

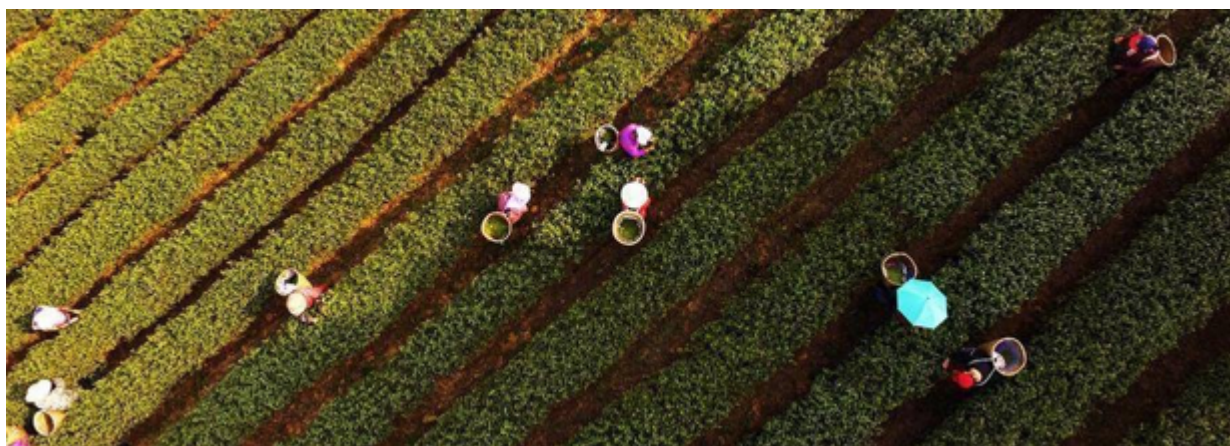
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## World News Summary from AgroInsurance

June 2020



Dear Colleagues,

AgroInsurance International presents your monthly news summary, which highlights important issues on agricultural losses, risk events and recent trends in agricultural insurance worldwide. We wish you a great day!

### AgroInsurance and Skyglyph hosted a webinar dedicated to the use of drones in agricultural insurance (video)

On June 9, 2020, AgroInsurance International and Skyglyph hosted a webinar "Drones: Technology enhancing agricultural insurance". The webinar touched upon the use of remote sensing technologies with an accent on drones applied for crop insurance purposes. More than 60 online participants from 25 countries joined the webinar and contributed to the discussion by asking specific technical questions adding more insights from the customers on technical aspects of drones' use.

Presentations covered major technology operational aspects of practical drone use for the needs of underwriting and loss adjustment in agricultural insurance. Topics covered the classification of drones and key challenges of the drone industry: regulatory issues, certification requirements and operation specifics for various needs in crop insurance.

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## **AgroInsurance Conference – COVID-19 update. October 5-7, 2020 dates remain effective**

The Republic of Georgia, selected as the location for the 5th AgroInsurance Conference, had slightly over 900 COVID-19 cases in total, as of June 22, 2020. The government applied efficient restrictions, social distancing and disinfecting measures throughout the whole period since the beginning of March 2020. Travel and hotel industries in the country gradually resume business operations since June 15, 2020.

Earlier announced new tentative conference dates (October 5-7, 2020) remain effective. Conference premises are fully suited for maintaining the required social distancing between the participants, as well as necessary disinfection measures applied by the hotel and dining locations. The next conference update is expected on July 20, 2020, following the opening of the international travel by Georgia, the European Union and Asian countries.

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## **FAO Survey – 2020 Review of the Current State of World Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries Insurance**

As part of the global review, FAO is conducting an online survey to collect information on the range of insurance products and services for fisheries and aquaculture offered worldwide, as well as the opportunities and challenges faced by the insurance industry supporting these sectors. The results will complement the global review study.

