Agricultural R&D expenditures fluctuated considerably in Venezuela during 2010–2013 based on the volatility of both government funding levels and internally generated resources at INIA, the country’s primary agricultural R&D agency.

Agricultural researcher numbers at INIA almost doubled during 2007–2013, and the majority of this growth was among BSc–qualified researchers. In contrast, researcher numbers at the higher education agencies increased by 38 percent, but growth was mainly among PhD-qualified researchers.

More than half of Venezuelan agricultural researchers are over 50 years old, and this share is even higher among PhD-qualified researchers. About 50 percent of the country’s agricultural researchers are female.
OVERVIEW OF VENEZUELA’S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AGENCIES

Five agencies conduct agricultural R&D in Venezuela. INIA (employing 418 FTEs in 2013) is by far the largest, accounting for nearly half the country’s agricultural researchers (in FTEs). The institute is headquartered in Maracay, Aragua, as is its National Center of Agricultural Research. The institute also operates 21 research centers located across the country and focusing on local priorities. INIA’s predominant research focus is crops (mostly rice, maize, and cocoa).

Three higher education agencies conduct agricultural research in Venezuela: the Department of Agronomy of the Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado University (42 FTEs) operates three satellites, one focusing on grape research in Cabudare, one focusing on agro-industry in Barquisimeto, and a third in El Tocuyo that conducts research on fisheries and other commodities. The Faculty of Agronomy at the Central University of Venezuela (36 FTEs) comprises nine research stations. Finally, the Office of Graduate Programs in Food Science and Nutrition at the Simon Bolivar University (1 FTE) focuses on food technology and nutrition. One nonprofit agency conducts agricultural research in Venezuela: the Danac Foundation (6 FTEs). No private for-profit agencies conducting agricultural R&D were identified.

ASTI DATA PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGIES

- The data underlying this factsheet were predominantly derived through primary surveys, although some data were drawn from secondary sources or were estimated.
- Agricultural research includes research conducted by the government, higher education, and nonprofit sectors; Research conducted by the private for-profit sector is excluded due to lack of available data.
- ASTI bases its calculations of human resource and financial data on full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers, which take into account the proportion of time staff actually spend on research compared with other activities.
- ASTI presents its financial data in 2011 local currencies and 2011 purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars. PPPs reflect the relative purchasing power of currencies more effectively than do standard exchange rates because they compare prices of a broader range of local—as opposed to internationally traded—goods and services.
- ASTI estimates the higher education sector’s research expenditures because it is not possible to isolate them from the sector’s other expenditures.
- Note that, due to decimal rounding, the percentages presented can sum to more than 100.

For more information on ASTI’s data procedures and methodology, visit www.asti.cgiar.org/methodology; for more information on agricultural R&D in Venezuela, visit www.asti.cgiar.org/venezuela.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS FACTSHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AgGDP</td>
<td>Agricultural gross domestic product</td>
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<tr>
<td>INIA</td>
<td>National Institute of Agricultural Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTE(s)</td>
<td>Full-time equivalent (researchers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPP(s)</td>
<td>Purchasing power parity (exchange rates)</td>
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<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>Research and development</td>
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ABOUT ASTI, AND IFPRI

Working through collaborative alliances with numerous national and regional R&D agencies and international institutions, Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) is a comprehensive and trusted source of information on agricultural R&D systems across the developing world. ASTI is led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), which—as a CGIAR member—provides evidence-based policy solutions to sustainably end hunger and malnutrition and reduce poverty.

ASTI/IFPRI gratefully acknowledge participating agricultural R&D agencies for their contributions to the data collection and preparation of this country factsheet. ASTI also thanks the Inter-American Development Bank for its generous support of ASTI’s work in South America and Mexico. This factsheet has been prepared as an ASTI output and has not been peer reviewed; any opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of IFPRI.