



## **Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes GOMAI 14 Corn Report**

**A Report for:**

**North American Export Grain Association**

July 2021



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## 1. GOMAI BACKGROUND

The Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes (GOMAI) report is a collaborative effort by the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) and the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) to document and quantify barriers to U.S. grain and oilseed products in international markets.

This year's GOMAI report reflects market access conditions for U.S. grains and oilseeds in the selected markets as of the end of 2020. Earlier iterations reflected conditions (in varying numbers of countries) as of the end of 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017 (soy only), 2018, and 2019. The resulting database and market access indexes from these studies are used to:

- focus attention on the most egregious market access barriers,
- allow users to measure progress over time in improving market access,
- facilitate comparisons among countries and among commodities, and
- provide the information in a form conducive to its most effective use.

Market access is a necessary but not sufficient condition for generating U.S. grain and oilseed exports to a particular country. There may also be a general lack of import demand or economic disruption due to wars, uprisings or recessions, or an importing country may have a very open market, but its buyers choose to purchase supplies from a competing exporter due to lower transportation costs or other factors.

U.S. cooperator groups, therefore, focus their efforts on a range of objectives that include expanding or maintaining demand in target markets (a bigger pie), expanding U.S. market share (a bigger slice of that pie), and achieving greater market access (a seat at the table).

This year we analyzed the UK as an independent market from the EU, for a total of 47 countries. Our analysis covers five commodities: Wheat, corn, soybeans, soybean oil, and soybean meal. Crude and refined soybean oil are treated as a single category for scoring purposes.

The Excel database that accompanies this report organizes market access barriers into three broad categories: tariffs and other price measures, quotas and other quantity measures, and technical or procedural measures. Each barrier is scored on a scale of one to seven, where one means imports are prevented, and seven indicates that imports are unrestricted. We surveyed USSEC and NAEGA staff to get scores that might serve as a reality check on scores derived from our market access database. We updated the database from secondary sources and insights gained from survey results. From analysis of the revised database, we updated the set of market access indexes.

### 1.1. The big picture

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the world economy in 2020. According to the International Monetary Fund, the world economy contracted by 3.3 percent, with advanced economies having been more heavily impacted than developing ones. Lockdowns and other restrictions

impacted economies worldwide and trade of agricultural goods was no exception. To ensure adequate food supply countries, many countries enacted measures to ensure the flow of commodities. Economies are expected to rebound in 2021.

The effects of the pandemic on agricultural trade varied by country; We describe some of these actions in the individual country write-ups. Policy responses were mostly short-term measures, either to encourage imports and/or limit exports, in efforts designed to ensure the availability of commodities.

Pandemic aside, 2020 offered some improvements for U.S. grain and oilseed exporters. Commodity prices rose sharply. Talks with China to restore trade culminated in the signing of the Phase One Agreement early in the year, which addressed several non-tariff barriers and committed China to import U.S. agricultural products in 2021 and 2022. In addition, in January 2020, NAFTA members signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which preserved most NAFTA agricultural provisions and amended the Canadian Grain Act to improve access for U.S. wheat.

In other markets, trade disputes still exist. Trade tensions continued between the U.S. and the EU in 2020, and the resulting policies have directly affected U.S. grain exports.

Overall, GOMAI results indicate that all barrier types - price, quantitative, and technical and procedural- increased in 2020, reducing U.S. access to overseas grain and oilseed markets.

## **1.2. Summary of database results**

The average ratings from the database using the 1-7 scale are shown in the tables below. A score of one means no access, whereas seven means open access. The higher the score, the more open the market.

The average GOMAI 14 (2020) scores by barrier type are compared to the previous year's GOMAI 13 (2019) scores below:

Results	Database 2019	Database 2020
Price measures	5.7	5.6
Quantity measures	6.2	6.1
Technical measures	4.3	4.1

In 2020, scores dropped for all three types of measures, reflecting lower export market access.

At GOMAI's inception, price measures were the most serious barriers, quantity measures the least serious, and technical and procedural somewhere in between. Since then, the price and quantity barriers have generally dropped, leading to rising scores / better access. Meanwhile, the trend has been for technical and procedural barriers to increase, leading to lower scores / lower access as more countries have increasingly adopted measures such as phytosanitary restrictions, weed presence limits, or maximum residue limits.



Agralytica analysts’ scorings of the database, as well as survey scores, were converted to the 100-point scale we use for the market access indexes. For details, refer to our Methodology section. There were some shifts in countries at the bottom of the list compared to GOMAI 13.

Seventeen countries had scores of 70 or higher, fifteen were in the 50-69 range, four in the 30-49 range, and eleven countries scored below 30. Overall, access improved for thirteen countries but dropped for twenty-one.

The table below compares market access indexes by commodity for the end of 2020 to the scoring done for the end of 2019 for all markets.

Product	Index 2019	Index 2020	Change
Wheat	29.9	33.1	+3.2
Corn	28.0	22.9	-5.1
Soybeans	29.5	24.9	-4.6
Soybean oil	17.9	29.4	+11.6
Soybean meal	39.5	36.3	-3.2

Access increased for wheat and soybean oil, while access decreased for corn, soybeans, and soybean meal. A large driver for the increase in wheat and soybean oil access is their use as a cheap source of calories. Food security concerns reduced trade-restricting measures to allow entry for these commodities.

When comparing 2019 and 2020 database scores, 31 countries had only modest (+/- 5 point) changes; five saw more substantial (>5) improvement; and ten had their scores drop by more than five points.

### 1.3. Summary of survey results

We had approximately the same number of survey participants this time as with the GOMAI 12 study. Outside of Sudan and Trinidad, all countries were scored by representatives from NAEGA and/or USSEC field staff. Not all country-commodity combinations were scored; the missing ones are marked “NR” in Table 3. For all the surveys we received, the average unweighted ratings across all the responses for the three classes of market access barrier were as follows:

Survey results	Survey 2019	Survey 2020
Price measures	4.3	4.2
Quantity measures	4.3	4.2
Technical measures	4.2	4.3

Surveys reported that market access decreased slightly on price and quantity measures, while improving slightly on technical/procedural ones.

The survey results on the 100-point index scale illustrate the diversity in market access across countries. Five countries have scores of 70 or above and these include major trading partners like Japan and Mexico. There are 16 countries in the 50-69 range, including trading partners such as Canada and South Korea. Eleven countries have index scores in the 30-49 range. Fourteen countries have scores below 30, including a “no access” (zero) rating in India, Iran, Russia, and Sudan. Trinidad was not rated.

In terms of the individual commodities, soybeans were determined to have the highest access, followed by soybean oil, soybean meal, and corn. Wheat faced the most restrictions.

Product	Index 2019	Index 2020	Change
Wheat	11.5	20.5	+9.1
Corn	25.4	30.8	+5.4
Soybeans	22.1	51.7	+29.6
Soybean oil	21.0	49.2	+28.2
Soybean meal	30.4	32.6	+2.2

The surveys reported increased access in 2020 for all commodities.

#### **1.4. Comparison of survey and database results**

The differences between the average results of the two approaches highlight some larger differences in assessing market access barriers at the level of country-commodity combinations. This was probably inevitable given the different resources that each group brought to the task. Agralytica’s analysts applied specific rules, working from a broad set of information sources, including information highlighted by survey respondents. NAEGA staff and members were asked for a more subjective assessment, scoring countries from 1-7 but without granular scoring definitions. Their responses were necessarily and appropriately influenced by their own experiences working in the trenches of market development. This was particularly true of some of the countries added this year, as Yemen and Libya have little in terms of legal restrictions to trade, but their lack of infrastructure and institutional limitations make trade with them extremely difficult in practice.

Table 1 and Figures 1-5 show how each commodity was scored in the database for each of the 47 countries, ranked from most protectionist at the bottom of the chart to most open at the top. Table 2 shows year-over-year changes in database scores. Table 3 shows the survey scoring.

Survey scores for soybeans and soybean oil were substantially higher than the database scores, most likely reflecting improved access to overseas markets for these commodities during the pandemic year.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This section reviews the methodology for the different parts of the project: the survey of experts, analysis of the survey results, desk research for constructing the database, scoring of the database, and preparation of the final market access indexes. We used the same methodology for database scoring as in the reports prepared from 2004-2020. The GOMAI 14 report has 47 countries, the same ones as GOMAI 13.

Algeria	Iran	Russia
Bangladesh	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Israel	South Africa
Canada	Japan	South Korea
Chile	Kenya	Sri Lanka
China	Lebanon	Sudan
Colombia	Libya	Taiwan
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Thailand
Cuba	Mexico	Trinidad
Dominican Republic	Morocco	Tunisia
Ecuador	Myanmar	Turkey
Egypt	Nepal	UK
EU	Nigeria	Venezuela
Guatemala	Pakistan	Vietnam
India	Peru	Yemen
Indonesia	Philippines	

Five commodities were considered for the report:

Wheat  
Corn  
Soybeans  
Soybean Oil  
Soybean Meal

### 2.1. Survey methodology

The survey for soy products was emailed to the country directors of the U.S. Soybean Export Council in June 2021. NAEGA staff, in conjunction with industry members, completed surveys on wheat, corn, and soybeans. Along with the survey, we sent Excel files providing the prior survey scores for purposes of comparison.

The survey asked respondents to rate the three categories of market access barriers on a scale of “1 to 7” where “1” was virtually no access and “7” was unfettered access.

The three categories were the following:

- **Price measures** such as tariffs, import fees, excessive taxes, etc.
- **Quantity measures** including quotas, import licenses, monopoly purchasers, etc., and
- **Technical or procedural measures** that make trade more difficult, expensive, or risky such as customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, and corruption, among others.

## 2.2. Database scoring and aggregation

We group trade barriers in five categories in the database:

- Tariffs
- **Other price measures** like import fees, customs charges, taxes, etc.
- Quotas
- **Other quantity measures** like import licensing, monopoly purchasers, etc., and
- **Technical or procedural measures** that make trade more difficult, expensive, or risky like customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, corruption, etc.

We score the database on a 1-7 scale and convert those results to a 0-100 scale by the method described in Section 2.5. For purposes of summarizing and analyzing the results, one has to weight the responses for each country-commodity pair, for each commodity across all countries, and for each country across all the commodities. The procedures used are reviewed below.

**Weights for commodity-country pairs.** We again simply weighted the three measures - price, quantity, and technical - equally in calculating the average index for a commodity in a particular country, in the absence of a rationale for any alternative set of unequal weights.

**Weights for a commodity across all countries.** Quantities of production, consumption, or trade are the obvious alternative weighting factors for coming up with a single market access index for U.S. exports of a commodity to this set of 47 countries. Using trade data would underweight countries that successfully block or limit imports from the United States. Therefore, where possible, we again used total domestic disappearance in 2019/20 from USDA's PS&D database. For the purposes of aggregate analysis, the UK was excluded as there is no way to separate out UK domestic disappearance from the EU and it would not be appropriate to double count the UK.

**Weights for a country across all commodities.** Since some of these commodities have markedly different unit values, using quantities as weights is less appropriate. Yet the value of domestic use is generally not available. We therefore use a simple average of the indexes for each commodity.

## 2.3. Database research methodology

In constructing the database, we drew on the same wide range of materials we have used in the past. For the bulk of the information, we relied on the following sources: USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the Department of Commerce

(DOC), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Transparency International, and a multitude of government tariff sources for each country. Where available, we also relied on specific country government or regional trade association websites. Finally, NAEGA provided information from their members and the Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange (PBIE) as well as public facing reports from trade monitoring institutions such as FAO and USTR.

### 2.3.1. FAS

Where available, we used the 2018-2021 Grain and Oilseed attaché reports (for coverage through December 2020), the most recent FAIRS and GAIN reports, news sources, and other internet information resources. In general, the attaché reports provided useful information regarding tariffs and other trade policy issues. FAIRS and GAIN reports sometimes provided useful technical information as well. All reports can be found at the following web link:

<https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

### 2.3.2. USTR

The USTR's 2021 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers provided general trade barrier information by country. USTR supplemented this with separate 2014 reports on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade. The three reports provided coverage for many countries, but there was no information for some countries, again, mainly because there are no significant trade barriers.

The reports included the most restrictive measures in place that affect U.S. market access. Such measures included tariff and non-tariff price measures, quantitative measures (quotas, licenses, and import bans), and technical measures (SPS, biotechnology regulation, customs procedures, and corruption).

In addition to other sectors, the reports addressed general agriculture issues. However, there was a commodity focus if significant commodity-specific barriers existed. They can be accessed at:

<https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/reports/2021/2021NTE.pdf>

<https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/FINAL-2014-SPS-Report-Compiled.pdf>

<https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/2014%20TBT%20Report.pdf>

### 2.3.3. DOC

The Commerce Department's export.gov site provides some overview information related to trade. The information from export.gov is useful to see overall trade patterns and where exports are going by HS chapter. While the information provided is excellent, it is not detailed enough to analyze more than one chapter at a time or compare HS chapters.

<http://tse.export.gov/tse/tsehome.aspx>

The more useful tool is the Customs Info Database, which is free if accessed through the export.gov site at the following link:

<http://export.customsinfo.com/Default.aspx>

#### **2.3.4. Tariff Information**

Tariff information is the most challenging to compile. In earlier reports we used a combination of the centralized tariff databases, USDA reports, the Canadian Tariff repository and the country tariff websites. Over the years, some of these sources have either gone out of business or converted to subscription services. Unfortunately, these subscriptions cost many thousands of dollars, and several would have to be used for a complete dataset. The costs are prohibitive.

We used the International Customs Tariff Bureau extensively in the past, as it provided PDFs of the official published tariff schedule of many countries. These are no longer available.

A newer database we have used is the Global Tariffs database, operated by CUSTOMS.info. It grants free access to users of export.gov, the U.S. export website. It is relatively easy to use and contains information on taxes and other import fees. It can be accessed at:

<http://export.customsinfo.com/Default.aspx>

However, this database also is sometimes out of date, and it reflects only tariffs and taxes faced by U.S. exports (i.e., it does not reflect the preferential tariffs other countries may enjoy).

The most reliable and useful source of tariff rates is each country's current tariff schedule. We have begun to rely on these resources as the major source for tariff information. These can be buried deep under layers of many pages and may be in different languages. However, over the last several reports we have compiled a list of country websites that lead to the tariff schedules published online. Fortunately, many are available in English, or are decipherable, given the context of the data (e.g., HTS codes and the associated duty rates are generally visible since numbers rarely need be translated).

This year we used a service called Market Access Map. Provided by the International Trade Centre based in Europe, Market Access Map allows one to see tariff rates for over 200 countries by exporting country. This tool is especially useful in identifying countries that have preferential tariff rates for other countries, allowing us to specifically examine the rates for the GOMAI commodities.

<https://www.macmap.org/>

#### **2.3.5. APHIS**

APHIS and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) operate the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking System (PCIT), which maintains the Phytosanitary Export database (PEXD). This

database (PExD) covers the most recent sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for imported plants by country. Registration is required.

<https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>

#### 2.3.6. FAO

FAO collects information on the biotech platforms for a large amount of countries, including those that are not reported on by USDA. This database is useful for confirming what, if any biotech regulations are in place. This information is updated less frequently than GAIN reports, which are updated annually, so GAIN reports are used unless they are unavailable. The FAO database can be accessed at:

<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/gm-foods-platform/browse-information-by/country/en/#st>

FAO also wrote reports on the impacts of COVID-19 on food and trade. These were also consulted to understand the temporary measures implemented during the pandemic.

Biannual report of global food markets:

First half of the year:

[Food Outlook - Biannual Report on Global Food Markets. COVID-19 Special Edition | Policy Support and Governance | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#)

Second half of the year:

[Food Outlook - Biannual Report on Global Food Markets \(fao.org\)](#)

[Agricultural Trade & Policy Responses during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 - World | ReliefWeb](#)

## 2.4. Protocols for scoring the database

First, it is important to remember that we were trying to assess conditions as of the end of 2020. In a few cases we noted any changes scheduled to take place in early 2021, but the scores are based on rules and practices in effect at the end of 2020.

In each of the three classes of barrier, every country started as a “7”; we then applied a series of deductions, as outlined below, based on the market access barriers identified in the database.

While traders might view a particular measure as simply a cost of doing business rather than an effective market access barrier, e.g., a 10 percent tariff that applies to imports from all countries, we treated all measures that discourage imports of U.S. products to one degree or another as market access barriers.

### 2.4.1. Price measures

Tariffs are the most common barrier and, in most cases, are specified in percentage terms. However, there are also tariffs of fixed amounts per unit, and variable tariffs such as those under the Andean Price Band system. Other price-related measures considered include high taxes (VAT, excise, sales, etc.), advance payment requirements, foreign exchange controls, and tariff preferences for competitors. We used the following rules of thumb in scoring the price measures in the database:

For tariffs, the deductions were as follows:

Tariff (%)	Penalty
0	0
1-10	-1
11-20	-2
21-30	-3
31-40	-4
41-50	-5
> 50	-6

For absolute rather than percentage tariffs, we converted to a percentage basis using representative recent market prices (average U.S. export values for 2020 plus estimated transportation costs).

For variable tariffs like the Andean Price Band system, we deducted an additional one point beyond those called for by the base tariff level because this type of system tends to keep prices stable in the country using it while forcing all the market adjustment onto other importers and exporters. In addition, if there were tariff preferences for significant competing suppliers, we deducted one.

For VAT and other taxes that are applied to both domestic and imported products, we deduct nothing if the tax is 15 percent or less and 0.5 if more than 15 percent. If they applied only to imports, we treated them as an additional tariff.

For advance payment requirements or foreign exchange controls, we deducted 0.5.

### 2.4.2. Quantity measures

The basic quantity barriers are tariff rate quotas, which may or may not be restrictive. In addition, various countries have import licensing, local purchase requirements, monopoly purchasers, or other measures that potentially limit trade.

If there is an import ban, we deducted 6. If there is a TRQ, we deducted at least one, and as much as 5 depending on the degree of restrictiveness.



For import licensing, import permits, pre-shipment authorization, a monopoly purchaser, or a domestic purchase requirement, we deducted one in each instance.

#### 2.4.3. Technical and procedural measures

For the countries under study, the measures most frequently mentioned were SPS barriers (inspections, quarantine, testing), GMO labeling or sensitivity, and corruption.

To score corruption, we deducted one if the country's score on the Transparency International list was below 20. We deducted 0.5 if the score was between 20 and 44. (Transparency International changed its scoring methodology with its 2013 report, to a 0-100 scale; we adjusted our methodology accordingly at that time).

For GMO labeling requirements, we deducted one if there is a 5% or more threshold, 2 if between 1% and 5%, and 3 if there is a 1% or less threshold. For bans on varieties approved in the United States that tend to preclude trade, we deducted up to 6 depending on impact. If customs procedures were mentioned, we deducted one. For SPS barriers (inspections, quarantine, testing) we deducted 1-3 depending on severity.

We viewed these as rules of thumb. In some cases, the deductions added up to more than six, but our rating scale constrained us to a rating no less than "1". In other cases, where we ended up with a rating of "1" but there was still a significant level of U.S. exports to the country, we adjusted the rating upwards to a "2" or "3".

#### 2.5. Conversion to a 100-point scale

In converting the **ratings** to an **index**, we decided in 2004 to ensure that in cases where imports were effectively blocked by some access measure and the rating was a "1" on the one-to-seven scale, that the index would be zero.

To do this, we take the **natural logarithm** of each of the average scores and multiply the three natural logs together to get a **converted average survey score**. Since the natural log of one is zero, this ensured that a closed market received a zero score.

A perfect rating of three sevens would translate into 7.368 when the three natural logs of 1.946 are multiplied together. To convert this and all other combinations to a 100-point scale, we divided 100 by 7.368, getting 13.572 and then multiplied this factor times all the converted average survey scores.

The resulting scale is slightly non-linear, giving a downward bias to the scores. For example, three "4" scores, which one can think of as the midpoint of a 1 to 7 scale, translate into a rounded score of 36. Three 5s yield a score of 57.

Another result is that the more dispersed the three ratings are, the lower the index. A 5, 4 and 3 will yield an index of 54 while a 6, 4 and 2 results in a 47. Yet the average of the three ratings in both cases is 4. This has the effect of giving a heavier weight to a low rating.

## 2.6. Preparation of the final indexes

The ratings that we gave each country for the three types of market access barrier are preserved in an Excel file provided separately to the study sponsor. After conversion to a 100-point scale as described above, the resulting market access indexes based on our analysis of the database are presented in tables and charts in the following discussion of the results.

### 3. REVIEW OF RESULTS

#### 3.1. Database results

The average ratings from the database using the 1-7 scale are shown in the table below. A score of one means no access, whereas seven means open access. The higher the score, the more open the market.

The average GOMAI 14 (2020) scores by barrier type are compared to the previous year's GOMAI 13 (2019) scores below:

Results	Database 2019	Database 2020
Price measures	5.7	5.6
Quantity measures	6.2	6.1
Technical measures	4.3	4.1

In 2020, scores dropped for all three types of measures, reflecting lower export market access.

At GOMAI's inception, price measures were the most serious barriers, quantity measures the least serious, and technical and procedural somewhere in between. Since then, the price and quantity barriers have generally dropped, leading to rising scores / better access. Meanwhile, the trend has been for technical and procedural barriers to increase, leading to lower scores / lower access as more countries have increasingly adopted measures such as phytosanitary restrictions, weed presence limits, or maximum residue limits.

Agralytica analysts' scoring of the database, as well as survey scores, were converted to the 100-point scale we use for the market access indexes. There were some shifts in countries at the bottom of the list compared to GOMAI 13.

Seventeen countries had scores of 70 or higher, fifteen were in the 50-69 range, four in the 30-49 range, and eleven countries scored below 30. Overall, access improved for thirteen countries but dropped for twenty-one.

The table below compares market access indexes for the end of 2020 to the scoring done for the end of 2019 for all markets.

Product	Index 2019	Index 2020	Change
Wheat	29.9	33.1	+3.2
Corn	28.0	22.9	-5.1
Soybeans	29.5	24.9	-4.6
Soybean oil	17.9	29.4	+11.6
Soybean meal	39.5	36.3	-3.2

Access increased for wheat and soybean oil, while access decreased for corn, soybeans, and soybean meal. A large driver for the increase in wheat and soybean oil access is their use as a cheap source of calories. Food security concerns reduced trade-restricting measures to allow entry for these commodities.

When comparing 2019 and 2020 database scores:

- 31 countries had only modest score changes (+/- 5 points);
- 5 saw more substantial (>5) improvement: Pakistan, Tunisia, Peru, Pakistan, Morocco; and
- 10 had their scores drop by more than five points: India, Philippines, Venezuela, Indonesia, Algeria, Ecuador, Malaysia, Egypt, Turkey, and Iraq.

### 3.2. Survey results

NAEGA staff, in conjunction with NAEGA members, scored the priority countries on the three types of market access barriers. We averaged these out with USSEC survey scores for soybeans. We calculated the average unweighted ratings for the priority countries for wheat, corn, and soy in 2020 so as to do a proper comparison. The average unweighted ratings across all the responses for the three classes of market access barrier were as follows:

Survey results	Survey 2019	Survey 2020
Price measures	4.3	4.2
Quantity measures	4.3	4.2
Technical measures	4.2	4.3

Surveys reported that market access decreased slightly on price and quantity measures, while improving slightly on technical/procedural ones.

The survey results on the 100-point index scale illustrate the diversity in market access across countries. Five countries have scores of 70 or above and these include major trading partners like Japan and Mexico. There are 16 countries in the 50-69 range, including trading partners such as Canada and South Korea. Eleven countries have index scores in the 30-49 range. Fourteen countries have scores below 30, including a “no access” (zero) rating in India, Iran, Russia, and Sudan. Trinidad was not rated.

In terms of the individual commodities, soybeans were determined to have the highest access, followed by soybean oil, soybean meal, and corn. Wheat faced the most restrictions.

Product	Index 2019	Index 2020	Change
Wheat	11.5	20.5	+9.1
Corn	25.4	30.8	+5.4
Soybeans	22.1	51.7	+29.6
Soybean oil	21.0	49.2	+28.2
Soybean meal	30.4	32.6	+2.2

The surveys reported increased access in 2020 for all commodities.

### 3.3. Comparison of survey and database results

The broad differences between the average results of the two approaches highlight some larger differences in assessing market access barriers at the level of country-commodity combinations. This was probably inevitable given the different resources that each group brought to the task. Agralytica’s analysts applied specific rules, working from a broad set of information sources, including what had been highlighted by the survey respondents. NAEGA staff and members and USSEC staff were asked for a more subjective assessment of the relative importance of the three types of access barriers: the scoring range was 1-7, without granular scoring definitions. Their responses were necessarily and appropriately influenced by their own experiences working in the trenches of market development.

Table 1 and Figures 1-5 show how each commodity was scored in the database for each of the 47 countries, ranked from most protectionist at the bottom of the chart to most open at the top. Table 2 shows year-over-year changes in database scores. Table 3 shows the survey scoring.

Survey scores for soybeans and soybean oil were substantially higher than the database scores, most likely reflecting improved access to overseas markets for these commodities during the pandemic year.

Table 1: Average market access rating - database for end of 2020

Average rating	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	SBO	SBM	Average
Chile	88.6	88.6	88.6	96.2	96.2	91.6
Canada	79.6	88.6	88.6	92.5	96.2	89.1
Costa Rica	92.1	92.1	92.1	64.4	92.1	86.5
Dominican Republic	87.6	77.3	87.6	92.5	87.6	86.5
Peru	84.3	74.4	77.3	92.5	92.5	84.2
Lebanon	84.3	84.3	84.3	85.2	81.6	83.9
Colombia	80.7	70.1	80.7	85.2	88.6	81.0
Tunisia	61.4	87.6	87.6	88.6	76.2	80.3
Guatemala	82.7	70.1	82.7	82.7	82.7	80.2
Israel	81.6	81.6	81.6	74.3	65.5	76.9
Trinidad	77.3	87.6	87.6	34.3	96.2	76.6
Japan	57.5	59.3	87.6	82.8	92.1	75.8
Malaysia	71.2	62.4	71.2	80.7	92.1	75.5
Mexico	77.3	35.6	87.6	87.6	87.6	75.1
South Korea	71.2	71.2	71.2	74.4	71.2	71.9
Yemen	76.2	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	71.3
Bangladesh	76.2	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	70.1
Egypt	71.2	56.5	77.3	71.2	71.2	69.5
South Africa	58.9	71.2	59.7	76.2	77.3	68.6
Nepal	0.0	84.8	84.8	88.6	84.8	68.6
Taiwan	78.5	56.5	64.4	59.3	82.7	68.3
Morocco	81.1	35.6	61.9	61.9	84.3	65.0
Indonesia	64.6	40.9	71.2	63.0	73.3	62.6
Saudi Arabia	57.5	64.4	64.4	57.9	64.4	61.7
Philippines	64.1	25.9	71.2	72.5	74.4	61.6
Cuba	63.1	60.4	60.4	57.5	60.4	60.4
Libya	63.0	35.9	70.1	63.0	66.7	59.7
Pakistan	58.9	43.6	59.3	63.9	63.9	57.9
Algeria	61.5	47.9	49.8	46.7	63.9	54.0
Myanmar	63.0	0.0	70.1	66.7	66.7	53.3
Nigeria	57.5	67.7	63.9	0.0	72.5	52.3
EU	50.9	25.9	68.5	18.3	88.6	50.4
Ecuador	71.2	0.0	36.3	56.4	77.3	48.2
UK	54.8	16.3	54.3	18.3	88.6	46.5
Sudan	45.9	41.4	45.9	49.8	45.9	45.8
Vietnam	38.0	13.7	19.2	60.7	51.9	36.7
Thailand	54.3	10.8	27.1	0.0	49.0	28.3
Sri Lanka	84.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.9	26.0

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Turkey	58.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.9	<b>19.0</b>
Kenya	84.3	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>18.3</b>
Venezuela	25.8	19.6	11.9	10.6	11.9	<b>16.0</b>
China	20.5	8.4	16.8	20.1	0.0	<b>13.2</b>
Russia	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.5	34.3	<b>12.4</b>
Iraq	21.1	0.0	0.0	19.2	19.2	<b>11.9</b>
Brazil	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.7	0.0	<b>4.9</b>
India	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7	<b>2.7</b>
Iran	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>29.3</b>

Table 2: Change in database scores from end of 2019 to 2020

Average rating	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	SBO	SBM	Average
Pakistan	58.9	16.1	-11.9	5.0	-8.5	11.9
Tunisia	45.2	0.0	0.0	-3.5	0.0	8.3
Peru	0.0	23.6	0.0	7.7	4.0	7.1
Mexico	20.8	-20.8	31.2	0.0	0.0	6.2
Morocco	26.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
China	11.1	-3.6	-3.3	20.1	0.0	4.9
Saudi Arabia	-14.3	21.0	17.3	0.0	0.0	4.8
Kenya	11.8	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8
South Africa	1.8	14.7	-2.7	8.4	-7.0	3.1
Dominican Republic	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.8
EU	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Guatemala	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.6
Myanmar	5.5	-52.0	18.1	21.2	9.3	0.4
Bangladesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canada	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chile	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cuba	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Iran	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Libya	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nepal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Russia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sri Lanka	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sudan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trinidad	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Yemen	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Colombia	0.0	-4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.8
Israel	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3.8	-4.6	-1.7
Taiwan	-2.2	-7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2.0
Nigeria	-4.0	5.3	-3.8	0.0	-8.2	-2.1
Thailand	2.3	10.8	0.0	0.0	-24.2	-2.2
Lebanon	-4.3	-4.3	-4.3	-5.6	0.5	-3.6
Costa Rica	0.0	3.5	0.0	-31.8	7.3	-4.2
South Korea	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.5	-20.8	-4.5
Brazil	-11.7	-11.7	-11.7	24.7	-12.4	-4.5
Vietnam	-7.6	-16.5	-13.6	0.7	13.9	-4.6
Japan	-15.8	-6.3	0.0	-1.9	0.0	-4.8
India	0.0	0.0	-21.1	0.0	-9.7	-6.2



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<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Corn</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>SBO</b>	<b>SBM</b>	<b>Average</b>
Philippines	-15.4	-7.4	-9.5	0.0	0.0	-6.5
Venezuela	0.5	-1.7	-10.8	-11.3	-10.8	-6.8
Indonesia	-1.5	-28.8	-5.0	0.0	-1.0	-7.3
Algeria	-2.4	-5.4	-6.6	-14.8	-8.5	-7.6
Ecuador	-6.1	-33.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-7.9
Malaysia	-7.3	-10.0	-20.8	-3.6	-4.1	-9.2
Egypt	-20.8	-7.9	-10.3	-6.1	-3.2	-9.7
Turkey	8.2	-25.4	-32.8	0.0	0.0	-10.0
Iraq	-49.0	-30.2	-32.8	-13.6	-13.6	-27.8

Table 3: Average market access rating - survey for end of 2020

Average rating	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	SBO	SBM	Average
Nepal	NR	NR	89.0	89.0	89.0	89.0
Japan	63.0	92.1	96.2	65.6	100.0	83.8
Taiwan	78.1	78.1	78.9	56.5	82.7	78.3
Philippines	78.1	70.1	73.9	59.7	96.2	74.0
Mexico	60.4	70.1	89.0	12.2	100.0	73.2
Dominican Republic	78.1	70.1	60.7	12.7	87.6	69.6
Israel	78.1	70.1	59.9	28.7	36.2	69.4
South Korea	70.1	70.1	62.4	92.1	76.2	67.5
Colombia	70.1	56.6	71.7	12.7	84.3	66.1
Malaysia	70.1	48.7	77.6	48.8	44.1	65.5
Canada	48.7	70.1	74.0	69.7	65.1	64.3
Chile	70.1	56.6	58.9	20.1	40.2	61.9
Morocco	43.0	78.1	63.5	65.6	82.7	61.5
Guatemala	48.7	54.3	76.2	12.7	92.5	59.7
Indonesia	60.4	42.0	68.9	48.8	39.9	57.1
UK	4.5	78.1	85.2	11.7	84.8	55.9
Costa Rica	36.2	60.4	70.1	NR	NR	55.6
Tunisia	36.2	56.6	67.2	33.3	22.0	53.3
Ecuador	78.1	56.6	24.6	11.1	59.9	53.1
Peru	56.6	36.2	65.4	12.2	81.6	52.7
Saudi Arabia	38.6	56.6	56.0	30.2	65.5	50.4
Kenya	36.2	56.6	56.6	NR	NR	49.8
Bangladesh	33.3	48.7	67.1	32.2	96.2	49.7
Lebanon	56.6	36.2	51.2	28.7	36.2	48.0
Thailand	37.0	54.3	49.3	37.0	56.0	46.9
Egypt	28.7	48.7	52.9	4.5	38.6	43.4
EU	24.4	38.6	65.9	11.7	71.2	43.0
Algeria	28.7	48.7	46.2	11.4	7.2	41.2
South Africa	18.0	36.2	65.5	70.1	78.1	39.9
Brazil	22.7	42.0	39.2	4.5	4.5	34.6
China	28.7	14.3	59.2	89.0	4.5	34.1
Nigeria	28.7	48.7	24.3	6.1	6.1	33.9
Myanmar	0.0	NR	49.4	67.2	66.7	24.7
Sri Lanka	18.0	NR	22.0	52.9	59.3	20.0
Pakistan	4.5	4.5	40.9	36.2	10.4	16.7
Iraq	11.4	18.0	8.2	4.5	4.5	12.5
Vietnam	0.0	0.0	34.2	52.3	74.3	11.4

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<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Corn</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>SBO</b>	<b>SBM</b>	<b>Average</b>
Libya	0.0	NR	18.0	11.4	18.0	<b>9.0</b>
Cuba	0.0	0.0	22.7	22.7	22.7	<b>7.6</b>
Yemen	18.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>7.5</b>
Venezuela	0.0	0.0	17.1	0.0	42.0	<b>5.7</b>
Turkey	0.0	0.0	11.4	0.0	26.4	<b>3.8</b>
India	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.6	7.9	<b>0.0</b>
Iran	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
Russia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
Sudan	0.0	NR	NR	NR	NR	<b>0.0</b>
Trinidad	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	<b>NR</b>
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>32.6</b>	