FAO kindly requests your valuable assistance in the global review study through completing the online survey. The survey will take no more than 30 minutes to complete. Every survey respondent will receive a hardcopy of the FAO 2020 Review of the Current State of World Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries Insurance.

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## **USA - Strong storms damage crops and force replant decisions**

Severe storms in some areas of Southern Minnesota in early June has resulted some farm operators are now facing difficult decisions with regards to replanting crops. Significant portions of Blue Earth and Waseca Counties, and other locations received major hail damage to crops, which will likely result in some replant decisions, especially with soybeans.

Another factor affecting replant decisions is Federal Crop Insurance policies, which allow producers some compensation for replanting following crop losses from hail, heavy rains, or other natural causes. To qualify for replant compensation, farmers must have a loss area of at least 20 acres, or 20 percent of the total acres in an insured farm unit, whichever is less. The crop insurance replant provision can only be

exercised once on the same crop acres.

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## Spain - This year hailstorms are causing a lot of damage

Although the Spanish region of Aragon is usually hit by storms, this year, hail is wreaking havoc. In total, some 30,000 hectares of fruit, vines and cereals have already been damaged so far. The territorial director of Agroseguro in Aragon says that in little more than five months, the compensations for claims in Aragon already amount to around 20 million Euros.

Between January and November 2019, the compensations in the region amounted to around 37 million Euro. Last year, the dry weather was the main reason for many of those claims; something that will not happen again this year. In fact, the 20 million reached so far this season is already a considerable figure.

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## India - Government to give 75% on the death of animal

In the times of rising inflation, animal husbandry has also become a challenge but the government is fully supporting the farmers to increase their income through animal husbandry. Now the good news is animals will also have life insurance and the insurance company will give compensation to the insured animals on any kind of animal loss.

The special thing is that an animal will be insured for three years, the government will give 75% of the premium amount as a grant to the insurance company. The cattle owner will get the benefit of insurance by depositing only 25% contribution in the premium of the insured animal.

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## Colombia - Climate risk insurance for smallholder rice farmers

The Adapting Agriculture to Climate Today (ACToday) project at Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate and Society has been one of the pioneers to develop a new type of insurance called index insurance. Index insurance is a key component of ACToday's work, and teams have been working with government and private sector partners to design products tailored to the needs of each country.

One of the project's earliest and most committed partners has been Fedearroz, the rice producers' federation of Colombia. With ACToday technical and training support, Fedearroz has launched a pilot insurance project in May of 2020 for 100 farmers in the Meta region, which produces a sixth of all the rice in Colombia.

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## Combating desert locust plague: Drone Technology

FAO DLIS, together with several other partners, investigated the adoption of drone technology for use in locust early warning and preventive control, specifically to address some current challenges. It is added that desert locust breeds and develops gregarious phase in desert where green vegetation is germinated and grown after rainfall. Hence the challenge is to find more accurately a relatively small green patch of vegetation within the vast areas of the desert that may possibly contain locust infestations.

A survey team could launch a fixed-wing drone that would go out on a fixed route to take photographs of the territory. After surveillance of area, drone return to the team who would process the data and then go directly to areas that are green to check for any locust population. Secondly, to find out the spatial extent of green vegetation at a particular location and identify locust infestations within this area.

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## Mexico - 95,000 hectares of crops in Yucatan devastated by tropical storms

The latest tropical storms to hit Mexico have caused a disaster in the Yucatan countryside. According to secretary of Rural Development, estimates are that more than 95,000 hectares of crops were affected by the storms, and losses are estimated at around 2,000 million pesos. According to a report, 180 hectares of habanero pepper were lost; 1,530 hectares of vegetable crops, such as cucumber, radish, eggplant, lettuce, cabbage, green beans, squash, and other products were also lost as they remained underwater.

Since producers were starting to sow maize, the storms affected 10,000 hectares of maize crops and 5,000 hectares of mechanized maize crops that already had irrigation systems. 12,000 hectares of citrus, 250 hectares of papaya, and 2,000 hectares of henequen were also lost.

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