



TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AMIDST A CHANGING CLIMATE

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KEY EXTERNAL DRIVERS

- ◎ **Global consumer spending.** An increase in consumer spending typically increases spending on food, including tropical fruit consumption. Global consumer spending is expected to increase in the next two years (2016 - 2017), representing a potential opportunity for the tropical fruit sector
- ◎ **Global per capita income.** As global per capita income increases, consumers are able to purchase more high-quality and diverse food, including tropical fruits. As a result, growth in global per capita income tends to increase demand for food

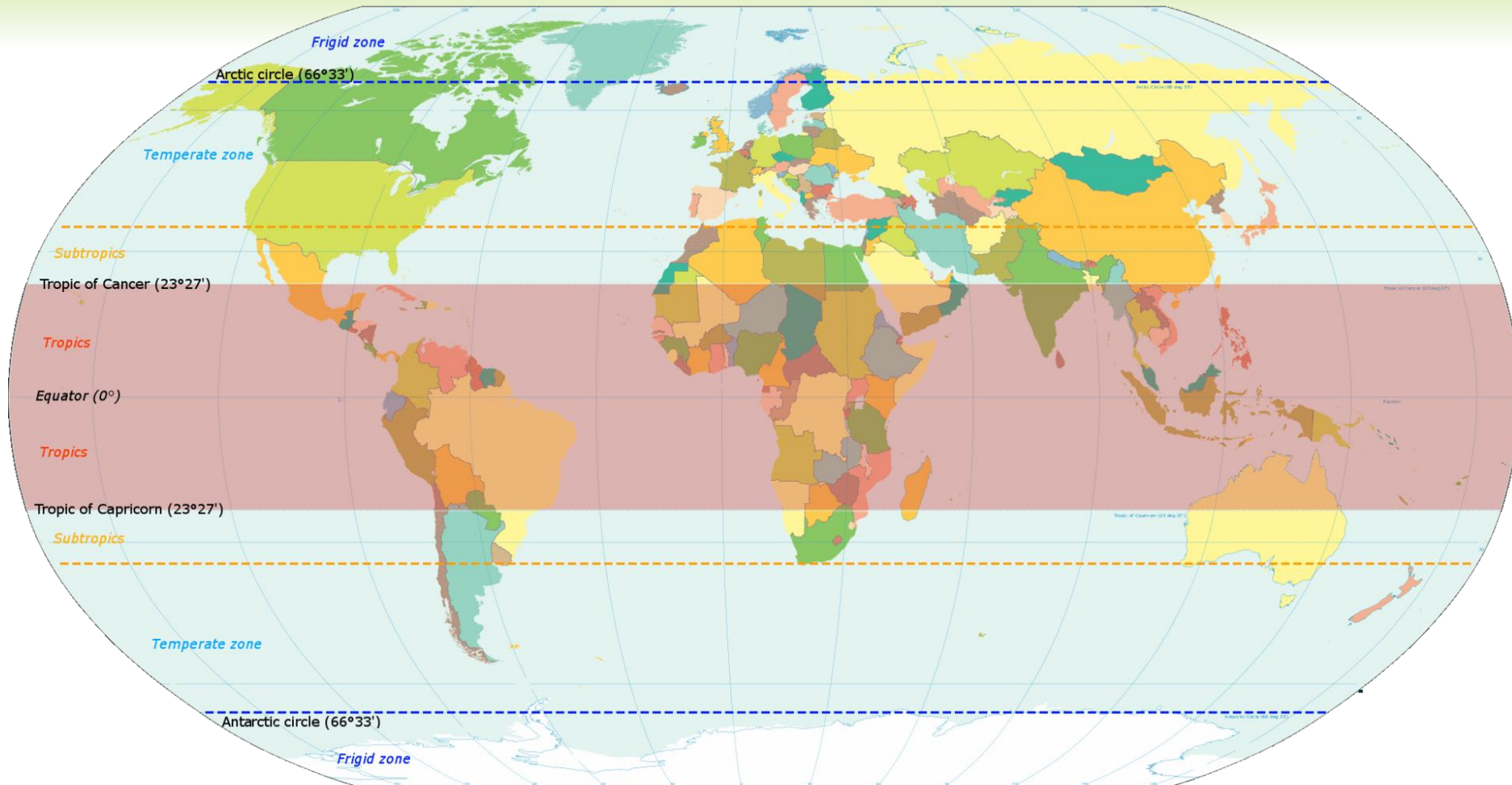
KEY EXTERNAL DRIVERS

- ② **Global damage caused by natural disasters.** Natural disasters, such as floods, droughts and hurricanes can cause substantial damage to the tropical fruit production. Climate change negatively affects the tropical fruit production by reducing crop yields, disrupting supply routes and damaging the local production capacity
- ② **Global urban population.** Tropical fruits are staple food products throughout much of the world, and are becoming increasingly popular with the increase of the global urban population, which has less access to fresh fruits than rural populations