Figure 1: Wheat

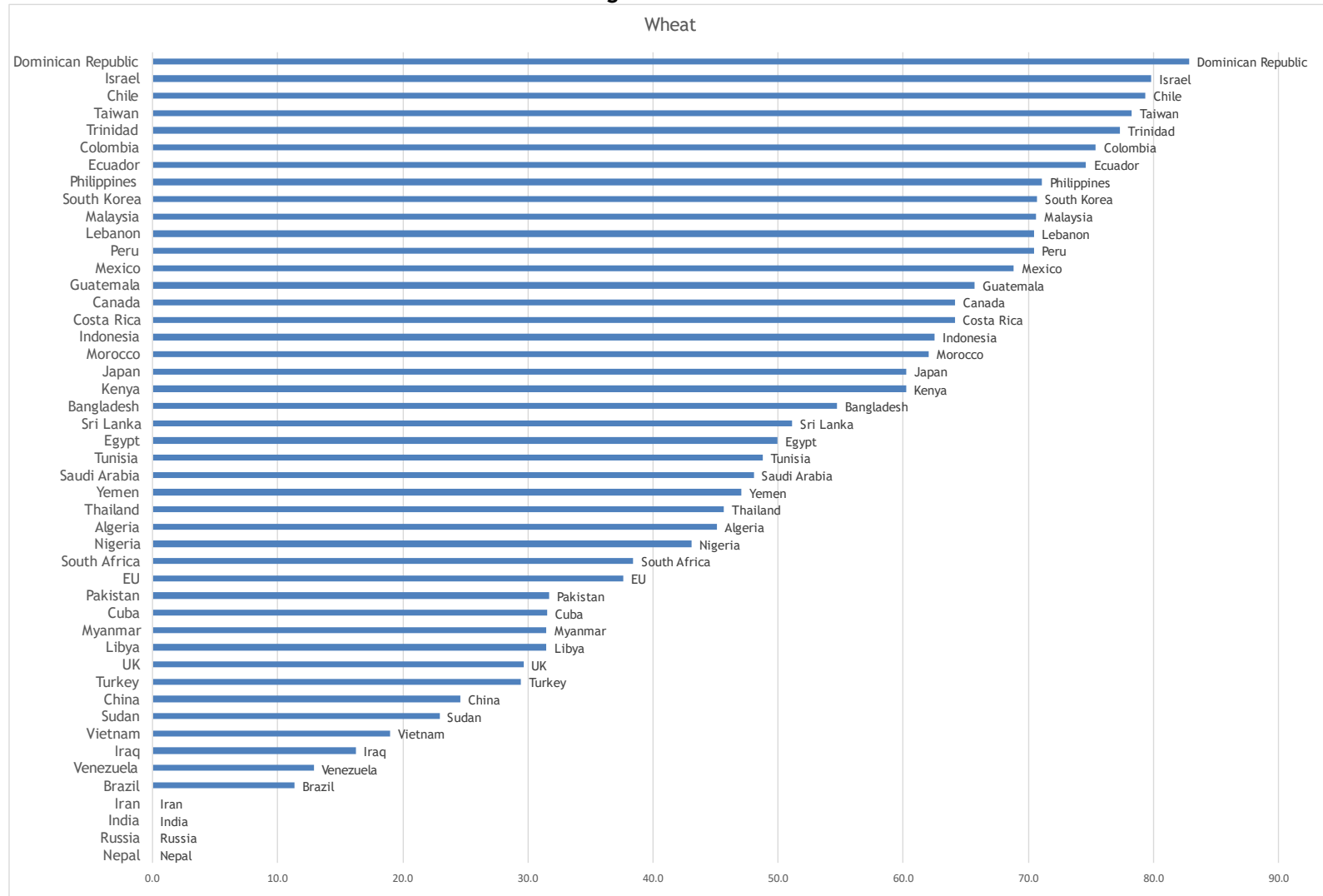


Figure 2: Corn

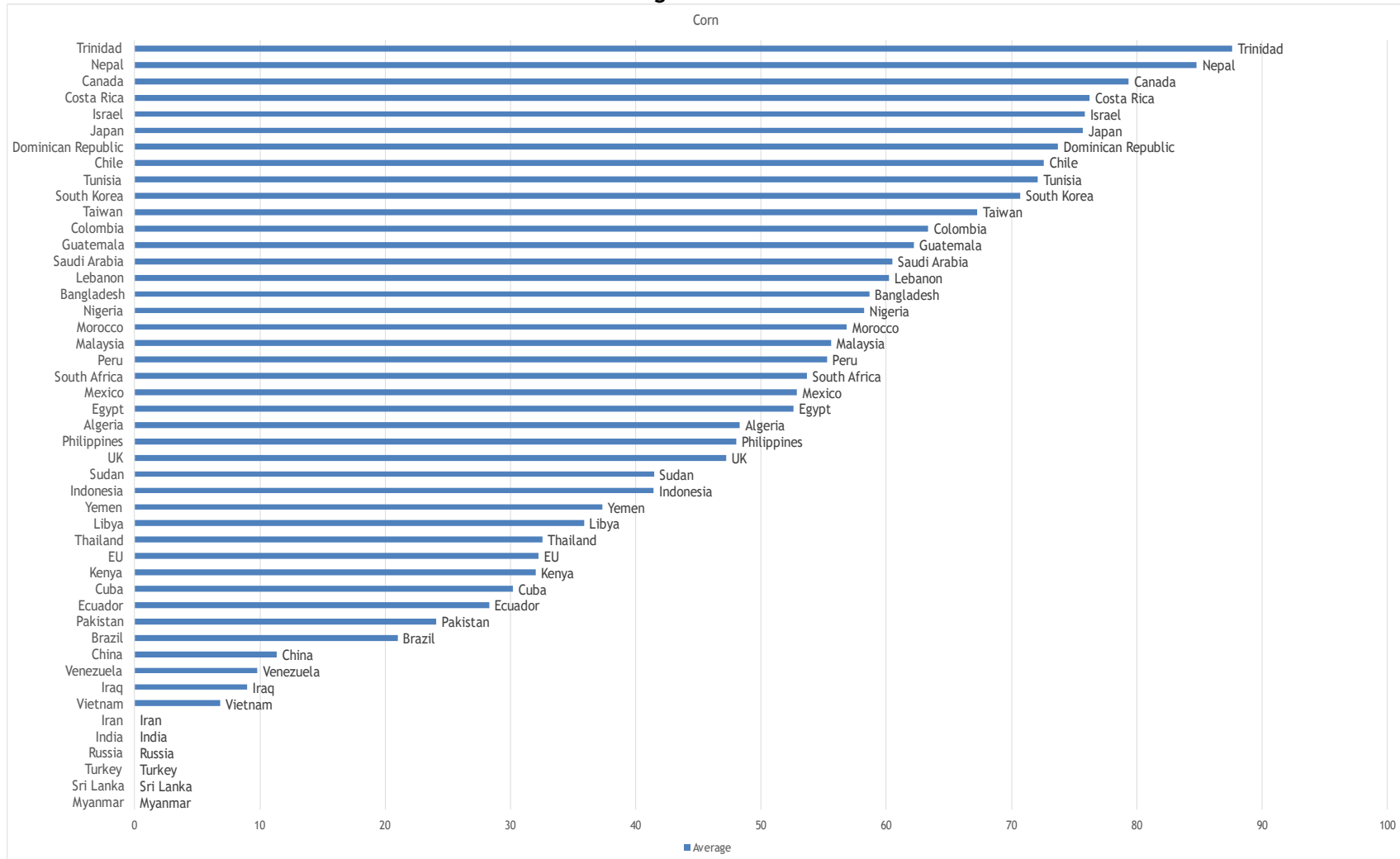


Figure 3: Soybeans

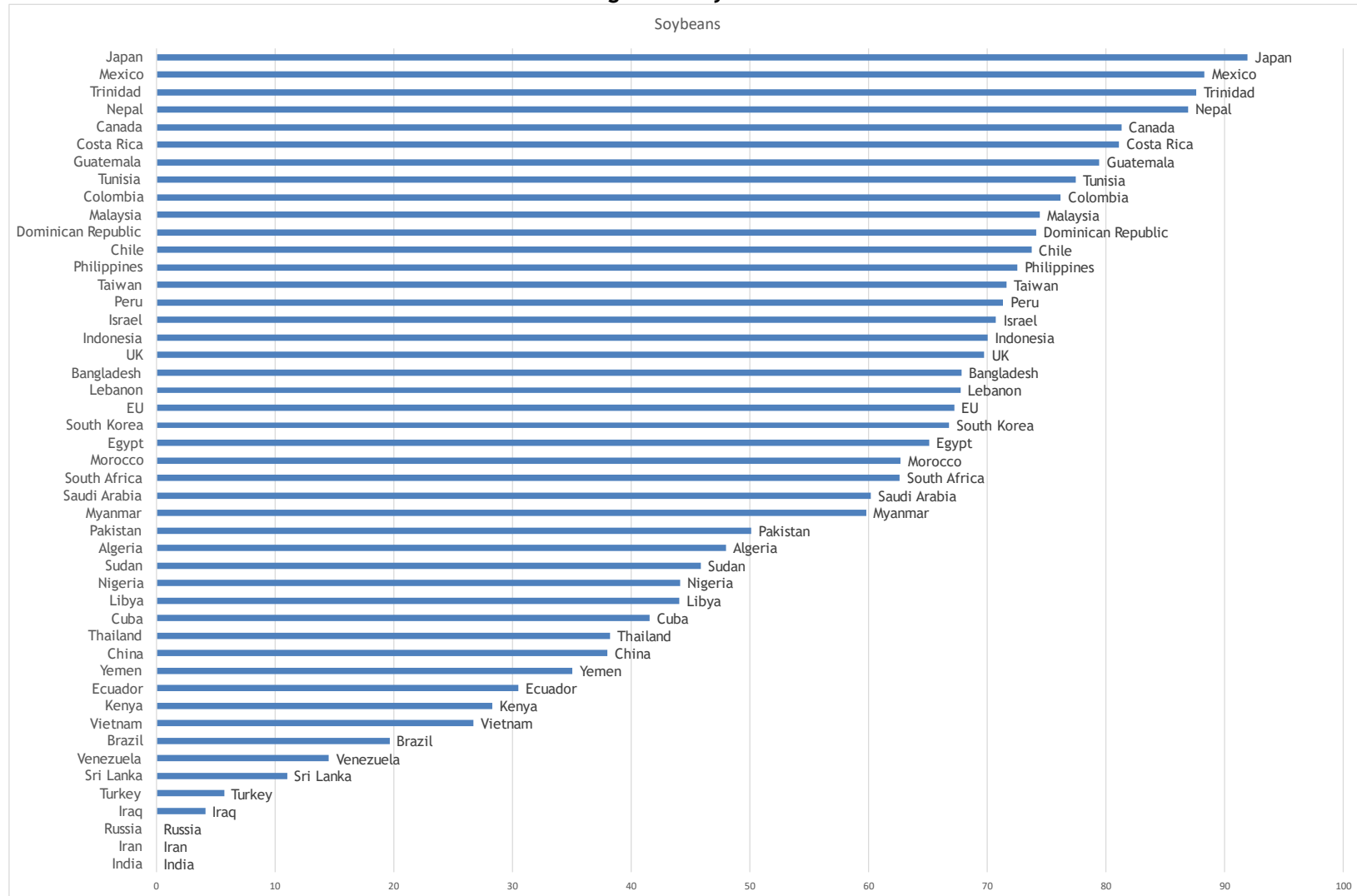


Figure 4: Soybean Oil

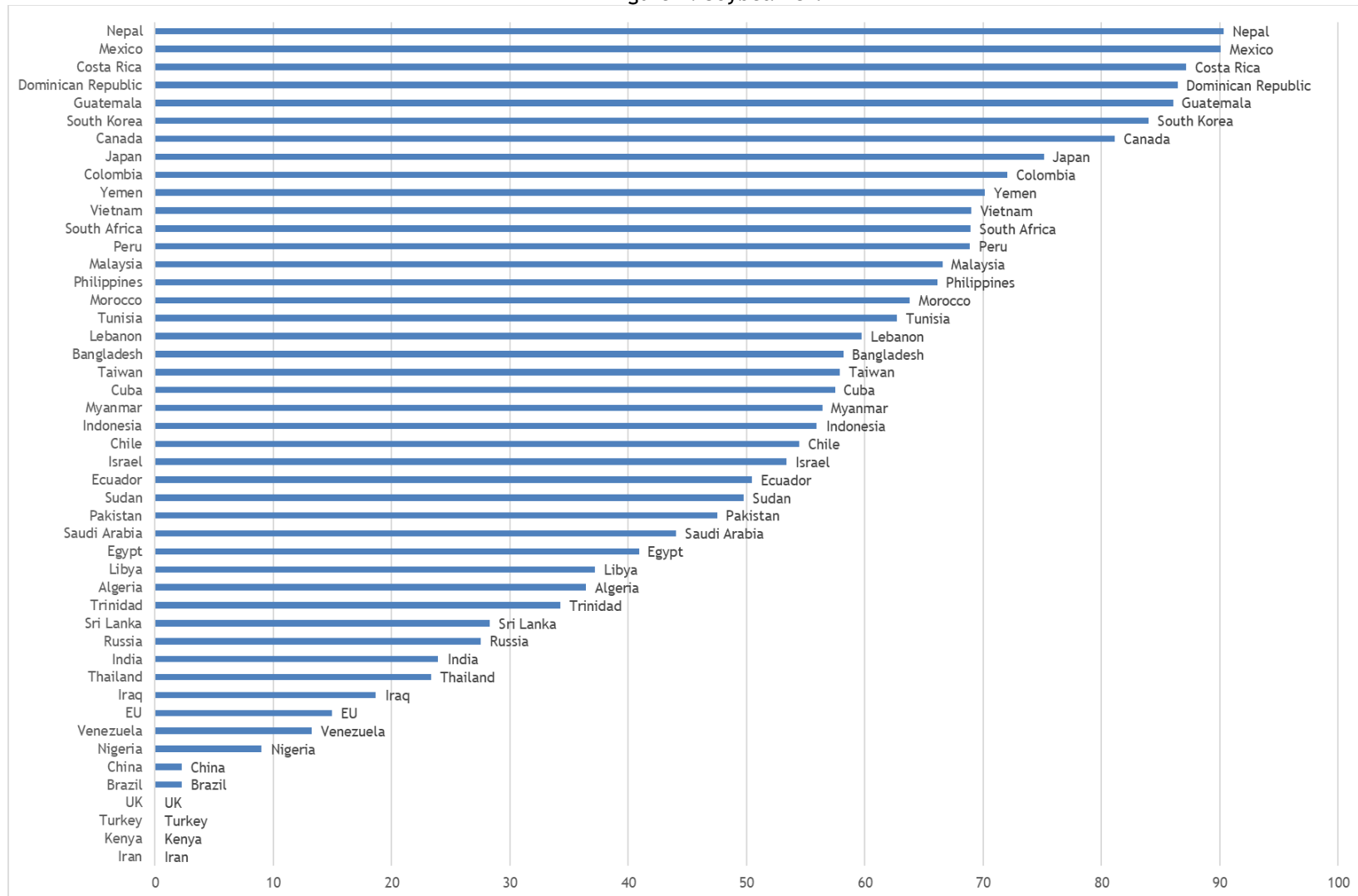
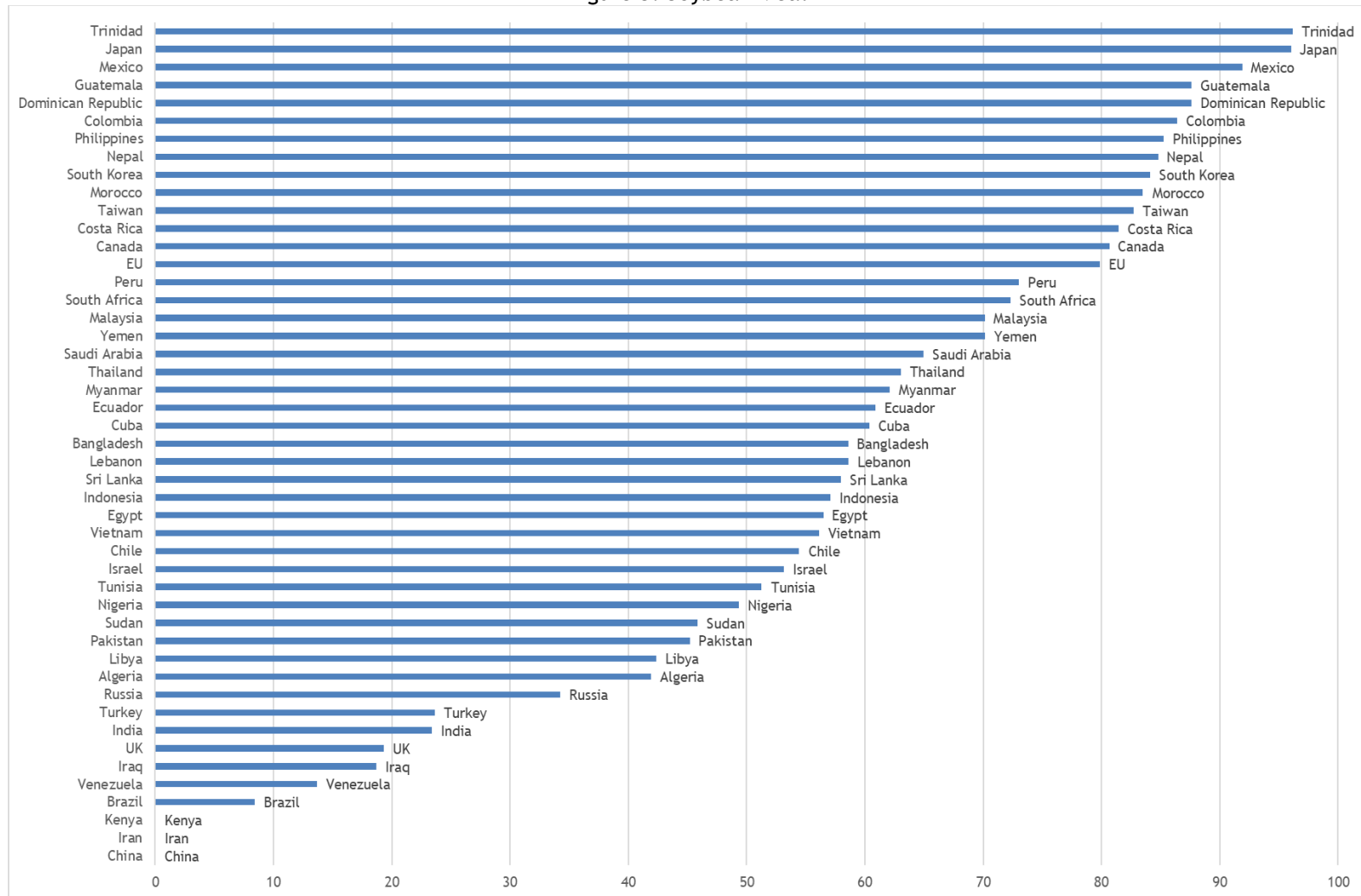


Figure 5: Soybean Meal





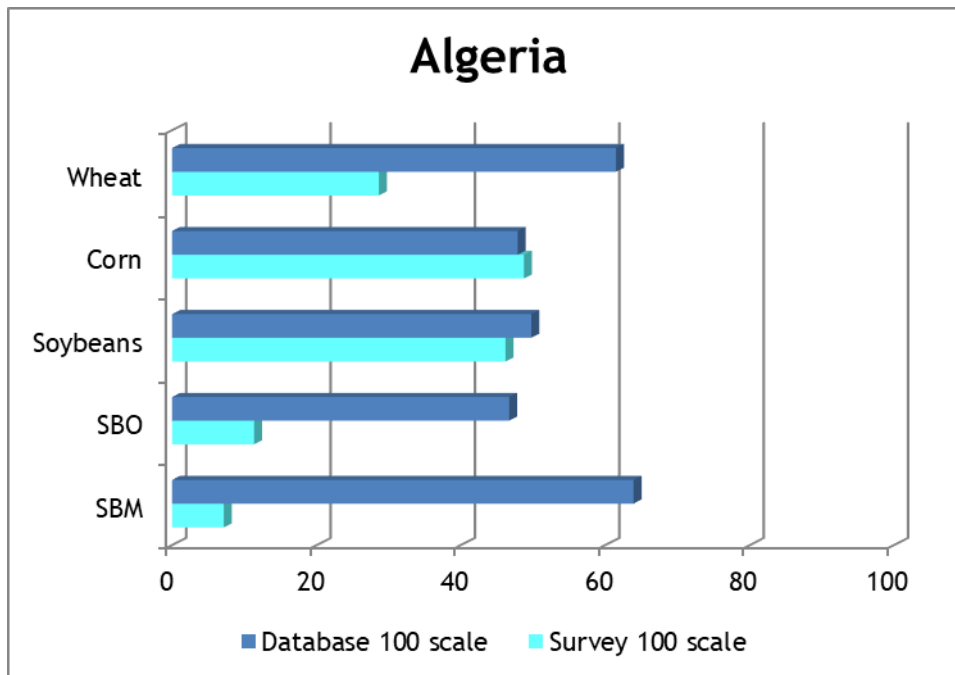
## COUNTRY SUMMARIES

The remainder of this section provides a country-by-country background in terms of market access and the grain-oilseed situation.

For each country, we provide a discussion including a figure showing both the survey and database indexes on a commodity-by-commodity basis, adjusted to a 0-100 scale. The database score is the upper, dark blue bar and the survey score is the lower, light blue bar of each pair. An “NR” indicates that there was no survey response for that commodity-country pairing. If there is no bar at all and no “NR”, the index is zero, implying virtually no access to that market for the U.S. product.

Each chart is accompanied by brief commentary on the market access picture and the grain and oilseed access situation in the country, with the relevant supply-demand balance data, if available, from USDA’s PSD online database.

## ALGERIA

**Market access**

Algeria is reliant on imports for most of its agricultural commodity needs as its rainfall is unreliable. Both the Algerian Office of Grains and private sector companies import grains. In 2020, the Minister of Agriculture launched a five-year roadmap outlining an agriculture sector development plan to reduce the import bill for common wheat and corn.

Algerian tariffs and taxes on U.S. oilseeds are generally low, five percent for soybeans and meal, and pose no quantitative restrictions. However, Algeria does apply preferential duties to imports from the European Union and the Arab Maghreb Union. Nominal tariffs are higher (30%) for value added products such as soybean oil.

There is a VAT of 19 percent for most goods, including soybean oils and meal, but wheat and corn for feed are exempt. On December 28, 2017, Algeria passed the 2018 Finance Act which exempted all feed grains from the VAT and removed import license requirements.

Algeria has relatively few technical and procedural barriers to importing, though plant health inspections and phytosanitary certificates are routinely required. In the beginning of 2017, the Ministry of Commerce announced that import licensing would be extended to all “non-essential” products, including soybean meal. Corruption also remains a problem: Algeria scored a 36 on Transparency International’s 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index, placing it in the bottom third of the countries reviewed.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Algeria is one of the world's largest grain importers despite government incentives to encourage wheat production. It imported 7.1 MMT in 2019/20. Imports from the U.S. dropped by a third from the previous year, down to 277,000 MT. Imports overall were down due to increased domestic production of barley and durum wheat. This downward trend is expected to continue with the recent measures taken by the government to also limit purchases of bread (common) wheat. Industry has indicated that the Algerian government recently reported the establishment of an upper import limit of 4 million metric tons (MMT) of bread wheat per year compared to the usual 6 MMT.

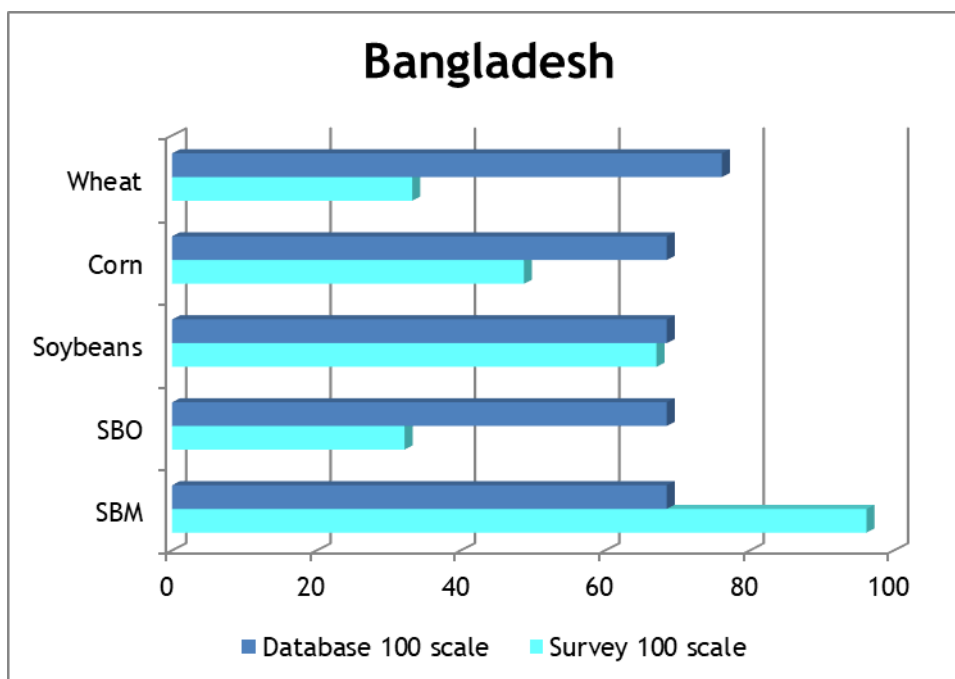
Algerian corn imports were 4.8 MMT in 2018/19 and grew to 5.2 MMT in 2019/20 as import controls were removed. U.S. corn exports to Algeria, which peaked in 2016 at 663,000 MMT, dropped to zero in 2018/19 and were a modest 43,000 MT in 2019/20.

Soybean demand in Algeria is driven by the poultry feed manufacturing sector. Algeria is slowly building crush capacity. Algeria imports significant volumes of soybean meal and soybean oil, but not from the U.S.; Argentina and Russia are key suppliers.

Attribute	Algeria: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beginning Stocks	540	478	388	373	495	463
Yield	1	1	1	1	1	1
Production	1	1	1	1	1	1
Imports	4,137	4,109	4,184	4,521	5,267	5,000
TY Imports	4,329	3,989	4,046	4,816	5,156	5,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	663	91	48	-	43	-
Total Supply	4,678	4,588	4,573	4,895	5,763	5,464
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,400	5,300	5,100
FSI Consumption	-	-	-	-	-	-
Domestic Consumption	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,400	5,300	5,100
Ending Stocks	478	388	373	495	463	364
Total Distribution	4,678	4,588	4,573	4,895	5,763	5,464

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## BANGLADESH

**Market access**

Bangladesh has relatively few technical and procedural barriers to importing, though plant health inspections and phytosanitary certificates are routinely required. All importers, exporters, and brokers must be members of a recognized chamber of commerce as well as members of a Bangladeshi organization representing their trade.

Durum and common wheat face a five percent customs tariff, while corn and soybean products enter duty free. The VAT standard of 15 percent applies to all GOMAI commodities but durum wheat, corn and soybean meal. There are also several taxes, such as landing charges, advance trade VAT, and advance income taxes. Advance trade VAT applies to all but corn, and advance income applies to all but durum wheat and soybean oils. There are no quantitative restrictions on imports. The market is generally open despite the high tax rates.

Since 2007, the Biosafety Guidelines have required exporters to apply for GE product approval, and the U.S. must legally ensure the accuracy of biotech applications. According to the 2012 Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, a genetically engineered (GE) product must be approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MOEFCC) before it can be imported and commercially sold in Bangladesh. Biosafety rules detail guidelines to follow for importing GE products, but the approval mechanism is not widely understood nor implemented; most GE products are not subject to additional inspection requirements.

The Packaged Food Regulations established in 2017 state that “Genetically Modified Food” must be added on the packaging of GE foods. Bangladesh importers usually do not import products with

GMO labeling because most do not know the clearance procedure of GMO-labeled processed food products. The importers also fear that the product may not be cleared by customs as the approval process for processed foods with GMO ingredients is not functional in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is among the most corrupt countries in the world, ranking 146 out of 180 in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index with a score of 26 since 2012. According to USTR, bribery and extortion in business are common. While the government has established legislation to combat bribery, embezzlement, and other forms of corruption, enforcement is inconsistent.

### Grain-oilseed situation

More than 80 percent of Bangladesh's wheat consumption is supplied by imports, which reached 6.8 MMT for 2019/20. Domestic consumption, and by necessity, imports, have grown dramatically since 2013/14, driven by processed and bakery goods. Ukraine is the leading source of imports (25%), followed by Russia, Canada, and Argentina. U.S wheat exports to Bangladesh were 450,000 MT in 2019/20, an increase of 64,000 MT.

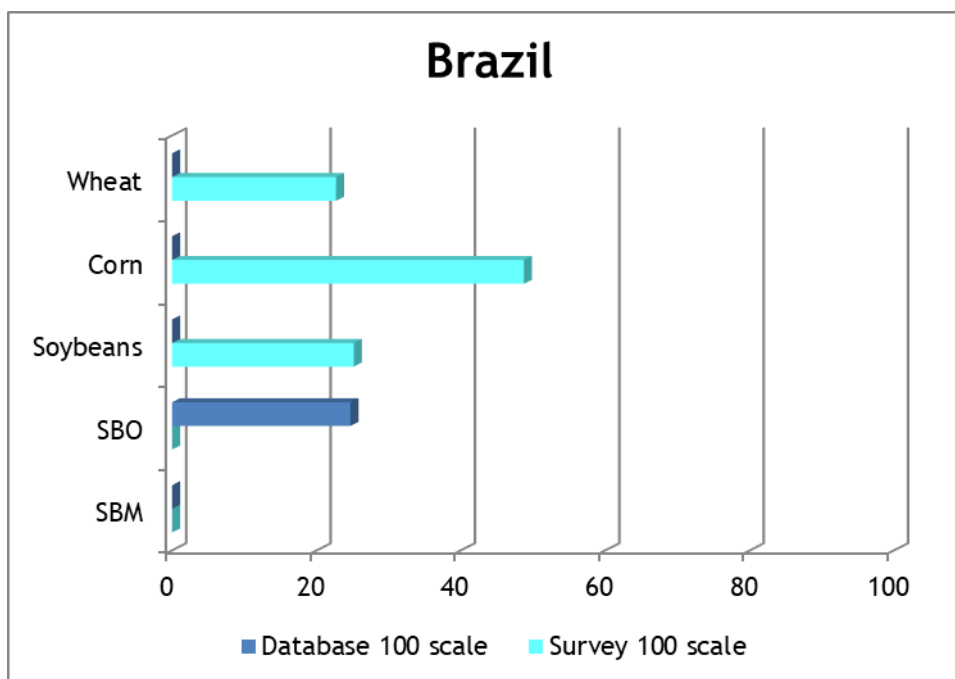
Corn imports account for one-quarter of Bangladesh's supply and were 1.4 MMT in 2019/20, a slight year-over-year increase.

Soybean production is limited to approximately 150,000 MT per year; 90% of consumption is met by imports, which exceeded 2.5 MMT in 2019/20. This represented a year-over-year increase of more than 800,000 MT. Soybean oil imports were 667,000 MT and are usually three-quarters of supply. By contrast, soybean meal imports were 229,000 MT out of total supply of 2.4 MMT.

Bangladesh: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	378	405	436	450	510	540
Beginning Stocks	40	23	137	187	122	140
Production	2,605	2,817	3,274	3,500	4,100	4,700
Imports	778	897	1,476	1,335	1,368	2,400
TY Imports	1,036	1,181	1,145	1,358	2,003	1,900
TY Imp. from U.S.	122	187	55	1	1	-
Total Supply	3,423	3,737	4,887	5,022	5,590	7,240
Exports	-	-	-	-	150	200
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	150	200
Feed Dom. Consumption	3,100	3,300	4,400	4,600	5,000	6,000
FSI Consumption	300	300	300	300	300	400
Domestic Consumption	3,400	3,600	4,700	4,900	5,300	6,400
Ending Stocks	23	137	187	122	140	640
Total Distribution	3,423	3,737	4,887	5,022	5,590	7,240

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## BRAZIL



### Market access

Brazil is a member of the Mercosur common market and maintains common external tariffs on feed grains, oilseeds, and byproducts of grains and oilseeds. Tariffs are mostly in the 6-10 percent range. However, that does not mean that the market is relatively open to imports. In 2007, Brazil reinstated stiff Merchant Marine Taxes (25%) on bulk grain imports in addition to preferential treatment for domestic producers on taxes and phytosanitary regulations. Finally, Brazil has many compounding domestic taxes, which also apply to imported products.

Nominally, soybeans are assessed an eight percent tariff, SBM six percent, and crude and refined SBO are at 10 percent and 12 percent, respectively. However, Brazil is a major soy products exporter and thus does not import them.

In late 2019, domestic shortfalls led Brazil to agree to open a 750,000 MT duty-free quota for wheat from non-Mercosur countries. The TRQ was expanded by 450,000 MT in June 2020 for a total of 1.2 MMT, most of which were used. In October 2020, the 750,000 MT TRQ was renewed for a year, but then made permanent by decree No. 10,577 on December 1, 2020.

In late 2020, Brazil found itself in need of corn and soybeans for animal feed and eliminated its tariffs on corn through March 31, 2021 and on soybeans and crude soybean oil through January 15, 2021.

Phytosanitary restrictions limit U.S. wheat exports to red varieties shipped through Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic ports.

Import licenses for agricultural products are not automatic, requiring approval from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Brazil relies heavily on biotech for its major crops; most of its soy crop is GE. However, it requires a cumbersome approval process for GE events. Non-GMO soybeans and soybean products for human and animal food must contain less than one percent GMO soy. Any products with more than one percent GMO soy must be labeled as such. This requirement is difficult to enforce on domestic production, but it is easily imposed on imports. Events currently require onerous approval on a case-by-case basis. In 2019, Mercosur approved a new low-level presence policy that may reduce restrictions on GE imports. It includes regional risk assessment sharing and regional recommendation of LLP threshold levels, with a goal of reducing the risk of trade disruptions.

Along with the temporary elimination of tariffs on wheat and soybeans in late 2020, Brazil made some bureaucratic changes to ease imports of certain GE events - the event approval process was not substantially altered, however.

Brazil also has problems with corruption. It scored a 38 on the Corruption Perceptions Index. This score places it near the middle of the scoring range, just below the global average.

Brazil and the EU came to an “agreement in principle” on a trade agreement in Summer 2019. Published provisions suggest it is unlikely to significantly affect U.S. exports.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Brazil is a major U.S. competitor in grain and oilseed markets. It typically produces 5 MMT of wheat, 95 MMT of corn, and soybean production over the last three years has averaged approximately 125 MMT. The government provides price support to farmers for several grain and oilseed commodities.

Despite significant production, Brazil is a major wheat importer, relying on imports for approximately half its needs. Net imports exceeded 7 MMT in 2019/2020. Most wheat is imported from Mercosur neighbor Argentina.

An ongoing trend is the use of corn for ethanol production. Brazil has traditionally used sugarcane as a source for biofuel, but investments in corn ethanol production have been on the rise. Brazil now has 12 sugar/corn flex plants, plus four corn-only plants, with more capacity expected to continue coming online. Corn use in ethanol production for 2020 was estimated at 6 MMT, approximately double the figure for 2019.

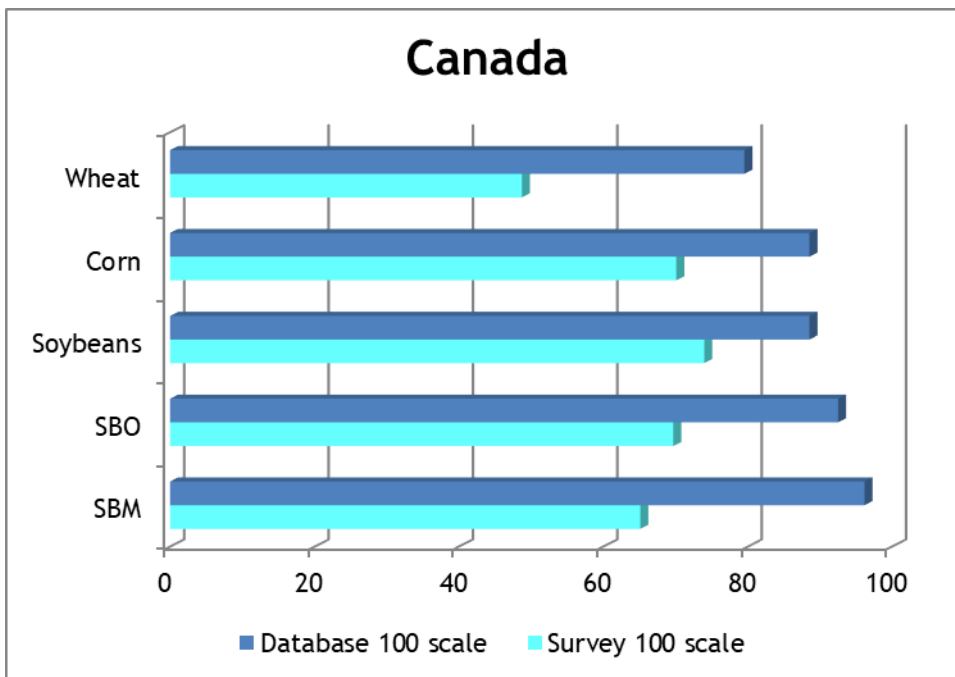
Brazil is a leading corn and soybean exporter, with shipments of almost 35 MMT and 92 MMT, respectively, in 2019/2020. Imports of corn and soybeans are a small fraction of these totals, generally 1-2 MMT of corn, mostly from Paraguay, and half a million MT of soybeans, mostly from Argentina.

Brazil: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	16,000	17,600	16,600	17,500	18,500	19,700
Beginning Stocks	7,842	6,769	14,019	9,315	5,311	5,230
Yield	4	6	5	6	6	5
Production	67,000	98,500	82,000	101,000	102,000	102,000
Imports	3,423	854	915	1,659	1,648	3,500
TY Imports	1,566	2,439	943	1,189	1,338	2,600
TY Imp. from U.S.	1	1	1	-	-	-
Total Supply	78,265	106,123	96,934	111,974	108,959	110,730
Exports	13,996	31,604	24,119	39,663	35,229	35,000
TY Exports	35,382	19,794	25,116	38,773	34,137	34,000
Feed Dom. Consumption	49,000	51,000	54,000	57,000	58,500	60,500
FSI Consumption	8,500	9,500	9,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
Domestic Consumption	57,500	60,500	63,500	67,000	68,500	70,500
Ending Stocks	6,769	14,019	9,315	5,311	5,230	5,230
Total Distribution	78,265	106,123	96,934	111,974	108,959	110,730

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021



CANADA



Market access

The U.S. has renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and as of January 29, 2020, the NAFTA members have entered into a new agreement referred to as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Outside of improving access for U.S. dairy, the new USMCA agreement is expected to maintain the same agricultural provisions as NAFTA. However, there were some proposed differences in labeling requirements for grain used for animal feed, which raised U.S. concerns and were to be discussed in future meetings between USTR and Canada. In addition, the USMCA provisions would have, in three years, eliminated NAFTA Chapter 11 dispute-settlement procedures available to ensure that foreign investors are treated by government the same as domestic investors.

Canada is one of the most accessible markets to U.S. exporters for GOMAI commodities. The market is largely open. Foreign grain, however, cannot be issued a grade by the Canadian Grain Commission. Consequently, until USMCA, U.S. wheat could only be sold as feed grade or according to a specification and price agreed to by buyer and seller.

This has been remedied. The Act to implement USMCA included amendments to the Grain Act to improve access for U.S. wheat: if U.S. grown grain is of a variety registered in Canada, it can now receive an official Canadian grade. Canada also removed requirements for official Canadian inspection certificates to indicate that shipments containing grain grown in the United States are of foreign or mixed origin.

Despite being a top five producer of genetically engineered crops, Canada has a cumbersome approval process for GE events. In addition, it evaluates not on the basis of the technology involved (whether using recombinant DNA technologies or traditional plant breeding), but rather on whether it is a plant with novel traits (PNT), i.e., possessing characteristics unlike crops already being cultivated. Only five events (two canola, two corn, and one sorghum) were approved from October 2019 through the end of 2020.

Market access for the soy complex is one of the most open analyzed in this report. However, in 2017, Canada introduced legislation for weed presence in soybeans and now requires an import permit for soybean meal.

### Grain-oilseed situation

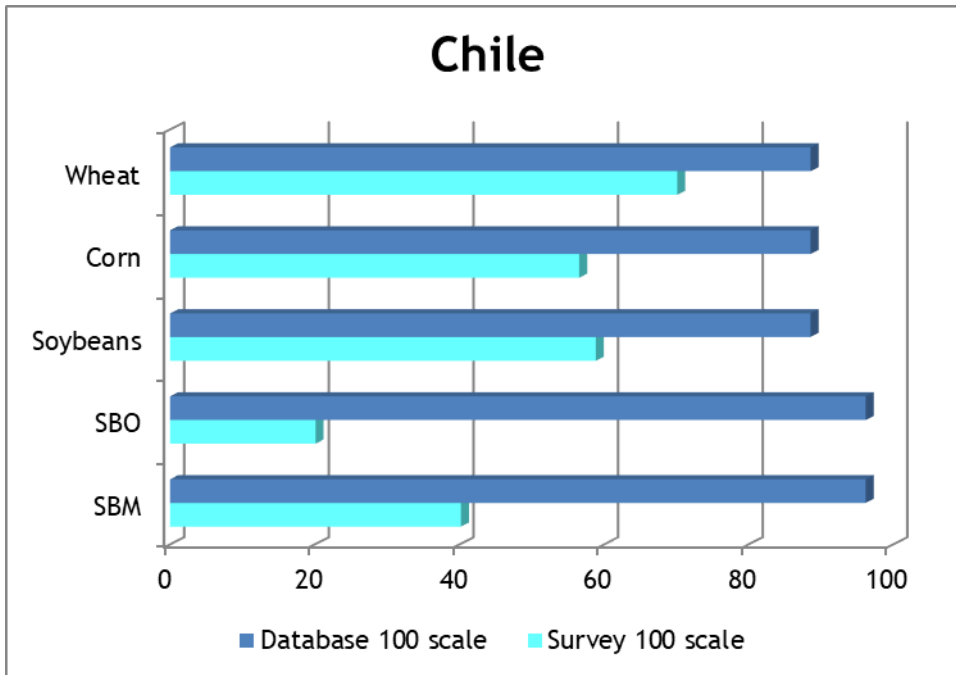
Canada is a major wheat, barley, and canola exporter but does import both wheat and corn; imports of these commodities were 675,000 MT and 1.85 MMT, respectively, in 2019/20.

Canadian soybean production was approximately 6.5-7.5 MMT from 2015/16 through 2018/19. Production then dipped to 6.1 MMT in 2019/20. The country's imports of soybeans, soybean oil, and soybean meal were 263,000 MT, 35,000 MT, and 1.1 MMT, respectively. The U.S. market share of these imports is 90 percent for soybeans and 95 percent for oil and meal.

Attribute	Canada: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1,340	1,414	1,406	1,431	1,451	1,408
Beginning Stocks	1,518	2,242	2,497	2,417	1,979	2,559
Yield	10	10	10	10	9	10
Production	13,680	13,889	14,096	13,885	13,404	13,563
Imports	1,022	706	1,669	2,562	1,843	1,700
TY Imports	958	686	1,767	2,521	1,867	1,700
TY Imp. from U.S.	951	683	1,759	2,467	1,746	-
Total Supply	16,220	16,837	18,262	18,864	17,226	17,822
Exports	1,741	1,522	1,936	1,797	708	1,200
TY Exports	1,767	1,544	1,973	1,719	712	1,200
Feed Dom. Consumption	6,956	7,616	8,720	9,283	8,640	8,800
FSI Consumption	5,281	5,202	5,189	5,805	5,319	5,200
Domestic Consumption	12,237	12,818	13,909	15,088	13,959	14,000
Ending Stocks	2,242	2,497	2,417	1,979	2,559	2,622
Total Distribution	16,220	16,837	18,262	18,864	17,226	17,822

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

**CHILE**



**Market access**

Chile’s economy is heavily focused on agricultural trade. The country exports billions in produce but relies heavily on imported grains. On January 1, 2004, the U.S. and Chile entered into the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement which eliminated tariffs on over 85 percent of U.S. goods. U.S. wheat, corn, soybeans, soybean oil, and soybean meal enter Chile duty-free. Suppliers without a free trade arrangement with Chile face six percent tariffs.

Chile’s domestic value added tax (VAT) is a high 19 percent.

