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Data Article

Average crop yield (2001–2017) in Ethiopia: Trends at national, regional and zonal levels

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ABSTRACT

This article presents average agricultural yield data per hectare for key cereal, legume and root crops from 2001 until 2017. Data was obtained from the annual Agricultural Sample Surveys of the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia. We present data at national, regional (SNNPRS) and zonal (Wolaita) levels. The data shows that average yields for all crops, at all levels, show increasing trends during the time period. Data for the main cereal crops is consistent and aligns with literature relatively well, however we raise questions about the root crop data in an effort to encourage greater critical reflection of components of data from the CSA.

Specification Table

Subject area	*Agriculture*
More specific subject area	*Crop yield data*
Type of data	*Figures and tables*
How data was acquired	*Data were obtained from the annual Agricultural Sample Surveys of the Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia.*
Data format	*Analyzed*

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Experimental factors	*Data used in this article were obtained from the Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia, with reference to available literature.*
Experimental features	*Tables and graphic trends of analysis were employed.*
Data source location	*Ethiopia*
Data accessibility	*The data are with this article.*

Value of the data

- Average agricultural data are presented for key cereal, legume and root crops from 2001 to 2017.
- The data can be used by researchers and policy makers to analyze the implications of agriculture products on food security and poverty reduction.
- Average yields for all crops, at all levels, show increasing trends, with cereals doing so progressively and root crops increasing rapidly in recent years.
- Based upon some components of the governmental data, questions are raised about accuracy, encouraging researchers to be more critical when utilizing these data sets.

1. Data

The figures and tables of agricultural data were obtained from the annual Agricultural Sample Surveys of the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) [1–13], covering the time period of 2001 until 2017. The CSA is the only provider of data at this scale. Average yields for all crops, at all levels, show increasing trends, with cereals doing so progressively and root crops increasing rapidly in recent years (Figs. 1–5). All the data is presented on a year-by-year basis in Tables 1–3, enabling ease of re-analysis. However, there are general concerns about the quality, methodologies, and politicization of data produced by central statistics agencies [14]. We present data at national, regional (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' regional state; SNNPRS) and zonal (Wolaita) scales. The data for the major cereals (teff and maize) is relatively consistent with the literature, whereas the shifts as well as contrasts with the literature in root crops raise questions about components of the agricultural data. For example,

1) In the 2012/13 season yields per hectare of taro and sweet potato tripled, according to CSA personnel this was due to methodological changes (Tables 4–5) [15];

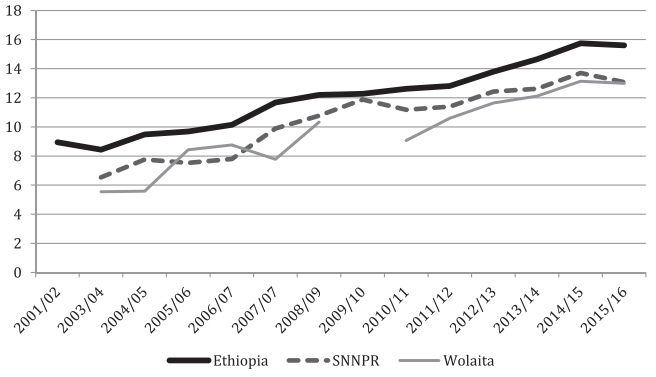

Fig. 1. National, Regional and Zonal Average Teff Yield (Qt per Ha).