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)

- ◎ The LAC region is an important net exporter of food and agricultural commodities, accounting for 16% of total global food and agriculture exports
- ◎ Although the structure of the region's agriculture is very diverse, more than 50% of the LAC region's food production comes from its 14 million smallholder farmers

TROPICAL REGION



OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAC TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION

- ◎ Global demand for tropical fruits are rising as a result of the growing global population and rising real incomes (nutrition and health)
- ◎ By 2050, the world's population is projected to reach 9 billion people and demand for food is forecast to be 60% higher than it is today
- ◎ Although new technology is increasing productivity for a greater output, new land will nevertheless be required for tropical fruit production in the near future
- ◎ The LAC region has an estimated one-third of the total world fresh water resources

CHALLENGES FOR LAC TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION

- ⊙ For the tropical fruit sector that is highly dependent on sales of one product, it needs to be robust in order to deal with price cycles and price volatility
- ⊙ As output rises, the need for good infrastructure becomes increasingly important to avoid an increase in costs and in losses or waste
- ⊙ Raising a sustainable productivity (mainly for small holders) will be essential in many parts of the LAC region in order to meet domestic needs and to capitalize on export opportunities

CHALLENGES FOR LAC TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION

- ③ Investment in technology is clearly one of the strategies to boosting productivity and raising output, and requires resources for research and development activities
- ③ For large commercial farms, investment in precision agriculture and more productive varieties
- ③ For the small holders that account for 50% of regional food production, it may mean access to technology via targeted innovative financial support or better access to extension and information services

CHALLENGES FOR LAC TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION

- ◎ In addition, the LAC region will require investment in infrastructure (to reduce both costs and losses/waste) and the maintenance and improvement of access to markets
- ◎ Specifically for smaller farmers, the strengthening of farmers associations or cooperatives has already proved successful in helping the region's farmers to get better access to markets, credit and information

TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION: A CASUALTY OF THE CC

- ⊙ According to recent reports in the LAC region, climate change could reduce the competitiveness of tropical fruit exports from developing countries as rising temperatures and more variable rainfall hit agricultural productivity while extreme weather events like floods damage roads and other supply chain infrastructure
- ⊙ Developing countries in the tropics are also least able to adapt to changes because of their lack of resources, particularly among smallholder farmers
- ⊙ Africa and parts of South Asia and Central America are most at risk from climate change

EARLY RESPONSES: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

- ⊙ Agricultural extension services are providing locally-driven solution for small-holders to climate adaption
- ⊙ Developing a climate platform to share information on best practices more effectively
- ⊙ Implementing a Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) as well as on meeting sustainability certification requirements help farmers respond to climate change
- ⊙ Accessing to financing in sustainable practices and infrastructure improvements such as access to irrigation

EARLY RESPONSES: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

- ⊙ Accessing to more reliable climate information enable better responses to shifting weather patterns (Early Warning Systems)
- ⊙ Developing better networks and partnerships among farmers and other actors of the value chain
- ⊙ Strengthening the current networks and expand their membership and the services to improve knowledge-sharing and create new opportunities to attract funding and government support for managing climate risks
- ⊙ Promoting crop diversification and developing new crop varieties, such as drought resistant ones, as vital to sustaining the tropical fruit viability

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- ◎ Effective policies should be implemented to address the concerns of small holders in the form of easy access to credit and information on technology, prices, and costs
- ◎ Government should also promote policies that encourage smallholder cooperatives to empower small holders at both the fruit production and processing stages
- ◎ The global risks to the tropical fruit production and trade from climate change are becoming increasingly obvious, but most of the evidence come from outside the tropics
- ◎ Climate change impacts depend on interactions between complex physical, biological and social variables, none of which are well understood at this moment
- ◎ This suggests that although the overall uncertainties in impact prediction can be mitigated, they cannot be eliminated

THANK YOU!!

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