SURVEY BRIEF

Agricultural Season
2023/24

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

THE WORLD BANK

Under the umbrella of the 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) collaborates with the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (TNBS) and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician in Zanzibar (OCGS) to implement the national annual agricultural sample survey (AASS). FAO provides technical support for four annual agricultural surveys from 2023 to 2026, implemented by TNBS and OCGS, to generate timely, high-quality agricultural data. Through the Initiative, the country strengthens its national statistics system, improves the use of survey data in policymaking and enhances the capacity of key data users to optimize evidence-based decisions.

Key features

This note provides key insights on agricultural holdings in the United Republic of Tanzania during the agricultural season 2023/24. It presents indicators on agricultural land and holding size, crop output and yields, farm input use and the participation of women in leading roles in agriculture. More detailed indicators are available in the national annual agricultural sample survey report (TNBS & OCGS, 2025). A technical annex at the end of this document provides further details on the indicators presented, definitions, sources and assumptions used. The annex also includes the link to the survey brief for the agricultural season 2022/23.

Key characteristics of agricultural holdings

According to the 2023/24 agricultural survey, the United Republic of Tanzania has approximately 9.0 million agricultural holdings. Around 1 100 of them are large-scale farms and the rest are agricultural households. Of these households, 8.85 million were engaged in crop production (98.6 percent), while 5.14 million were involved in livestock rearing (57.3 percent). In the long rainy season (masika) of 2023/24, agricultural holdings cultivated a total of 11.9 million hectares, compared to 4.0 million hectares during the short rainy season (vuli). During the long rainy season, the average cultivated area was 1.6 hectares per holding.
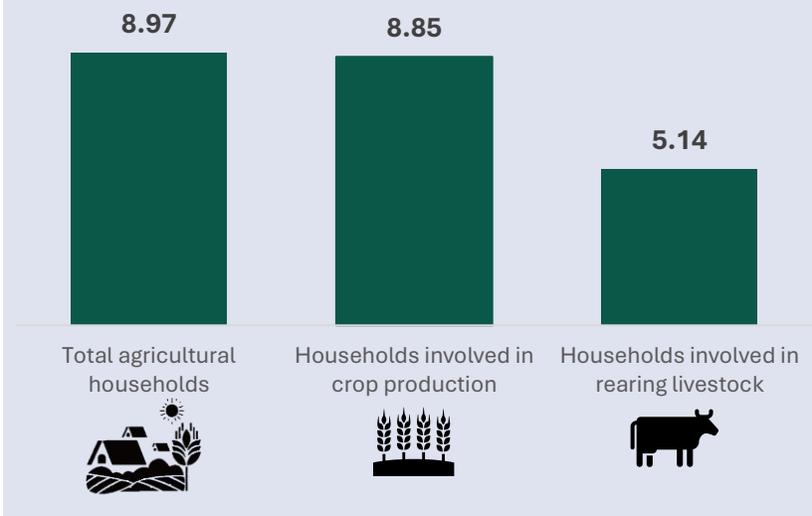
11.9 million hectares
cultivated in long rainy season

9.0 million
agricultural holdings

Cultivated area
1.6 ha
per holding

Number of agricultural households by type of activity (millions)

Total agricultural households	Households involved in crop production	Households involved in rearing livestock
8.97	8.85	5.14

Note 1: Cultivated area corresponds to planted area. Cultivated area per holding refers to the long rainy season only.