Chile has specific SPS requirements and requires a phytosanitary certificate for wheat, corn, and soybean grain and seeds, but import permits are not required.

The country is a major seed producer and allows GE seed use for research and propagation/export, but not for commercial crop production. The country does not require labeling of products derived from GE technology.

Corruption is not a significant issue in Chile, which scored a 67 out of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index.

**Grain-oilseed situation**

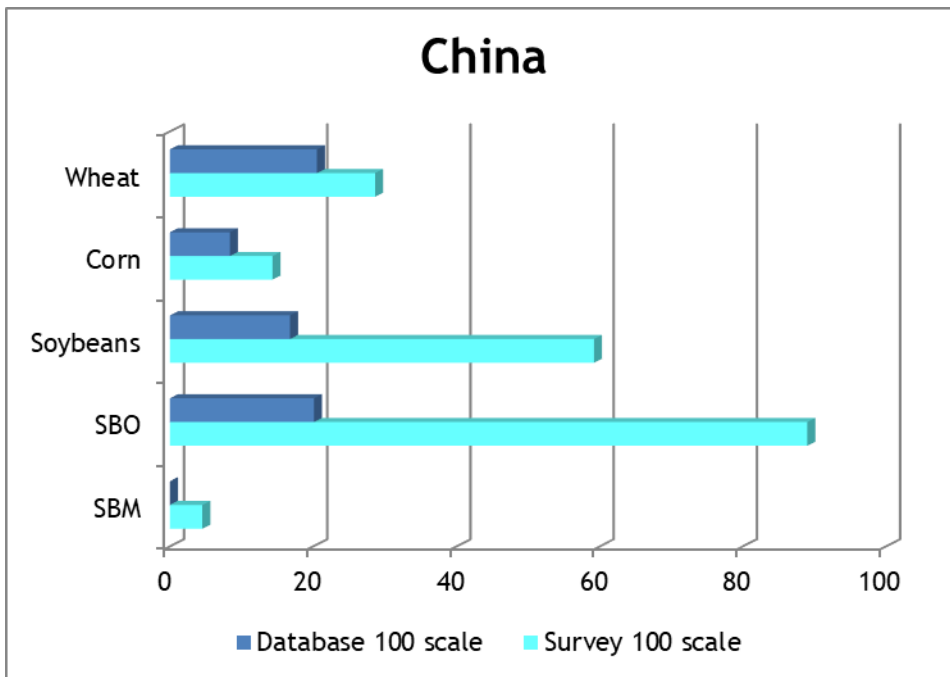
Chile is a significant grain importer. In 2019/20, it imported 1.3 MMT of wheat, 2.7 MMT of corn, and 96,000 MT of soybeans. Wheat is imported from Argentina, the U.S., and Canada. Most corn is imported from Argentina.

Chilean imports of U.S. soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean oil are typically modest. In 2019/20, they were 7,600 MT, 24,300 MT, and 500 MT, respectively.

Attribute	Chile: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	102	95	89	80	65	66
Beginning Stocks	287	204	189	279	207	136
Yield	12	11	12	12	9	10
Production	1,174	1,063	1,110	973	593	685
Imports	1,492	1,644	2,132	2,303	2,787	2,800
TY Imports	1,539	1,484	1,893	2,292	2,751	2,800
TY Imp. from U.S.	507	389	16	16	155	-
Total Supply	2,953	2,911	3,431	3,555	3,587	3,621
Exports	24	22	27	23	31	20
TY Exports	24	22	27	22	31	20
Feed Dom. Consumption	2,400	2,400	2,800	3,000	3,100	3,100
FSI Consumption	325	300	325	325	320	320
Domestic Consumption	2,725	2,700	3,125	3,325	3,420	3,420
Ending Stocks	204	189	279	207	136	181
Total Distribution	2,953	2,911	3,431	3,555	3,587	3,621

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## CHINA



### Market access

China is a large and growing market for imported commodities. However, substantial and shifting barriers pose significant obstacles to the products under review. Some of these have been addressed by the Phase One agreement that was signed in 2020, but others remain, and China overall remains a challenging market.

Historically, U.S. soybeans have had relatively good access compared to other U.S. commodities, as China is not self-sufficient in oilseeds and must rely on imports. Prior to 2018, China imported large quantities of soy and soy products from the United States.

However, as the trade war between the U.S. and China escalated throughout 2019 soy was one of the U.S. commodities most impacted and exports dropped significantly. On January 15, 2020, talks to improve trade relations culminated in the signing of the Phase One Agreement. The Agreement addresses several non-tariff barriers to U.S. agricultural goods and products of agricultural biotechnology and commits China to import U.S. agricultural and seafood products in 2021 and 2022. Additionally, China committed to lowering non-tariff barriers for a variety of products, including animal feed. However, they did not commit to any specific non-tariff barriers or timelines for implementation.

The Phase One Agreement also includes purchasing agreements for U.S. soy, and, while Chinese tariffs are still in place, importers can now apply for a tariff waiver. The end result has been significantly increased soy exports, which returned to pre-trade war levels in 2020. While U.S. soy has been able to enter the Chinese market this year, access conditions could revert to those of

2018-19 with little warning. China could, at any time, stop issuing tariff waivers, significantly reducing U.S. competitiveness.

As of March 2021, China's obligations to adhere to the WTO tariff-rate quota systems are yet to be completely fulfilled. During trade disputes in 2020, China increased tariffs on thousands of U.S. products by 25 percentage points, driving wheat and corn tariffs to 26 percent. Although there is a 9.6 MMT TRQ for wheat, only 10 percent of it is typically used by private industry. The remaining 90 percent is slotted for State Owned Enterprises. Out of quota wheat and corn tariffs are 90 percent for the U.S., thus, no wheat or corn are imported from the U.S. unless it is in quota. Preferential treatment is given to border countries, including Russia, a major grain and oilseed producer. Unfortunately, reforms to China's quota system were not part of the Phase One Agreement, and these market access challenges remain.

China's VAT (typically 9%) does not apply to many domestic or border nation crops, so the VAT has the same effect as an additional tariff. Other market barriers include transparency issues, opaque regulatory regimes, import licenses, and SPS measures with questionable scientific bases. China Customs (GACC) has assumed most of the responsibilities of the former General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and it regularly restricts trade.

In 2018 AQSIQ, now the General Administration of Customs (GAC), began raising concerns about the presence of weed seeds in shipments of U.S. soybeans. To meet China's import requirements, GAC now requires that sampling and foreign material analysis for all U.S. soybeans shipments and notification when shipments exceed 1 percent foreign material through the inclusion of an additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate. Initially, uncertainties related to enforcement and inspection of these requirements were reported to have diverted shipments and impacted exporters' willingness and ability to ship soybeans to China. But recently, near record soy shipments indicate they are currently not enforcing the measures as stringently, although they are still in force.

China still maintains an asynchronous approval process for biotech events, with a backlog of unapproved traits. Approvals typically take six years, yet there is no transparency with timelines. The new laws have made things worse.

Finally, corruption is a significant problem in China. China scored 42 out of 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

As a matter of basic food security policy, China has reiterated its dedication to pursuing grain self-sufficiency. However, as affluence has spread, and diets have improved, animal protein production has increased dramatically. Along with this increase, price supports for all commodities except wheat and rice have been dropped, signaling a shift in agricultural policies.

Wheat production in 2019/20 was 134 MMT, supplemented by 5.4 MMT in imports. Wheat exports were 1 MMT. Corn production for that period was 261 MMT, with an additional 7.6 MMT in imports.

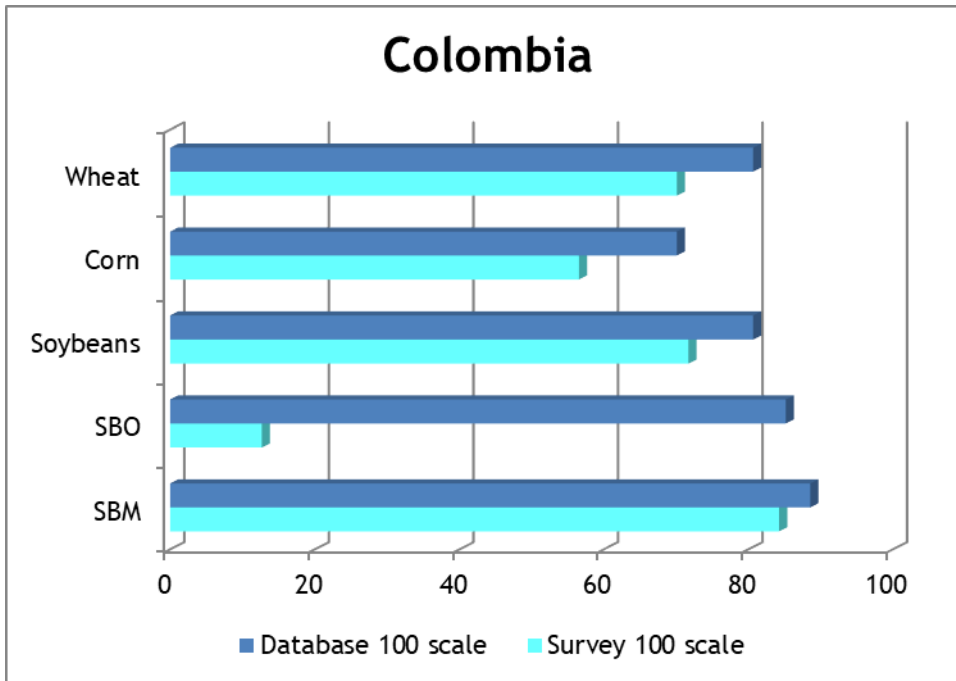
Increased demand for animal proteins has led to tight corn supplies, in turn resulting in more wheat, soybean meal, and DDGS being used in feed formulas.

Domestic soy production is physically limited, ensuring the need for a large volume of imports to meet animal production needs, particularly in the swine sector. China has thus been the world's largest soybean importer, importing 99 MMT (about 75% of all soybeans traded globally) in 2019/20. The U.S. supplied about 20 MMT. However, U.S. share of the Chinese market has fallen over the past several years due to retaliatory tariffs and arbitrary rules enforcement by China. Other exporters have benefited from the China-U.S. trade dispute. China's imports of soybean meal were negligible in 2019/20; the U.S. shipped 13,000 MT. The U.S. also shipped 20,300 MT of soybean oil.

Attribute	China: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	44,968	44,178	42,399	42,130	41,280	41,264
Beginning Stocks	172,855	212,017	223,017	222,525	210,163	200,526
Yield	6	6	6	6	6	6
Production	264,992	263,613	259,071	257,174	260,779	260,670
Imports	3,174	2,464	3,456	4,483	7,596	26,000
TY Imports	3,174	2,464	3,456	4,483	7,596	26,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	321	808	308	319	3,020	-
Total Supply	441,021	478,094	485,544	484,182	478,538	487,196
Exports	4	77	19	19	12	20
TY Exports	4	77	19	19	12	20
Feed Dom. Consumption	165,000	185,000	187,000	191,000	193,000	206,000
FSI Consumption	64,000	70,000	76,000	83,000	85,000	83,000
Domestic Consumption	229,000	255,000	263,000	274,000	278,000	289,000
Ending Stocks	212,017	223,017	222,525	210,163	200,526	198,176
Total Distribution	441,021	478,094	485,544	484,182	478,538	487,196

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

COLOMBIA



Market access

Colombia is a significant market for grain and oilseed products, and with the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) going into effect in 2012, the market became more open for U.S. products. Tariffs on many goods were reduced to 0%, including soybeans and soybean meal. Crude soybean oil has a duty-free TRQ that grows each year. Out of quota crude SBO was levied a 2.4 percent tariff in 2019.

The TPA has helped the U.S. against other wheat regional suppliers. U.S. corn preferences awarded under TPA and tariffs applied on corn from competing origins have made the U.S. the dominant player in the corn market - almost 90 percent of corn imports came from the U.S. in 2019/20. The U.S. has a large duty-free quota (3.1 MMT) and a flat out-of-quota rate (6.3% in 2020); other suppliers, including Mercosur, face variable rates which have been quite high, up to 40 percent, given low corn prices in recent years. However, since 2018, Argentina and Brazil have benefited from preferences they receive under the Andean Price Band System (APBS), which levies surcharge tariffs on select imported commodities when international prices are low.<sup>1</sup>

The Colombian cereal growers' association, FENALCE, has repeatedly asserted that U.S. corn has been misclassified under an HS code that did not correspond with prescribed quality specifications. The TPA Free Trade Commission clarified the issue in favor of U.S. corn, but despite this decision, the taxes and customs agency (DIAN) continues to periodically deny U.S. shipments of corn. This

<sup>1</sup> Note: Once imports from the U.S. have reached their quota, though, Colombian importers sometimes still prefer to pay the U.S. out-of-quota tariff, rather than face the variability of the APBS surcharge, which can change every 15 days.



happened again in September 2020. FENALCE has also raised complaints related to the presence of aflatoxins in U.S. corn.

There have not been significant hurdles in recent years to the production or importation of GE commodities. Colombia approves events individually, allows for the production of GM crops, and has developed a GE framework. Addressing concerns about disruptions to trade that may result if unapproved events are found present in shipments, the government has suggested a five percent LLP threshold; this would only be required, however, of commodities destined for food, not for animal feed.

Wheat, corn, and soybeans require phytosanitary certificates. Wheat and soybeans also require import permits.

Corruption is still a problem in Colombia: it scored a 39 out of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Colombia became an even more important trading partner for the U.S. following the approval of the TPA. Since then, Colombian producers have shifted towards producing white corn for food, ceding much of the yellow corn market to imports, so Colombia is now a significant corn importer. The U.S. exported 5.3 MMT of corn to Colombia in 2019/20. The country also imports virtually all its wheat (2.3 million MT imported in 2019/20, of which 857,000 MT came from the U.S.).

Colombian imports of U.S. soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean oil have, combined, exceeded 1 MMT each year since 2015. In 2019/20, Colombia imported 542,000 MT of soybeans, 137,000 MT of soybean oil, and 1.4 MMT of soybean meal from the U.S.

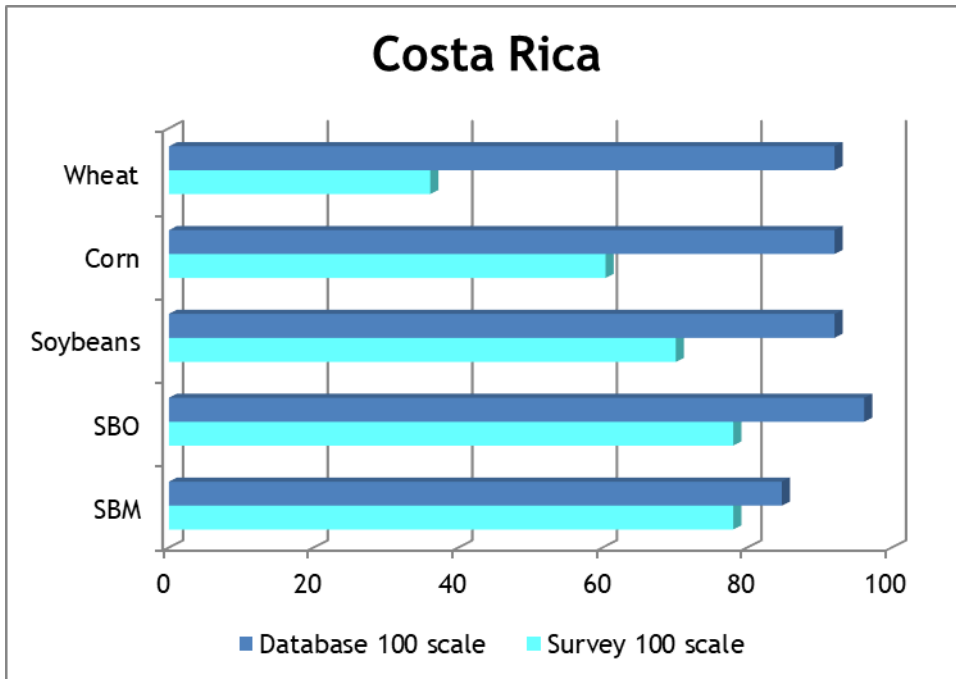
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Colombia: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	401	421	380	394	373	390
Beginning Stocks	736	512	210	240	316	287
Yield	4	3	4	4	4	4
Production	1,471	1,295	1,330	1,378	1,395	1,500
Imports	4,458	4,754	5,201	6,048	5,976	6,000
TY Imports	4,458	4,754	5,201	6,048	5,976	6,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	4,471	4,727	5,087	4,412	5,316	-
Total Supply	6,665	6,561	6,741	7,666	7,687	7,787
Exports	3	1	1	-	-	-
TY Exports	3	1	1	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	4,800	5,000	5,100	5,900	5,900	6,000
FSI Consumption	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,500
Domestic Consumption	6,150	6,350	6,500	7,350	7,400	7,500
Ending Stocks	512	210	240	316	287	287
Total Distribution	6,665	6,561	6,741	7,666	7,687	7,787

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

**COSTA RICA**



**Market access**

Costa Rica has very few barriers to U.S. imports. The U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) was signed into law in August 2005 (and went into force in Costa Rica in 2009). U.S. wheat, yellow corn, soybeans, and crude soybean oil face no tariff. The remaining tariffs on refined SBO and SBM were phased out in 2020.

The primary remaining barriers are technical/procedural, i.e., a reportedly cumbersome and lengthy procedure for obtaining standard phytosanitary documentation. The National Trade Estimate Report notes that the use of SPS measures as a tool to obstruct trade has decreased over the past few years.

The report also has described complaints from U.S. exporters about increased quarantine fumigation costs at Costa Rican ports of entry. In June 2020, a new protocol was given approval and is expected to reduce the time and costs that exporters incur for cargo at port. The U.S. Government and Costa Rica’s Plant Health and Customs Department continue to meet to identify additional ways to reduce costs.

**Grain-oilseed situation**

Costa Rica is not a significant commodity producer, so it is heavily dependent on imports of basic grains and oilseeds, almost all of which are sourced from the United States.

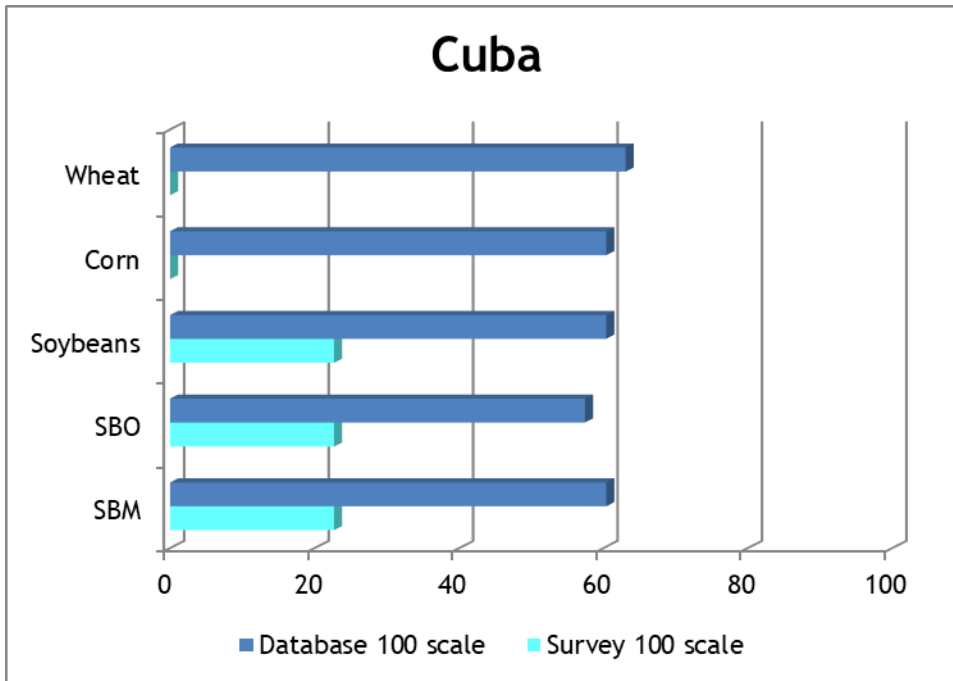
Costa Rica imported 322,000 MT of wheat in 2019/20, over 950,000 MT of corn, and 247,000 MT of soybeans. U.S. marketing year 2019/20 exports to Costa Rica included approximately 88,000 MT

of wheat, 859,000 MT of corn, 300,000 MT of soybeans, 7,400 MT of soybean oil and 111,800 MT of soybean meal.

Costa Rica: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	5	5	3	3	3	3
Beginning Stocks	60	35	29	27	20	18
Yield	2	2	2	2	2	2
Production	9	8	5	5	5	6
Imports	776	876	873	918	953	1,000
TY Imports	776	876	873	918	953	1,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	532	851	835	858	859	-
Total Supply	845	919	907	950	978	1,024
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	750	830	820	870	900	940
FSI Consumption	60	60	60	60	60	60
Domestic Consumption	810	890	880	930	960	1,000
Ending Stocks	35	29	27	20	18	24
Total Distribution	845	919	907	950	978	1,024

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

CUBA



**Market access**

U.S. trade with Cuba remains limited, with some agricultural commodities as rare exceptions. The U.S. provides no trade assistance, and official U.S. entities in many cases limit or do not publish information regarding Cuba.

Cuba has modest tariffs on agricultural commodities. Durum faces a two percent tariff, but otherwise wheat faces no duty. The corn duty is 10 percent. Soybeans face a four percent tariff, crude and refined SBO face five percent and 20 percent tariffs, respectively, and soybean meal is assessed a 10 percent rate.

Corruption is not noted as a substantial problem in Cuba; the country scored a 47 on Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, which puts it ahead of most other Latin American markets under review.

**Grain-oilseed situation**

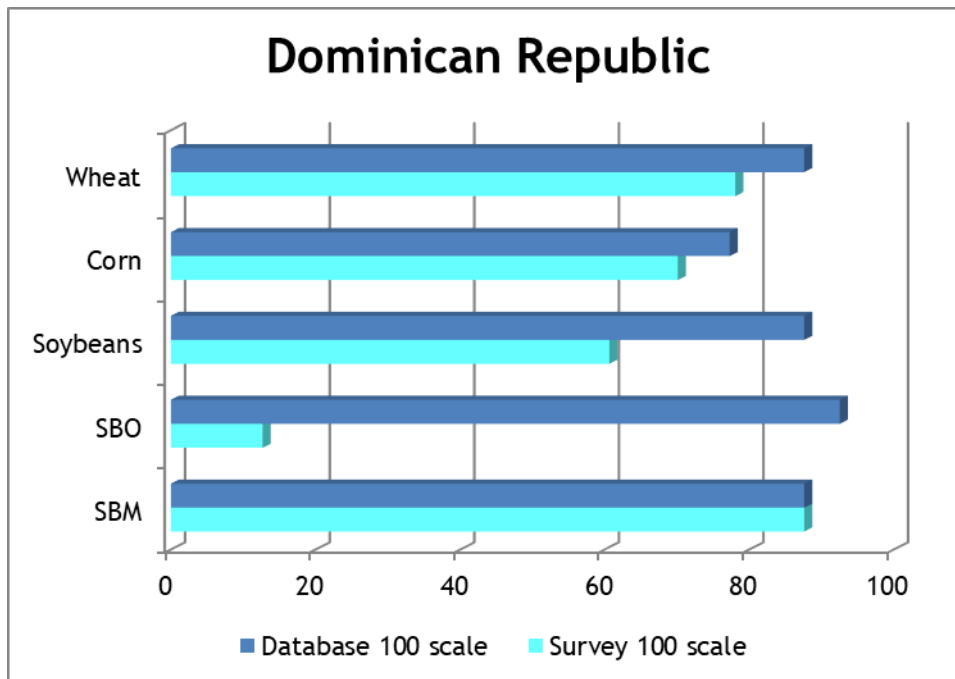
Cuba imported 652,000 MT of wheat in 2019/20; the U.S. did not report any exports to Cuba. Corn imports were 556,000 MT, with 30,000 MT coming from the U.S.

U.S. soybeans accounted for 22,300 MT of the country’s 94,000 MT in imports in 2019/20. The U.S. did not register soy oil or soybean meal exports to Cuba in 2019/20.

Cuba: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	150	170	158	170	160	165
Beginning Stocks	175	116	134	70	50	46
Yield	2	2	2	2	2	2
Production	363	404	374	410	390	405
Imports	853	964	712	450	556	700
TY Imports	853	964	712	450	556	700
TY Imp. from U.S.	138	286	117	58	30	-
Total Supply	1,391	1,484	1,220	930	996	1,151
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	975	1,050	950	700	700	850
FSI Consumption	300	300	200	180	250	250
Domestic Consumption	1,275	1,350	1,150	880	950	1,100
Ending Stocks	116	134	70	50	46	51
Total Distribution	1,391	1,484	1,220	930	996	1,151

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Market access**

The Dominican Republic is a member of the CAFTA-DR agreement which also includes the United States. U.S. wheat, corn, soybeans, soybean meal, and crude soybean oil enter duty-free; there had been a small, declining tariff on refined soybean oil, but that was phased out in 2020.

Import licenses are required for agricultural products. Importers also need to obtain a certificate to benefit from the duty-free preference allowed under trade agreements. However, the government passed Decree 569-12 which included corn in its Automated License System, expediting the import process.

The same decree also exempted corn from what would otherwise have been a 40 percent out-of-quota tariff. However, corn importers are required to purchase domestic sorghum, regardless of the volume of corn they are importing.

The country's double-digit value added tax, ITBIS (currently 18%), does not apply to many agricultural commodities, but it is applied to soybean oil.

The DR has a law from 2015 explicitly requiring GE product labeling, though it has not yet advanced to implementation and is not expected to do so in the short term. Although the DR currently does not restrict genetically engineered commodities, corn for propagation requires a phytosanitary certificate stating that the product does not contain GMO material.

Corruption can be a serious problem in the Dominican Republic, with the country scoring only 28 out of 100 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

The Dominican Republic imports large volumes of wheat (655,000 MT in 2019/20) and corn (1.35 million MT). The U.S. usually supplies about half the wheat, followed by Canada. Substantial volumes of wheat and wheat products move from the Dominican Republic to Haiti. Dominican Republic produces only 1%-3% of its corn needs and imports the rest. Brazil and the U.S. supply most of the corn, followed by Argentina.

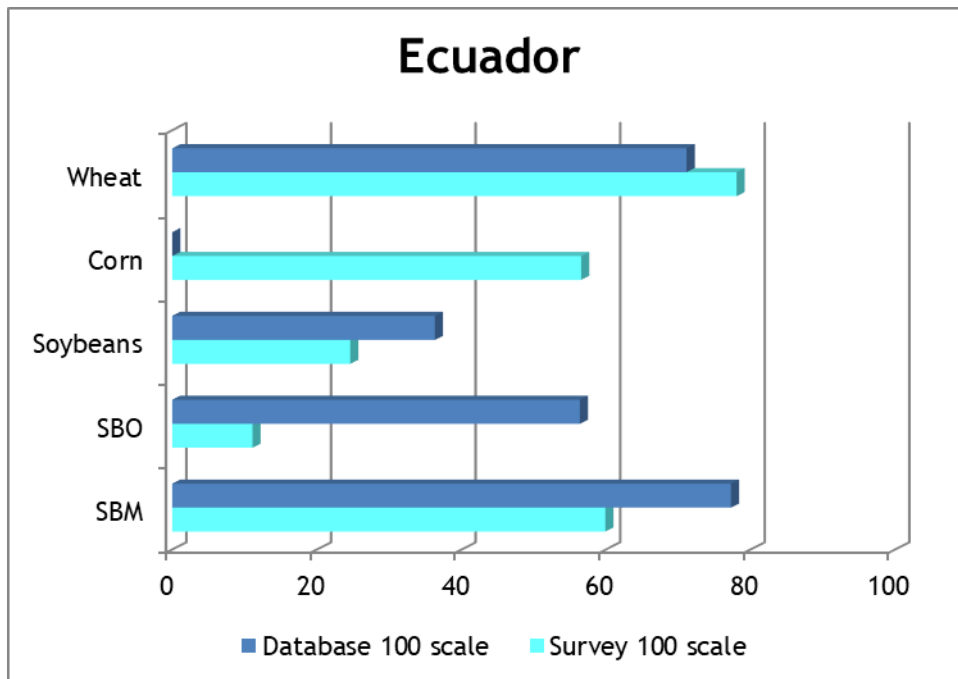
The Dominican Republic imports only small volumes of soybeans (30,700 MT from the U.S. in 2019/20); however, it is a significant export market for U.S. soybean meal (500,000 MT in 2019/20) and soybean oil (150,700 MT).

Dominican Republic: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	26	26	26	26	30	30
Beginning Stocks	131	189	177	150	181	85
Yield	2	2	2	2	2	2
Production	42	44	44	45	50	50
Imports	1,351	1,294	1,329	1,536	1,354	1,500
TY Imports	1,351	1,294	1,329	1,536	1,354	1,500
TY Imp. from U.S.	291	769	679	624	483	-
Total Supply	1,524	1,527	1,550	1,731	1,585	1,635
Exports	5	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	5	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,230	1,250	1,300	1,450	1,400	1,450
FSI Consumption	100	100	100	100	100	100
Domestic Consumption	1,330	1,350	1,400	1,550	1,500	1,550
Ending Stocks	189	177	150	181	85	85
Total Distribution	1,524	1,527	1,550	1,731	1,585	1,635

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021



## ECUADOR

**Market access**

Ecuador is a member of the Andean Community (CAN) and applies its common tariff rates: 0% to 20 percent for most of the commodities under review in the GOMAI. These rates are adjusted, based on world prices, according to the Andean Price Band System (APBS), which increases tariffs when world prices drop below a threshold value, and lowers tariffs when world prices are high. At the end of 2020, the APBS was applied to corn, soybeans, and soybean oil, as international prices were below the APBS floor price.

In December 2020, the U.S. and Ecuador signed a Protocol on Trade Rules and Transparency, which is an update of the 1990 Trade and Investment Council Agreement (TIC). The Protocol includes high standards for trade facilitation, transparency in the development of regulations, anti-corruption policies, and cooperation and information sharing. The Protocol is expected to improve bilateral trade.

The current standard tariff rates are 15 percent for corn and soybeans, and 20 percent on soybean oil. Wheat had a base 10 percent tariff rate and soybean meal a 15 percent tariff, but U.S. negotiations with Ecuador to eliminate the APBS surcharges on U.S. wheat and soybean meal - which do not compete with domestic commodities - were ongoing in 2019 and as a result, Ecuador agreed to exempt wheat and soybean meal APBS surcharges for five years, beginning on January 1, 2020, running through December 31, 2024.

Wheat, corn, and soybean meal are subject to import licensing. They are among the dozens of products for which Ecuador requires a non-automatic import license, granted only when domestic production is unavailable.

Ecuador maintains preferential treatment for Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil: tariffs and the APBS impact were originally discounted for them, then phased out completely in 2018.

Ecuador has concluded a trade liberalization deal with the EU which will eliminate the APBS levies in six years, beginning on January 2, 2017.

Ecuador has a value added tax (VAT, known as IVA) of 12 percent on most goods; this tax does not apply to unprocessed agricultural foods or to edible oils (excluding olive oil).

Prior authorization is required, along with phytosanitary certificates, to import grains and oilseeds. In addition, anti-GMO legislation is on the books but remains unenforced.

Corruption can be a serious problem in Ecuador, with the country scoring only 39 out of 100 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

### **Grain-oilseed situation**

Ecuador is not a major producer of most grains and oilseeds. Wheat imports exceeded 1.2 MMT in 2019/20. Canada is the top supplier of wheat to the market, supplying mainly durum wheat. The U.S. is the next largest supplier (531,000 MT), followed by Argentina. Due to policies encouraging domestic production, corn imports are minimal.

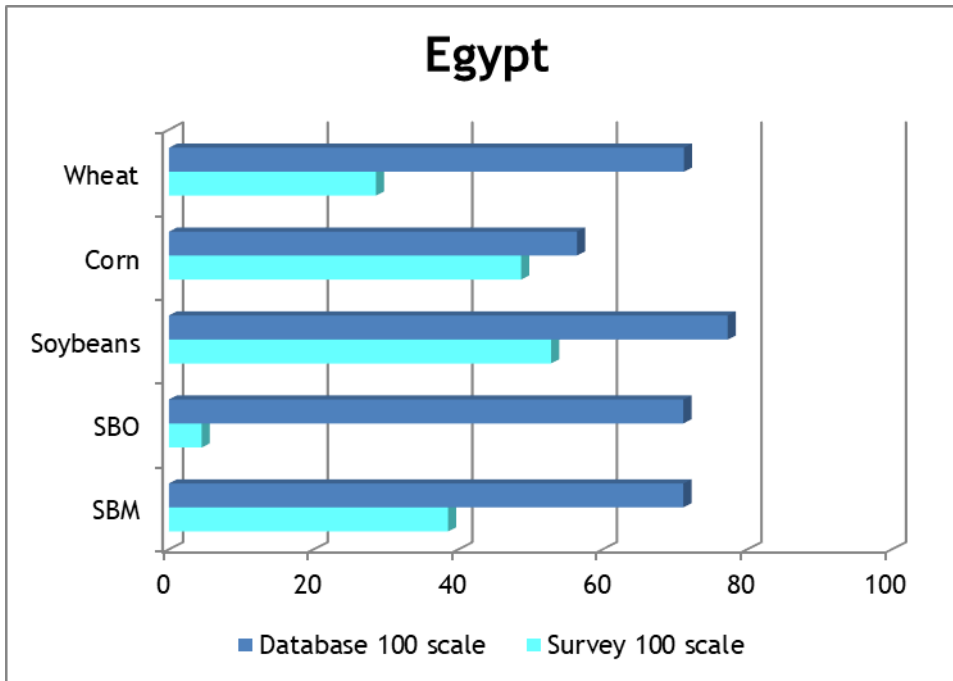
Ecuador produces and imports only small volumes of soybeans, though it does import SBM in large volumes. Ecuador also imports approximately 100,000 MT of crude soybean oil from Bolivia annually. The market share of U.S. soybean meal has benefitted from lower prices and the U.S. has grown to become the primary supplier to the market.

**Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes**  
*Country summaries*

Ecuador: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	360	306	359	365	300	270
Beginning Stocks	127	160	24	49	36	105
Yield	5	4	4	4	5	5
Production	1,760	1,091	1,436	1,324	1,500	1,350
Imports	13	158	69	43	59	80
TY Imports	13	161	72	46	66	80
TY Imp. from U.S.	1	49	4	28	18	-
Total Supply	1,900	1,409	1,529	1,416	1,595	1,535
Exports	-	-	-	-	5	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	4	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,650	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,400	1,400
FSI Consumption	90	85	80	80	85	85
Domestic Consumption	1,740	1,385	1,480	1,380	1,485	1,485
Ending Stocks	160	24	49	36	105	50
Total Distribution	1,900	1,409	1,529	1,416	1,595	1,535

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## EGYPT

**Market access**

Egypt ranks among the world's largest grain importers, importing about half its wheat and corn and almost all its soybeans. Due to preferential treatment, most U.S. agricultural commodities enter duty free. There is a five percent tariff on soybean meal. Egypt generally purchases grains based on price and quality assessments.

In January 2020, the Egyptian Government reintroduced pre-shipment inspections for grain and oilseed imports - including corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, soymeal, and DDGS - even though the shipments are subject to inspection upon arrival as well. In addition, special measures are in place for wheat. The General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) requires that shipments of wheat be pre-inspected by an Egyptian Government agency prior to export.

Import permits and phytosanitary certificates are required for all commodities covered as part of GOMAI. Moreover, testing procedures for agricultural commodities remain opaque and unevenly applied, causing delays and confusion.

There were some serious trade disruptions in Egypt during 2017, but only for wheat. Egypt had set a zero tolerance for the presence of ergot in imported wheat. However, traders immediately boycotted Egypt's wheat tenders. After three failed tenders, Egypt reversed its decision and agreed to follow the international standard for ergot of 0.05 percent. However, this did not fix all problems, as traders have since complained about increased delays and mandatory sieving. It was estimated that Egypt may have lost out on up to 1.4 billion pounds of wheat purchases in 2018, according to FAS.

Egypt formally implemented new phytosanitary rules in 2019, issuing a ministerial decree in October, but in practice it is not yet being enforced. U.S. exporters have yet to have problems with exports from a phytosanitary perspective, although there have been problems faced by other countries, namely Australia.

In September 2020, Egypt announced the establishment of the Egyptian Commodity Exchange Company, which is expected to increase the efficiency of commodity trading. Wheat is one of the first four commodities to be listed. The exchange was expected to be operational in 2021.

Corruption remains a problem in Egypt, which ranks in the bottom third of countries. It received a score of 33 on Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Egypt is a major agricultural importer and the world's largest wheat importer. Egypt's wheat and corn imports in 2019/20 were 12.8 MMT and 10.4 MMT, respectively.

In the oilseed complex, domestic production of soybeans is negligible. Egypt's soy imports have increased dramatically, up from 2.1 MMT in 2016/17 to 4.9 MMT in 2019/20. The U.S. has become the predominant soybean supplier to the market, shipping 3.8 MMT in 2019/20. Egypt imports almost no soybean oil, as most of their soybeans are crushed locally. Nevertheless, the U.S. did export 31,000 MT of soybean oil to Egypt in 2019/20.

Egypt's consumption of soybean meal has expanded in recent years as the country has built up its crushing capacity. The increase in local crushing capacity has resulted in decreased imports which fell to 195,000 Mts in 2018/19. U.S. exports have largely stopped, dropping from 177,000 MT in 2015/6 to 1,100 MT in 2019/20.

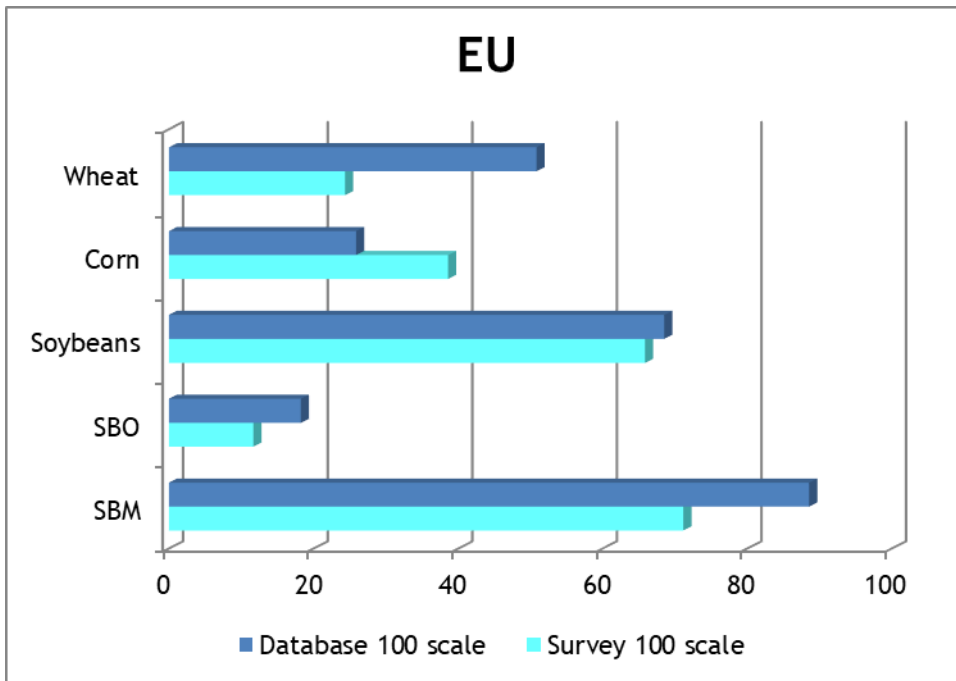
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Egypt: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	750	750	800	850	800	800
Beginning Stocks	2,358	2,224	1,887	1,846	1,810	1,732
Yield	8	8	8	8	8	8
Production	6,000	6,000	6,400	6,800	6,400	6,400
Imports	8,722	8,773	9,464	9,367	10,432	10,300
TY Imports	8,722	8,773	9,464	9,367	10,432	10,300
TY Imp. from U.S.	793	269	1,646	232	52	-
Total Supply	17,080	16,997	17,751	18,013	18,642	18,432
Exports	6	10	5	3	10	10
TY Exports	6	10	5	3	10	10
Feed Dom. Consumption	12,450	12,700	13,400	13,700	14,400	14,400
FSI Consumption	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Domestic Consumption	14,850	15,100	15,900	16,200	16,900	16,900
Ending Stocks	2,224	1,887	1,846	1,810	1,732	1,522
Total Distribution	17,080	16,997	17,751	18,013	18,642	18,432

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## EU-27



### Market access

Overall, the EU is a challenging market for several commodities under review. The EU has strict technical barriers to entry that make it a difficult market for wheat and corn from the U.S. Additionally, the EU restricts the import of low-priced grains from non-EU members with import duties and quotas.

