

TABLE 7.—*Less developed area: Selected grains and all grains, pulses, roots, and tubers, 1935-39, 1956, and 1959*

Area and year	Population (millions)	Selected cereals			Total out- put of all grains, pulses, roots, and tubers (thousand metric tons)	Total output per capita (kilograms)
		Average yield (quintal per hectare)	Area (thousand hectares)	Total output (thousand metric tons)		
Latin America:						
1935-39.....		11.0	26,992	29,684	34,422	(¹)
1956.....	188	11.8	34,527	40,357	50,207	267
1959.....	202	12.2	35,381	43,128	53,441	266
Africa:						
1935-39.....	(¹)	8.0	19,704	15,676	45,159	(¹)
1956.....	233	9.5	26,015	24,676	57,925	249
1959.....	250	9.0	27,274	24,428	58,710	235
West Asia and Far East:						
1935-39.....		11.8	101,899	120,468	151,292	(¹)
1956.....	798	11.2	118,114	132,835	167,079	209
1959.....	848	11.5	127,418	146,498	193,833	229

¹ Not available.

Source: Appendix tables A-7, A-8, A-9, and A-11.

In its "World Food Budget," the Department of Agriculture reports that food is available for above-standard diets in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, and Uruguay. In the remaining countries, with 32 percent of Latin America's population, there are distressing food deficits. In 1958, total deficits are estimated to have been the equivalent of 2.5 million metric tons of wheat, 10,000 tons of nonfat dry milk, and 100,000 tons of vegetable oil. Calorie levels ranged from a substandard 1,900 in Bolivia and Haiti to more than 3,300 in Argentina. Other figures given in the Department's report indicate the underlying problems in developing Latin American agriculture:

Latin America

Further, the population of Latin America is growing faster than in the other parts of the less developed area—at a rate of more than 2.5 percent annually. As a whole, Latin America's agricultural productivity has been increasing in the last 25 years, and it is using increasing amounts of farm machinery, fertilizer, improved seeds, and breeding stock. However, this is mainly taking place on the large farms which produce grain, livestock, sugar, cotton, coffee, bananas and other fruits for export.

The use of averages in connection with Latin America's agriculture is somewhat misleading because of the wide differences from country to country. For example, Mexico has had a good production record. Cereal output has increased, on the average, more than 200,000 tons a year, but dependence on imported food tends to increase year by year. The population increase amounts to somewhat less than a million a year. Guatemala is in a serious situation. Production of cereals in the last decade has increased little, while a million people have been added to the population.