Size of agricultural holdings and planted area

Average size of planted area for agricultural households by region

Average size of planted area (ha) for agricultural households
- 0.3 - 0.5
- 0.5 - 1.0
- 1.0 - 1.5
- 1.5 - 2.0
- 2.0 - 2.5
- 2.5 - 2.6
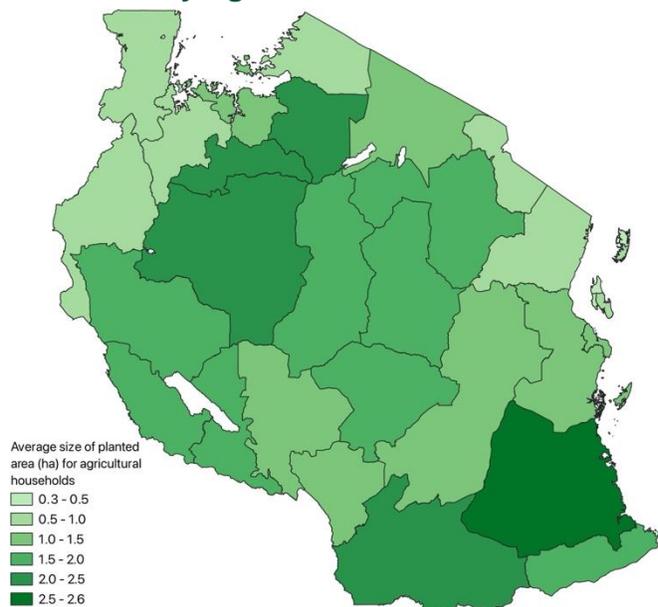
Source: Based on the AASS 2023/2024 (TNBS & OCGS, 2025).
Note: Refer to the disclaimer on page 9 for the names and boundaries used in this map.

Note 1: Average holding size refers to the average land area of holdings, whether planted with crops or not, including both agricultural households and large-scale farms. The holding land size refers to the agricultural year 2023/2024.
Note 2: Average planted area refers to the long rainy season.

The average land size of agricultural holdings (including agricultural households and large-scale farms) is around 1.6 hectares (ha). This overall average is largely driven by agricultural households, given the relatively small number of large-scale farms.

The average planted area in the long rainy season is 1.6 ha for agricultural households, while it is around 387 ha for large scale-farms. Among agricultural households, average planted area varies across regions, ranging from 0.3 ha in Kaskazini Unguja to 2.6 ha in Lindi, in the long rainy season.

Average holding size

1.6
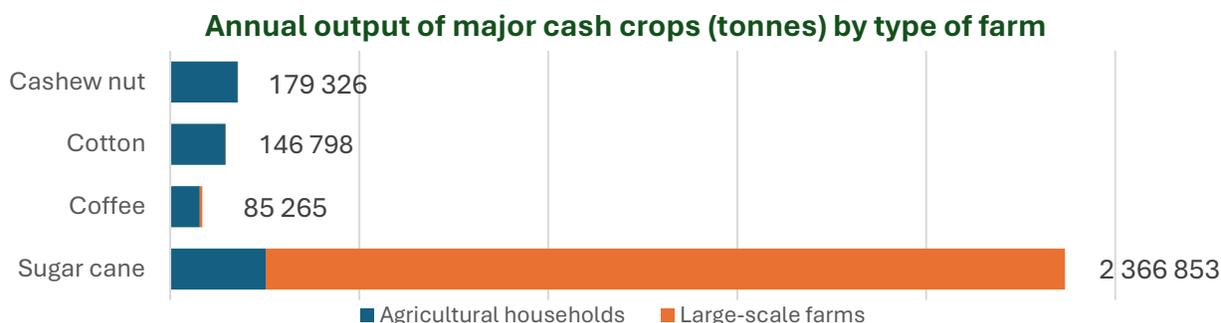# hectares

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Crop output, harvested area and yields

During the 2023/24 agricultural year, the country's main crops by harvested area were maize (4.1 million ha), paddy rice (1.3 million ha) and beans (0.57 million ha). Maize, the most widely grown cereal crop, was cultivated by approximately 6.7 million holdings, with an estimated yield of 1.8 tonnes per ha, while rice was grown by about 1.6 million holdings at an estimated yield of 2.4 tonnes per ha.

| Crop	Harvested area Hectares	Output Tonnes	Yield Tonnes per hectare
Maize	4 121 487	7 443 199	1.8
Paddy, rice	1 315 876	3 134 205	2.4
Beans	569 488	442 873	0.8
Groundnuts	482 923	367 266	0.8
Sunflower	367 551	276 202	0.8
Sesame	323 528	144 589	0.4
Sorghum	239 128	201 930	0.8

Note 1: The figures refer to totals and averages, including agricultural households and large-scale farms.