Trade tensions continued between the U.S. and the EU in 2020, and the resulting policies have directly affected U.S. grain exports. The European Union (EU) also saw several events occur that have impacted or could impact market access for U.S. grains and oilseeds.

In November 2020, the European Union adopted a 25 percent additional tariff against U.S. wheat imports following the World Trade Organization's (WTO) ruling that authorized the EU to take countermeasures against the United States in the WTO Large Civil Airline litigation involving Boeing. The Regulation entered into force on November 10, 2020. U.S. corn continues to have a 25 percent retaliatory duty imposed in response to Section 232 tariffs. The EU dropped ERGA OMNES<sup>2</sup> tariffs on corn in August 2020, further disadvantaging U.S. grain products.

Earlier in the year, the EU saw the United Kingdom (UK) officially leave the European Union (January 31, 2020). The transition period, in which the UK was expected to comply with EU rules

<sup>2</sup> Tariffs that apply to all countries.

and legislation ended on December 31, 2020. The UK has begun to develop its own rules for trade which are explored in the UK section of the report.

The Green Deal Biodiversity legislative proposal is slated to be published in 2021; an impact assessment is being conducted. Corn and soy have been identified as being within the scope of this proposal and it is expected that EU importers will have to purchase soy products that come from deforestation-free supply chains to comply with the new EU requirements.

The EU produces very few genetically engineered (GE) crops, but it imports large amounts of GE feed. In July 2018, the European Court of Justice ruled that organisms created through innovative biotechnologies should be regulated as GE organisms in the EU. In April 2021 the European Commission published a review of how new genomic techniques fit into current EU law which raised questions about the limitations of the EU's current regulatory structure regarding these new technologies.

European consumers have been exposed to consistent negative messaging from anti-biotech groups, and as a result, attitudes towards GE products are mostly negative. However, these attitudes vary by country; on the one hand, in Spain, there are examples of GE-labeled imported food products that have been successful. On the other, in Austria, one variety of GE corn has been banned for import and processing since 2007. Bulgaria has also banned sales in schools of foods containing GE products. The EU has a lengthy and non-transparent process for approving biotech events, with the approval process usually taking several years.

The EU livestock industry relies on imports of GE feed; GE soy products are the single largest agricultural import into the European Union. However, the EU's slow and costly approval of GE events restricts U.S. and global exports and slows innovation. The EU system for approving GE plants for use as food and feed is broken since the EU routinely disregards set regulatory timelines. This has led to a widening gap between GE products deregulated and grown in the United States and elsewhere in the world and those approved in the EU, resulting in the partial or complete disruption of trade in affected commodities and processed products.

GM regulations have generally not been a limiting factor in U.S. soybean exports for animal feeds to the EU. The share of GE products as a percentage of total imports is estimated at 90 to 95 percent for soybean products and just 20 percent for corn. The U.S., Brazil, and Argentina are the major suppliers of GE crops. The U.S. is a major supplier of soybeans and a relatively minor supplier of soybean meal and corn. The difficulty in sourcing enough competitively priced non-GM corn and soy for animal feed appears to be a large factor contributing to the continued importation of GM corn and soy for feed use.

The EU uses complicated technical barriers to trade, such as SPS criteria managed by the industry, as well as stringent Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) on pesticides to restrict trade. For example, in October 2018, the EU finalized a decision to reduce the MRL of chlorpyrifos-methyl (marketed as Storcide II) from 3 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg, essentially eliminating its use in the U.S. on wheat destined for the EU after December 5, 2018. In June 2016, the EC made a proposal on scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the field of plant protection products. This proposal has



the potential to present significant market access challenges for U.S. exports. Beginning in December 2019, all plants and plant products shipped to the EU must obtain a phytosanitary certificate. More recently, The European Commission put forward a proposal to lower the MRLs for clethodim to the limit of detection (LOD) or default level, which was adopted in February 2021, at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. This will impact MRLs for future U.S. exports of corn to the EU as well.

Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is another recent technical barrier to trade for some U.S. products. Eight EU Member States—Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, and Spain—have implemented or are in the process of developing or implementing a variety of national COOL schemes that apply to different types of ingredients and finished products, have varying implementation times, and require different wording on labels. For example, since February 13, 2018, Italy has imposed COOL requirements on durum wheat used in durum wheat flour pasta.

The EU is also looking at implementing country of origin labeling requirements. On May 29, 2018, the European Commission published Implementing Regulation 2018/775, which introduces mandatory dual origin labeling when a country of origin is given or visually implied on the label of a food product, but the origin is not the same as that of its primary ingredient. This regulation came into force on April 1, 2020.

Two EU member-states, Austria and Germany, moved to ban the use of the herbicide glyphosate in 2019. The EU also voted not to extend the license of insecticide thiacloprid—sold under the brand names Calypso and Biscaya—when it expires at the end of April 2020.

Looking at the positive side of regulations, after many years, the EU approved the use of sustainability certified soybeans for use in feedstock or biofuels under the Renewable Energy Directive. This will allow U.S. soybeans to be used in the manufacturing of biodiesel, opening a new avenue for the trade of the oilseed. The EU also issued new food/feed approvals for four corn products.

VAT taxes are commonplace in the EU and can be quite high, potentially presenting a market access barrier. Most EU member states have lower rates for agricultural products, however, there are states that do not. Eleven member states charge the full VAT rate, ranging from 18 to 27 percent, for agricultural products, including, Bulgaria, Finland, the Netherlands, and Sweden. For states with reduced agriculture rates, the rate varies from 3-15 percent.

Corruption is generally not a problem in the EU, as member states generally score in the 60s. Some of the Eastern European members that were formerly members of the Soviet bloc are more corrupt, with scores in the 40s.

### Grain-oilseed situation

The EU is a significant wheat net exporter, but relies on imports of corn, soybeans, and soybean meal. EU wheat production in 2019/20 was 138.7 MMT, of which 39.8 MMT were exported. Corn imports were nearly 17.4 MMT. The main story here is increased use in the feed sector, mainly in

Spain where increased imports compensated for a domestic shortfall. The primary origin of corn imports is Brazil and Ukraine. Corn imports from Argentina are limited by pesticide issues.

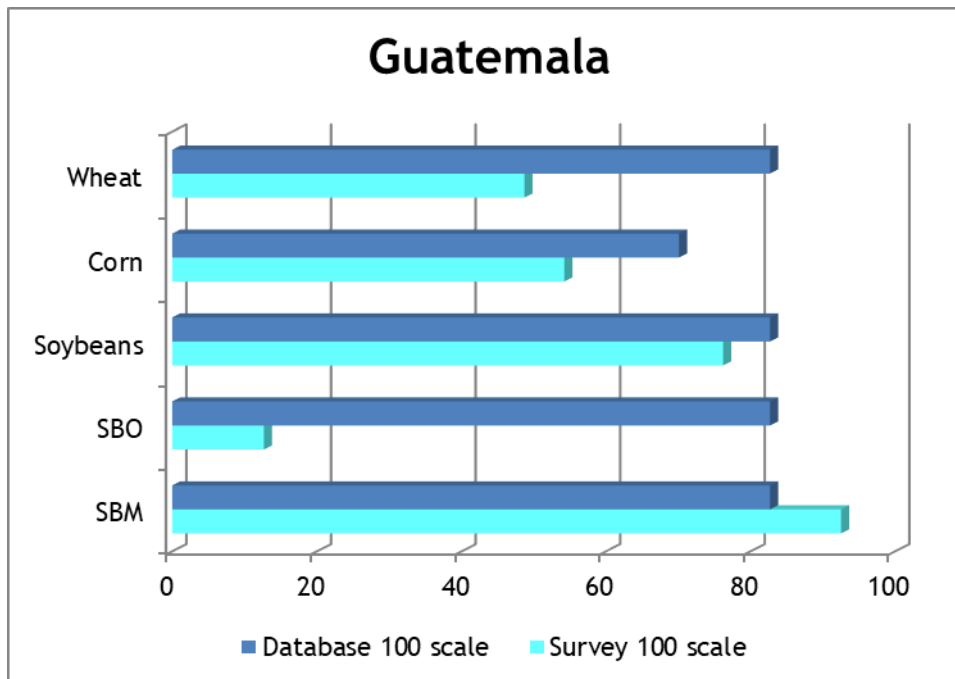
The U.S. exported very little corn to the EU due to the 25 percent tariff placed on corn as part of an ongoing trade dispute. The U.S. is a relatively small supplier of wheat to the EU due to the EU's large domestic production capabilities as well as trading relations with Ukraine which is a major wheat producer. The EU is the world's second largest soybean importer after China, and the EU has imported more U.S. and less Brazilian soybeans lately due to the low price of U.S. beans following China's retaliatory tariffs in June 2018. The decision on where to import soybeans comes down to price, protein content, and availability. The trade dispute with China helped the U.S. be the most competitive on all these measures during the early months of 2020.

Soybean meal consumption in the EU has continued to grow. In 2019/20, production was nearly 2.6 MMT and imports, nearly 15 MMT. Brazil and Argentina represent approximately 62 percent of the total by value, with Paraguay and the U.S. also contributing.

European Union: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	9,252	8,557	8,250	8,274	8,907	8,982
Beginning Stocks	9,626	6,781	7,227	8,983	7,644	7,575
Yield	6	7	8	8	7	7
Production	58,748	61,909	62,021	64,351	66,735	63,975
Imports	14,008	14,253	17,667	23,583	17,384	12,000
TY Imports	14,008	14,253	17,667	23,583	17,384	12,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	477	821	1,862	33	3	-
Total Supply	82,382	82,943	86,915	96,917	91,763	83,550
Exports	1,953	2,816	2,732	4,273	5,388	3,300
TY Exports	1,953	2,816	2,732	4,273	5,388	3,300
Feed Dom. Consumption	55,500	54,500	56,000	65,500	59,000	53,500
FSI Consumption	18,000	18,400	19,200	19,500	19,800	19,800
Domestic Consumption	73,500	72,900	75,200	85,000	78,800	73,300
Ending Stocks	6,929	7,227	8,983	7,644	7,575	6,950
Total Distribution	82,382	82,943	86,915	96,917	91,763	83,550

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## GUATEMALA

**Market access**

Guatemala is one of the Central American nations that have ratified the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement with the United States. It went into force in 2006. Under the agreement, tariffs and non-tariff barriers on a variety of products have been either eliminated, or in some cases are being gradually eliminated over a 15 to 20-year period. Most U.S. products under review - wheat, in-quota white corn (26,000 MT in 2020; the quota is always filled), soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean oil (crude and refined) - enter Guatemala duty free. The only exception is out-of-quota white corn, which is assessed a 20 percent tariff. The refined soybean oil duty phased out in 2020.

Guatemala published a list of quarantine pests in November 2016 but has yet to establish an evidence-based protocol for pest treatment. The country still fumigates and denies entry of containers with pests, regardless of whether an alternate treatment is available.

On March 15, 2019, Guatemala and Honduras approved a biosafety regulation for live modified organisms for agricultural use. On October 7, the Ministry of Agriculture published a decree creating the Guatemalan Biosafety Agricultural Technical Committee and a manual of technical procedures covering the use of GE seed. The rule and procedures follow the WTO SPS Agreement and the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol. However, activists opposed the regulations and filed a court case in November 2019. A hearing was held in September 2020, but resolution was not expected until 2021.

Phytosanitary certificates and import permits have remained an issue, and SPS requirements change frequently. In addition, corruption is a significant problem: Guatemala's score on Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index was 25.

### Grain-oilseed situation

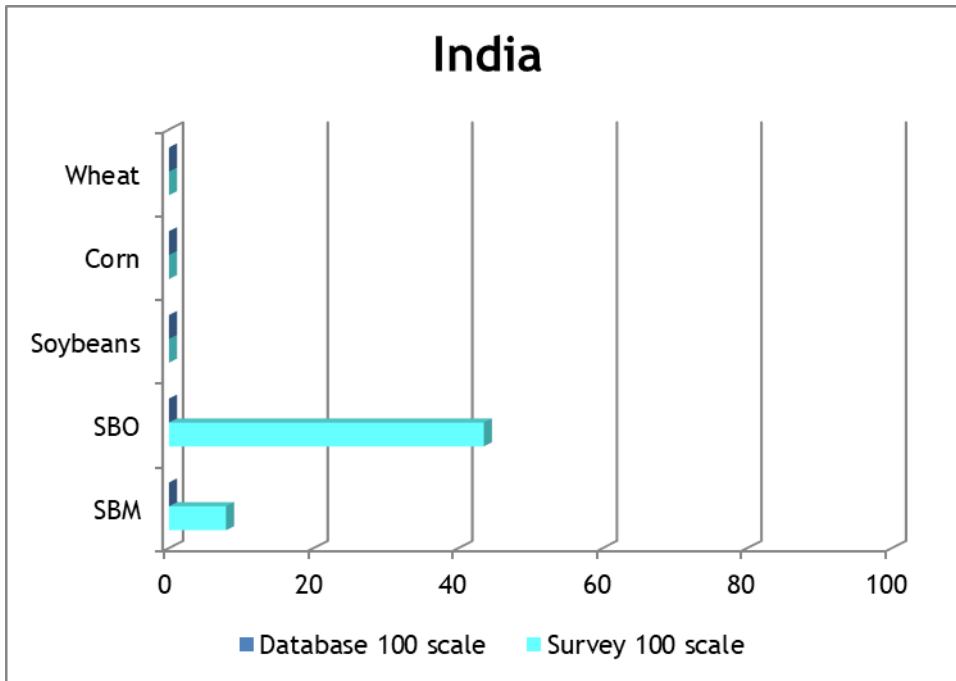
Guatemala does not produce a significant amount of wheat. The country relies primarily on the U.S. (631,000 MT in 2019/20) for its import needs. Corn production is generally 1.8 MMT, primarily white corn. Imports in 2019/20 were approximately, 1.4 million MT in 2019/20, three-quarters of which came from the U.S.

Guatemala does not produce meaningful volumes of soybeans, nor does it have significant soybean crushing capacity. It relies primarily on the U.S. for soybean meal and soy oil, purchasing 487,000 MT of U.S. soybean meal and 105,000 MT of U.S. soybean oil in 2019/20.

Guatemala: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	877	882	880	870	870	850
Beginning Stocks	339	451	472	459	367	273
Yield	2	2	2	2	2	2
Production	1,854	1,899	1,900	1,680	1,680	1,645
Imports	1,069	996	1,038	1,282	1,381	1,600
TY Imports	1,027	951	1,091	1,224	1,527	1,600
TY Imp. from U.S.	925	927	951	1,185	1,162	-
Total Supply	3,262	3,346	3,410	3,421	3,428	3,518
Exports	11	4	1	4	5	5
TY Exports	9	3	2	2	5	5
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,350	1,420	1,450	1,550	1,600	1,700
FSI Consumption	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,550	1,600
Domestic Consumption	2,800	2,870	2,950	3,050	3,150	3,300
Ending Stocks	451	472	459	367	273	213
Total Distribution	3,262	3,346	3,410	3,421	3,428	3,518

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## INDIA



### Market access

India maintains its reputation for being a difficult market for U.S. grain and oilseed exporters to penetrate. India pushes agricultural self-reliance and uses significant tariff and non-tariff barriers to favor domestic production over imports. With minor exceptions, the country effectively blocks imports of many U.S. agricultural commodities including wheat, corn, and soybeans. The U.S. has actively sought bilateral and multilateral opportunities to increase market access, so far without yielding improvements in access.

Most GOMAI commodities face tariffs from 15 to 50 percent. Moreover, India's bound tariff rates on agricultural products are among the highest in the world, averaging 113.1 percent, creating uncertainty because the country can raise its applied rates to bound levels to manage prices and supply.

India is an occasional participant in the international wheat market, importing only in years when domestic supplies are depressed. India typically exports less than one percent of its crop, in response to favorable international prices.

Wheat tariffs have increased in recent years, reaching 40 percent in 2019 where they remain. In addition to the basic custom duty, imports of wheat and wheat products incur the regular social-welfare-surcharge (SWS) of 10 percent of the basic duty (i.e., the total duty on wheat would be 44%), plus an Integrated goods-and-services tax (IGST) of 12 percent.

Corn faces a 50 percent tariff, which modified by a SWS of 10%, levies a total effective duty of 55%. This has effectively locked the U.S. out of the market. India allows imports of (non-GE) corn

under a TRQ of 500,000 MT, with a 15 percent duty, however, the narrow window for applying for the TRQ and late notification of TRQ procedures make implementation of the TRQ onerous and highly restrictive.

Soybeans are assessed a 45 percent tariff and subjected to SWS of 10 percent and the Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) of five percent, which is assessed on the sum of the customs value of the goods and the customs duties assessed on those goods, effectively raising the import duty up to 57%. The import duty on crude soybean oil is 35 percent. After adding SWS of 10 percent and IGST of five percent, the total duty is 45.4 percent. Similarly, refined soybean oil and soybean meal are assessed at 45 percent and 15 percent, respectively, each subject to SWS and IGST.

High tariffs aside, India's sanitary-phytosanitary (SPS) requirement that a wheat sample drawn from a consignment contain no more than 100 quarantine seeds (more than 50 quarantine seeds species specified) per 200 kilogram, and other SPS issues preclude U.S. wheat exports to India.

Many non-tariff barriers exist. India's wheat tenders frequently include SPS requirements that the U.S. cannot certify given the prohibitive nature of wheat disease and unnecessary fumigation requirements. The government also specifies technical requirements on all grains but applies them to exclude specific commodities. In addition, documentation procedures frequently are met with delays.

In addition, import licensing established by the India's Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) and mandatory labeling to import genetically modified goods make these specifications all but impossible to meet. In the last few years, the GEAC has received applications for both GE soybeans and soybean meal derived from GE soybeans that are still under review. India became even more strict on GE food labeling in 2020. In August, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released an order requiring every consignment of imported food be accompanied with a non-GM certificate issued by the competent national authority of the exporting country. The order covers 24 listed products, including wheat, corn, and soybeans, and became effective on January 1, 2021. The slow and uncertain approval process continues to hamper product registrations needed to facilitate trade in biotechnology products. Without enhanced capacity for science-based decision making, India's acceptance and approval of additional agricultural biotechnology products will remain limited.

Corruption remains an issue, as India scored a 40 out of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

Unfortunately, trade relations between the U.S. and India, which were already poor, grew worse in 2019 as the U.S. withdrew from the Generalized System of Preferences resulting in retaliatory tariffs being placed by India. The U.S. launched a dispute settlement proceeding against India in July of 2019 that is still ongoing. The retaliatory tariffs were not placed on the GOMAI commodities, but trade tensions could escalate further.

### Grain-oilseed situation

India is a sizeable producer of wheat, corn, and soybeans, in any given year producing approximately 100 MMT, 28 MMT, and 10 MMT of each crop, respectively. The country effectively blocks imports of these three commodities, with few exceptions.

Demand for imported oils exceeds domestic production, however. Most imports are of palm oil, though India imported 3.6 MMT of soybean oil in 2019/20, up sharply from around 1 MMT earlier in the decade. Argentina supplied three-quarters of this total, and Brazil most of the rest. India trades modest volumes of soybeans relative to domestic production. Over the past five years, both imports and exports have totaled less than 5% of production.

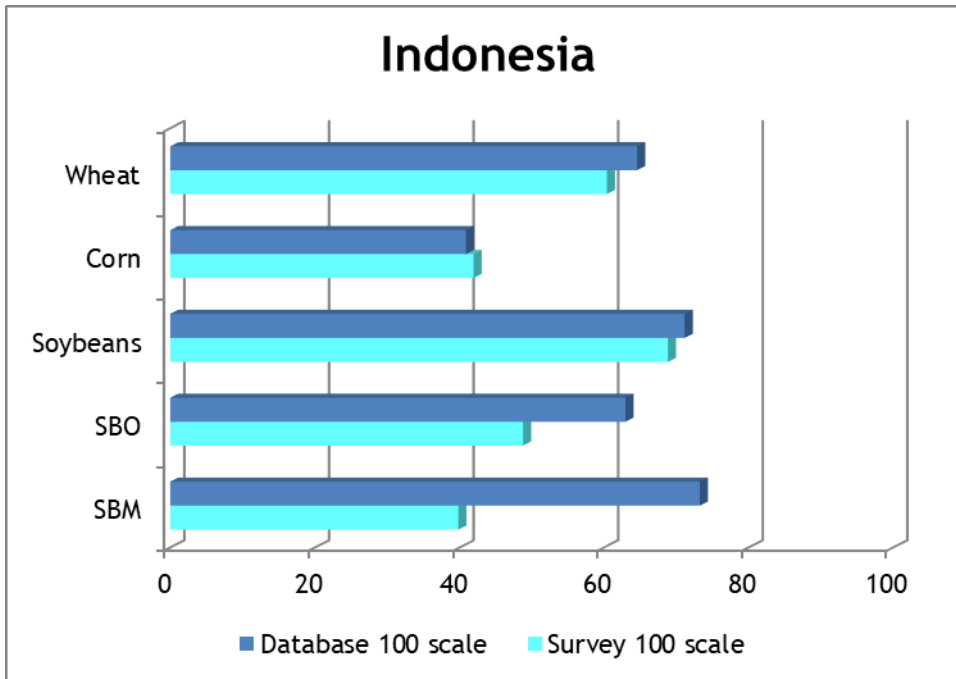
Historically, India has been an exporter of soybean meal, exporting as much as over 4 MMT in 2013. By 2015/16, however, exports were down to 409,000 MT. Production rebounded to about 2 MMT/year between 2016/17 and 2018/19, but dropped in 2019/20 to 886,000 MT.

In the name of food security, the Indian government stockpiles grains, with most purchased from Indian farmers. The stockpiles are often dumped onto international markets, distorting trade. In addition, a broad range of assistance - including subsidies for inputs, debt forgiveness and minimum support prices - distorts the market and presents competition for international suppliers.

Attribute	India: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	8,806	9,633	9,380	9,027	9,569	9,700
Beginning Stocks	2,108	850	1,337	2,329	1,346	1,863
Yield	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	22,567	25,900	28,753	27,715	28,766	30,250
Imports	246	84	28	221	327	50
TY Imports	246	83	27	212	341	50
TY Imp. from U.S.	3	7	4	-	2	-
Total Supply	24,921	26,834	30,118	30,265	30,439	32,163
Exports	521	597	1,089	419	1,376	1,800
TY Exports	551	553	1,076	482	1,125	1,800
Feed Dom. Consumption	13,550	14,500	16,200	17,300	16,000	17,000
FSI Consumption	10,000	10,400	10,500	11,200	11,200	11,500
Domestic Consumption	23,550	24,900	26,700	28,500	27,200	28,500
Ending Stocks	850	1,337	2,329	1,346	1,863	1,863
Total Distribution	24,921	26,834	30,118	30,265	30,439	32,163

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

INDONESIA



Market access

Tariffs on wheat and corn in Indonesia are low—between zero and five percent, depending on the product. However, Indonesia imposes restrictions on feed corn imports, limiting the right to import to the state-owned procurement body, the Bureau of Logistics (BULOG). Some corn imports intended for starch manufacturing are allowed; import volumes are set based on the level of domestic feed production. Indonesian tariffs are also low for the soy complex: duty-free for soybeans and meal for animal feed, and five percent on soybean oil and soybean meal for human consumption. Most products also face a 10 percent VAT.

For many products, Indonesia has preferential tariffs for ASEAN trading partners. Additionally, on March 4, 2019, Indonesia signed the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA). Among other reductions in tariffs and non-tariff barriers, the agreement provides Australia with a tariff rate quota (TRQ) of 500,000 MT of feed grains (wheat, sorghum, and barley) per year, increasing at five percent per annum. This has the potential to disadvantage U.S. wheat in the market moving forward.

The Ministry of Trade (MOT) issues corn import permits to industry on a semester basis, requiring applications one month in advance. In 2020, however, the second semester allocations were not issued until October, leading some companies to run out of corn and consequently halt production. In addition, registered importers pay either 0.5 percent tax or 2.5 percent on GOMAI imports, depending on the product.

Since at least 2012, the Indonesian government has required import licenses for grains and oilseeds, as well as phytosanitary certificates. Additionally, there are product label requirements,



pre-shipment inspection requirements, local content and domestic manufacturing requirements, and quantitative restrictions that impede imports of U.S. products. This continued in 2019, as the Indonesian government has begun requiring heat treatment, an impractical and trade distortive trade measure, for wheat. Indeed, many of these rules are trade-restrictive, and the U.S. has challenged them under the WTO's dispute settlement procedures. In 2016, the WTO found for the U.S. on 18 out of 18 claims. In August 2018, the U.S. requested authorization from the WTO to take countermeasures. Indonesia has objected to the countermeasures and the matter was referred to arbitration. Since 2018, the U.S. has paused arbitration to give the parties the opportunity to work towards a solution.

Indonesia also requires a GMO certificate for soy products.

Though more than a dozen GE events have undergone risk assessments for food, feed, or environmental safety (or all three), the Indonesian government so far has only publicly released one so far, a domestically developed GE sugar cane variety.

Although the Indonesian government and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) investigate and prosecute high-profile corruption cases, many stakeholders continue to view corruption as a significant barrier to doing business in Indonesia. The country scored a 37 of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Indonesia is not a wheat producer and imports more than 10 MMT annually, with usage driven by the high-end bakery sector. Ukraine and Canada have been leading suppliers, while imports from Argentina and Australia have fluctuated. The U.S. share has been relatively stable, around 10 percent. While there is no official written document regulating the import of wheat, Indonesia has unofficially regulated milling wheat in the past.

Corn imports for use are restricted to BULOG for distribution to small-holder farmers and are normally only allowed when domestic prices are high due to shortages. Despite this policy, corn imports were 860,000 MT in 2019/20. Brazil and Argentina supplied most of the corn imports to Indonesia in 2019/20; the U.S. supplied 4 percent.

Soybean imports were flat year-over-year at 2.6 MMT for 2019/20. The U.S. is the dominant supplier of soybeans to Indonesia. Soybean meal imports reached 5.0 MMT in 2019/20, though 98 percent came from Argentina and Brazil. The U.S. import share was 2 percent. Indonesia does not produce soybean oil; imports were 34,000 in 2019/20.

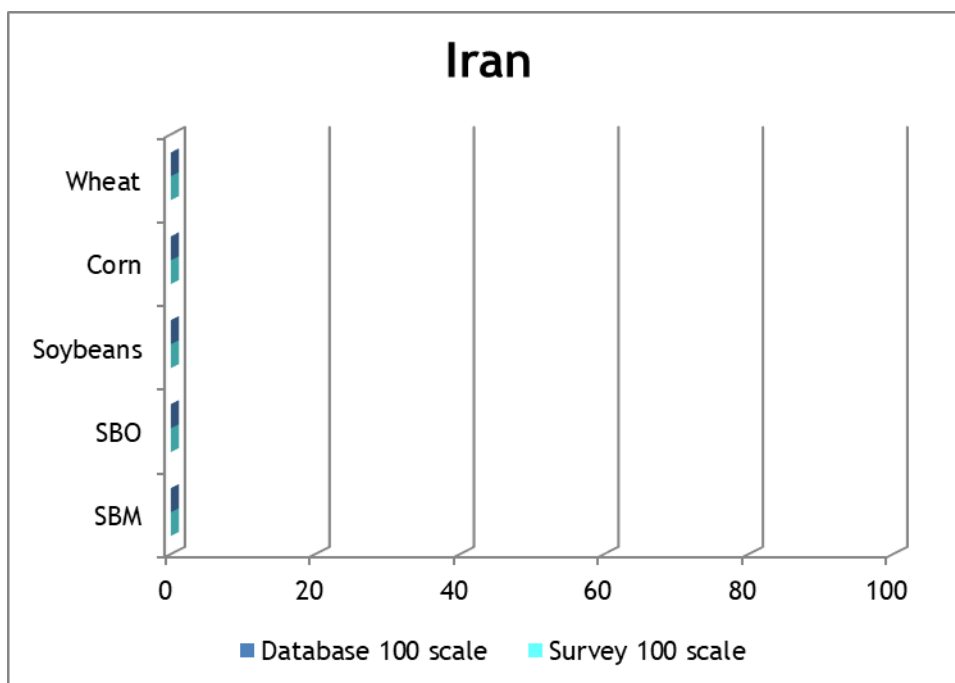
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Indonesia: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	3,300	3,400	3,650	3,700	3,800	3,600
Beginning Stocks	1,666	1,799	1,035	793	906	1,102
Yield	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	10,500	10,900	11,900	12,000	12,000	11,800
Imports	1,754	639	530	1,015	860	850
TY Imports	1,754	639	530	1,015	860	850
TY Imp. from U.S.	163	353	151	10	34	-
Total Supply	13,920	13,338	13,465	13,808	13,766	13,752
Exports	21	3	272	2	64	5
TY Exports	21	3	272	2	64	5
Feed Dom. Consumption	8,000	8,500	8,500	9,000	8,600	8,700
FSI Consumption	4,100	3,800	3,900	3,900	4,000	4,100
Domestic Consumption	12,100	12,300	12,400	12,900	12,600	12,800
Ending Stocks	1,799	1,035	793	906	1,102	947
Total Distribution	13,920	13,338	13,465	13,808	13,766	13,752

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## IRAN



## Market access

On May 8, 2018 the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (also known as the Iran Deal), reinstating sanctions that had been lifted with the deal. This resulted in economic assets being frozen and an embargo on almost all trade with the Islamic Republic. Agricultural commodities and food have been exempted from the sanctions, both by U.S. and non-U.S. based actors, according to guidance issued by the Department of the Treasury. Despite these exemptions, potential Iranian customers are limited by asset freezes and banking sanctions. The Treasury department requires foreign governments and financial institutions to provide a substantial amount of information to ensure that they are not violating U.S. sanctions.

Iranian tariffs vary by commodity. Durum and other wheat varieties face 20 percent and 10 percent tariffs, respectively. Corn is tariffed at five percent. Soybeans and crude and refined soybean oils face tariffs of 10 percent, 20 percent, and 40 percent, respectively. The soybean meal tariff is 20 percent. Wheat, corn, and soybean seed are all assessed a five percent tariff. Raw agricultural commodities are VAT exempt, but soybean oil is subject to an eight percent VAT.

Several U.S. agricultural commodities are officially listed as being prohibited, including wheat and soybeans. For years, the U.S. exported soybeans to Iran, but the sanctions and additional guidance created enough friction in the banking system to prevent U.S. export sales and none were reported for 2019/20. Apart from import restrictions for wheat and soybeans, there are no quantitative restrictions for imports.

Iran enacted a GMO labeling law in 2018, which impacts corn and soybeans. Iran also has phytosanitary requirements for corn.

Corruption is a major issue in Iran, which scored a 25 of a possible 100 points on Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

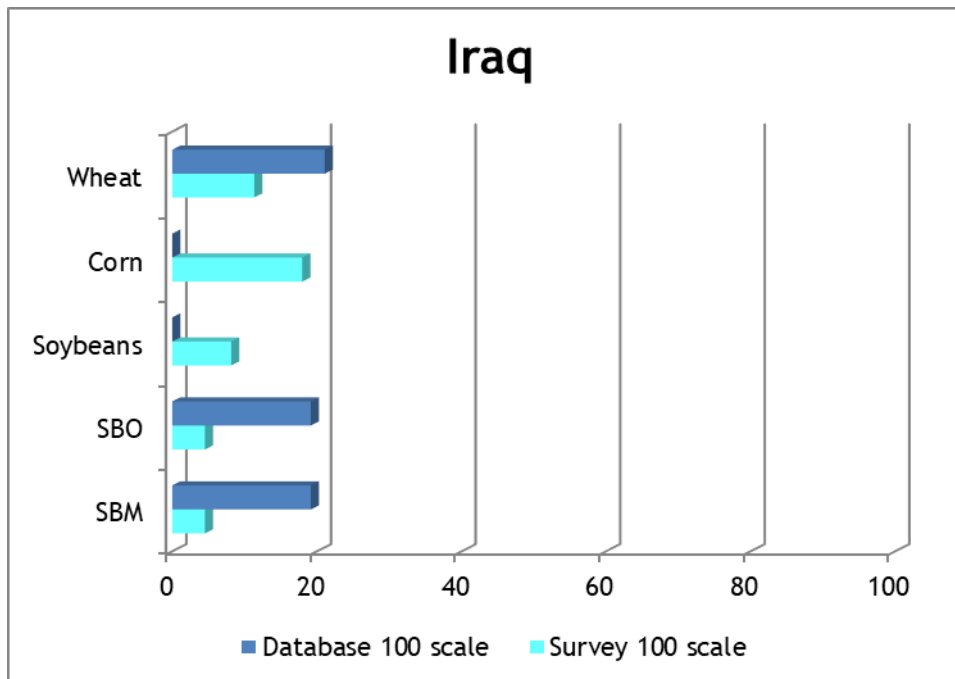
Iran produced 16.8 MMT of wheat in 2019/20; imports added 1.2 MMT. Iran exported 0.5 MMT. The country keeps large stockpiles of wheat, helping ensure demand is met. By contrast, Iran is heavily reliant on corn imports, which typically represent 80%-90% of supply. Corn imports were 6.8 MMT in 2019/20.

Iran also depends on imports to meet soybean demand; imports were 1.5 MMT in 2019/20. Imports generally represent 75%-90% of soybean usage. Demand has risen by 25 percent over the past four years. Almost all soybeans in Iran are crushed.

Attribute	Iran: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	166	159	174	170	200	200
Beginning Stocks	2,393	1,362	1,033	1,356	1,256	1,256
Yield	7	7	7	7	7	7
Production	1,169	1,171	1,223	1,200	1,400	1,400
Imports	6,600	7,800	8,900	9,000	6,800	7,000
TY Imports	6,600	7,800	8,900	9,000	6,800	7,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	10,162	10,333	11,156	11,556	9,456	9,656
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	8,500	9,000	9,500	10,000	7,800	8,000
FSI Consumption	300	300	300	300	400	400
Domestic Consumption	8,800	9,300	9,800	10,300	8,200	8,400
Ending Stocks	1,362	1,033	1,356	1,256	1,256	1,256
Total Distribution	10,162	10,333	11,156	11,556	9,456	9,656

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## IRAQ



## Market access

Iraq has modest nominal tariffs on GOMAI products, but accessing the market is a challenge. Tariffs are five percent for wheat, corn, soybeans and crude soybean oil and 10 percent for refined soybean oil and soybean meal. TRQs are not used in Iraq.

To protect domestic producers from seasonal competition and to maintain domestic prices, the Minister of Agriculture (MoA) periodically revises the import ban on agricultural products which is part of the Local Products Protection policy. Currently, the imports of 24 products are banned. The Government of Iraq has continued to implement access bans on wheat and corn to limit arbitrage and to attempt to control prices.

Iraq's import demand for many agricultural commodities has rebounded in recent years. This is likely due to increased demand from the private sector. Before 2014, the Ministry of Trade (MOT) was the primary importer of commodities such as wheat and rice for use in the Public Distribution System (PDS)—a program designed to provide soybean oil, sugar, rice, and wheat flour to nearly all Iraqi citizens each month. Wheat imports have increased in the past two years largely to supply the PDS system as political turmoil in the region has subsided.

Lack of infrastructure, corruption, and political instability make sales of commodities other than wheat difficult. The government of Iraq frequently bans corn imports from November until May. The ban is designed to prevent imported corn from being mixed with domestic harvest and sold to the Ministry of Agriculture at a profit. MoA normally purchases the local corn at a fixed price that is often above the international price and distributes the corn to Iraqi livestock farmers at a

subsidized price. Occasionally, the government will also put in place temporary bans to protect corn farmers from low prices driven by surplus product in the market.

Soybean market access remains limited due to inconsistent application of laws and regulations, corruption, poor infrastructure, limited working capital, and competition from informal markets. Complex feed test processes and seasonal bans on many imports and requirements for sampling prior to arrival further hinder trade. Iraq has a total ban on GMOs, and GMO crops are not purchased, limiting the market opportunities for corn and soybeans.

Corruption is systemic and widespread in Iraq. Transparency International scores the country 21 out of 100 on its 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index, one of the lowest scores in the world.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Wheat production in Iraq for 2019/2020 was 4.8 MMT, the highest output in years. Imports, by contrast, were the lowest in many years, just 2.0 MMT. Iraq continues to import sizable volumes of wheat flour, mainly from Turkey. Reportedly, some 100 Turkish mills are producing exclusively for the Iraqi market.

The Iraqi Grain Board is a monopoly for the purchase and import of wheat. Wheat is one of five basic commodities distributed through the Iraqi Public Distribution System (PDS), which generally keeps wheat imports in the 3-4 MMT range. However, the political strife in the region has severely hampered the internal distribution channels, forced migration of residents, and disrupted the government revenues affecting its ability to tender more purchases.

Corn production and imports are modest; total supply was approximately 1.0 MMT in 2019/20; the U.S. does not export to Iraq.

Most domestic and international trade reporting services do not provide recent grain and oilseed trade figures for Iraq.

