

## Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia: Latin America's top three greenhouse gas emitters

The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028, a collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), reveals information about the emission of greenhouse gas from agriculture and livestock of each country in Latin America. According to the report, Uruguay is the country with the most polluting agricultural activity in the region, 75% of such activity generating the gas, followed by Argentina (44.3%) and Colombia (38%).

The report states that, by the year 2028, the Latin American region will occupy up to a quarter of the world's food exports, which means that agricultural activity will increase and result in more pollution in the environment from increased greenhouse gas emission. At present, 32% of all agricultural and livestock activities in Latin America are the origin of greenhouse gas in the Earth's atmosphere.

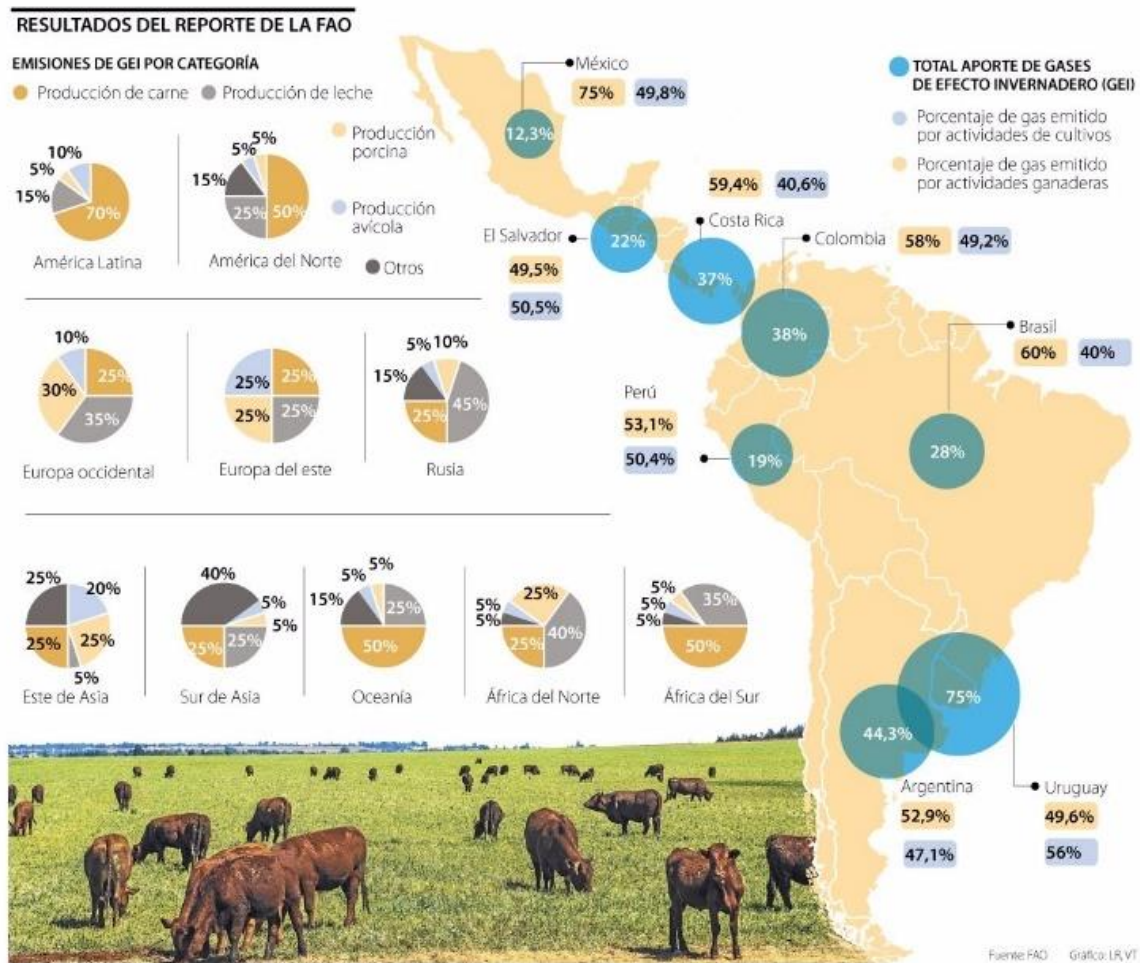
According to the report, Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia are the three countries with the highest rate of greenhouse gas generated by agriculture and livestock activities in the region. Uruguay is the country with the most polluting agricultural activity in the region, with 75% of such activities generating the gas. This general indicator is divided into two: the percentage of livestock activity generating the gas is 56% and 49.6% for agricultural activity.

Following, Argentina is the second country with the most polluting agricultural activity in the region, with 44.3% of agricultural and livestock activities generating the gas, divided into 52.9% of agricultural activity and 47.1% of livestock activity. Then, Colombia, with 38% of agricultural and livestock activities generating the gas, divided into 49.2% of agricultural activity and 58 percent of livestock activity.

In Colombia, the situation tends to intensify in the future. Because, currently, only 40% of the country's fertile ground is used for cultivation and there is a total of 28 million cows raised (expected to increase by more than 35 million by the year 2028). The report states that process of deforestation to increase cultivation ground is one of the common causes of greenhouse gas emissions. Because, it will release millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that the plants have been collected.

Mrs. Brigitte Baptiste, the director of the Humboldt Institute, explains that normally methane emissions tend to be generated when pastures are established for livestock, which is considered to be one of the most common sources of methane gas. In addition, cow farts are tremendously bad for the atmosphere. Because the methane gas that comes out has a power that is 10 times more severe than CO<sub>2</sub> in terms of global warming.

Mr. Ricardo Rapallo, FAO Regional Officer, said that one-fourth of greenhouse gas emissions on Earth are caused by agricultural activity, livestock, forestry and other types of use of the ground. Also, he emphasized that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that produces greenhouse gas from livestock activities the most in the world. Because, it is a region that is famous for beef production which is an activity that produces a lot of methane gas into the Earth's atmosphere.



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