



THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND UKRAINE PARTNERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE

General Overview

March 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

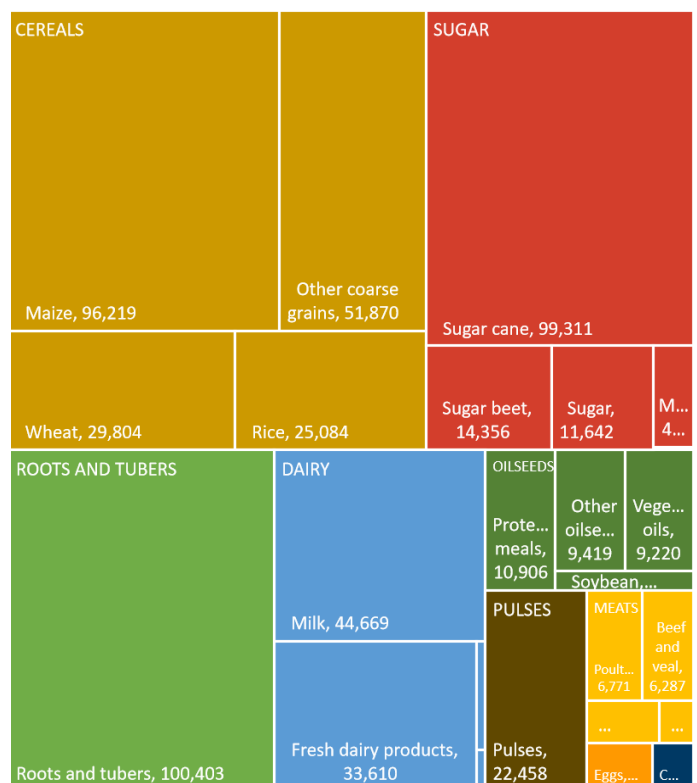
The full-scale invasion of Russia has reinforced Ukraine's need to establish strong international relations. Agriculture, which plays a significant role in the Ukrainian economy, can be the basis for partnerships between Ukraine and food-importing countries. This report gives a brief overview of the state of agriculture in Africa, trade between the African countries and Ukraine, and examines the possibilities for future partnership in agriculture.

AFRICA: PRODUCTION & TOTAL USE

In 2021, **Africa produced mainly roots and tubers**, like yam, cassava, potato, dasheen, macabo, sweet potato and others, **sugar cane, and corn**, with roots and tubers accounting for 17% of production. Moreover, Africa had a 40% share in **global** production of roots and tubers in the same year. The production of cereals and tubers is less affected by extreme weather conditions, making them predominant in agricultural production. The Sub-Saharan region of Africa is projected to contribute 21% of the world's pulse supplies by 2031, with a predicted 28% increase in livestock production with respect to the current figures (FAO, OECD 2022).

In 2021, cereals represented over 50% of African total commodity use, followed by roots and tubers. **Corn was the most commonly used product in African countries, accounting for more than 20% of agri-food consumption.** Corn is found in typical African meals and is common for animal feed. As for roots and tubers, they are also popular due to their high domestic production and prevalence in the African diet. Conversely, meat is rarely consumed due to religious restrictions, limited availability, and cultural specifics.