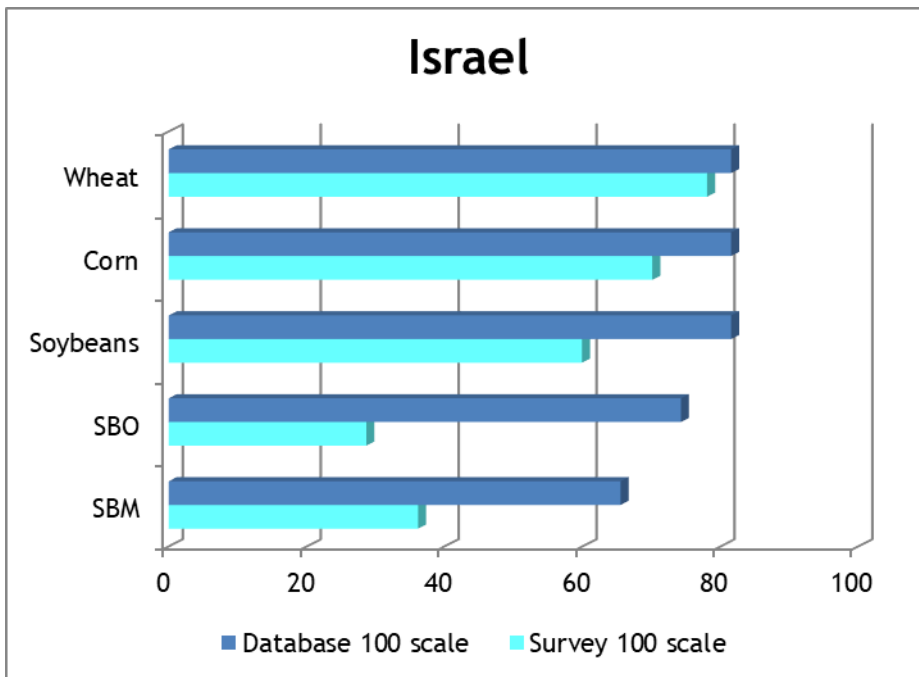
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Attribute	Iraq: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	57	68	52	50	60	75
Beginning Stocks	23	26	18	63	69	95
Yield	3	4	4	5	6	5
Production	182	300	185	225	350	365
Imports	421	242	510	541	676	600
TY Imports	430	306	488	570	817	600
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	626	568	713	829	1,095	1,060
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	550	500	600	700	900	900
FSI Consumption	50	50	50	60	100	100
Domestic Consumption	600	550	650	760	1,000	1,000
Ending Stocks	26	18	63	69	95	60
Total Distribution	626	568	713	829	1,095	1,060

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## ISRAEL



## Market Access

The United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement was signed in 1985. It introduced phased tariff reductions that resulted in significantly lower tariff for the GOMAI commodities. All grains enter the country tariff free; soybean oil faces a four percent tariff, the lowest rate Israel charges soybean oil. The only disadvantaged GOMAI commodity is soybean meal, which enters at a 4.65 percent rate compared to 2.65 percent for Canada. Israel also has a VAT of 17 percent.

Outside of requiring import permits, Israel does not use quantitative restrictions. Nor are there phytosanitary restrictions on grain, other than zero tolerance for noxious weeds. Moreover, Israel has no policy regulating the import of genetically engineered products. However, according to USTR, Israel often models its regulations on European rather than international standards, which can add costs to certain U.S. exports.

Israel's security environment is tense because of the region's geopolitics. Although the security situation has not impacted trade recently, that possibility remains, particularly if tensions escalate further.

Corruption is not considered a problem in Israel.

## Grain-oilseed situation

Israel is almost completely dependent on imports to meet its grain and feed needs. Israel produced only 86,000 MT of its more than 2.4 MMT of supply of wheat in 2019/20. The U.S is usually a minor



wheat exporter to Israel, although it did not export there in 2019/20. The largest suppliers are generally Ukraine and Russia. A large portion (40%) of imported wheat is used in feed.

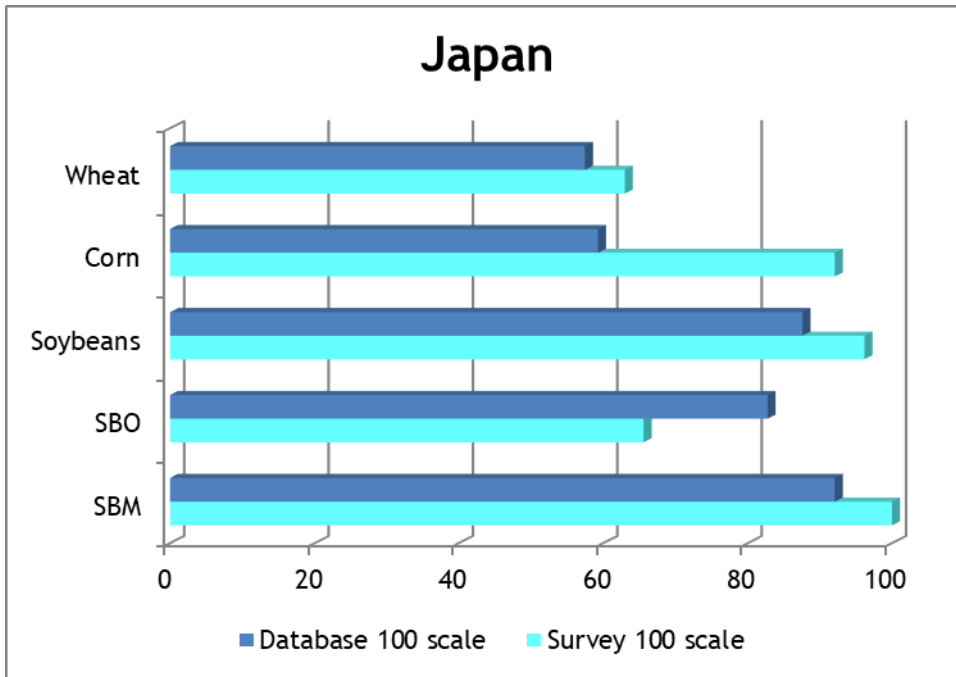
Israel produces little corn and what is produced is typically used for silage. Imports were over 2.0 MMT in 2019/20, with almost 500,000 MT coming from the United States. The U.S. faces tough competition from Ukraine, Argentina, and Brazil in the market, due to pricing, greater shipping costs, and some reported quality concerns with U.S. corn, according to USDA.

Israel imports modest amounts of soybeans for crush, roughly 387,000 MT in 2019/20. The U.S. exported 150,000 MT that marketing year, making it the largest exporter of soybeans to Israel. Other exporters include Brazil and Paraguay. Israel imports almost no soybean oil, but did import 182,000 MT of soybean meal to supplement domestic production, of which the U.S. supplied 71,000 MT.

Attribute	Israel: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Stocks	92	38	97	148	149	131
Yield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Production	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imports	1,156	1,539	1,861	1,611	1,992	2,000
TY Imports	1,156	1,539	1,861	1,611	1,992	2,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	388	108	757	134	497	-
Total Supply	1,248	1,577	1,958	1,759	2,141	2,131
Exports	10	10	10	10	10	10
TY Exports	10	10	10	10	10	10
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,100	1,370	1,700	1,500	1,900	1,900
FSI Consumption	100	100	100	100	100	100
Domestic Consumption	1,200	1,470	1,800	1,600	2,000	2,000
Ending Stocks	38	97	148	149	131	121
Total Distribution	1,248	1,577	1,958	1,759	2,141	2,131

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

JAPAN



Market access

Japan is a critical destination for U.S. agricultural exports, ranking fourth globally as a destination for U.S. food and agricultural products. It is a particularly important market for U.S. grains and oilseeds. Under the United States Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA), which entered into force on January 1, 2020, nearly 90 percent of U.S. food and agricultural imports into Japan benefited from tariff elimination or reduction over time, with the initial reduction beginning on January 1, 2020 and subsequent reductions occurring on April 1 of each year.

Japanese tariffs are zero on soybeans, soybean meal, and durum wheat purchased by the Government of Japan, and reduced on soybean oils. Japan requires wheat to be imported through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), which then resells it to flour millers at higher prices. Japan no longer requires that feed wheat be purchased through MAFF; it can be purchased directly from the US and Japan’s CPTPP partners.

USJTA reduces tariff rates for U.S. agricultural exports to the same levels offered to members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Japan-EU EPA, removing some of the advantages held by these countries.

Additional developments include those by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), where in September 2017 it announced revisions to Japan’s Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for numerous pesticides, many of which affect soybeans and soybean oil. Japan has a lengthy review process for registration of new pesticides.

Japan finalized new laws on gene editing in late 2019. In 2020, Japanese regulators completed the handling guidelines and product labeling policies for genome edited food and agricultural products, and as of December 21, 2020, 323 GE products had been approved for food use. This makes Japan one of the largest per-capita importers of GE products that impose no significant trade barriers.

The labeling law does require, however, that GE products with nutritional values significantly modified by inserted foreign DNA or which contain foreign genetic material be labeled as GE.

Japan's plant quarantine system frequently bans all imported products when the home country imposes a quarantine of any kind. In 2019, Japan changed its phytosanitary rules so that only commodities explicitly stated to be exempt from needing a phytosanitary certificate would be exempt. Previously, several non-listed commodities were considered exempt. This requirement means that all GOMAI commodities now require a Phytosanitary Certificate.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Japan is heavily import-dependent when it comes to grains (other than rice), oilseeds, and oilseed products. The country is a large, reliable importer of U.S. agricultural commodities and U.S. imports usually have a very high market share - typically 50 percent for wheat, 80 percent for corn, and 70 percent for soybeans. Japan typically does not import much soybean oil, as canola oil has proven to be a viable substitute.

Japan imported 5.7 MMT of wheat, with 2.7 MMT being from the U.S. in 2019/20. It also imported 15.9 MMT of corn, of which roughly 63 percent came from the U.S. For soybeans, the U.S. supplied 2.4 MMT of the 3.3 MMT imported in 2019/20.

Japan also consistently imports over 1.5 MMT of soybean meal per year. The U.S. is a smaller exporter of soybean meal, only exporting 284,000 MT in 2019/20. Commodity import volumes have been relatively stable.

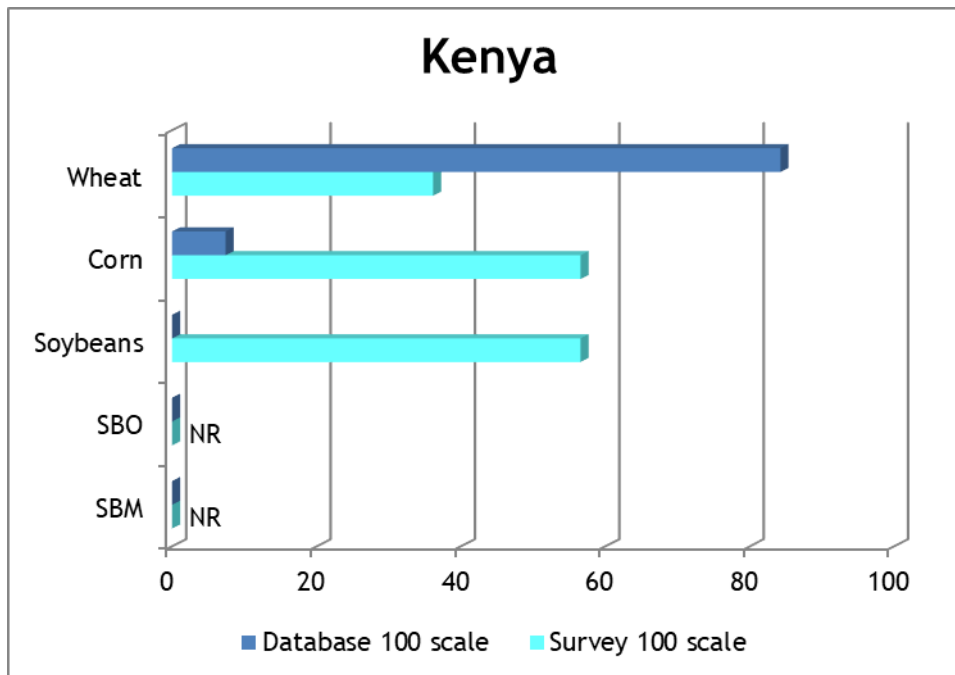
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Japan: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beginning Stocks	1,348	1,353	1,323	1,393	1,445	1,386
Yield	1	1	2	2	3	4
Production	1	1	2	2	3	4
Imports	15,204	15,169	15,668	16,050	15,888	15,400
TY Imports	15,204	15,169	15,668	16,050	15,888	15,400
TY Imp. from U.S.	11,199	12,591	13,820	12,496	10,051	-
Total Supply	16,553	16,523	16,993	17,445	17,336	16,790
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	11,600	11,600	12,000	12,300	12,400	11,900
FSI Consumption	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,550	3,500
Domestic Consumption	15,200	15,200	15,600	16,000	15,950	15,400
Ending Stocks	1,353	1,323	1,393	1,445	1,386	1,390
Total Distribution	16,553	16,523	16,993	17,445	17,336	16,790

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## KENYA



## Market access

Kenya is a mostly open economy, though significant restrictions exist for many GOMAI commodities. The country tends to impose quantitative restrictions on products for which domestic environmental, health, or safety concerns exist. According to USTR, Kenyan officials often seem to exercise discretion when applying these restrictions, with the objective of protecting domestic industries.

All importers must pay an import declaration fee of 3.5 percent of the customs value of imports and a railway development fee of two percent, as well as meet other document requirements. Otherwise, goods will be subject to rejection or enhanced inspection. Enhanced inspection costs approximately 15 percent of the total value of the imported goods and they still may be rejected if they fail the inspection.

In 2020, issues regarding the 2006 prohibition of wheat from the U.S. Pacific Northwest were resolved. The Kenyan government claims the ban is related to concerns over the flag smut fungus. Registered millers in Kenya import durum wheat duty free but face a 10 percent ad-valorem tariff when importing common wheat. Non-registered millers face the East African Community (EAC) common external tariff of 35 percent. From July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021, however, this tariff is reduced to 10 percent. Commercial wheat imports are expected to increase after Kenya and the United States signed the certification protocol for Pacific Northwest wheat in early 2020.

Imported corn is subject to a total aflatoxin limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb) and a 13.5 percent maximum moisture content. The aflatoxin limit is lower than the Codex Alimentarius Commission and U.S. standard of 20 ppb. Most U.S. corn also has a moisture content higher than 13.5 percent.

Thus, most U.S. corn exports are denied import permits. Popcorn imports are restricted to a six percent maximum moisture content. The U.S. limit is 12.5-15 percent. Corn also faces the high East African Community (EAC) common external tariffs (CETs), 25 percent for seed and 50 percent for grain and other forms. The CET remained in place during MY 2019/2020 for all countries outside the EAC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Barring temporary stay requests, they are expected to remain in place.

Corruption is a substantial barrier to doing business in Kenya. The country scored a 31 of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Wheat imports reached 2.5 MMT in 2019/20, mainly sourced from Russia, Argentina, Canada, and Ukraine. According to FAS, commercial wheat imports from the U.S. began in 2016/17, although the U.S. has also exported wheat to Kenya in the past as part of various Food Aid programs. Despite the approval of certification protocols to restore exports from the Pacific Northwest, there were no U.S. wheat exports to Kenya in 2019/20.

Most corn imports, 270,000 MT in 2019/20, are from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) / EAC countries because they produce non-genetically modified white corn. Outside of COMESA/EAC, only a few countries—including Mexico, South Africa, Russia, and Ukraine—have penetrated the Kenyan corn market.

There are no exports of soybeans and soybean oil and negligible exports of soybean meal, typically less than 100,000 MT.

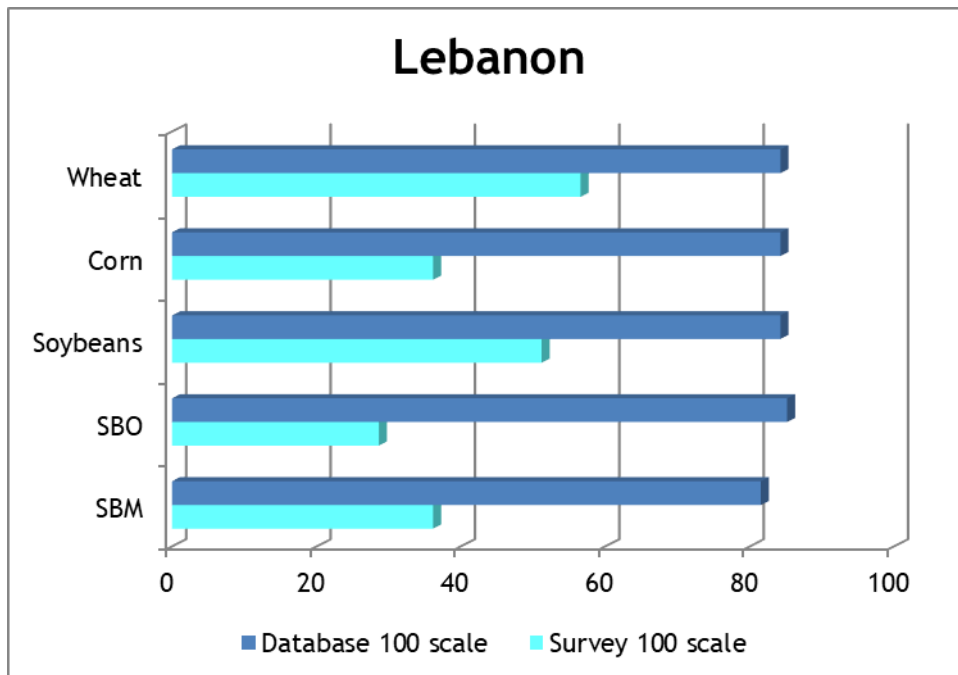
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Kenya: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	2,098	2,338	2,086	2,273	2,196	2,200
Beginning Stocks	279	251	236	263	173	234
Yield	2	1	2	2	2	2
Production	3,825	3,339	3,186	4,014	3,897	4,000
Imports	300	500	1,400	200	270	300
TY Imports	200	1,000	900	230	280	300
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	4,404	4,090	4,822	4,477	4,340	4,534
Exports	3	4	9	4	6	5
TY Exports	3	6	8	4	7	5
Feed Dom. Consumption	350	350	450	300	300	300
FSI Consumption	3,800	3,500	4,100	4,000	3,800	4,000
Domestic Consumption	4,150	3,850	4,550	4,300	4,100	4,300
Ending Stocks	251	236	263	173	234	229
Total Distribution	4,404	4,090	4,822	4,477	4,340	4,534

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## LEBANON

**Market access**

Lebanon has a complex tariff schedule, but it is relatively simple for the GOMAI commodities. There are no import quotas on any grain or soybean products and there are no import duties on grains or soybeans. Soybean meal and oil do face import duties of five percent and eight percent respectively, but these are protective rates, and the applied rate can be zero. In early 2017, Lebanon raised the VAT from 10 to 11 percent. However, most domestic and imported agricultural products are exempt from the VAT, including the GOMAI commodities.

Goods originating from the EU have preferential tariff treatment under the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement. In addition to preferential tariffs, goods from the EU are also exempted from customs procedures, which could make them more attractive to Lebanese importers.

Technical and procedural barriers to trade appear to be modest. Corruption is a significant issue, though: bribes for import purposes are illegal but are common. Lebanon scored a 25 of a possible 100 points on Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index.

Lebanon has been facing a large-scale refugee crisis, driven by the warring factions in neighboring Syria. Lebanon has the third highest refugee population in the world, more than a million refugees, and the highest number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants. This has contributed to a deep economic recession, made even worse by COVID and the explosion at the Port of Beirut in Summer of 2020, which adversely affected the Lebanese supply chain, limiting the ability of exports to get to their destination.



### Grain-oilseed situation

Lebanon has significant demand for wheat and corn. The country typically imports about 80 percent of its wheat needs; imports decreased in 2019/20 but were still 1.1 MMT. Wheat imports are mostly Black Sea or EU in origin due to the geographic proximity and price competitiveness of those suppliers.

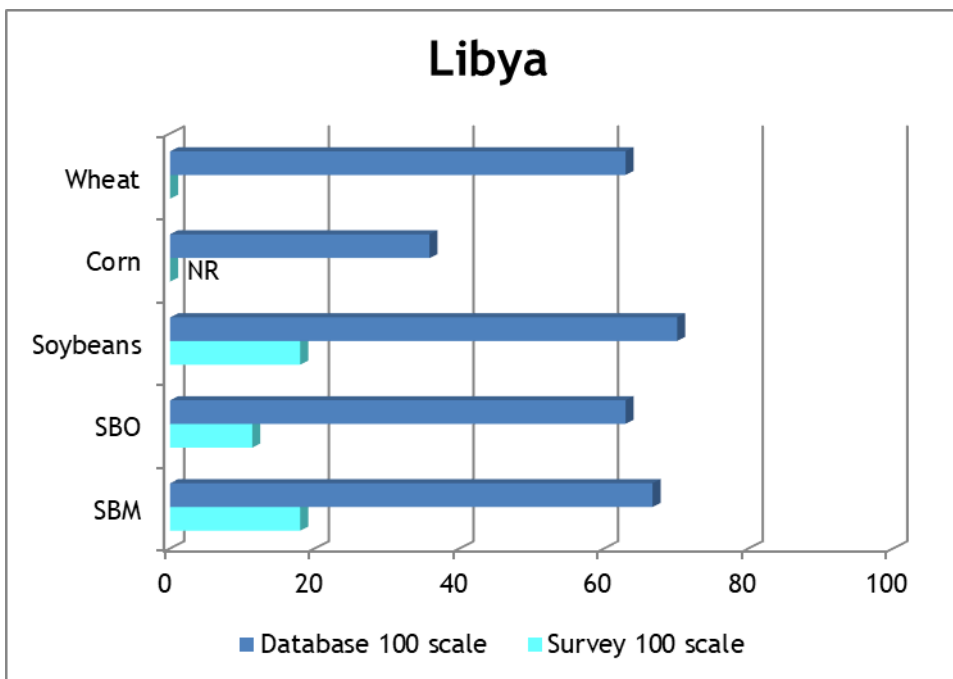
Lebanon does not produce a significant quantity of corn, so it is virtually all imported - 797 MT in 2019/20. No corn was exported in 2019/20 from the U.S.

Lebanon has modest demand for soybeans and soybean products. U.S soybean imports began in 2018 with the opening of a crushing facility and remained stable throughout 2019/20 despite an overall drop in imports. In addition, 150,000 MT of soybean meal and 6,000 MT of soybean oil were imported in 2019/20. Argentina accounted for 91 percent of soybean meal imports in 2019 and U.S. exports are insignificant. The U.S. is the largest supplier of soybean oil, followed by Russia and Egypt, but domestic crush capacity keeps overall demand for imports low.

Attribute	Lebanon: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beginning Stocks	38	38	37	36	30	-
Yield	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	3	3	3	3	3	3
Imports	847	886	1,096	891	797	900
TY Imports	847	886	1,096	891	797	900
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	21	24	1	-	-
Total Supply	888	927	1,136	930	830	903
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	850	890	1,100	900	830	900
FSI Consumption	-	-	-	-	-	-
Domestic Consumption	850	890	1,100	900	830	900
Ending Stocks	38	37	36	30	-	3
Total Distribution	888	927	1,136	930	830	903

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## LIBYA



## Market Access

Market access conditions have not changed from 2019 to 2020 with regards to official government policies. In addition to the pandemic, in 2020 Libya was plagued by political strife, including, a nine-month oil blockade and open warfare among various political factions. A ceasefire brokered in October 2020 has led to cautious optimism about economic recovery and reestablishment of governmental institutions, which have in part collapsed. The aftermath from the 2011 uprising in Libya created new obstacles for exporters looking to do business in the country. These challenges persist to this day and include infrastructure damage, the disruption of commercial relationships, and foreign asset, foreign exchange, and banking limitations. As far as food laws and regulations are concerned, however, the new post-Gaddafi government has carried over the rules from the prior regime.

Libya is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and uses its established tariff schedule, which assigns duties based on whether a good is raw (free), intermediate (10%), or finished (25%). The COMESA tariff schedule establishes high tariffs for what are deemed sensitive items. Wheat and corn fall into this category and are assessed 35 and 50 percent duties, respectively. Soybeans and soybean meal have a 10 percent tariff and refined soybean oil, a finished product, faces a 25 percent tariff. Durum wheat and crude soybean oil, by contrast, are tariff free.

Following the turmoil, Libya also imposed a 4-10 percent service charge on all imported goods. For food imports requiring health clearance, there is an estimated waiting time of ten days before final clearance is granted. The required documents for clearing customs are the original bills of

lading, copies of all invoices, health certificates, packing list, and certificate of origin. Since Libya is not yet a member of the WTO it is not party to the key agreements, including the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements, which would otherwise limit these types of import restrictions.

Corruption has historically been a major problem in Libya. Libya's score is among the lowest in the world at 17 of a possible 100 points on Transparency International's corruption index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

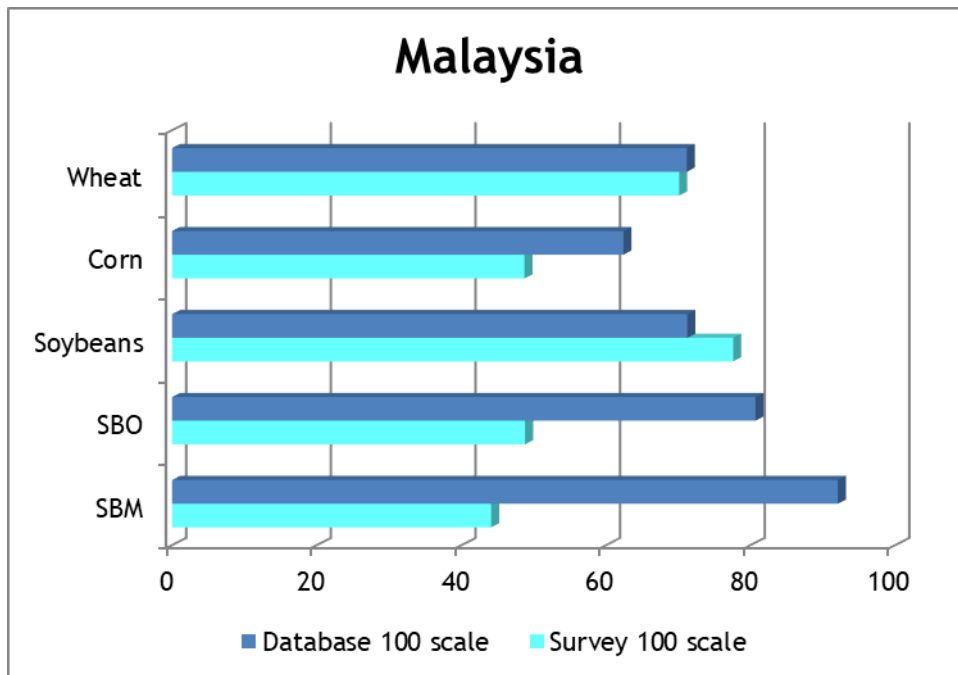
Climatic conditions and poor soils severely limit Libya's agricultural output. Libya's arable land is just one percent of the total area due to water limitations. Libya's primary agricultural water source remains the Great Manmade River Project. The country imports about three-quarters of its food.

Libya has significant demand for wheat, corn, and soybean meal. Libya is projected to import 1.5 MMT of wheat and almost 700,000 MT of corn in 2018/19. The US is not a regular exporter of wheat or corn to Libya.

Attribute	Libya: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Stocks	133	74	63	55	44	50
Yield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Production	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imports	581	679	492	689	846	700
TY Imports	581	679	492	689	846	700
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	714	753	555	744	890	750
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	640	690	500	700	840	700
FSI Consumption	-	-	-	-	-	-
Domestic Consumption	640	690	500	700	840	700
Ending Stocks	74	63	55	44	50	50
Total Distribution	714	753	555	744	890	750

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## MALAYSIA

**Market access**

Market access conditions in Malaysia largely remained unchanged from 2019 for the GOMAI commodities. Malaysia produces no wheat or soybeans and very little corn. Consequently, it must meet its needs through imports and thus has few price barriers: GOMAI products are duty free, except for a five percent tariff on soybean oil. In 2020 Malaysia also extended the five percent VAT tax to both crude and refined soybean oil.

In November 2010, Malaysia began enacted mandatory labeling of food and food ingredients obtained through modern biotechnology, a consequence of the Biosafety Act of 2007. The biotech-labeling requirement went into effect in 2014 but has not yet been enforced. Since 2015, all GOMAI grains and oilseeds require import permits and phytosanitary certificates. Import licenses for feed are somewhat burdensome, as there are a number of documents required.

Malaysia implemented a goods and services tax (GST) in April 2015, which applies to products both imported and domestic. Malaysia scored a 51 on the Transparency International Corruption Index. The government has identified fighting corruption as a high priority, and its efforts have raised its score on the corruption index to the point where Malaysia is no longer receives a diminution of score for corruption.

**Grain-oilseed situation**

Malaysia is the world's second largest palm oil producer, but relies on imports for its wheat, corn, and soybeans. Annual imports of the three commodities were roughly 1.7 MMT, 3.8 MMT, and 785,000 MT, respectively, in 2019/20. Corn imports are expected to continue growing as the livestock sector expands to meet consumer demand for pork and poultry.

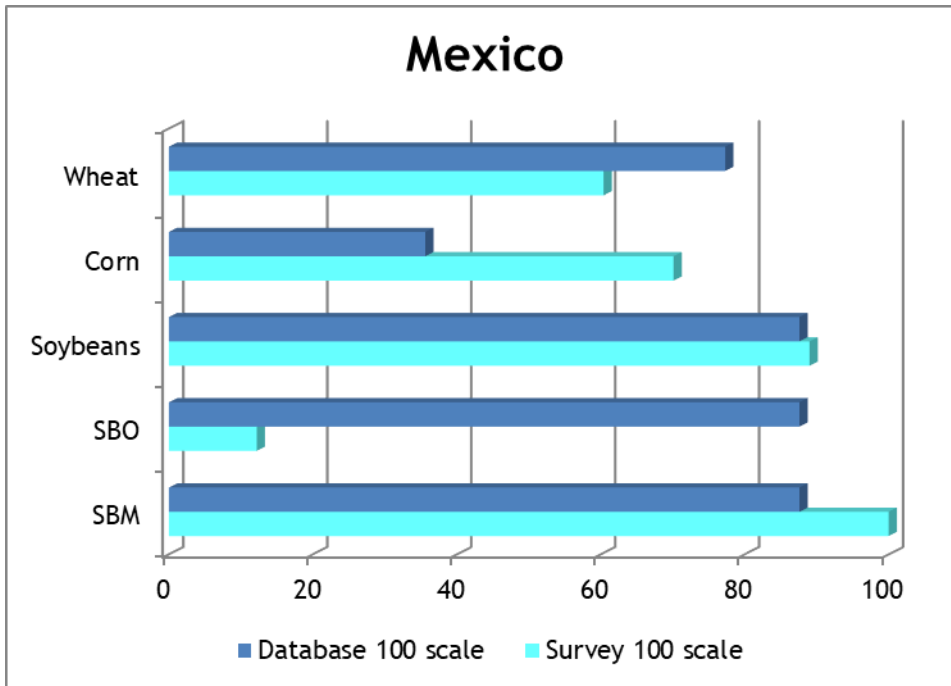
Australia is Malaysia's largest wheat supplier, providing about half of its imports. Australia has preferential access under Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreement with countries in Association of Southeastern Nations (ASEAN) For corn, Argentina and Brazil combine to supply over 90 percent of the market.

The US is the primary supplier of soybeans to Malaysia. In 2019/20 supplied close to 674,000 MT of Malaysia's 674,000 MT of the 795,000 MT of soybean imports. Malaysia also imported 1.2 MMT of soybean meal, primarily from Argentina, which is reported to have a freight advantage to the Malaysian market.

Malaysia: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	10	10	10	10	10	10
Beginning Stocks	404	842	501	274	202	221
Yield	6	6	6	6	6	6
Production	58	58	58	58	58	60
Imports	4,122	3,531	3,645	3,674	3,777	3,900
TY Imports	4,122	3,531	3,645	3,674	3,777	3,900
TY Imp. from U.S.	99	316	72	43	31	-
Total Supply	4,584	4,431	4,204	4,006	4,037	4,181
Exports	42	30	30	4	16	25
TY Exports	42	30	30	4	16	25
Feed Dom. Consumption	3,400	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,550
FSI Consumption	300	300	300	300	300	300
Domestic Consumption	3,700	3,900	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,850
Ending Stocks	842	501	274	202	221	306
Total Distribution	4,584	4,431	4,204	4,006	4,037	4,181

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## MEXICO



### Market access

Mexico is the largest market for U.S. grain and oilseed products in the Americas. NAFTA eliminated tariffs on all varieties of U.S. grains and oilseeds. NAFTA was superseded in 2019 by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Outside of improving access for U.S. dairy to Canada, the new agreement is understood to maintain the same agricultural provisions as NAFTA.

Despite the progress towards a new free trade agreement, there have been some market access issues that have arisen between the U.S. and Mexico. In the first half of 2019, the U.S. threatened to impose tariffs on Mexico due to the migration issue at the U.S. southern border, which would have resulted in Mexican retaliation. A deal was reached to avoid these tariffs, but if the U.S. feels the deal is not being upheld then there could be further actions taken. Additionally, The U.S. commerce department set preliminary anti-dumping tariffs on Mexican tomatoes.

Trade administration procedures and regulations continue to be complex. Lack of administration and regulation transparency periodically hampers importers and creates unnecessarily complicated procedures. U.S. commodities are subjected to multiple SPS measures and other requirements, which have created ongoing problems with delayed and blocked shipments of U.S. commodities.

Mexico's stance on biotech varies among crops and is still evolving. Mexico has grown biotech crops, on a field trial basis, since 1988. In late 2018, Mexico set out new requirements for assessing the risks of GM organisms. Each new GM product is to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Evaluations are required to obtain a permit for experimental release of a GM organism into the environment. Due to a lack of regulatory action by the federal agency in charge of biotech authorizations, no biotech events for food or feed have been approved since May 2018.

In September 2019, Mexico passed the Law for Protection and Promotion of Native Corn, which prohibits the use of GMO seeds; the law was published in April 2020 and created the National Council on Native Corn (CONAM). Corn grain is not expected to be impacted.

On December 31, 2020, Mexico published a decree revoking existing permits and halting new authorizations for GE corn use in human diets and calling for a phaseout of GE corn use for human consumption. The decree also called for the phaseout of glyphosate by January 31, 2024. Implementation details have not been provided. Most U.S. corn exports are yellow corn for animal feed, but the U.S. does export corn for Mexican food processing, as well as white corn for food use. There is substantial industry opposition to the vaguely-worded decree.

Mexico is one of the more corrupt countries reviewed by Transparency International. Mexico scored a 28 on the Corruption Index in 2019.

### Grain-oilseed situation

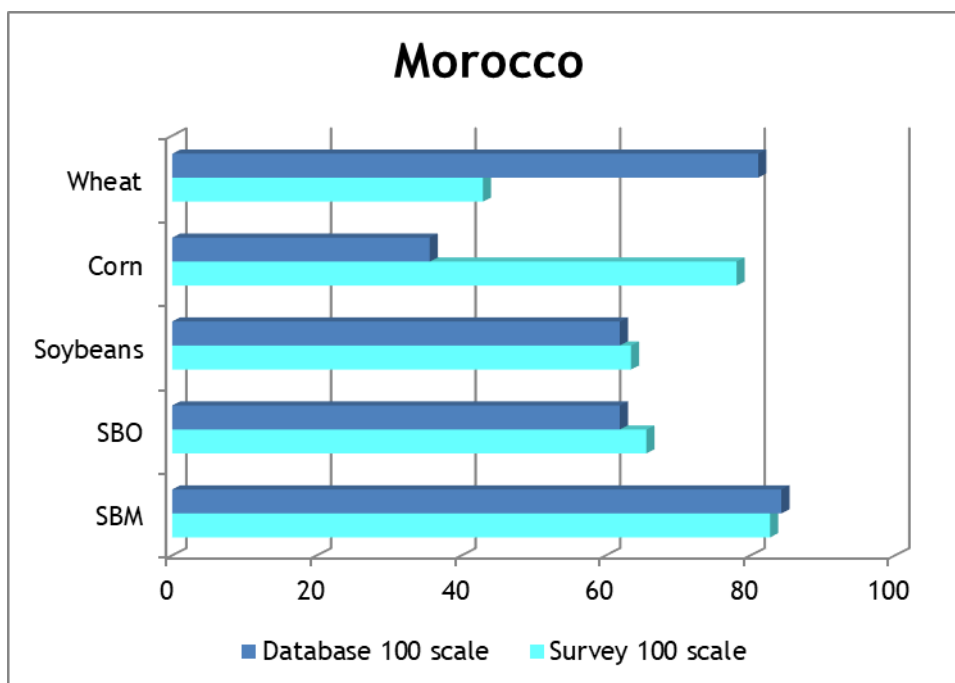
Mexico imported over 5 MMT of wheat in 2019/20, more than half its wheat needs. The U.S. was the largest outside supplier to the market, with 76 percent import market share. The market for corn is much larger, yet despite 26.7 MMT of production, in 2019/20 Mexico still imported 16.5 MMT of corn, 89 percent from the U.S.

Mexico relies heavily on imported soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean oil and is a top market for U.S. soy exports. In 2019/20, it imported 5.7 MMT, 1.8 MMT, and 130,000 MT of each, respectively, from the U.S.

Attribute	Mexico: Corn (1,000 MT)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	7,207	7,509	7,322	7,198	6,621	7,140
Beginning Stocks	4,090	5,159	5,409	5,649	5,160	3,515
Yield	4	4	4	4	4	4
Production	25,971	27,575	27,569	27,671	26,658	27,000
Imports	13,957	14,614	16,129	16,658	16,526	16,500
TY Imports	13,957	14,614	16,129	16,658	16,526	16,500
TY Imp. from U.S.	13,588	14,349	15,567	15,773	14,628	0
Total Supply	44,018	47,348	49,107	49,978	48,344	47,015
Exports	1,559	1,539	958	718	1,029	900
TY Exports	1,559	1,539	958	718	1,029	900
Feed Dom. Consumption	20,300	22,500	24,300	25,900	25,600	25,300
FSI Consumption	17,000	17,900	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,200
Domestic Consumption	37,300	40,400	42,500	44,100	43,800	43,500
Ending Stocks	5,159	5,409	5,649	5,160	3,515	2,615
Total Distribution	44,018	47,348	49,107	49,978	48,344	47,015

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## MOROCCO

**Market access**

The United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement (USMFTA) went into force in 2006, gradually eliminating duties on more than 95 percent of all goods and services. The phase-out period ended on December 31, 2015. Almost all U.S. exports to Morocco are duty free, including most agricultural products. Wheat is an exemption to this and continues to face price-based market access challenges.

Morocco relies on imported wheat to meet all its consumption needs. Wheat and durum have preferential access for U.S. (and EU) exporters through two TRQs, but the administration of the TRQs continues to be fraught with difficulties. Durum wheat tariffs are low and predictable most of the year (except for June and July), but import duties for common wheat remain somewhat unpredictable.

In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Moroccan government suspended all tariffs for common wheat. This was relatively unprecedented, as the Moroccan government normally raises tariffs to trade prohibiting levels during the summer to protect local industry. The relaxing of the tariffs removed any price advantages the U.S. would have had over other exporters due to having a quota as part of USMFTA. The tariffs remained suspended for the first months of 2021 but will be reinstated for Summer 2021.

Over the past few years, the U.S. has been pressuring the Moroccan government for reforms to its wheat tenders system due to under performing wheat exports. In 2018, Morocco and the U.S. agreed to increase the frequency of Moroccan auctions and implemented a schedule that requires



auction when the tariff rate is changed. Despite pressure from the U.S., this remains a challenge, and in 2019 the Moroccan state cereals office issued tenders for durum wheat in late December, and none of the quota was filled.

At the October 2017 Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Agriculture Sub-Committee meeting of the USMFTA Joint Committee, Morocco committed to ensuring that wheat quota tenders would be delivered in a timely fashion. Also, at the Sub-Committee meeting, Morocco upheld its commitment to retain Deoxynivalenol (DON) levels consistent with Codex Alimentarius Commission for wheat import tolerances.

Tariffs are zero on corn, soybeans, soybean oil, and soybean meal. Conditions for exports have greatly improved over the years since GOMAI began, with low tariffs, better infrastructure, and more predictable shipping services. Furthermore, customs service reforms have allowed for more timely and efficient processing and administration.

