



Latest update: May 2013

Bilateral agricultural trade relations

EU agricultural trade with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries

The ACP is a grouping of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states with which the EU has a special relationship. 48 ACP countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 in the Caribbean region and 15 in the Pacific. The ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (the Cotonou Agreement) was signed by 77 ACP countries¹, and is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU.

Current trade arrangements are agreed or under negotiation under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). EPAs are a type of partnership agreement under which all trade is substantially liberalised by both the EU and the ACP states. The EPAs are designed to consolidate the EU's trade and development policy, creating a climate for investment and growth in the ACP regions. EPAs also aim to significantly improve regional trade between ACP states, and lay down technical and practical cooperation measures designed to facilitate trade.

EPAs link the EU to ACP states in 7 regional groupings selected by the ACP states themselves: the **Cariforum** (Caribbean) region, **West Africa**, **Central Africa**, **Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)**, the **East African Community**, the **Southern African Development Community EPA Group**, and the **Pacific region**. EPAs are in implementation in the Cariforum Region, ESA (4 members), and the Pacific (Papua New Guinea). In other countries and regions, agreements have been signed and are awaiting ratification, or negotiations are continuing

Trade Figures

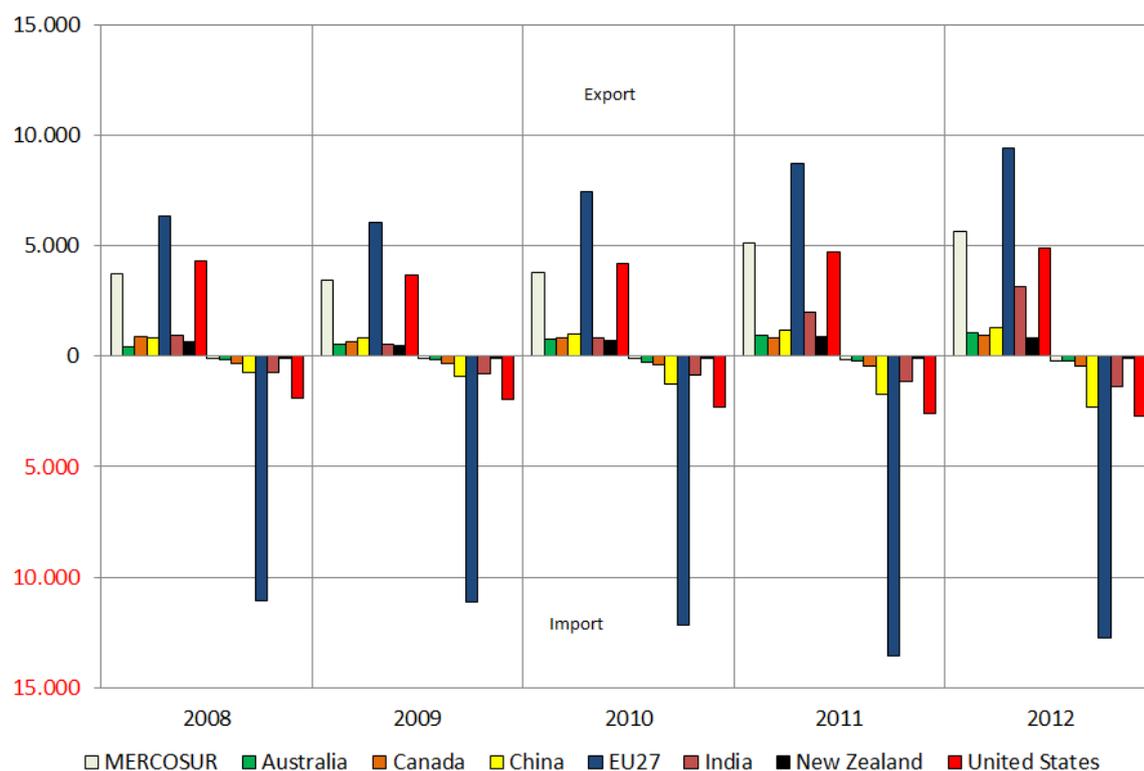
The EU's trade with ACP countries is much higher than that of any other major trade partner. ACP countries account for around 13% of agricultural imports to the EU and receive about 8% of EU agricultural exports (average 2010-2012).

¹ Cuba is not a signatory of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, Somalia did not ratify it. South Africa is signatory but does not benefit from the development finance cooperation provisions of the Agreement through the European Development Fund.



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Agricultural trade with ACPs (in million Euro)



Trade figures for 2012 show the ACP states, including South Africa, exporting to the EU around EUR 13 billion in agricultural product. The EU exported about EUR 9 billion, giving a net trade flow of ACP exports of EUR 4 billion.

EU consumers and the agri-food industry are therefore substantial buyers of ACP commodities. A good proportion of imported products are commodities and intermediate products, with the main products including cocoa, coffee and tea, tropical fruits and spices, fruits, raw sugar, and raw tobacco among others. For EU consumers the trade arrangements in agriculture products with the ACP ensure the availability of tropical products, out-of-season products, and competitively priced goods on the EU market.

The ACP countries, and their growing middle class, also represent a substantial market for EU exports. The predominant categories of exports are final products and the top exported products to the ACP countries include wheat, cereal preparations, spirits and liqueurs, and dairy products among others.



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