The most grown cash crops are cashew nuts, coffee, cotton and sugarcane, with cashew nuts grown by 365 201 agricultural holdings producing 178 755 tonnes in the 2023/24 agricultural season. During the same period, agricultural households were responsible for almost the totality of the production of cashew nuts and cotton, and for around 90 percent of the coffee produced. Sugar cane is the cash crop most dominated by large-scale farms, as they produce around 90 percent of the total.

Annual output of major cash crops (tonnes) by type of farm

Cashew nut	179 326
Cotton	146 798
Coffee	85 265
Sugar cane	2 366 853

■ Agricultural households ■ Large-scale farms

Farm inputs

According to the annual agricultural sample survey 2023/24, approximately 40.2 percent of agricultural holdings in the United Republic of Tanzania used organic or inorganic fertilizers. About 21.6 percent used organic fertilizers, while 25.4 percent used inorganic fertilizers. Among agricultural households, 29.9 percent of the planted area was treated with some type of fertilizer, a share significantly lower than for large-scale farms (58.7 percent). Around 37.5 percent of agricultural holdings used pesticides. As with fertilizers, differences in pesticide use across holding types are significant: 35.3 percent of the area planted is treated with pesticides for agricultural households (a similar percentage to the agricultural season 2022/23, 36.8 percent), while this share increases to 63.5 percent for large-scale farms.

Share of **agricultural holdings** using

Pesticides

37.5%

Inorganic fertilizers

25.4%

Organic fertilizers

21.6%

35.3%

of the **area planted** by agricultural households was treated with **pesticides**

63.5%

of the area planted for large-scale farms
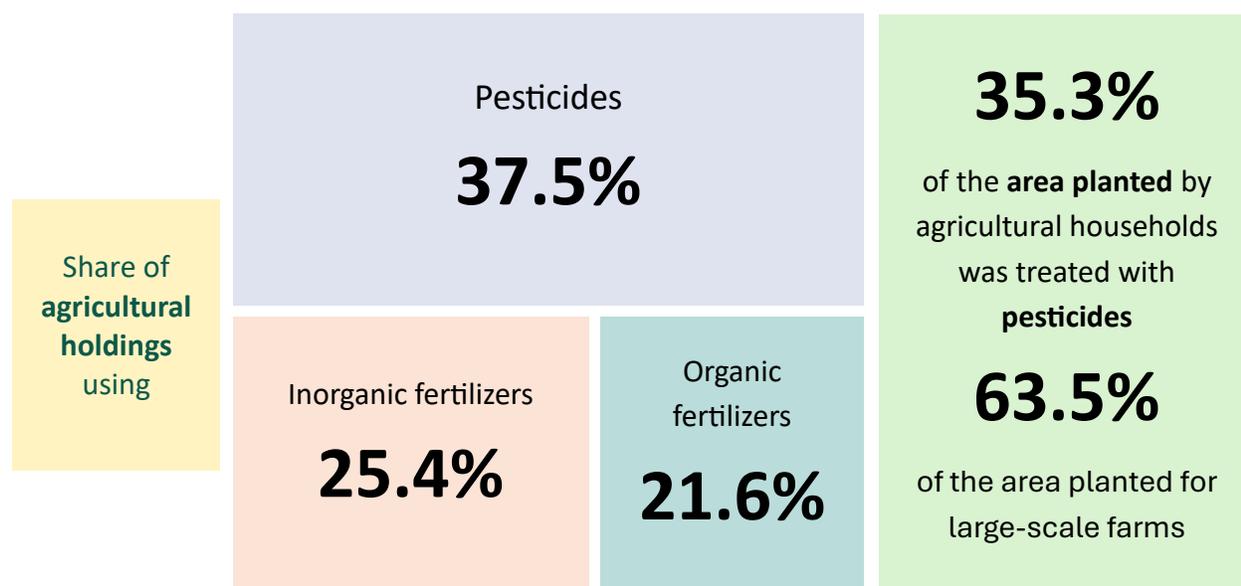
Note 1: Shares of agricultural holdings using inputs are calculated over the total agricultural holdings practicing crop production. The share of agricultural holdings using organic or inorganic fertilizers is calculated over the total applying any fertilizer. Figures refer to the agricultural year 2023/24. **Note 2:** The shares of planted area with input use refer to the total planted area, calculated as the area planted in the long rainy season plus the area planted in the short rainy season

Participation of women in leading roles in agricultural households

Women remain underrepresented in decision-making roles among households in the agricultural sector. Of the 8.9 million agricultural households, only about one-quarter are headed by women. The proportion is even lower among livestock-rearing households, where only 20.6 percent have female heads.