However, Morocco is still plagued by burdensome procedures and corruption remains an issue. Morocco scored a 41 in the 2020 report out of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

Morocco also bans GE products from local cultivation and from products for human consumption.

### Grain-oilseed situation

On top of the market access challenges faced by U.S. wheat, it is also not price competitive with other exporters. Wheat imports increased substantially in 2019/20 as Morocco worked to stabilize the domestic supply. Morocco imported 4.6 MMT of wheat, but very little of it (roughly 32,000 MT) was imported from the U.S. Corn imports reached 2.7 MMT, but only 52,000 MT were from the U.S.

Morocco does not produce soybeans and imports are minimal, just 28,000 MT in 2018/19, about 44 percent of which came from the U.S. However, Morocco does import approximately 540,000 MT of soybean meal (almost all from the U.S.) as well as 536,000 MT of soybean oil (2% from the U.S.) annually.

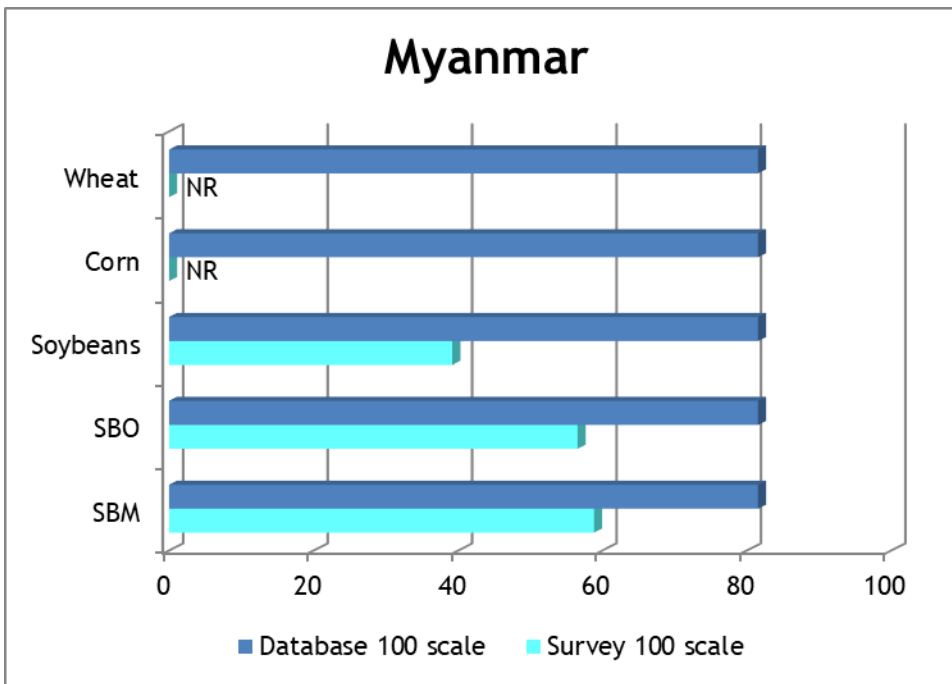
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Morocco: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	126	139	131	148	63	130
Beginning Stocks	101	118	144	124	83	82
Yield	1	1	1	1	1	1
Production	95	129	122	118	40	120
Imports	2,072	2,097	2,558	2,341	3,059	3,000
TY Imports	2,224	2,221	2,283	2,728	2,963	3,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	644	678	774	136	52	-
Total Supply	2,268	2,344	2,824	2,583	3,182	3,202
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,950	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,900	2,900
FSI Consumption	200	200	200	200	200	200
Domestic Consumption	2,150	2,200	2,700	2,500	3,100	3,100
Ending Stocks	118	144	124	83	82	102
Total Distribution	2,268	2,344	2,824	2,583	3,182	3,202

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

MYANMAR



Market access

Myanmar, also known as Burma, does not have significant price restrictions on GOMAI commodities. However, it is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) free trade area and therefore has beneficial agreements with Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong. This presents significant competition for U.S. agricultural exports to Burma. Moreover, quantitative and technical barriers are effective in preventing entry of many goods.

For wheat, The U.S. faces a five percent tariff, whereas Australian wheat enters duty free.

Although corn faces no customs tax, Myanmar is seeking to develop production, so the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) restricts imports to protect local growers and traders by not issuing import licenses. The Myanmar Corn Industrial Association often rejects feed millers' request to import. This blocks U.S. corn market access.

Soybeans and soybean oil face a three percent tariff. Because Myanmar's growing poultry, swine, and aquaculture sectors are sustained primarily with U.S. soybean meal, it faces a lower tariff, 1.5 percent.

In addition to custom duties, imports are subject to the Advanced Income Tax of two percent assessed on the value of the good.

Import licenses are required for all commodities and the issuing process is unpredictable, nontransparent, and varies by product. This has limited or blocked market access for many

agricultural products, including U.S. exports of corn, soybean meal, and soybeans. In addition, Myanmar's phytosanitary standards require additional testing for each shipment of most imported agricultural products upon arrival, despite laboratory testing of agricultural products during the license approval process. USTR notes that these procedures do not appear to align with international standards for risk-based inspection of imports.

In 2020, the country's regulators finalized a National Biosafety Framework to manage the importation, development, field testing, and environmental impacts of agricultural biotechnology.

Corruption is a serious issue in Myanmar: the country scored 28 out of 100 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Myanmar has limited land suitable for wheat cultivation, so it imports most of its needs, primarily from Australia. In marketing years 2018/19 and 2019/20, the U.S. supplied 10%-15% of imports.

Most arable land is used to produce corn - approximately 2.0-2.5 MMT per year. No imports are registered in the past five marketing years as the government controls entry.

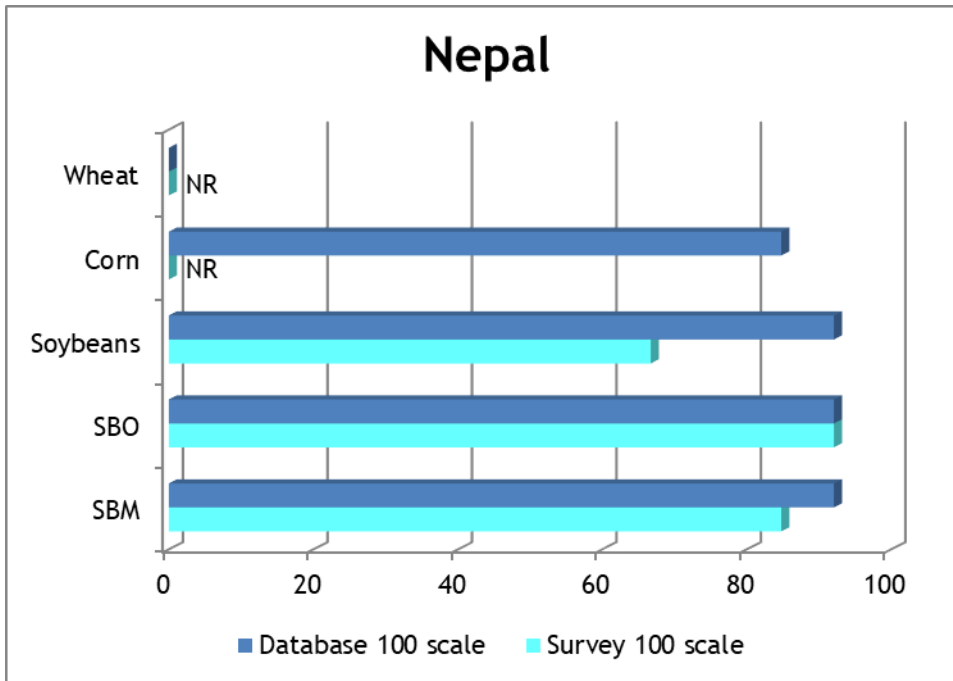
Myanmar is a small player in the soy product trade. It has no crushing facilities, so soybean imports are minimal and it imports most of its soybean meal from the United States. In calendar years 2019 and 2020, the U.S. shipped more than 200,000 MT each year.

Note: on February 1, 2021, the Burmese military overthrew the country's government. This led to substantial trade disruption and increased trade costs which may impact access assessments for 2021.

Myanmar: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	510	520	540	585	575	590
Beginning Stocks	8	48	53	168	253	35
Yield	4	4	4	4	4	4
Production	1,990	2,200	2,250	2,450	2,400	2,450
Imports	-	5	5	5	11	5
TY Imports	-	5	5	5	11	5
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	1,998	2,253	2,308	2,623	2,664	2,490
Exports	1,050	1,500	1,350	1,500	2,209	1,750
TY Exports	1,050	1,500	1,350	1,500	2,209	1,750
Feed Dom. Consumption	800	600	720	800	350	600
FSI Consumption	100	100	70	70	70	70
Domestic Consumption	900	700	790	870	420	670
Ending Stocks	48	53	168	253	35	70
Total Distribution	1,998	2,253	2,308	2,623	2,664	2,490

Source: USDA PS&amp;D, 2021

NEPAL



Market access

Nepal is a landlocked state, which makes market access a challenge. Surface transport into and out of Nepal can be difficult. High customs tariffs imposed on most manufactured products increase the price of U.S. products in the Nepali market; cheap consumer goods imported from neighboring countries also present market challenges for U.S. imports.

There is a two-tier tariff rate system for most imported items. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations enjoy a lower rate than the 10 percent general rate on all GOMAI commodities. Among the studied commodities, only soybeans and soybean oils are subject to the 13 percent value-added tax.

Political instability, widespread corruption, a landlocked location, challenging topography, poor infrastructure, and a weak policy and regulatory environment are factors hindering trade with Nepal.

There are no major non-tariff trade barriers. Nepal requires import permits and phytosanitary certificates but does not have other any other restrictive measures. Although a 2014 mandate prohibits the import of genetically modified and hybrid seeds for human consumption, as of the end of 2020, Nepal did not have GMO restrictions or labeling requirements.

Corruption can be a significant problem in Nepal; the country scored a 33 in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

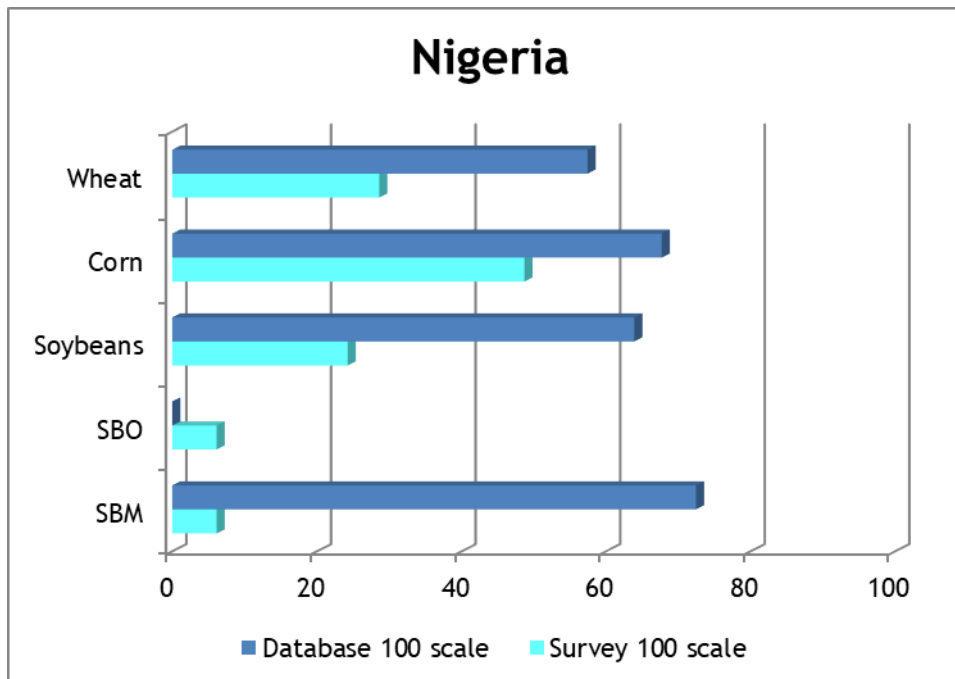
Structurally, Nepal's economy is still highly dependent on agriculture; most demand is met with domestic production.

Nepal's main trading partner is India, accounting for 58 percent of all imports. Nepal imported only 205,000 MT of wheat in 2019/20, nine percent of total wheat supply. Similarly, corn imports were only 50,000 MT, just 15 percent of the overall market. No wheat or corn imports were sourced from the United States. Compound poultry feed production in Nepal has exploded in recent years. Growth in the feed milling industry is also driving imports of soybeans (70,000 MT) and soybean meal (40,000 MT). No wheat or corn imports were sourced from the United States.

Attribute	Nepal: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	892	900	954	956	960	965
Beginning Stocks	160	151	160	212	226	276
Yield	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	2,232	2,300	2,556	2,714	2,650	2,720
Imports	359	379	496	400	500	500
TY Imports	359	379	496	400	500	500
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	2,751	2,830	3,212	3,326	3,376	3,496
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	600	700	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,200
FSI Consumption	2,000	1,970	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,050
Domestic Consumption	2,600	2,670	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,250
Ending Stocks	151	160	212	226	276	246
Total Distribution	2,751	2,830	3,212	3,326	3,376	3,496

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## NIGERIA



### Market access

Declining oil prices in recent years have caused Nigerian government revenues to fall. This in turn has resulted in a monetary policy restricting foreign exchange access for 41 imported goods and services, including soybean oil. Government sponsored domestic agricultural policies remain in limbo as the government is cash strapped. Yet imports remain a necessity.

Nigeria was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and instituted policies that negatively impacted market access as a result. September 2020, the president of Nigeria called for a ban on dollars for food imports according to FAS. This action is forcing importers, such as wheat importers to source dollars at higher rates through the parallel markets for Nigerian currency. As a result of this policy and high exchange rates, overall wheat consumption by consumers has fallen due to rising prices.

Nigeria's wheat and corn tariffs are five percent; soybeans and SBM are assessed a 10 percent tariff. In addition to the import duty there is an additional 15 percent duty on wheat. There is also a seven percent port charge and one percent levy added to all incoming shipments. Historically, soybean oil had been banned. In 2008, the ban was lifted, and high tariffs established. In 2016, the 35 percent tariff was lowered to 10 percent for crude SBO and 20 percent for refined SBO. However, refined vegetable oil remains banned.

Application of the import duties is not transparent or consistent. Nigeria frequently uses nontariff measures to block imports. Nigeria's import policies and restrictions are designed to protect local production and limit imports.



Technical barriers present challenges for exports. Nigeria requires phytosanitary certificates, import permits, and destination inspection for all imports. Moreover, a long list of prohibited items and declaration requirements results in almost all containers being physically examined, which adds additional delays and costs to imports.

The Nigerian government is generally supportive of biotechnology. In 2015, Nigeria established the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) to regulate the country's biotechnology law and provide oversight for the use and commercialization of biotech crops. Public officials have announced their interest in commercializing herbicide tolerant soybeans. In December 2020, the NBMA authorized guidelines on gene editing, further showing Nigeria is leading the way on GM acceptance in Africa.

International monitoring groups routinely rank Nigeria among the most corrupt countries in the world. The Transparency International 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index scored Nigeria a 25, in the bottom third of countries. Nigeria's corruption levels remain high and its main anticorruption institution, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, set up to stop corruption, has not produced significant results.

### **Grain-oilseed situation**

Nigeria produces limited quantities of wheat and imports almost all the wheat consumed. Low rainfall and the continued expansion of the Sahara Desert into the primary growing region for wheat means that Nigeria will likely continue to be in need of imports to meet domestic demand. In 2019/20 Nigeria imported 5.3 MMT, with 26 percent from the U.S., making Nigeria a significant market for U.S. wheat exports. U.S. market share fell from its high point of 38 percent in 2018/19 due to increased prices relative to Russia. Nigeria is a strong producer of corn (about 11 MMT) and imports minimal volumes.

Nigeria produced approximately 875,000 of soybeans in 2019/20. The country produced 467,000 MT of soybean meal and 126,000 MT of soybean oil. Historically, imports of these products have been minimal or non-existent.

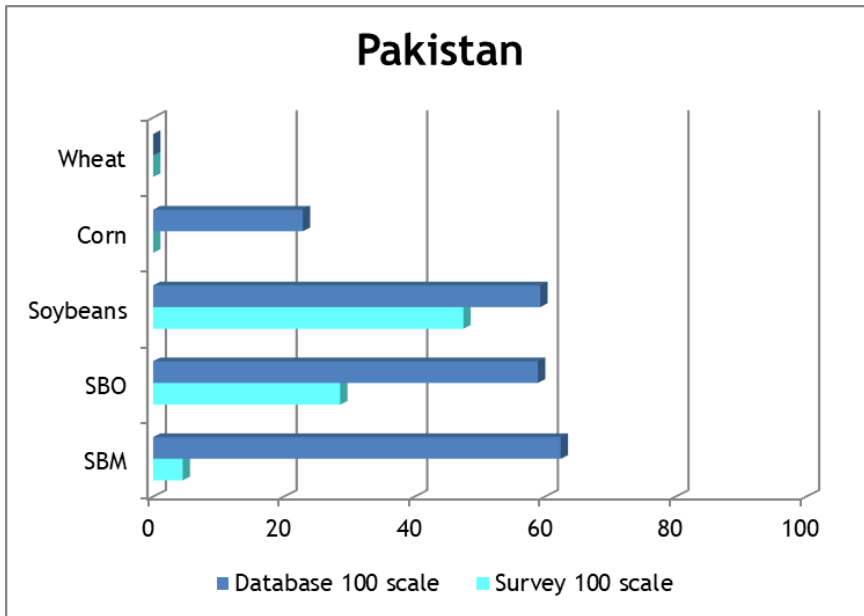
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Nigeria: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	6,771	7,312	6,540	6,500	6,500	5,500
Beginning Stocks	342	304	902	322	322	222
Yield	2	2	2	2	2	2
Production	10,562	11,548	10,420	11,000	11,000	10,000
Imports	200	650	200	400	250	500
TY Imports	200	650	200	400	250	500
TY Imp. from U.S.	98	254	64	14	33	-
Total Supply	11,104	12,502	11,522	11,722	11,572	10,722
Exports	200	200	100	100	100	50
TY Exports	200	200	100	100	100	50
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,900	2,100	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,650
FSI Consumption	8,700	9,300	9,200	9,400	9,350	8,800
Domestic Consumption	10,600	11,400	11,100	11,300	11,250	10,450
Ending Stocks	304	902	322	322	222	222
Total Distribution	11,104	12,502	11,522	11,722	11,572	10,722

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

PAKISTAN



Market access

Pakistan grows sufficient wheat and corn to meet domestic demand. Due to its tariff structure, the Government of Pakistan (GOP) is the only importer, setting a price floor for wheat and imposing heavy taxes on imports to support such subsidies. In the past year, however, Pakistan has shifted from being an exporter of wheat to a major importer.

Wheat and corn tariffs are nominally 11 percent, but corn is subject to a 30 percent duty. Wheat used to be subject to a 60 percent duty, but it was phased out in June 2020 because of lower-than-expected carryover stocks from last year and rising prices. This decision is likely to remain in place until the government is satisfied that domestic wheat production will be sufficient to meet the country's demand.

Pakistan is a substantial market for whole soybeans. The country continues to shift from imports of soybean meal to whole soybeans in response to the changes in tariff and tax structure several years ago. The differential between the soybean tariff (3%) and the tariff on soybean meal (11%) encourages domestic crushing.

Crude and refined SBO are assessed a flat ad valorem tariff of PKR 10,550/MT (\$67.63) on crude oil and PKR 11,700/MT (\$75.00) on refined oil. These rates were the equivalent of a tariff slightly below 10 percent. In addition, Pakistan levies a 17 percent excise duty on edible oils.

Quantitative restrictions on U.S. agricultural exports are minimal; however, technical barriers are prohibitive for most commodities. U.S. wheat has been subject to SPS obstacles in the form of an unreasonable test for rye disease. White wheat exports are also blocked by an unusually high wet gluten content requirement. In addition, Pakistan customs requires that commercial invoices and packing lists be included inside each shipping container.

In Pakistan, agricultural biotechnology laws exist, but many of the implementing rules and guidelines have yet to be established. The absence of a fully operational agricultural biotechnology framework creates an uncertain trading environment for exporters of GM crops. In March 2019, the GOP issued a moratorium to suspend the commercialization of genetically engineered (GE) hybrid corn, due to a determination that domestic demand can be met with non-GE seeds.

Corruption and a weak judicial system have been cited as substantial disincentives to foreign investment in Pakistan. The country scored 31 out of 100 points on the Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index. The lack of transparency is a recurrent and substantial problem in many areas, including government procurement and customs valuation.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Pakistan began importing wheat in the 2020/21 marketing year to build its strategic reserves in the response to COVID-19 and locust attacks. Almost all wheat imports are being sourced from Russia and Ukraine.

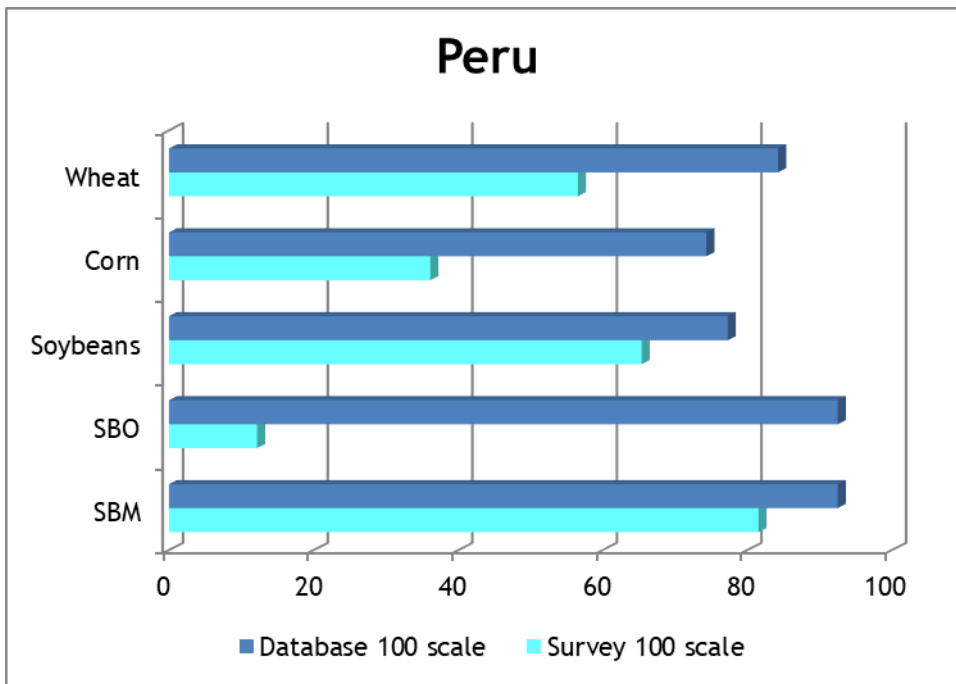
For feed ingredients, Pakistan is self-sufficient in wheat and corn. Government subsidies encourage production. Production in 2019/20 was 24.3 MMT of wheat and 7.2 MMT of corn.

By contrast, Pakistan relies heavily on imported oilseeds and soy production is negligible. Pakistan imported 2.4 MMT soybeans and 108,000 MT of soybean oil in 2019/20. Soybean meal production was 1.8 MMT; imports were minimal.

Attribute	Pakistan: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1,192	1,348	1,251	1,374	1,413	1,385
Beginning Stocks	1,547	1,352	1,467	1,164	1,305	1,427
Yield	4	5	5	5	5	6
Production	5,271	6,134	5,902	6,826	7,236	7,800
Imports	24	21	25	25	23	25
TY Imports	21	24	26	23	22	20
TY Imp. from U.S.	6	11	12	9	6	-
Total Supply	6,842	7,507	7,394	8,015	8,564	9,252
Exports	90	40	30	10	137	50
TY Exports	80	30	20	16	84	50
Feed Dom. Consumption	3,600	4,500	4,700	5,000	5,300	5,900
FSI Consumption	1,800	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,800
Domestic Consumption	5,400	6,000	6,200	6,700	7,000	7,700
Ending Stocks	1,352	1,467	1,164	1,305	1,427	1,502
Total Distribution	6,842	7,507	7,394	8,015	8,564	9,252

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

PERU



Market access

The U.S. Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA), which went into effect in 2009, immediately eliminated tariffs on almost all agricultural products, including wheat, soybeans, soybean meal, and crude soybean oil.

For U.S. corn, there was a long-standing, growing TRQ, but that was eliminated along with tariffs on U.S. corn in 2020. Under PTPA, the U.S. also had a growing duty-free quota for refined soybean oil; that too was eliminated on schedule back in 2019.

On July 13, 2018, the Peruvian Consumer Defense and Intellectual Property Rights Agency (INDECOPI) initiated a countervailing duty investigation into U.S. corn. INDECOPI determined in January 2020 that the Peruvian corn industry was not injured by the U.S. and that additional countervailing duties were not warranted.

Peru uses the Andean Price Band System (APBS), which either reduces or increases corn duties, depending on international prices. The APBS does not apply to U.S. products. In 2019/20, a reduction in the Andean Price Band System (APBS) surcharge narrowed the U.S. tariff advantage, providing an opening for imports from Argentina.

Peru also has relatively high value-added taxes (IGV); these were 16 percent on most agricultural commodities.

Peru's moratorium on GE crops and zero tolerance for GE events was renewed in January 2021, extending the moratorium for another fifteen years. The country does import GE corn and soybeans for consumption and processing and imported conventional seed shipments are fined if they contain GE events. A major problem with Peru's GE regime is that it does not define tolerances for adventitious presence of GE components in conventional seeds.

Corruption remains a problem in Peru. In 2018, Peru scored a 36 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Peru produces little wheat—191,000 MT in 2019/20—and must import 90 percent of its wheat requirements. In recent years, less than a quarter of the more than 2 MMT of wheat imported has been of U.S. origin. In 2019/2020, the U.S. shipped 301,000 MT. Canada is the market's primary wheat supplier.

Corn demand in Peru has been growing because of a burgeoning poultry sector. Production was 1.5 MMT in 2019/20, with additional imports of 3.8 MMT, of which 638,000 MT came from the U.S.

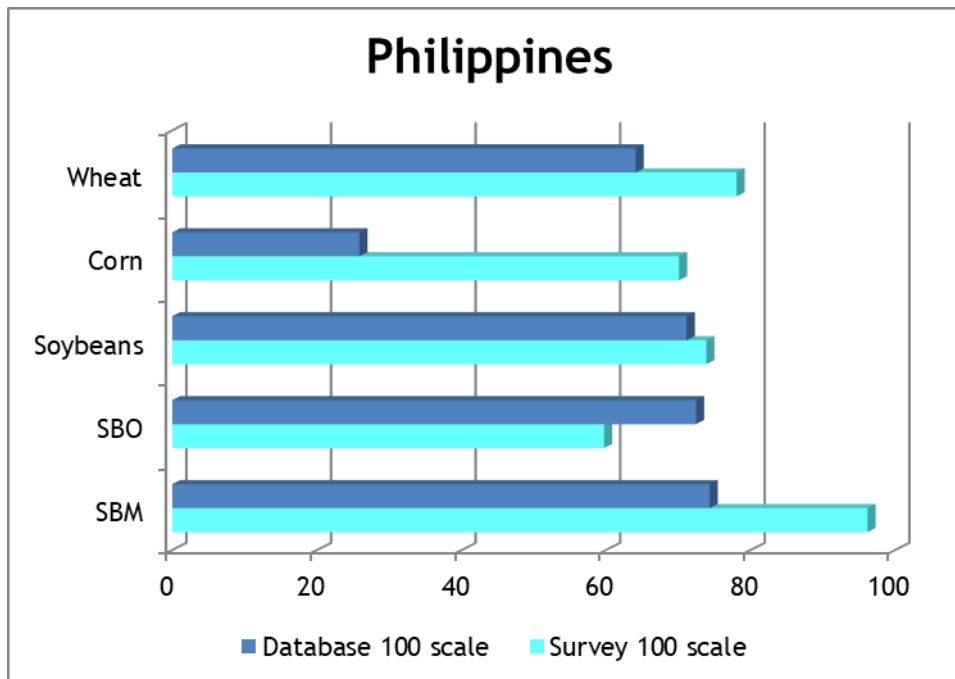
Peru imports approximately 300,000 MT of soybeans annually; in the 2019/20 marketing year, over 270,000 MT came from the U.S. Peru is also a significant soybean meal importer, buying approximately 1 MMT annually. Bolivia is Peru's key supplier; the U.S. supplied 151,000 MT in 2019/20.

Peru's key soybean oil supplier is Argentina, which provides approximately 400,000 MT per year. The U.S. exported 26,400 MT to Peru in 2019/20.

Attribute	Peru: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	514	465	446	462	478	475
Beginning Stocks	368	470	441	307	256	219
Yield	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	1,746	1,510	1,523	1,579	1,552	1,400
Imports	2,985	3,269	3,402	3,694	3,822	4,000
TY Imports	2,985	3,269	3,402	3,694	3,822	4,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	2,538	3,040	3,183	1,708	638	-
Total Supply	5,099	5,249	5,366	5,580	5,630	5,619
Exports	9	8	9	4	11	10
TY Exports	9	8	9	4	11	10
Feed Dom. Consumption	4,200	4,350	4,550	4,800	4,850	4,900
FSI Consumption	420	450	500	520	550	500
Domestic Consumption	4,620	4,800	5,050	5,320	5,400	5,400
Ending Stocks	470	441	307	256	219	209
Total Distribution	5,099	5,249	5,366	5,580	5,630	5,619

Source: USDA PS&amp;D, 2021

## PHILIPPINES

**Market access**

The Philippines has relatively open market access, especially since the 2010 implementation of the ASEAN FTA that reduced tariffs to 0-5 percent for all goods. Milling wheat imports in 20 had a zero percent tariff but were subject to a 12 percent VAT on the subsequent flour sales, payable at the time the wheat is imported. Feed wheat imports were subject to a seven percent MFN duty but were not subject to VAT. Corn imports have a two-tiered MFN tariff structure: 35 percent in-quota duty and a 50 percent out-of-quota rate. For 2020, the in-quota threshold was 217,000 MT, the same as previous years. Corn imports from ASEAN countries are levied at a much lower five percent duty under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA).

Soybean duties remained at one percent in 2020 while soybean meal entered duty free and soybean oil faced a seven percent MFN rate. That said, soybeans can enter duty free under the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) if they are inspected and certified by the Philippine Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC). Soybeans originating from ASEAN countries, and others with regional free trade agreements, were duty free in 2020.

The Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) requires importers to obtain a sanitary and phytosanitary permit prior to shipment of any agricultural product. Since 2016, the process for import permits has included an additional requirement that permits be signed by the Secretary of Agriculture, introducing some delays in the online application procedure. According to USTR, in 2019 and 2020 the Philippines stopped issuing clearances for U.S. agricultural products including corn and feed wheat. Stakeholders have noted this appears to be designed to protect domestic industry and not with safety concerns.



Also, in 2016, the Philippines adopted a Joint Department Circular (JDC) for the import of genetically engineered crops that requires the approval of five agencies (the Departments of Agriculture, Health, Science and Technology, Environment and Natural Resources, and Interior and Local Government). Philippine regulations require that shipments of imported bulk commodities be accompanied by a “*Declaration of GMO Content*” signed by one of the following: the responsible officer from the originating country, an accredited laboratory, the shipper, or the importer. According to USTR, permits for a large number of biotech events have lapsed and the Philippines have been slow to renew the. The Philippine government is considering reworking their biotech regulatory framework as a result.

Corruption is a pervasive and longstanding problem in the Philippines. National and local government agencies, particularly Bureau of Customs, are plagued with various corruption issues. The Corruption Perceptions Index rated the Philippines at 34 out of a possible 100 in 2020.

### Grain-oilseed situation

With no commercial wheat production in the Philippines, the country is entirely reliant on imports to satisfy demand. The Philippines was the largest U.S. wheat market globally in 2020, with sales reaching 3.2 MMT in 2019/20, accounting for 45 percent of the market. Wheat and soybean meal were the two largest U.S. agricultural exports to the Philippines in 2019/20 by value.

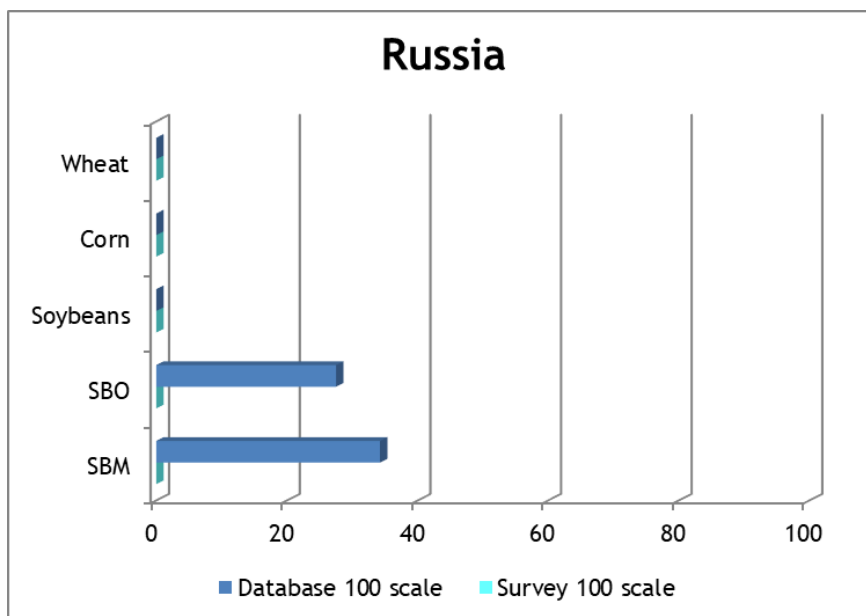
Corn imports fell to 389,000 MT in 2019/20, most of which was sourced from fellow ASEAN members Myanmar and Vietnam (61%), followed by the U.S. and Brazil according to Philippine customs data. Imports are projected to rebound in 2020/21 as the Philippines recovers from the pandemic.

U.S. soybeans continue to dominate the Philippines’ growing import market. The expansion of imports is being driven by an increasing preference for full fat soybeans for feed use. The Philippines remains the largest U.S. soybean meal export market (2.1 MMT in 2019/20). Strong feed demand from local livestock and poultry industries drives soybean meal demand, and demand remained high even during the pandemic. Soybean oil import and use is insignificant as the market prefers coconut oil, which is produced domestically.

Philippines: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	2,416	2,681	2,570	2,480	2,508	2,600
Beginning Stocks	644	252	448	452	335	354
Yield	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	6,966	8,087	7,980	7,608	8,030	8,300
Imports	742	609	724	675	389	750
TY Imports	666	606	806	600	666	650
TY Imp. from U.S.	82	23	199	95	96	-
Total Supply	8,352	8,948	9,152	8,735	8,754	9,404
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	6,000	6,300	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,850
FSI Consumption	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,000	2,000	2,100
Domestic Consumption	8,100	8,500	8,700	8,400	8,400	8,950
Ending Stocks	252	448	452	335	354	454
Total Distribution	8,352	8,948	9,152	8,735	8,754	9,404

Source: USDA PS&amp;D, 2021

## RUSSIA



## Market access

U.S.-Russia trade has been marred by sanctions and countersanctions in recent years. Russia currently has countersanctions on U.S. products through the end of 2021. It also has sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) bans in place. Combined, these multiple barriers block many U.S. agricultural goods, including the GOMAI commodities.

Russia's wheat import duty is five percent for both durum and common wheat, though the country is not a significant importer, but rather one of the world's leading exporters. Corn faces a 10 percent tariff rate, while soybeans and soybean meal enter duty free. All four commodities are subject to a 10 percent value-added tax. Crude and refined soybean oil enter at 13 percent and 15 percent, respectively, and are subject to a 20 percent value-added tax. Since 2016, Russia has banned imports of corn and soybeans from the United States based on reported findings of regulated weeds. The country has a long-term grain industry strategy to strengthen its position as a leading supplier by 2035.

The registration of GM events for food and feed has become increasingly difficult. In 2020, Russia finalized methods for registering GM food. Due to delays in adopting feed guidelines only one soybean line and four corn lines are approved. New registrations require 2-3 years and cost \$80,000, which is considered excessive by US stakeholders. Russia does not permit the importation of GM seeds, effectively prohibiting U.S. exports of GM seeds to Russia. They are allowed only if tested and registered in Russia for food and/or feed use and if they are "non-viable."

Although Russia no longer requires import licenses (as of 2013) for anything except alcohol, it continues to maintain several import barriers, including discriminatory and prohibitive charges and

fees, activity and warehouse licenses and registration, and certification regimes. U.S. companies report that Russian standards and procedures for certifying imported products are non-transparent, expensive, time-consuming, and redundant.

Feed also faces very restrictive technical and procedural barriers. All feed and pet food imports require a veterinary certificate to ship pet food and animal feed to Russia, as well as either a letter from the producer attesting to the absence of feed derived from agricultural biotechnology or a copy of the agricultural biotechnology registration provided by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture. The veterinary and sanitary certificates required by Russia have stringent requirements including certain chemical, microbiological, and radiological standards. These requirements are not based on science and are considered excessive.

In January 2015, Russia and four regional countries formed the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), a strategically located alliance that has formed free trade agreements with GOMAI participating countries. The union requires Russia to follow certain requirements, including labeling language, labeling of genetically engineered products, and the union's tolerances requirements.

Corruption is a serious issue in Russia; it consistently ranking in the bottom third of countries and scored 30 out of 100 on the 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Russia is a large producer of grains and oilseeds and is one of the U.S.'s primary competitors. Its imports of wheat, corn, and soybean meal are minimal, accounting for well under one percent of the total supply each year. Russia is more reliant on imports of soybeans, buying over 2 MMT each year. By contrast, Russia only produces 0.8 MMT of soybean oil, on average, increasing its demand over time. Imports of U.S. wheat and corn have not been recorded since marketing year 2015/16, and soybeans and soybean products since 2017.

Both the EU and the U.S. have been imposing sanctions on Russia for the last seven years in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea. Russia continues to retaliate with its own import restrictions, bans, and sanctions.

