

South Africa's Global Food Security Index Score Remains Resilient

- ***Country ranks 1st in sub-Saharan Africa and 70th globally***
 - ***Retains 2020 score, despite pandemic***

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, 23 November, 2021 - Amidst the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa has maintained a steady 57.8/100 in the 10th annual Global Food Security Index (GFSI); a benchmarking tool developed by Economist Impact and supported by leading agricultural company, Corteva Agriscience. The GFSI is constructed from 58 unique indicators that examine the underlying drivers and causes of food security across both developed and developing countries. Findings consider four key categories, namely Affordability, Availability, Quality and Safety and Natural Resources and Resilience.

Despite this demonstration of stability, South Africa's global ranking fell slightly from 69 in the 2020 iteration of the Index down to 70, out of the 113 countries assessed. The country's performance over the last decade has also declined. When implementing the most recent methodology, a like-for-like comparison shows that the country dropped eight spots, from 62 in 2012 to 2021's 70.

According to Tony Esmeraldo, Business Director - Southern Africa at Corteva Agriscience, this decline is not just unique to South Africa, "After making rapid gains in the first few years of its inception, the GFSI scores across all nations peaked in 2019, before dropping over the past two years against the backdrop of the pandemic, conflict and climate variability. This drop in GFSI scores has been seen across all regions and nations in all the different income tiers. However, high-income nations in Europe still lead the Index, as they did a decade ago, with Ireland securing the top position, scoring 84. Similarly, sub-Saharan African nations continue to dominate the bottom portion, with Burundi achieving the lowest score at 34.67."

The Index further shows that eight years of progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #2, zero hunger by 2030, have now been followed by two years of decline. This has been driven, in part, by new challenges such as the Coronavirus, extreme weather, pests and diseases that have significantly threatened agricultural production and farmer security worldwide.

"Insights from the GFSI serve as critical indicators of the wellbeing of a country. In the case of South Africa, it is a stern warning of the urgent actions that need to be taken to address household food security, amongst other essential factors," comments Christo van der Rheede, Agri SA's Executive Director.

South Africa did display strength in several areas, including food safety (92.7/100), the availability of micronutrients such as vitamins in the food supply (86.6) and workable agricultural import tariffs (78.4). Weak areas, achieving 0 points, comprised ongoing fluctuations in agricultural productivity, which can create difficulty in predicting and planning for a consistent food supply, and the lack of food security and access policy commitments.

"SA's agricultural sector has stood out as one of the most resilient contributors to national GDP, with a solid growth of 13.4% year-on-year in 2020, and expected further growth of 7.6% in 2021. The biggest short-term challenges the industry will face, in addition to climate change pressures, are rising input, labour, electricity and fuel costs," says Esmeraldo. "There is no doubt that the findings of the GFSI 2021 have given industry players a renewed sense of urgency to build a more food secure South Africa. Corteva Agriscience is committed to continuing to develop scientific-based solutions that will

help address the existing and emerging challenges that impact food security at its source – on the farm.”

When looking at rankings within sub-Saharan Africa, SA leads the region, followed by Botswana, Mali, Ghana and Burkina Faso. Tanzania showed the most improvement since the Index’s inception, increasing its score by +13.3 to 48.

Ali Abdi, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs the United States Embassy reiterated the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) support of global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research and improved market information, statistics and analysis. “With 870 million people around the world who do not have access to a sufficient supply of nutritious and safe food, establishing [global food security](#) is important not only to the hundreds of millions of hungry people, but also to the sustainable economic growth of these nations.”

Adds, Esmeraldo “It is clear that food security is no longer just a problem within certain country borders, it is now a more systemic challenge that can impact even the most wealthy and resourced countries. Based on data, certain patterns can be identified so that a predictive model can be created, looking at trends for the next ten years. We strongly believe that the current trajectory can be reversed but it will require worldwide collaboration and meaningful investment in agricultural R&D and technology. Only then can we enhance the productivity, financial security, and long-term sustainability of farms and our global food system for generations to come.”

Download full GSFI report [here](#).

To access the GFSI model and other detailed findings visit:
<http://impact.economist.com/sustainability/project/food-security-index>

Watch GFSI launch [here](#)

Notes to editors

Top 10 best performing countries vs top 10 bottom ranking countries

Best Performers	/100	Worst Performers	/100
Ireland	84	Burundi	34.7
Austria	81.3	Yemen	35.7
UK	81	Mozambique	35.9
Finland	80.9	Sudan	37.1
Switzerland	80.4	Malawi	37.3
Netherlands	79.9	Ethiopia	37.6
Canada	79.8	Haiti	37.8
Japan	79.3	Syria	37.8
France	79.1	Zambia	38
USA	79.1	Sierra Leone	38.1

Top 5 most and least improved countries between 2012 and 2021

Most improved	Score change	Least Improved	Score change
Tanzania	+13.3	Venezuela	-9.9
Omar	+11.9	Brazil	-4.8
Algeria	+10.9	Burundi	-4.5
China	+9.6	Norway	-3.4
UAE	+9.6	Syria	-3.4

About Corteva Agriscience

Corteva, Inc. (NYSE: CTVA) is a publicly traded, global pure-play agriculture company that provides farmers around the world with the most complete portfolio in the industry - including a balanced and diverse mix of seed, crop protection and digital solutions focused on maximising productivity to enhance yield and profitability. With some of the most recognised brands in agriculture and an industry-leading product and technology pipeline well positioned to drive growth, the company is committed to working with stakeholders throughout the food system as it fulfills its promise to enrich the lives of those who produce and those who consume, ensuring progress for generations to come. Corteva Agriscience became an independent public company on June 1, 2019 and was previously the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont. More information can be found at www.corteva.com.

Follow Corteva on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

About Economist Impact

Economist Impact combines the rigour of a think-tank with the creativity of a media brand to engage a globally influential audience. We believe that evidence-based insights can open debate, broaden perspectives and catalyse progress. The services offered by Economist Impact previously existed within The Economist Group as separate entities, including EIU Thought Leadership, EIU Public Policy, EIU Health Policy, Economist Events, EBrandConnect and SignalNoise. We are building on a 75-year track record of analysis across 205 countries. Along with framework design, benchmarking, economic and social impact analysis, forecasting and scenario modelling, we provide creative storytelling, events expertise, design-thinking solutions and market-leading media products, making Economist Impact uniquely positioned to deliver measurable outcomes to our clients.

For more visit: <https://impact.economist.com/>

###

23/11/21

TM [®] SM Trademarks and service marks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies.

Media Contact:

Barbra Muzata
Corteva Agriscience
+27838092424
barbra.muzata@corteva.com