FIGURE 1. African production of agriculture in 2021



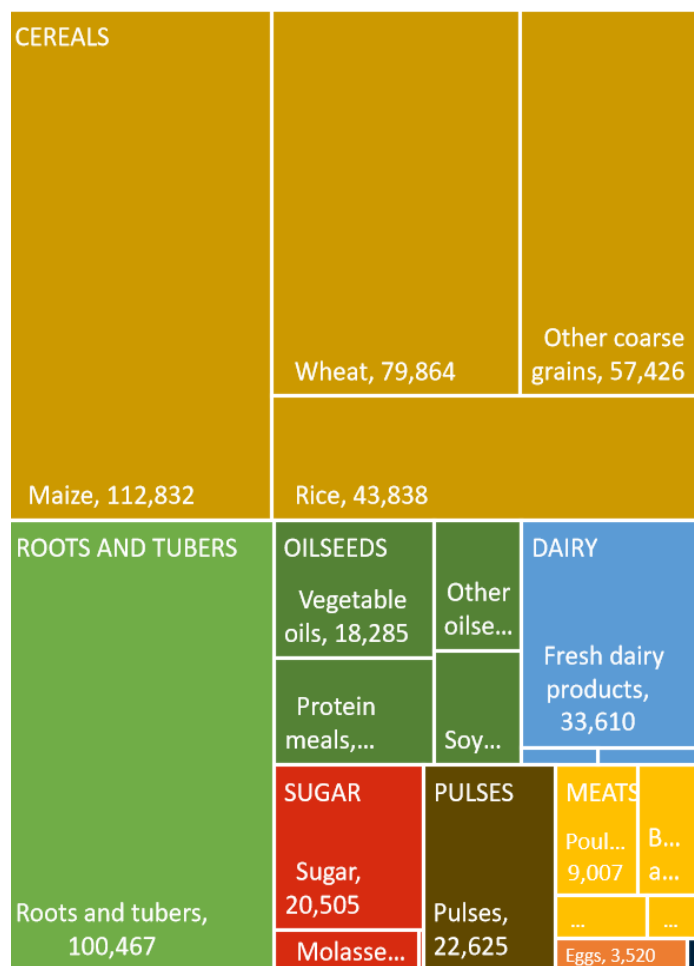
Source: FAO, OECD

Units: 1000 tons

AFRICA: IMPORT DEPENDENCE

Taking an in-depth look into consumption structure combined with export and import statistics, the level of import dependence can be measured. Perishable products, like dairy and meat, are primarily sourced from domestic production with a few exceptions. For example, almost all milk powders are imported but are not commonly used when compared to fresh dairy products. As for meat, poultry is the only meat with a substantial share of imports at 25%, while the import shares of other meat types are considerably lower. Sheep meat is almost totally consumed domestically and has a positive net export value. Similarly, sugar is widely produced on the continent, yet consumption is equally split between net imports and domestic production. Pulse production also meets total consumption demands.

FIGURE 2. African total use of agri-foods in 2021



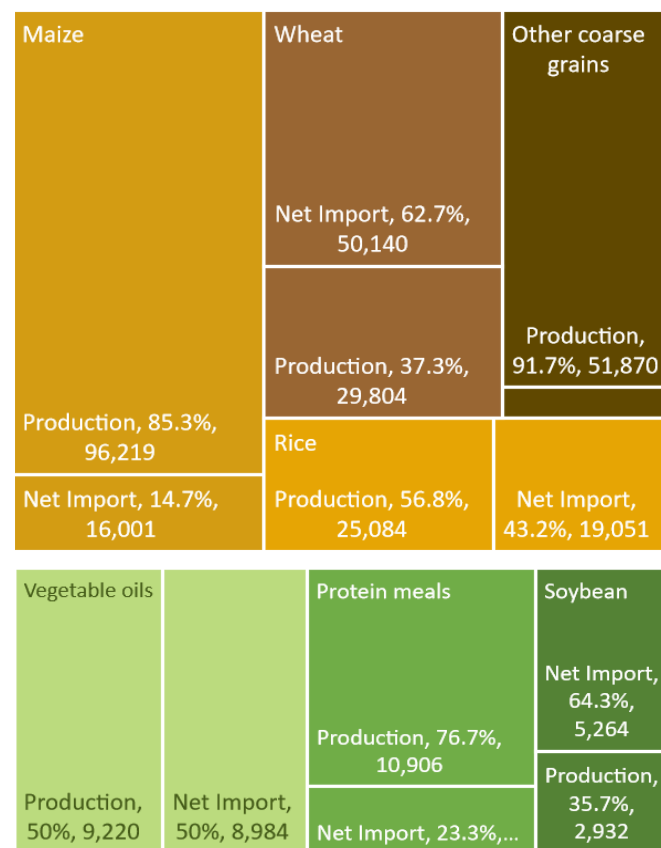
Source: FAO, OECD

Units: 1000 tons

Conversely, there are two main groups of products, which can definitely be classified as import dependent. The first one is cereals. Africa produces a vast amount of corn, therefore, can satisfy most of the demand but not completely. Hence, **Africa imports a considerable amount of corn from other countries, including Ukraine**. Wheat and rice are also mostly imported.

The second group of imported products is oilseeds and their processed products.. **Imports are the main origin of rapeseed, soybean, and sunflower oil** consumed in Africa. While the continent produces a lot of palm, cottonseed, and coconut oil, it is not enough to satisfy the demand for vegetable oil. Ukraine is one of the major suppliers of sunflower oil globally, and 36 African countries received it in 2021. Hence, Africa is dependent on the rest of the world by importing cereals and oilseeds.