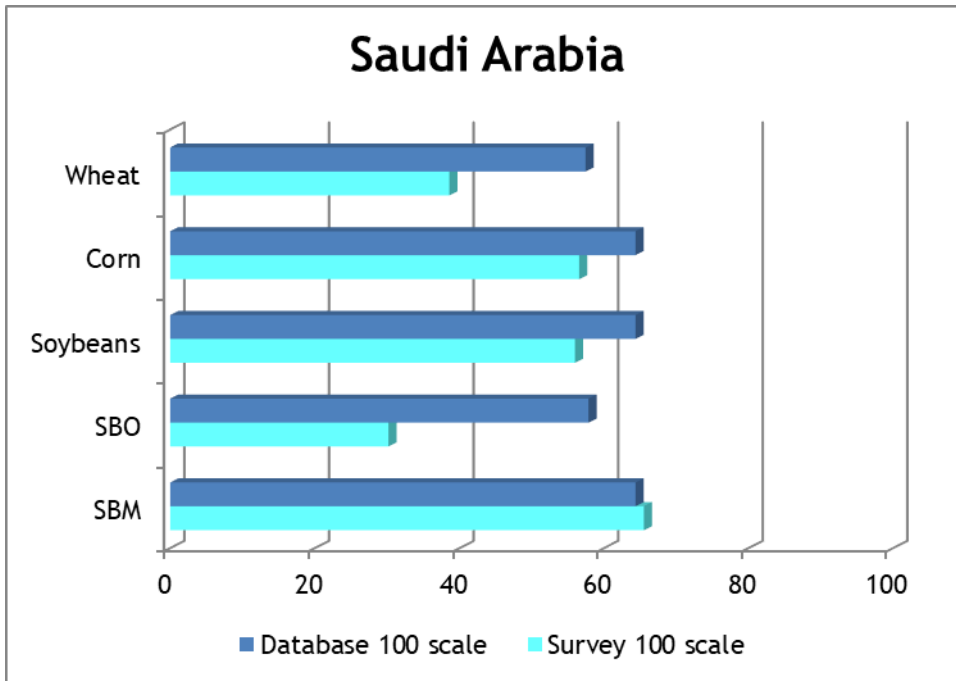
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Attribute	Russia: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	2,671	2,777	2,694	2,373	2,504	2,731
Beginning Stocks	748	569	779	195	377	830
Yield	5	6	5	5	6	5
Production	13,168	15,305	13,201	11,415	14,275	13,872
Imports	44	53	47	37	50	40
TY Imports	44	53	47	37	50	40
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	13,960	15,927	14,027	11,647	14,702	14,742
Exports	4,691	5,598	5,532	2,770	4,072	3,100
TY Exports	4,691	5,598	5,532	2,770	4,072	3,100
Feed Dom. Consumption	7,800	8,600	7,400	7,600	8,800	9,600
FSI Consumption	900	950	900	900	1,000	1,100
Domestic Consumption	8,700	9,550	8,300	8,500	9,800	10,700
Ending Stocks	569	779	195	377	830	942
Total Distribution	13,960	15,927	14,027	11,647	14,702	14,742

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

SAUDI ARABIA



Market access

Saudi Arabia has become completely dependent on foreign suppliers for soybeans and produces only limited volumes of wheat and corn. Saudi Arabia does produce some soybean meal and oil from the beans that it imports.

In May 2020, Saudi Arabia restructured its harmonized tariff schedule, increasing the rates of various products. It also increased the VAT to five percent to 15 percent. The new tariff schedule assigns a 25 percent duty on all imported wheat. This differs from the previous policy, which did apply the 25 percent duty to common wheat (it was applied to durum). Tariffs for all other GOMAI commodities remain the same as previous years.

Given that there is virtually no staple food production in Saudi Arabia, the market is mostly open and likely to remain so. There have been no significant access changes in Saudi Arabia over the last few iterations of the GOMAI reports. There are no quantitative barriers for U.S. products and soybeans and soybean meal are duty free. The tariff for crude soybean oil is five percent; refined soybean oil is 12 percent. That said, in October 2018, Saudi Arabia proposed maximum residue limits applicable for grains and horticultural products, many of which do not conform to those set by Codex. Saudi Arabia is also considering a ban on several pesticides widely used in the U.S. Discussions regarding these issues are still ongoing as of the end of 2019.

There are few technical or procedural barriers to trade. Even though Saudi Arabia began implementing agricultural biotech labeling in 2001, the labeling requirement has not affected imports of biotech agricultural products. However, no retail packed food products with positive biotech labeling have been imported into Saudi Arabia to date (in general, Saudi importers of

retail-packed food products do not import foods with GE content over one percent because it requires labeling). Locally produced food products that use imported biotech oil, corn or soybean by-products are not labeled for biotech contents.

The Saudi Arabia Grains Organization (SAGO) is the exclusive importer of food grade wheat in Saudi Arabia. SAGO purchases wheat from a wide range of origins, including the EU, the U.S., South America and Australia. Canada was banned as a source in 2018. In 2020 Saudi Arabia privatized its flour milling companies. SAGO is still the sole importer and manager of wheat supply after the privatization. There are some indications that Saudi Arabia may move away from wheat subsidies. If this were to happen there may be new opportunities for high quality wheat.

While wheat is exclusively imported by SAGO, feed corn is imported freely by the private sector with no import duties. In 2020 Saudi Arabia removed the import subsidies for feed corn that were in place in prior years. This had the impact of reducing demand for feed corn.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Saudi Arabia imported 3.6 MMT of wheat in 2019/20, rebounding from a drop in imports in 2018/19. According to FAS the increase in imports was largely due to a weaker than expected domestic crop. The U.S. is a minor supplier of wheat to Saudi Arabia, as the EU is the main exporter to the market.

The continued growth in poultry farms and animal feed processing facilities have driven demand for feed corn recently. Saudi corn imports were roughly 4.5 MMT in 2019/20, an increase of 23 percent from 2018/19. Approximately 19 percent of corn imports were sourced from the U.S., Argentina and Brazil are the main competitors in the corn market.

Saudi Arabia is not a major soybean importer but did import 734,000 MT in 2019/20, primarily from Brazil and from the U.S. (327,112 MT), but also from Argentina and India. Soybean meal imports hit 864,000 MT in 2019/20, of which only 35,000 MT was from the U.S. Soybean oil imports into Saudi Arabia are minimal.

Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

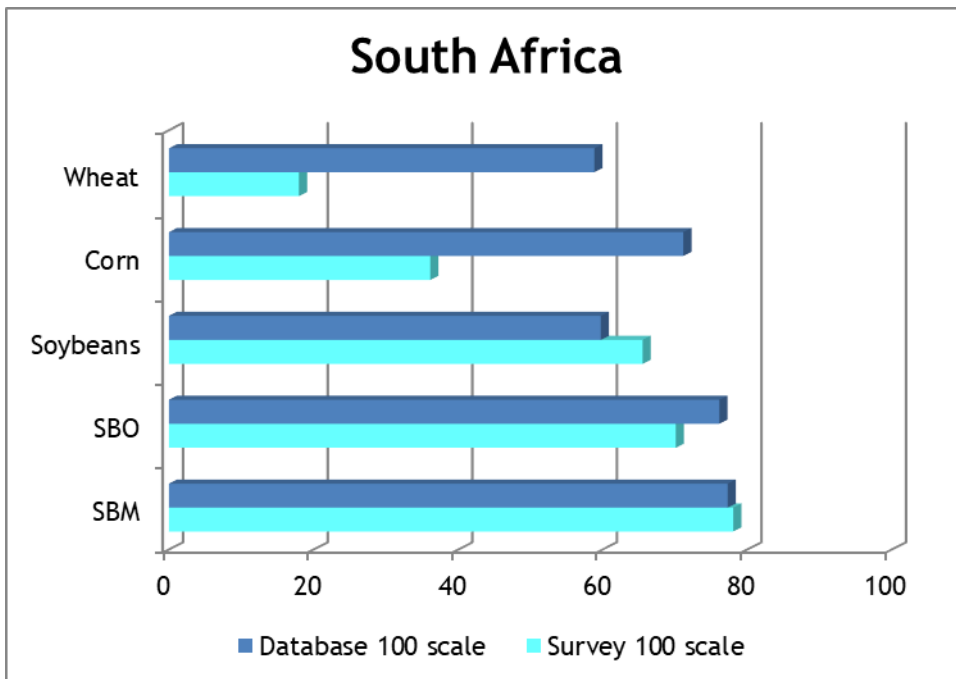
Country summaries

Saudi Arabia: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	2	2	2	2	2	2
Beginning Stocks	598	642	505	599	373	703
Yield	6	6	6	6	7	6
Production	11	12	11	12	13	12
Imports	3,583	3,421	3,983	3,662	4,517	3,700
TY Imports	3,583	3,421	3,983	3,662	4,517	3,700
TY Imp. from U.S.	1,525	2,035	1,585	773	855	-
Total Supply	4,192	4,075	4,499	4,273	4,903	4,415
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	3,350	3,370	3,700	3,700	4,000	3,700
FSI Consumption	200	200	200	200	200	200
Domestic Consumption	3,550	3,570	3,900	3,900	4,200	3,900
Ending Stocks	642	505	599	373	703	515
Total Distribution	4,192	4,075	4,499	4,273	4,903	4,415

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021



**SOUTH AFRICA**



**Market access**

South Africa has significant domestic production capabilities for grain and oilseed commodities. It does import some wheat to help supplement the domestic production. Exports are minimal for all commodities except corn. South Africa is a member of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and has preferential trade agreements with other SADC members, the European Union (EU), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the European Free Trade Area. Non-SADC countries have a 10 percent markup on all exports, on top of the 15 percent VAT. In November of 2019 South Africa signed an economic partnership agreement with the UK, which helped keep trade flowing between the two countries while the UK separated from the EU.

Even with the preferential duties, South Africa is a relatively open market for grain commodities with the exception of non-durum wheat. Durum wheat and corn are duty free. For wheat, South Africa uses a tariff system similar to the Andean Price Band system used by MERCUSOR countries, and the tariff varies throughout the year depending on the price of domestic wheat relative to international wheat. South Africa will amend their tariffs for wheat several times throughout the year. At the end of 2020 there was a roughly \$37 per MT tariff, roughly 17 percent of the cost of a MT of wheat at that time. Soybeans and products have higher tariffs, and the EU faces no tariff for these products.

South Africa has a Tariff Rate Quota on wheat of 108,729 MT that is applicable to all exporters. Under this TRQ exporters are rebated 14.4 percent of the duty. The EU, under its free trade agreement with South Africa, gets an additional 300,000 MT quota under which there is no duty assessed.

Soybeans and soybean products are also disadvantaged by the preferential tariffs that the EU and SADC enjoy. Soybeans from countries outside of the EU and SADC have an 8 percent duty, while soybeans from these areas have no duty. Soybean oil and meal are similar, as soybean oil has a 10 percent duty not applicable to the EU or SADC, and soybean meal has a 6.6 percent duty. In addition, MERCUSOR countries have a reduced tariff rate for soybean meal of 4.86 percent.

South Africa has GMO labeling laws that require products with at least five percent GM content to be labeled as GM. Vegetable oils are expected to follow CODEX standards. Phytosanitary standards vary by commodity but typically do not require any fumigation.

There are some concerns regarding the recent enactment of several laws that would allow the Government of South Africa expropriation of property to redress historical injustices that includes those who are investing in the country. While there has not been a case of these measures being used on foreign investors the potential remains. There are also some issues with corruption, as South Africa was scored a 44 out of 100 for corruption in 2020.

### Grain-oilseed situation

South Africa produces and imports wheat to meet its significant domestic demand. In the 2019/20 marketing year, South Africa produced roughly 1.5 MMT of wheat and imported roughly two MMT, of which only 80,000 MT were of U.S. origin. South Africa is a major corn producer and imports primarily when there is a production shortfall. There were no imports in 2019/20 and U.S. exports to South Africa are historically insignificant.

South Africa produced over 1.2 MMT of soybeans in 2019/20, and domestic production generally fulfills a large portion of total demand. That said, despite the significant amount of soybean production, South Africa still imports soybeans to achieve attain acceptable utilization ratios. The country does import soybean meal, mostly from Argentina which has a preferential tariff rate. The U.S. has not exported any soybean oil to South Africa since 2017.

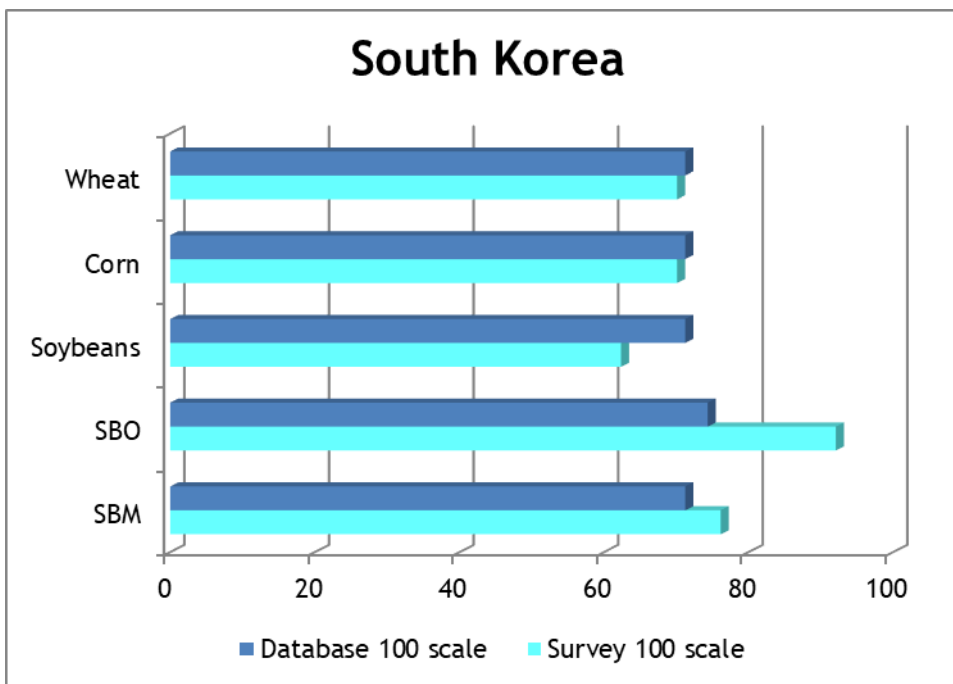
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

South Africa: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	2,213	2,996	2,634	2,597	2,909	3,075
Beginning Stocks	2,448	1,096	3,695	2,672	1,020	1,664
Yield	4	6	5	5	5	6
Production	8,214	17,551	13,104	11,824	15,844	17,000
Imports	2,241	-	172	509	-	-
TY Imports	2,579	1,231	-	423	258	-
TY Imp. from U.S.	110	242	3	2	-	-
Total Supply	12,903	18,647	16,971	15,005	16,864	18,664
Exports	837	2,289	2,069	1,449	2,600	3,200
TY Exports	759	1,816	2,361	1,183	2,456	3,200
Feed Dom. Consumption	5,700	7,463	6,830	7,036	6,800	7,000
FSI Consumption	5,270	5,200	5,400	5,500	5,800	5,800
Domestic Consumption	10,970	12,663	12,230	12,536	12,600	12,800
Ending Stocks	1,096	3,695	2,672	1,020	1,664	2,664
Total Distribution	12,903	18,647	16,971	15,005	16,864	18,664

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## SOUTH KOREA

**Market access**

The U.S.-Korea (KORUS) FTA went into effect in 2012, lowering many tariffs or eliminating them altogether. Most GOMAI commodities from the United States have duty-free access to the market, other than identity-preserved soybeans for human use, for which there is a U.S. TRQ, and crude soybean oil, which as of December 31, 2020 faced a 0.54 percent tariff which phased out the next day.

For other exporters, though many commodities have unlimited access, some are subject to import quotas. In late December 2019, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) released the adjusted tariffs and tariff rate quotas (TRQs) for 2020. Milling wheat was excluded from the quota and is charged the 1.8 percent out of quota rate. The TRQ for feed corn was set at 9.2 MMT with zero duty for 2020, but processing corn is excluded and faces a three percent tariff. The out-of-quota duty for both feed and processing corn remained fixed at 328 percent. U.S. exports do not count against the global TRQ.

South Korea has stricter mycotoxin limits than most other countries, which concerns U.S. wheat exporters. Furthermore, South Korea now requires the establishment of new import tolerances for agrochemicals that previously had MRLs but were not registered for use in the country, as well as for new substances that do not have any MRLs in South Korea. To minimize trade disruptions, the South Korean government delayed the elimination of existing MRLs for agrochemicals not registered for use in the country until the end of 2021. Several thousand temporary MRLs have been published in the interim that are expected to be in place until the end of 2021. Although South Korea has been consulting U.S. stakeholders on setting MRLs, there is concern they will not

be set at appropriate levels. On October 19, 2018, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) published its second draft list of temporary MRLs. Proposed MRLs for wheat, corn, and soybeans were included in the list.

MFDS is also working to establish a new positive list system (PLS) for agrochemical residues. The new system will no longer allow imports of food with agrochemical residues unless: 1) an MRL has been established for the substance; and 2) the substance has been approved for the given commodity. The PLS was implemented in December 2016 for oilseeds and other products such as tree nuts and tropical fruits. All other plant products were subject to the PLS starting January 1, 2019. Korea is currently using temporary MRLs as they transition to the PLS. The new domestic MRLs will be in force in 2022.

South Korea's biotechnology regulatory system continues to present challenges to U.S. agricultural exports. The approval process for new biotechnology crop varieties is a long and burdensome process due to redundant reviews and data requests. That said, South Korea imports biotechnology crops and products for food and feed, but not for propagation. Until an event is approved it may not be imported or sold in the South Korean market. In general, there has been strong consumer and government resistance to biotech products, especially for human consumption. This negative public perception has caused some companies to seek out non-GMO soybeans, primarily from China. Non-GMO soy must be certified as such, by either an import permit or official government certification. U.S. organic processed products are exempt from labeling requirements.

### Grain-oilseed situation

South Korea imports virtually all its wheat and corn needs. Wheat imports were 3.9 MMT in 2019/20, of which the U.S. accounted for 33 percent. Approximately two-thirds of wheat imports are used for milling while the remaining third is used for animal feed. Corn imports were 11.9 MMT, about 24 percent of which was from the U.S. Traditionally, a little more than half of U.S. exports of corn are feed grade.

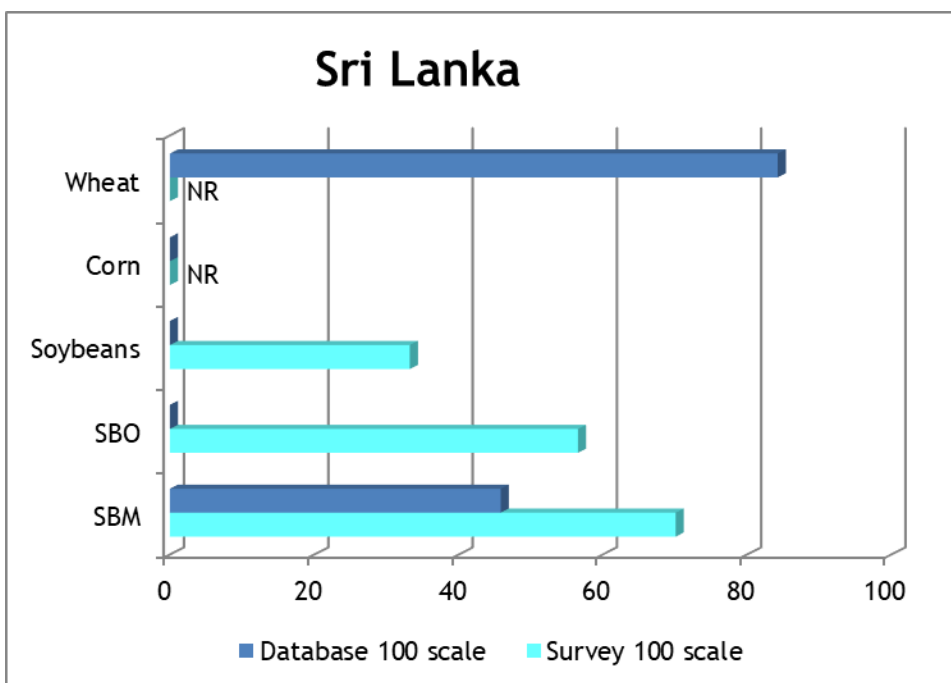
Soybean imports amounted to roughly 1.3 MMT, slightly below the amount exported during the last period. Wheat and corn amounts matched closely those of last period.

2020 imports of crude soybean oil filled nearly 100 percent of the 29,852 MT KORUS FTA TRQ, as Korean processors secured IP food-grade soybeans through forward contracting with farmers, and it is expected to be the case for 2021. Similar agreements exist with Australia, Canada, and China. Soybean oils are exempt from GE labeling requirements because the GE protein is undetectable. According to the local crushing industry, Brazilian soybeans are more appealing since they have a higher oil and protein content than U.S. soybeans. However, there is still a sizeable market for U.S. crushing beans since they are mixed with Brazilian beans to produce Hi-pro meal containing 47.5 percent protein.

South Korea: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	15	15	15	15	15	15
Beginning Stocks	1,860	1,936	1,757	1,848	1,835	1,998
Yield	5	5	5	5	5	5
Production	78	75	73	78	76	78
Imports	10,121	9,220	10,018	10,856	11,882	11,500
TY Imports	10,121	9,220	10,018	10,856	11,882	11,500
TY Imp. from U.S.	3,888	4,770	6,056	3,299	2,901	-
Total Supply	12,059	11,231	11,848	12,782	13,793	13,576
Exports	-	39	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	39	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	7,800	7,031	7,700	8,556	9,502	9,100
FSI Consumption	2,323	2,404	2,300	2,391	2,293	2,300
Domestic Consumption	10,123	9,435	10,000	10,947	11,795	11,400
Ending Stocks	1,936	1,757	1,848	1,835	1,998	2,176
Total Distribution	12,059	11,231	11,848	12,782	13,793	13,576

Source: USDA PS&amp;D, 2021

## SRI LANKA

**Market access**

In recent years, Sri Lanka had maintained tariffs on GOMAI commodities averaging 30 percent. In November of 2020, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) lowered the average import duty by half, dropping tariffs on all GOMAI commodities but durum wheat to 15 percent. Durum wheat enters the country duty free. GOSL also introduced a cess levy over a range of agricultural imports, including GOMAI commodities. The cess, or Export Development Board (EDB) levy, ranges from 10 to 35 percent *ad valorem* on any imports that are “nonessential” or compete with local industry. Corn falls under this category, being assigned a 35 percent levy on top of the normal tariff. Common wheat cess is 25 percent while crude and refined soybean oil cess are both 15 percent.

In addition to custom import duties, GOSL also imposes a ports and airports development levy (PAL), customs declaration, seal charges, and VAT. Locally manufactured goods do not pay the PAL and VAT taxes were lowered to eight percent in 2019 - where they remain. Finally, a special commodity levy (SCL) is charged on some imported food items, including vegetable oils.

In 2020, the Sri Lankan Government launched a program to boost production of 16 commodities, including corn, and turn into a export-oriented, self-sufficient economy. To increase production, GOSL imposed a one-time quota of 185,000 MT running from the beginning of August to the end of October.

Non-tariff barriers include import permits, phytosanitary certificates, and restrictions on GM products.

Sri Lanka is developing policies to regulate and promote biotechnology. However, these policies are still at varying stages of development or implementation. Although the import of GM animal feeds is not restricted, the Department of Animal Production and Health blocks their imports using other regulatory provisions.

The latest GM food regulation was passed in 2006 and makes the process of importing GM-derived foods cumbersome and outdated. The absence of a functioning approval mechanism in effect leads to a ban on the sale of GM-derived foods. Food containing GM ingredients in amounts less than 0.5 percent can be imported for human consumption. Shipments from regions which also have GM varieties must provide a GM-free certificate to accompany shipments.

Public sector corruption, including bribery of public officials, is a significant challenge for U.S. firms operating in Sri Lanka. While the country has generally adequate laws and regulations to combat corruption, enforcement is weak and inconsistent. Sri Lanka ranked in the bottom third of countries on the Corruption Perceptions Index, scoring a 38 out of 100.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Sri Lanka has no domestic wheat production and is thus reliant on imports, which reached 1.3 MMT in 2019/20, with 11 percent coming from the U.S.. Most imports are for human consumption. Entry requirements are highly restrictive for de-husked, bulk wheat imported for animal feed production. Sri Lanka's main wheat suppliers include Canada, Russia, the United States, Australia, Pakistan, India, and Romania

Corn imports were just 117 MT in 2019/20, with virtually none coming from the U.S.

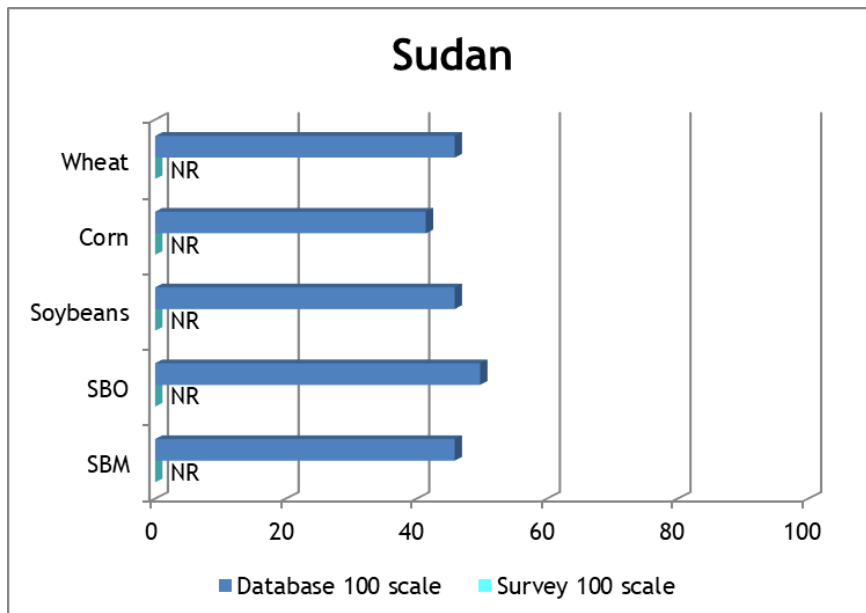
Sri Lanka does not import meaningful quantities of soybeans or soybean oil. Soybean meal imports are approximately 200,000 MT per year. In 2019/20 imports were 218,000 MT, 79 percent from the U.S., with the rest sourced from India.



Attribute	Sri Lanka: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	67	52	70	71	63	78
Beginning Stocks	53	14	14	36	35	28
Yield	4	4	3	4	4	4
Production	244	196	243	270	246	313
Imports	57	134	129	129	117	50
TY Imports	71	79	113	161	84	50
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	-	2	-	-	-
Total Supply	354	344	386	435	398	391
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	140	130	150	200	170	160
FSI Consumption	200	200	200	200	200	200
Domestic Consumption	340	330	350	400	370	360
Ending Stocks	14	14	36	35	28	31
Total Distribution	354	344	386	435	398	391

Source: USDA PS&amp;D, 2021

## SUDAN



## Market access

Sudan is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which has a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States since 2001. Through the TIFA, both consider the need to eliminate non-tariff barriers in order to facilitate greater access to the markets of both parties. In theory, this group of countries constitutes a free trade area, moving towards a customs union with a common external tariff of zero percent for capital goods and raw materials, 10 percent for intermediate products, and 25 percent for finished products. However, actual import duty rates vary by country. In December 2020, the U.S. Government lifted Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism (SST). The United States and Sudan have a small but growing amount of bilateral trade.

Sudan's common wheat tariff is 10 percent most of the year, but 25 percent from January to March. Durum wheat, corn, soybeans, and soybean meal tariffs are 25 percent, three percent on crude soybean oil, and 40 percent on refined soybean oil. In place of TRQs, Sudan routinely applies seasonal bans to control imports. Sudan applies a variety of significant service fees for shipping, clearing and forwarding services, as well as several additional taxes. Importers also face storage costs at port facilities because the clearing process frequently takes longer than the allocated 21 days, resulting in storage charges.

Non-tariff barriers include the requirement of certificates of origin and phytosanitary certificates. In addition, genetically modified seeds are prohibited, and corruption continues to pose a major problem in Sudan, which scored 16 out of 100 on Transparency International's index.

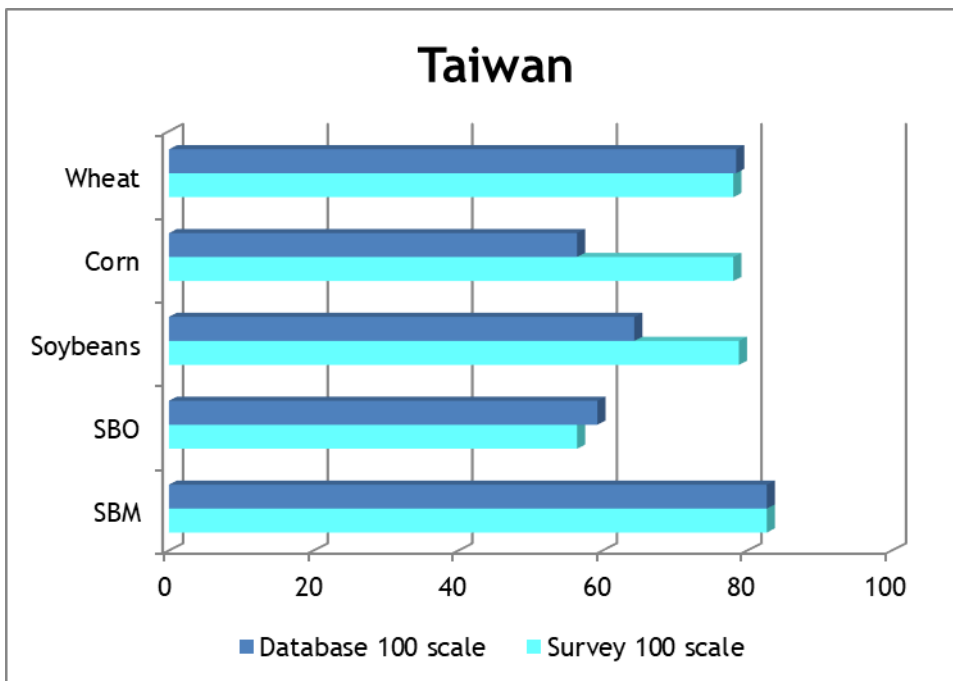
### **Grain-oilseed situation**

The bulk of Sudan's population of 44 million is involved in subsistence farming and about 80 percent of employment is in agriculture. Wheat production in 2019/20 was 726,000 MT. Imports were 2.7 MMT. U.S. exporters have only occasionally managed to sell small quantities of wheat to the country.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sudan imposed export restrictions on specific products, including corn.

Sudan has virtually no active trade in the oilseeds sector. Domestic disappearance of oilseed meals is about 400,000 MT; this requirement is met primarily from domestic production of groundnut (peanut), cottonseed, and sesame meals. The country consumes a similar quantity of fats and oils, of which 100,000 MT are typically imported, none of it soybean oil.

TAIWAN



Market access

U.S. grains and oilseeds have relatively open market access in Taiwan and the U.S.-Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) is the key mechanism for trade dialogue between the two countries. Due to high commodity prices between 2007 and 2010, Taiwan lowered or eliminated tariffs and reduced the VAT on many feedstuffs. Both durum and common wheat face 6.5 percent tariffs. Corn, soybeans, and soybean meal enter duty-free, and tariffs on crude and refined soybean oils are 5 percent. Taiwan has two minor price measures in place, namely commercial port dues and trade promotion fees, that generally add up to a fraction of one percent and do not pose a significant obstacle. VAT taxes of five percent are also levied on GOMAI products.

Although Taiwan accepts Codex or U.S. pesticide residue standards for a limited number of already recognized chemicals, Taiwan’s slow process for establishing MRLs for pesticides, low number of approved MRLs, and zero tolerance policy for pesticides without established MRLs have resulted in U.S. shipments being stopped at ports of entry. The MRL situation has also dissuaded some trade due to the high risk of rejection and acted as a *de facto* restriction on some U.S. agricultural exports to Taiwan. Taiwan’s inability to keep pace with requests to establish new MRLs has resulted in the rejection of various U.S. agricultural shipments, including wheat, barley, and corn, and has created a significant level of uncertainty for the U.S. agricultural industry.

Taiwan imports large volumes of genetically engineered corn and soybeans, but it has not approved any GE varieties for domestic cultivation and has established significant regulations to limit GE commodities from food uses, e.g., establishing GE labeling requirements and banning GE ingredients from school meals. Taiwan has also established separate Harmonized System (HS)

codes for genetically engineered (GE) soybeans for food and feed uses (i.e., GE food, non-GE food, GE feed, non-GE feed). This situation has not caused any trade stoppages, but it could pose complications in the future. Products that contain less than three percent GMO material can be imported under the non-GMO HS codes. This measure was implemented in May 2019. In 2017 Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare proposed a new regulation that would require importers and manufacturers of GE products to establish traceability systems for GE products from imports and to keep records for five years. Discussions about this measure are still ongoing.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Taiwan is a net importer of wheat, corn, and soybeans. All wheat demand is met by imports. The Taiwan Flour Millers' Association uses group purchases to import U.S. wheat via bulk vessels. These purchases account for most imports. The rest consists of containerized shipments from Australia and Canada, although proximity to China can make Chinese produced wheat competitive as well. In 2019/2020, Taiwan imported 1.3 MMT of wheat.

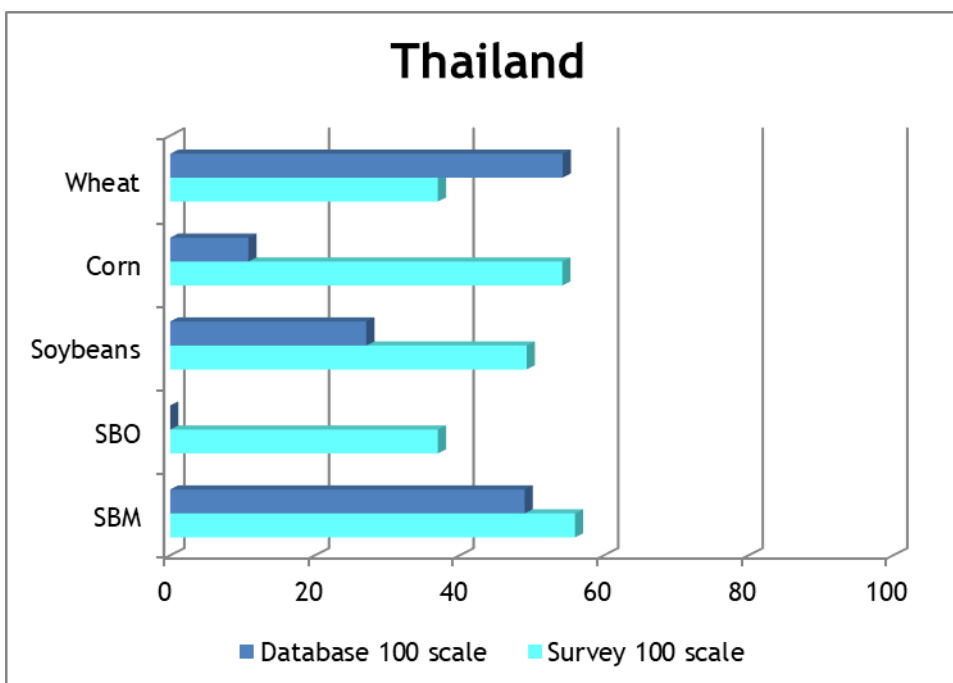
Corn has recently begun facing competition from other grains and feed products, such as DDGS and corn gluten feed. The feed inclusion rates for corn substitutes varies from year to year depending on relative prices. 2019/2020 saw U.S. corn exports to Taiwan of 782 MMT, the lowest total in the past five years.

Taiwan's soybean imports have been expanding consistently in recent years, reaching 2.7 MMT in 2019/2020, of which the U.S. supplied 1.5 MMT. The U.S. also shipped 93,000 MT of soybean meal to Taiwan.

Attribute	Taiwan: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	12	11	12	14	14	13
Beginning Stocks	242	650	678	809	977	987
Yield	6	6	6	6	6	6
Production	72	65	71	80	80	74
Imports	4,656	4,163	4,410	4,508	4,580	4,400
TY Imports	4,656	4,163	4,410	4,508	4,580	4,400
TY Imp. from U.S.	2,308	2,694	2,787	1,724	782	-
Total Supply	4,970	4,878	5,159	5,397	5,637	5,461
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	4,150	4,050	4,200	4,270	4,450	4,500
FSI Consumption	170	150	150	150	200	200
Domestic Consumption	4,320	4,200	4,350	4,420	4,650	4,700
Ending Stocks	650	678	809	977	987	761
Total Distribution	4,970	4,878	5,159	5,397	5,637	5,461

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## THAILAND



## Market access

Thailand is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest export market for U.S. agricultural goods. However, U.S. goods are not always price competitive due to high tariffs and shipping charges. Thailand has several FTAs with countries in Asia and with Chile and Peru. Price and quantitative controls as well as non-tariff barriers substantially restrict U.S. market access to Thailand. Sales of agricultural products are exempt from the country's value-added tax.

Thailand has TRQs on corn, soy, soybean oil, and soybean meal. TRQ restrictions on corn have remained consistent since initially negotiated with the WTO. The government of Thailand maintains a zero-tariff and quota-free corn import window from February 1 to August 31 for Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Corn imports from other countries are subject to a TRQ of 54,700 MT with a 20 percent in quota tariff, and an out-of-quota tariff of 73 percent. The out-of-quota tariff is accompanied by a surcharge of 180 baht per metric ton (\$6/MT).

On paper, Thailand's soybean tariff rate quota (TRQ) is 10,922 MT, with an in-quota tariff of 20 percent and an out-of-quota tariff of 80 percent. Thailand has a policy of allowing unlimited imports at zero percent tariffs which was extended through 2019; however, the updated policy limits imports to six trade associations and 16 food processing companies, and all importers face a domestic soybean purchasing requirement at a floor price of approximately \$500/MT for crushing, \$507/MT for feed, and \$5,064 for human food use.

Soybean meal imports are nominally subject to a quota of 239,559 MT and a 20 percent tariff rate. In July 2014, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) approved an unlimited soybean

meal import quota for two years (2015-2017). The tariff rate applied to the quota is set at two percent, compared to the 20 percent bound rate. The out-of-quota tariff rate is 119 percent. This was extended to 2018-2020 at the end of 2017 and has been extended another three years to the end of 2023. Like soybean imports, the Thai government still issues import permits and eight trade associations, representing a group of soybean meal importers, are required to purchase domestic soybean meal at government-determined prices.

Finally, the quota and rates for cooking oils are especially restrictive. The TRQ for soybean oil is limited to 2,281 MT and is subject to a 20 percent tariff rate. The tariff rate for out-of-quota imports is prohibitively high at 146 percent. This has resulted in no imports in recent years.

Wheat is not restricted by TRQs but is impacted by strict purchase requirements for domestic corn. Rules implemented in 2017 require Thai Feed mills to have 3-1 absorption ratios for domestic corn to wheat, essentially requiring feed mills purchase three tons of corn before they import one ton of wheat.

Although the government of Thailand maintains relatively open access according to WTO tariff quota rules, U.S. exporters report restrictive and burdensome requirements for import permits and licenses, including compulsory purchase of local feed ingredients. Thailand maintains a complicated and burdensome import permit regime. Feed and livestock price controls are non-transparent. Importers report inconsistent application of WTO transaction valuation methodology for customs clearance of fees and taxes. Thailand's customs pricing system often disregards the declared transaction price of products.

In January 2017, Thailand implemented new maximum residue limits in food products. The law, which is now in force, in theory would affect U.S. soybean oil.

Several troubling developments that were announced in 2019 and which are on track to be implemented in 2021 threaten market access for U.S. grain and oilseed exports. In October 2019, the government of Thailand moved to ban three commonly used agricultural chemicals, glyphosate, paraquat, and chlorpyrifos. Despite complaints from stakeholders, the government upheld the ban of paraquat and chlorpyrifos in food products; it will go into effect in June 2021. The ban on these chemicals threatens to disrupt trade. Thailand also implemented fumigation requirements for distillers' dried grains (DDGs).

In July 2019, Thailand submitted a notice to the WTO that they intended to ban the import of all GM food ingredients, food additives, and products for human consumption except for those that were preapproved (i.e., a positive list system) which currently only contains 26 GM plant organisms (all corn and soybean). Food derived from GMO plants will have a five-year grace period, but importers will have to compile information demonstrating the safety of the organism. Thailand also has labeling requirements for all food products with above five percent GM material. These trends suggest the Government of Thailand is becoming increasingly hostile to biotech and modern agricultural practices.

