, analytical methods and dietary risk assessment. It provides recommendations for acceptable daily intakes, acute reference doses, maximum residue levels, supervised trials median residue values and highest residue estimates for plant and animal commodities. The publication also addresses methodological and regulatory issues relevant to pesticide risk assessment, including dietary exposure methodologies, integration of new approach methodologies, updates to guidance documents, residue definitions, storage stability studies and transparency of dietary burden calculations. Chronic and acute dietary exposure assessments were performed using international dietary intake models to evaluate potential risks to consumers. Annexes include detailed intake estimates, livestock dietary burden calculations, lists of evaluated compounds and supporting technical information intended to assist Codex Alimentarius activities and national regulatory authorities in the assessment and management of pesticide residues in food.