FIGURE 3. Consumption structure of grains and oilseeds, level of self-sufficiency



Source: FAO, OECD

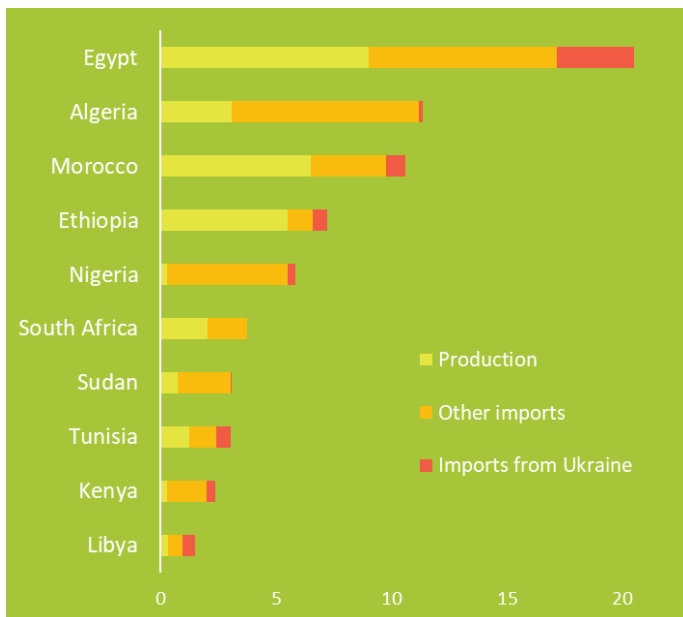
Units: 1000 tons

CLOSE-UP: WHEAT & CORN

In the previous paragraph it was mentioned that domestic production is not capable of satisfying the demand for cereals in Africa. Hence, a lot of countries rely on imported commodities, especially in the case of wheat. **In 32 out of 40 African countries**, where data is available, **the share of import in consumption of wheat is higher than 70%**. This implies that the level of import dependence is very high and trade with other countries is crucial in providing Africans with wheat.

Ukraine plays an important role in supplying food to Africa. More than half of African countries bought Ukrainian wheat in 2021. Figure 4 indicates that out of the top 10 consumers of wheat, 9 met their demand by collaborating with Ukraine. **The following countries are particularly reliant on Ukrainian wheat:** Libya, with Ukraine's share in imports of wheat equal to 48%, Eritrea - 37%, Tunisia - 36%, Ethiopia - 36%, Egypt - 29%, Mauritania - 26%, Morocco - 21%, and Kenya - 17%.

FIGURE 4. Top 10 wheat-consuming countries in Africa in 2021 and their consumption structure

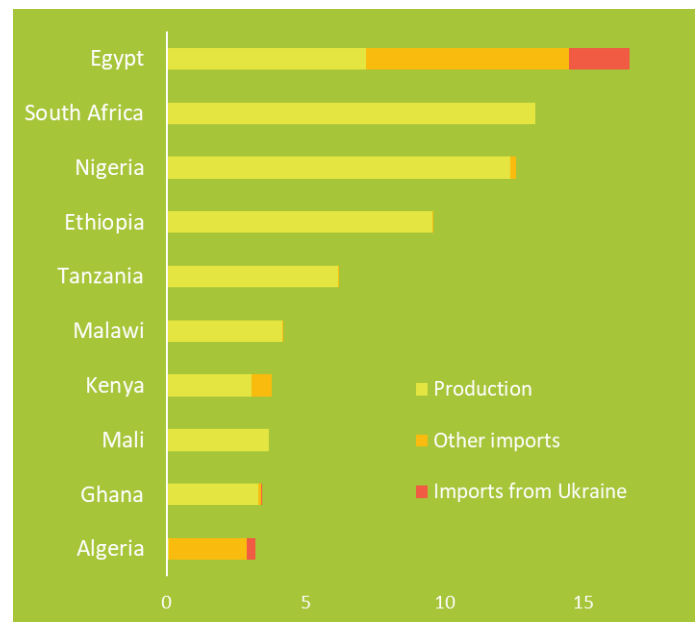


Source: State Customs Service of Ukraine, USDA
Units: million tons

In contrast to wheat, the majority of countries in Africa do not rely on imported corn, but rather prioritize domestic production. In fact, **only 14 out of 42**

countries imported more than 18% of their corn requirements in 2021. As has been mentioned previously, this is because corn is the third most cultivated commodity on the continent. Despite the emphasis on domestic production, such countries like Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania receive a noteworthy portion of corn from Ukraine to meet their demands.

FIGURE 5. Top 10 corn-consuming countries in Africa in 2021 and their consumption structure



Source: State Customs Service of Ukraine, USDA
Units: million tons

AFRICA & UKRAINE: TRADE

The trade partnership in the agricultural sector between Africa and Ukraine is witnessing growth, with impressive figures recorded in 2021. **Ukraine exported 13 million tonnes of agricultural products valued at \$3.8 billion to 52 out of the 58 African countries**, demonstrating the strong ties between the two regions. Out of the 52 African countries, **Egypt was the largest importer of Ukrainian agri-food products**, accounting for 42% of the total export value. Following Egypt were Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Algeria, Nigeria, Kenya, Djibouti, and Sudan. The success of this trade relationship may be attributed to the high quality and competitive pricing of Ukrainian agricultural products, which have garnered the recognition of African countries.