While the number of female-headed households is low, women's influence on decision-making within agricultural households is balanced with that of men. Indeed, around half (49.6 percent) of household decision-makers are women.

Percentage of female-headed and male-headed agricultural households

24.2%

75.8%

■ Male headed households
■ Female headed households

49.6%

of those that make decisions in households are women
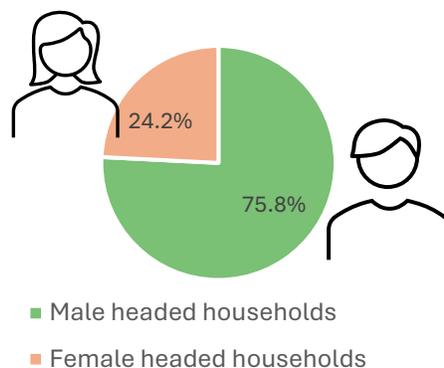
Technical Annex

Sources and scope

- Data source: Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (TNBS) & Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS). 2025. Annual Agricultural Sample Survey (AASS) 2023/24 National Report. United Republic of Tanzania. https://www.nbs.go.tz/statistics/topic/annual-agriculture-sample-surveys
- Maps and tables source: Annual Agricultural Sample Survey 2023/24.
- Geographical scope: the indicators presented in this note are representative of the population of agricultural holdings in the United Republic of Tanzania Mainland as well as in Zanzibar.
- Product scope: crops and livestock.
- Cash and staple crops classification is based on Annual Agricultural Sample Survey 2023/24 (TNBS & OCGS, 2025).

Indicators and definitions

All the indicators produced in this brief can be considered as statistically representative at the geographical scale at which they are presented. Definitions below are provided by the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (TNBS) and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS). For full details, please refer to the AASS 2023/24 report (TNBS & OCGS, 2025).

- Yields (tonne per acre): calculated as averages of farm-level yields weighted by quantities harvested of each crop.
- Agricultural holding: any economic unit of agricultural production (like a garden of temporary and/or permanent crops or cattle rearing/plantation) under single management, without regard to title, legal form or size.
- Large-scale farm: farm (run either by a household or a corporation) with at least 20 hectares of cultivated land or at least 50 herds of cattle or at least 100 between goats, sheep, and pigs or at least 1 000 chickens. In addition to this, they should fulfil all four of the listed conditions: i) more than 50 percent of the produce should go to the market, ii) the operation of farm should be continuous, iii) there should be an application of machinery/implements on the farm, and iv) it should have at least one permanent employee.
- Agricultural household: population unit referring to a household with members practicing own account agricultural activities, defined as having cultivated a piece of

land equal to or exceeding 25 square meters, or having reared at least one cattle or at least five between goats, sheep or pigs, or at least fifty between chicken, ducks or turkeys during the reference agricultural year.

- Short rainy season or vuli: October up to January of the following year in the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Long rainy season or masika: March up to May of the same year in the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Dry season: typically occurs from June to October in the United Republic of Tanzania. During this period, there is minimal rainfall, and the humidity remains very low.
- Organic fertilizers include solid manure or farmyard manure; liquid manure or slurry; green manure (crop residues); compost; stabilized sewage sludge; biofertilizers and other organic fertilizers.
- Inorganic fertilizers include urea; diammonium phosphate (DAP); calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN); ammonium sulphate (SA); nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium (NPK); minjingu nafaka plus; NPS zinc; fomi; kenoplus; pandaplus; macrop; amidas; triple super phosphate (TSP); muriate of potash (MOP) and other inorganic fertilizer.
- Pesticides include insecticides; herbicides (solid); herbicides (liquid); fungicides; rodenticides and other pesticides.

The data presented in this brief are sourced from countries' surveys and may differ from data published on other FAO platforms.