Conversely, **Ukraine imported 168 thousand tonnes of agricultural products worth \$380 million from 39 African countries.** Côte d'Ivoire was the largest exporter of agri-foods to Ukraine, accounting for 26% of imports. Malawi, Egypt, Ghana, and South Africa followed closely behind, with 19%, 15%, 11%, and 7% of the total imports, respectively.

Trade between Ukraine and Africa is facilitated by the development of diplomatic relations. Currently, 10 diplomatic missions are active on the continent, and 10 more are planned to be opened. This helps to strengthen Ukraine's position on the African food market and establish positive trade relations.

UKRAINE: IMPORT STRUCTURE

Ukraine's food imports are quite diversified in terms of products and trading partners. In 2021, the main imports were fish, tobacco, alcohol, palm oil, citrus fruits, cheeses, grapes, bananas, coffee, and chocolate.

Notably, most of the imported products listed above are also Africa's primary exports to Ukraine. In 2021 Ukraine imported \$110 million USD of cacao products, \$75 million USD of tobacco, \$52 million USD of citruses, nearly \$14 million USD of coffee, and \$10 million USD of exotic fruits from Africa.

When examining the level of import dependence, it becomes apparent that Ukraine relies heavily on products originating from African countries. Specifically, Ukraine depends on Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana as exporters of cocoa beans, paste, and powder. These two countries alone account for approximately 80% of Ukraine's cacao-product supplies.

Furthermore, Ukraine is dependent on Malawi, which accounts for 25% of Ukraine's tobacco imports. Together with other African countries, they contribute to one-third of tobacco supplies to Ukraine. As for citrus, Egypt and South Africa together make up more than 20% of citrus exports to Ukraine.

FIGURE 6. Import of agri-foods from Ukraine in 2021



Source: State Customs Service of Ukraine, MFA of Ukraine

FIGURE 7. Export of agri-foods to Ukraine in 2021



Source: State Customs Service of Ukraine, MFA of Ukraine

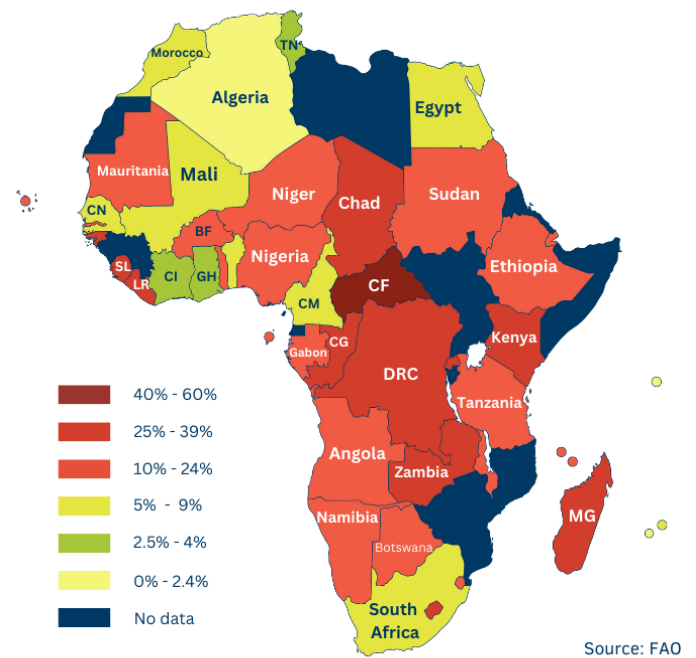
AFRICA: FOOD SECURITY

African countries have the highest percentage of undernourished people in the world. Despite ongoing efforts to combat food insecurity, hunger remains widespread among a large proportion of the population. Out of 36 low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) located in Africa, 33 received food of Ukrainian origin in 2021. This emphasizes Ukraine's important role in Africa's food supply. Establishing strong diplomatic relations between African countries and Ukraine could increase food supplies.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Ukraine and African countries are highly interdependent on food trade. This is due to the structure of consumption and production in these regions. Africa relies on imports of grains and oilseeds from Ukraine. At the same time, Ukraine actively imports coffee, cocoa, citrus fruits, and tobacco from the African continent. The structure of bilateral food trade between Ukraine and Africa demonstrates significant potential for increasing trade volumes.

FIGURE 8. Prevalence of hunger (% of total population)



Author:

Anna Myslytska

KSE Center for Food and Land Use Research
agrifood@kse.org.ua

KSE | Center for Food
and Land Use Research
at Kyiv School of Economics