Corruption is a problem Thailand. In 2020, Thailand scored a 36 on the Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Thailand meets its wheat needs through imports, 3.5 MMT in 2019/20. Most of its corn supply, by contrast, is produced domestically (4.8 MMT of 6.1 MMT in 2019/20); the balance (1.6 MMT) is imported.

Thailand relies almost entirely on imports meet its soybean needs. In 2019/20, the U.S. supplied roughly 30 percent of Thailand's imports, 1.2 MMT; Brazil shipped the rest. U.S. market share has returned to historic levels after increasing due to lower prices created by the trade war with China. The U.S. exported insignificant volumes of soymeal to Thailand, shipping only 28,000 MT. Thailand does not import soybean oil in general, as the domestic market is dominated by palm oil.

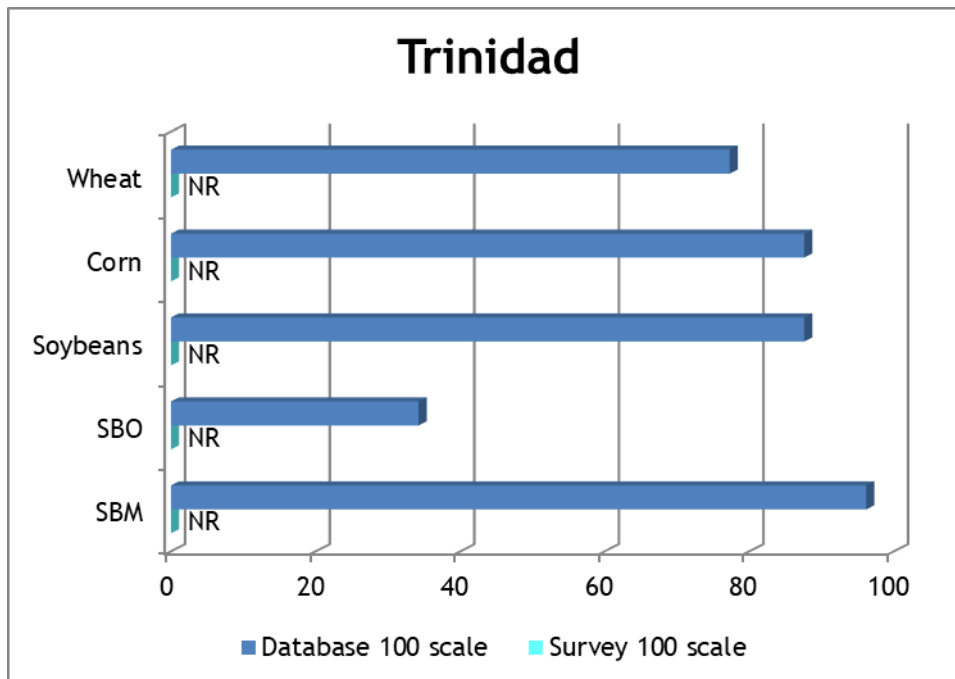
Thailand feed demand is expected to grow by about four percent for the foreseeable future, according to USDA.

Thailand: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1,090	1,170	1,125	1,295	1,216	1,255
Beginning Stocks	139	172	143	144	773	675
Yield	4	4	4	4	4	4
Production	4,700	5,200	5,000	5,600	4,500	5,600
Imports	600	600	700	1,200	1,630	1,500
TY Imports	600	600	700	1,200	1,602	1,500
TY Imp. from U.S.	4	11	4	7	20	-
Total Supply	5,439	5,972	5,843	6,944	6,903	7,775
Exports	367	729	199	171	28	30
TY Exports	439	692	223	111	27	30
Feed Dom. Consumption	4,800	5,000	5,400	5,900	6,100	6,900
FSI Consumption	100	100	100	100	100	100
Domestic Consumption	4,900	5,100	5,500	6,000	6,200	7,000
Ending Stocks	172	143	144	773	675	745
Total Distribution	5,439	5,972	5,843	6,944	6,903	7,775

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021



## TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO

**Market access**

The Trinidad market, though small, is highly accessible and has few barriers to entry. Tariffs follow the Caribbean Community's common external tariffs and are zero for all GOMAI products except soybean oil, which faces a 40 percent tariff plus an edible oil tax (TTD 0.15/MT, or approximately 3%). The country's 15 percent value-added tax does not apply to unprocessed foods but does apply to soybean oil and meal.

Trinidad has phytosanitary requirements for unprocessed commodities, requiring phytosanitary certificates and import permits for grain and oilseeds, but these have not been used as a barrier to trade.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for regulating pesticide/contaminant residues in foodstuffs by way of the Pesticides & Toxic Chemicals Act No. 42 of 1979. Authorities follow the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in terms of banned products. Health officials also follow internationally accepted Codex standards in terms of pesticide MRLs and frequently refer to U.S. standards as well.

In 2020, Trinidad and Tobago scored a 40 on the Corruption Perceptions Index.

**Grain-oilseed situation**

Trinidad and Tobago has a population of 1.4 million; it is not a large market. However, it has a surprisingly vibrant economy that manufactures food and beverage products both for domestic use

and for export to other Caribbean countries. There is no significant production of grains or oilseeds on the islands, so basic agricultural commodities are imported. The U.S. is the dominant supplier.

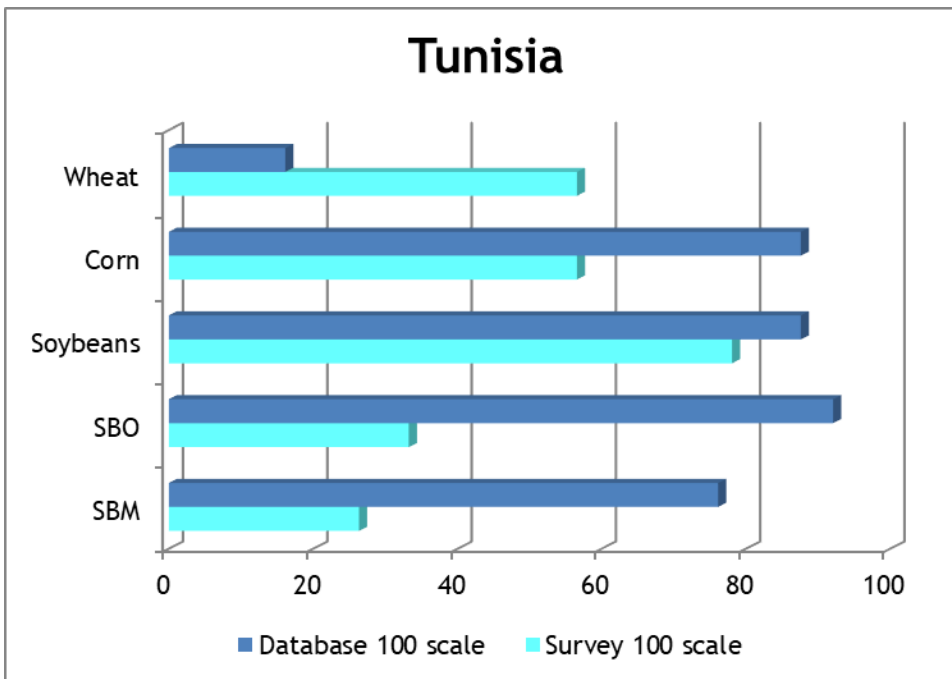
Trinidad annually imports about 135,000 MT of wheat, 90,000 MT of corn, 35,000 MT of soybean meal, and 10,000 MT of soybean oil. (Imports of soybeans are minimal, typically 200 MT per year.) Import levels decreased in the 2019/20 marketing year but are projected by FAS to return to historical levels in 2020/21. Nearly all the wheat, corn, and soybean meal and over half the soybean oil is sourced from the U.S.

In 2019/20, the U.S. shipped 107,000 MT of wheat, 90,000 MT of corn, 9,600 MT of soybean oil, and 33,400 MT of soybean meal to Trinidad.

Trinidad and Tobago: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	3	3	3	3	3	3
Beginning Stocks	17	14	13	9	6	12
Yield	2	2	2	2	2	2
Production	5	5	5	5	5	5
Imports	92	89	86	92	82	100
TY Imports	92	89	86	92	82	100
TY Imp. from U.S.	91	88	79	92	76	-
Total Supply	114	108	104	106	93	117
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	100	95	95	100	81	100
FSI Consumption	-	-	-	-	-	-
Domestic Consumption	100	95	95	100	81	100
Ending Stocks	14	13	9	6	12	17
Total Distribution	114	108	104	106	93	117

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

TUNISIA



Market access

Tunisia has limited agricultural production capabilities, producing no corn or soybeans and needing imports to supplement domestic production of wheat. The country has high tariffs, inconsistent grading standards, and grants preferential treatment to U.S. rivals, all of which limit the ability of the U.S. to export.

Tunisia is party to 80 bilateral free trade agreements and became a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in 2019. It also has an Association Agreement with the European Union covering trade of goods and is working on a more wide-ranging free trade agreement with the EU that would cover agricultural products.

The United States and Tunisia signed a Trade and Investment framework Agreement (TIFA) in October 2002, which is the primary mechanism for discussions of trade and investment issues between the countries.

For countries not in a free trade agreement with Tunisia, tariffs on agricultural products can be quite high. Tunisia promotes domestic wheat production through subsidies and a 36% tariff. Tunisia's Office of Cereals (OCT) maintains an effective import monopoly on durum wheat, common wheat, and barley, through tenders issued to international traders. Ostensibly, U.S. durum and common wheat faced no tariffs and were VAT-exempt in 2020, but OCT's specifications for U.S. origin wheat continue to deter U.S. exports.

Corn, soybeans, and crude soybean oil, enter duty free. However, Tunisia imposes a 10 percent tariff on refined soybean oil and a 15 percent tariff on soybean meal. All imported goods are subject to a customs administrative fee amounting to three percent of the total duties.

Tunisia controls vegetable oil imports through its state-run National Oil Board, although it seeks to transition to privately run refineries supplied through a refining quota system.

Most agricultural products are exempt from the 19 percent VAT, but soymeal is taxed at the full rate.

Tunisia currently places no restrictions on the importation of genetically engineered (GE) crops. These are used particularly as feed grains for livestock and poultry. In 2014, Tunisia drafted a biotech law that it continues to postpone its adoption and implementation and there is no timeline set for its adoption. Phytosanitary measures vary by crop and typically require an import permit and additional declarations. There are no fumigation requirements at this point. Phytosanitary certificates are required. Phytosanitary standards for U.S. wheat are stricter than standards for wheat from other countries, effectively restricting U.S. access to the market.

Tunisia has some issues with corruption, scoring a 44 out of 100 on Transparency International's Corruption Index. Exporters have expressed lack of confidence regarding the state-run bidding system for agricultural commodities.

### **Grain-oilseed situation**

Tunisia imports approximately 2 MMT of wheat per year, which provide two-thirds of its 3 MMT wheat needs. Imports of wheat and wheat products are controlled by the Cereal Board with limited exceptions, maintaining an effective monopoly on the trade of wheat products. The strict phytosanitary standards imposed on common wheat have effectively frozen U.S. common wheat out of the market since 2015/16. The U.S. shipped 42,000 MT of durum wheat to Tunisia in 2019/20. Tunisia sources most of its imported wheat from Ukraine, Russia, and Italy.

With no domestic corn production, Tunisia is reliant on agricultural imports to meet domestic demand. Tunisia imports over 1 MMT of corn each year, the majority of which comes from Ukraine. The U.S. exported 158,000 MT of corn to Tunisia in 2019/20.

Tunisia opened a crushing facility in 2010 and expanded it in 2017; the country imports approximately 600,000 MT of soybeans per year. Major soybean suppliers are the U.S., Brazil, and Uruguay. Tunisia imports approximately 100,000 MT of soybean oil each year, along with modest quantities of soybean meal (70,000 MT in 2019/20). Most soybean oil imports come from Europe, the U.S., and Russia.

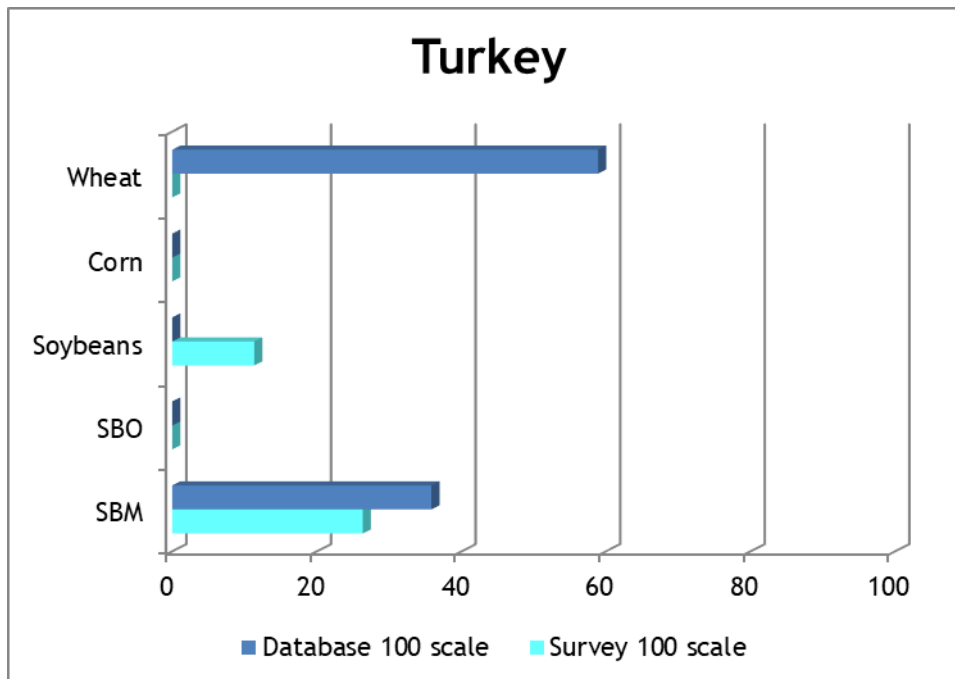
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

Attribute	Tunisia: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Stocks	127	94	73	64	41	52
Yield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Production	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imports	1,117	1,079	1,091	777	1,061	900
TY Imports	1,017	1,244	961	931	909	900
TY Imp. from U.S.	178	20	392	60	158	-
Total Supply	1,244	1,173	1,164	841	1,102	952
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,150	1,100	1,100	800	1,050	900
FSI Consumption	-	-	-	-	-	-
Domestic Consumption	1,150	1,100	1,100	800	1,050	900
Ending Stocks	94	73	64	41	52	52
Total Distribution	1,244	1,173	1,164	841	1,102	952

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## TURKEY

**Market access**

Turkey maintains high tariffs on agricultural imports, though the pandemic resulted in several tariffs being temporarily lowered.

In August 2018, Turkey established zero tariff quotas for wheat and corn. Then in 2020, the government expanded the duty-free entry quotas, through December 31, for 1.5 MMT of imported wheat and 700,000 MT of corn. In October 2020, the Turkish government suspended tariffs for all wheat and corn imports through the end of the year, later extending the timeframe to April 31, 2021. Tariffs are expected to return to pre pandemic rates in 2021 as the global economy stabilizes.

Turkey's quantitative barriers also include TRQs (with preferences given to the EU and other countries in the region) and licensing requirements. According to USTR, Turkish documentation requirements for food imports are onerous, inconsistent, and non-transparent, often resulting in shipments delayed at Turkish ports.

There are several challenges related to biotech that have had a significant impact on U.S. exports. Since 2010, food or feed derived from genetically modified (GM) products must be labeled if the GM content exceeds a specified threshold. Some GMO food products must also include health warnings. The Biosafety Law also requires traceability procedures for all movement of GM-derived animal feed, including a requirement that each handler maintain traceability records for 20 years. Developers of biotech products in the U.S. are often reluctant to seek regulatory approval in Turkey for individual traits because of the liability requirements imposed by the Biosafety Law.

In 2018, the Biosafety Board established under the Biosafety Law was abolished and the approval process and authority for GM approvals is being updated. The former Biosafety Board rejected applications for approval of several GM corn and soybean traits. As of October 31, 2019, there are only 36 (10 soybean and 26 corn) events approved for feed use in Turkey. The last time an event was approved was 2017. All GMOs for human use are banned. There is also a stringent low-level presence policy for unapproved biotech events that compounds the issue for U.S. exports.

U.S. wheat faces additional market access issues. Following a detection of an unapproved GM wheat trait in 2013, Turkey has required that every shipment of U.S. wheat be tested. The U.S. has not exported wheat to Turkey since. Wheat imports have historically been controlled by the Turkish Grain Board, but in 2020 the Government of Turkey allowed private industry to import directly during the pandemic.

Soy imports have also been reduced due to the continuing concerns that trace amounts of biotech soy varieties not yet approved in Turkey could lead to shipments being rejected. The lack of approval for biotech events has led to a situation where some varieties approved in other major markets, such as the EU, are not yet approved in Turkey.

Despite Turkey's ratification of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), anti-bribery convention and passage of implementing legislation making it illegal to bribe foreign and domestic officials, corruption of some government officials and politicians remains a serious problem. Turkey scored 40 of a possible 100 points on Transparency International's Corruption Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Turkey imported 10.8 MMT of wheat in 2019/20 but none of that was sourced from the United States. Russia, Ukraine, and Lithuania were the largest wheat suppliers. Russia is the main supplier of milling wheat.

Turkey also imported over 10 MMT of corn in 2019/20. Russia, Ukraine, and Romania were the largest corn suppliers. The U.S. was a small, marginal contributor.

Turkey does not produce many soybeans but has increased its crush capacity and imported nearly 3.1 MMT in 2019/20, a 31 percent increase from the previous marketing year. In calendar year 2020, Turkey reported importing soy from numerous suppliers including Brazil, the market's leading supplier of soybeans (2.1 MMT), Ukraine (614,000 MT), Uruguay (121,000 MT) and Russia (66,000 MT). U.S. exports of soy in 2020 were insignificant.

Total soybean meal imports reached over 1 MMT in 2019/20. Argentina is the leading supplier of soybean meal (869,000 MT) and no imports were from the U.S. The biotech concerns plaguing U.S. soybean exports, as well as price competitiveness, appear to have impacted soybean meal exports.

Due to substantial domestic crushing, Turkey did not import soybean oil in 2019/20. Turkey maintains strict import quotas and high tariffs for soybean oil that essentially eliminate market access.

**Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes**  
*Country summaries*

Turkey: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	620	570	530	530	520	620
Beginning Stocks	755	828	799	884	929	825
Yield	10	10	10	11	12	11
Production	6,200	5,500	5,300	5,700	6,000	7,100
Imports	1,235	2,083	3,406	3,652	3,091	2,400
TY Imports	1,250	2,087	3,410	3,669	3,004	2,400
TY Imp. from U.S.	4	3	3	1	1	-
Total Supply	8,190	8,411	9,505	10,236	10,020	10,325
Exports	712	762	521	707	495	300
TY Exports	670	803	509	717	471	300
Feed Dom. Consumption	5,600	5,800	7,000	7,400	7,500	8,000
FSI Consumption	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,100
Domestic Consumption	6,650	6,850	8,100	8,600	8,700	9,100
Ending Stocks	828	799	884	929	825	925
Total Distribution	8,190	8,411	9,505	10,236	10,020	10,325

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021



## UNITED KINGDOM

### Market access

As of January 2020, the UK is no longer part of the EU. The past year has been a transitional period for its departure. During 2020, the UK continued to use EU customs rules; this practice ended on December 31, 2020. In December, The UK and EU managed to come to an agreement (the Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA)) that will allow goods from the EU to continue to enter the UK duty free, though with increased paperwork. Northern Ireland will retain the EU's customs rules so as not to require a hard border with the Republic of Ireland.

Over the past year, the UK retained the EU's trading rules both regarding tariff structure and rules for agricultural biotechnology. There have been some statements indicating the UK is willing to explore a more proportionate approach to regulation of products derived from simple genome editing, according to FAS. There have also been indications that the UK will move away from the EU MRL review process and establish its own system in approximately three years. This would increase opportunities for U.S. exports if the rules were to be changed.

The UK also indicated they are developing their own tariff schedule that will be simpler than what is currently used by the EU. On May 19, 2020, the UK announced the UK Global Tariff with intention to implement it in January 2021. This new schedule will remove some of the duties placed on products beyond the ad valorem duty, as well as removing what it refers to as nuisance tariffs (those below two percent). Such a system will likely remove some friction for trade moving forward.

### Grain-oilseed situation

FAS has begun to report data for the UK separate from the EU now that the two are legally separate. The UK is a significant producer of wheat, 15.6 MMT in 2019/20. They also imported an additional 1.7 MMT in 2019/20, the majority of which comes from the EU and Canada. The UK is a minor producer of corn and soy, instead importing almost all of their domestic supply, roughly 2.5 MMT of corn and 750,000 MT of soy each year. Historically, the UK has sourced its corn and soy from the EU, and this is likely to continue given the signing of the TCA and historic trade relations.

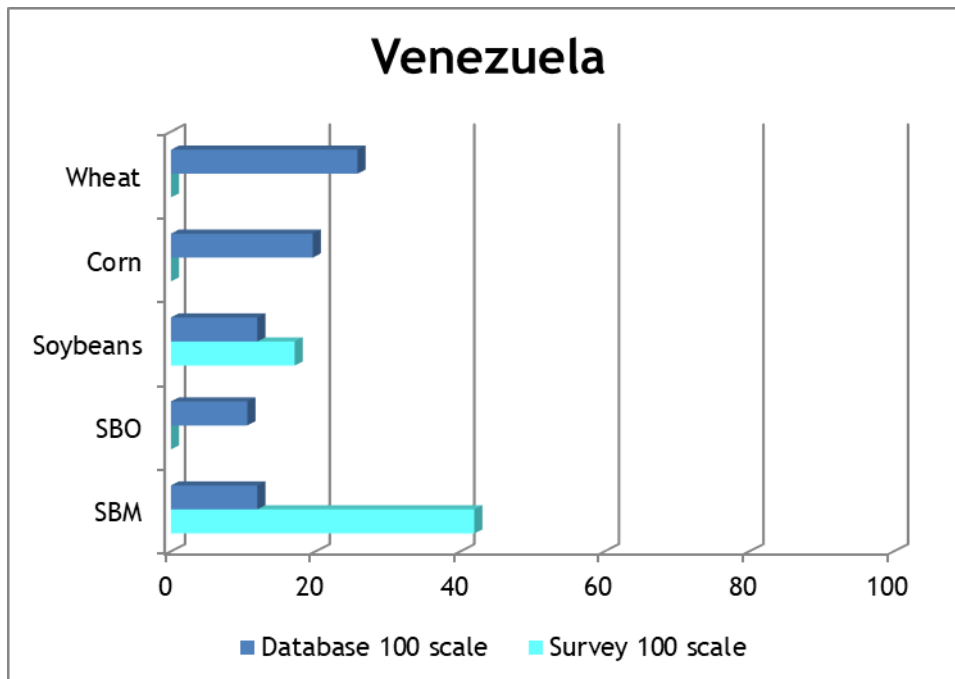
Grain & Oilseed Market Access Indexes

Country summaries

United Kingdom: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	-	8	8	8	8	8
Beginning Stocks	-	148	271	247	313	222
Production	-	26	25	25	25	25
Yield	-	3	3	3	3	3
Imports	-	2,061	2,258	3,002	2,430	2,700
TY Imports	-	2,083	2,470	2,949	2,515	2,700
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	10	29	6	3	-
Total Supply	-	2,235	2,554	3,274	2,768	2,947
Exports	-	177	172	189	136	75
TY Exports	-	186	175	182	122	75
Feed Dom. Consumption	-	1,207	1,485	1,962	1,566	1,583
FSI Consumption	-	580	650	810	844	1,079
Domestic Consumption	-	1,787	2,135	2,772	2,410	2,662
Ending Stocks	-	271	247	313	222	210
Total Distribution	-	2,235	2,554	3,274	2,768	2,947

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## VENEZUELA



### Market access

Venezuela is a restricted market because it has foreign exchange controls, SPS barriers, severe corruption, and pervasive and arbitrary government intervention in commerce.

Venezuela has moderate nominal tariffs (10% to 40% on most GOMAI products, except commodity seeds which are duty free) and provides tariff preferences to South American trading partners for many goods - tariffs that are being phased out. Venezuela also has a high value-added tax of 16 percent, but which is applied only to refined soybean oil.

Fortunately for U.S. exporters, because of Venezuela's production shortages, it needs staple goods, and its geographical proximity to the U.S. makes it an attractive destination for U.S. agricultural commodities.

Venezuela has tariff rate quotas for corn and soybean products.

Import requirements in Venezuela are onerous. Unprocessed commodities require a sanitary health import permit from the National Institute of Integral Agriculture and Animal Health (INSAI). INSAI decides on each SPS statement for each product on a case-by-case basis, and statements must be written on the import permit. Export documentation must include the required SPS statements as requested in the import statement. Import permits are non-renewable and are valid only for 90 days and for a single shipment.

Venezuela ranks among the world's most corrupt countries, scoring just 15 on the 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Economic decline in Venezuela, driven by aggressive government intervention in the market, has led to an ongoing decline in incomes, purchasing power, and production of basic goods. Despite the government's opening up of imports to the private sector, the lack of hard currency limits its private sector's ability to import goods.

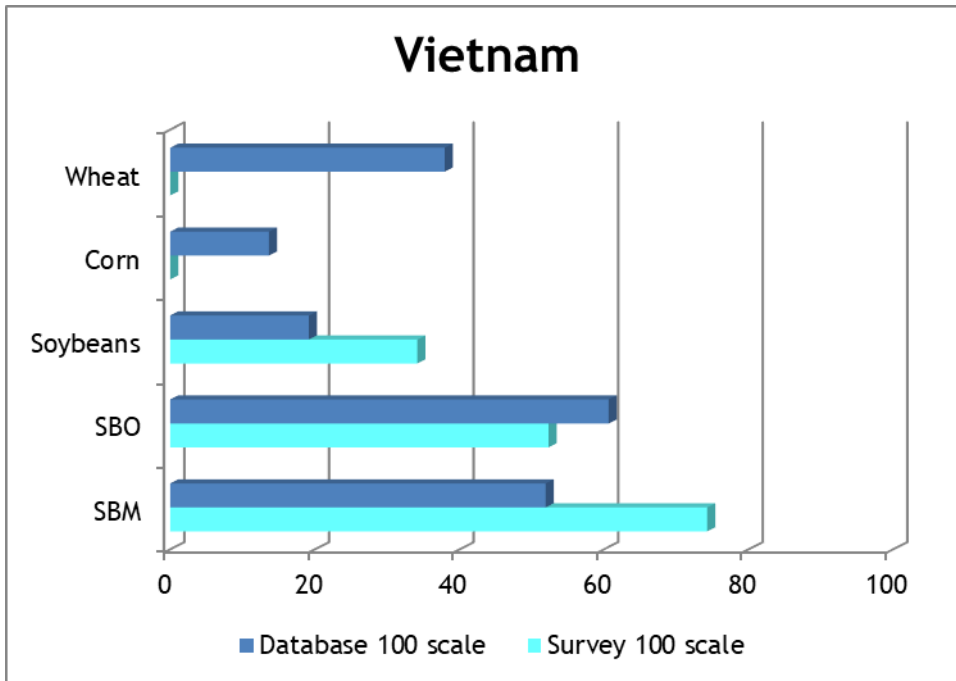
Venezuela does not produce wheat and must import to meet demand (954,000 MT in 2019/20, of which 187,000 MT were from the U.S.). Corn production was 450,000 MT in 2019/20 and has sharply declined from even a few years ago. Corn imports have increased to help fill the gap, totaling 1.3 MMT in 2019/20, an 86 percent increase from 2018/19. The U.S. has benefitted from the increase in imports, as U.S. corn exports grew to 469,000 MT, an increase of 393 percent.

In 2019/20, the U.S. shipped 59,000 MT of soybean oil and 190,000 MT of soybean meal. Soybean exports totaled 36,000 MT after no exports in 2018/19.

Venezuela: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	400	400	350	220	150	160
Beginning Stocks	433	221	109	96	50	158
Yield	3	3	2	3	3	3
Production	1,150	1,000	600	700	450	500
Imports	1,738	1,238	1,387	704	1,308	1,100
TY Imports	1,738	1,238	1,387	704	1,308	1,100
TY Imp. from U.S.	1,080	384	440	95	469	-
Total Supply	3,321	2,459	2,096	1,500	1,808	1,758
Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
TY Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed Dom. Consumption	1,600	1,200	1,000	600	550	800
FSI Consumption	1,500	1,150	1,000	850	1,100	900
Domestic Consumption	3,100	2,350	2,000	1,450	1,650	1,700
Ending Stocks	221	109	96	50	158	58
Total Distribution	3,321	2,459	2,096	1,500	1,808	1,758

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021

## VIETNAM



## Market access

Vietnam's MFN tariffs are mostly 0-5 percent for the GOMAI commodities under review. However, import licensing procedures can be burdensome and importers report that the Vietnamese customs clearance procedures are inconsistent with WTO customs valuation principles.

In January 2020, the Animal Husbandry Law (AHL) that was passed in 2018 went into effect, and Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) subsequently released several decrees that detailed the provisions of the law. As written, the AHL has the potential to significantly impact U.S. agricultural exports. The new law has changed the process for quality examinations of feed and feed ingredients and adds new import requirements, most notably a Certificate of Free Sale. The CFS requirement was indefinitely suspended in June and it is understood that GOMAI commodities will be excluded if it does go into effect. Following the January decree, in March 2020, MARD issued another legal clarification that would reestablish maximum allowable levels of safety indicators in animal feed and feed ingredients. It sets zero tolerance for Salmonella, Escherichia coli and renews maximum levels for heavy metals and mycotoxin in feed ingredients. Implementation of this has been delayed until June 2021 to allow for further review and assessment by MARD.

In September 2017, Vietnam's Plant Protection Department (PPD) announced it would begin issuing import permits for U.S. origin DDGS and grains. Import permits may be valid for up to one year, depending on the product. That same month, Vietnam issued Decree 123/2018, amending and supplementing several conditions for trade and business in agriculture. The Decree aimed to combine the regulation of genetically engineered (GE) food and feed as it pertains to imports,

production, and trade. The Decree also requires GE products to obtain a certificate satisfying conditions for food/feed use prior to importation into Vietnam.

The agricultural biotechnology approval process is generally slow and non-transparent and significant delays in the approval process for GE crops are common, though the government of Vietnam claims Decree 123/2018 makes improvements in this space. As of December 2020, there were four GE product applications that were outstanding, MARD had met to review these in October, but has requested additional data from industry. Pending submissions for approval include events for corn, soybeans, and other agricultural commodities. Generally, products with GM content over five percent must be labeled.

Regarding plant quarantine and SPS issues, in 2015, MARD issued a decision (No. 2515/2015) subjecting several products to plant quarantine inspection upon importation into Vietnam and requiring a SPS certificate from the exporting country to accompany any shipment of these products. Frozen sweet corn is subject to these requirements. Vietnam also requires methyl bromide fumigation for grains.

In 2018, MARD/PPD sent the U.S. non-compliance notifications on wheat grain and soybean shipments contaminated with *Cirsium arvense* (Canadian Thistle). Other trading partners also received non-compliance notifications of Canadian thistle detections in other commodities with MARD/PPD announcing that, starting November 1, 2018, Vietnam would enact stricter measures for plant quarantine, such as rejection and re-export of contaminated shipments. Unfortunately, efforts by APHIS and other stakeholders to encourage less disruptive measures to deal with the issue of Canadian thistle were unsuccessful, and beginning March 31, 2019, Vietnam implemented a zero-tolerance policy for Canadian thistle. On December 25, 2020, Vietnam issued the official regulations, setting a zero tolerance on 114 quarantine pests including Canadian thistle. These regulations will enter into force in June 2021. Such actions have the potential to greatly disrupt trade, as zero tolerance is a standard that is difficult for U.S. wheat and soybean shipments to meet.

MARD also proposed to ban the use of glyphosate in 2018, following the product's registration suspension in 2016. This ban was officially announced in April 2019. On April 24, 2020, MARD issued Circular 06/2020 to extend the use of crop protection products containing glyphosate in Vietnam to June 30, 2021.

Food Safety laws in Vietnam have undergone changes recently and continue to create uncertainty. On February 2, 2018, Vietnam adopted Decree 15 on the enforcement of the Food Safety Law. According to USTR, Decree 15 provides new guidance on registrations, announcements, certificates, labels, advertisements, working conditions, origins of food and food additives, and jurisdiction for food safety issues. The Decree simplifies many import procedures for food and agricultural products but complicates issues elsewhere. Anecdotally, different Vietnamese government ministries, and even departments within MARD, contradict each other regarding the interpretation of the Decree. Moreover, Decree 15 transfers the authority to propose MRLs from the Ministry of Health (MOH) to MARD, even though MOH continues to officially authorize MRLs. U.S. exporters have complained about the uneven enforcement and lack of transparency of the original Food Safety Law and it remains unclear whether this issue has been resolved with Decree

15. Vietnam is looking at potentially revising Decree 15 in 2021, and in October the General Department of Customs submitted a reform proposal to the government that would create a risk-based model for food safety and quality import inspections.

The lack of transparency, accountability, and media freedom, as well as widespread official corruption and inefficient bureaucracy remain serious problems in Vietnam. Competition among government agencies for control over business and investments has created confusing and overlapping jurisdictions, and overly bureaucratic procedures and approvals, which in turn create opportunities for corruption. Low pay for government officials and inadequate accountability systems contribute to these problems. Both domestic and international firms have identified corruption as an obstacle to their business activities. Vietnam scored a 36 on the Corruption Perceptions Index.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Wheat imports were roughly 3.6 in 2019/20, as imports remain down following an outbreak of African Swine Fever. An important factor for buyers choosing between feed wheat and other feed ingredients is wheat's selling price relative to corn. In 2020, feed wheat prices were higher than corn for the first half of the year, making it less competitive (corn prices increased significantly in the second half for both domestic and imports). The U.S. exported 318,000 MT in 2019/20, behind, Canada, Australia, and Russia which is the largest exporter.

As local rice and cassava farmers continue to eye export markets, the domestic animal feed industry has had to rely on imported corn to fuel the feed sector. Low corn prices particularly from South America, have encouraged demand. Vietnam imported 10.6 MMT of corn in 2019/20, though only 224,000 were from the U.S.

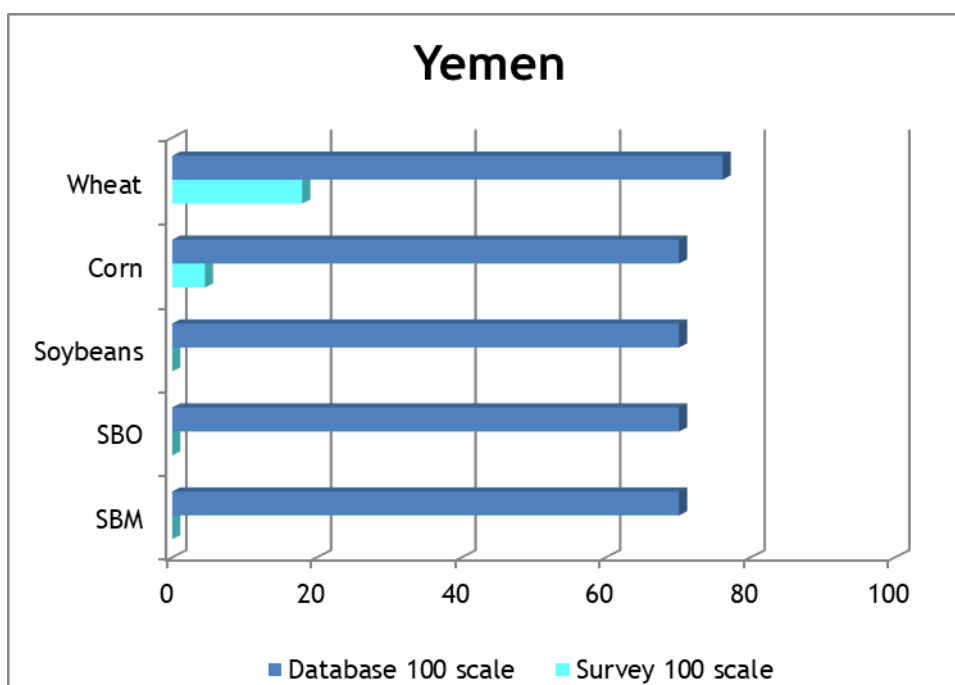
Vietnam is a small producer of soybeans, only producing 66,000 MT of soybeans in 2019/20. They are reliant on imports, importing almost two MMT. The U.S. has remained the leading soybean exporter, though Brazil regained a significant portion of market share as it became more price competitive. The domestic crush was 1.2 MMT in 2019/20. Soybean meal imports (including soy flour and other residues) have been large and growing steadily, due to higher demand from the feed and food processing industries. Soybean meal imports were almost 5.2 MMT in 2019/20 and Argentina remained the largest supplier, accounting for 80 percent market share. Brazil and the U.S. were the other main suppliers. U.S. exports of soybean meal to Vietnam were roughly 641,000 MT in 2019/20.

Vietnam: Corn (1,000 mt)						
Attribute	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	1,179	1,153	1,100	1,033	991	950
Beginning Stocks	837	1,424	1,271	881	1,155	1,462
Yield	4	5	5	5	5	5
Production	5,287	5,247	5,110	4,874	4,757	4,590
Imports	8,000	8,100	8,600	10,100	10,600	13,500
TY Imports	8,100	8,500	9,400	10,900	12,000	13,000
TY Imp. from U.S.	507	111	1,913	70	224	-
Total Supply	14,124	14,771	14,981	15,855	16,512	19,552
Exports	500	500	500	500	500	800
TY Exports	500	500	500	500	500	800
Feed Dom. Consumption	10,800	11,600	12,200	12,800	13,100	15,000
FSI Consumption	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,500
Domestic Consumption	12,200	13,000	13,600	14,200	14,550	16,500
Ending Stocks	1,424	1,271	881	1,155	1,462	2,252
Total Distribution	14,124	14,771	14,981	15,855	16,512	19,552

Source: USDA PS&amp;D, 2021



## YEMEN



## Market access

Yemen has low tariff rates; however, political instability, corruption, excessive regulations, and the low levels of economic development have always hampered trade prospects. The ongoing civil war has made the situation worse, with little in the way of a functioning government or customs authority. Conditions in Yemen appear to have remained stable in terms of market access in 2020, though it is difficult to know the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the lack of governmental infrastructure.

Most Yemeni tariffs are five percent, but corn and soybeans are lower, at 4.3 percent and 4 percent, respectively. In addition, Yemen applies a five percent tax and a five percent additional fee to all imports. Some imports also face a shipping tax of one to three percent and an income tax of five percent. For soybean oil in packages that exceed 150 kg the tax is 10 percent instead of five. The one exception to this complicated tax system is wheat. The government places a high priority on importing cereal crops, especially wheat, and thus has waived the tariff, taxes, and fees on wheat imports.

Yemen is a signatory of the Arab Common Market Free Trade Agreement, and as such, provides favorable duties to the member countries.

There are no tariff rate quotas, but import quantities are controlled with import licenses on products and preauthorization requirements on wheat and corn. Import licenses are valid for one year and may be extended for an additional year. Phytosanitary certificates are required for all plants and plant products. There is no GMO regulatory framework in place.

Corruption is a major problem in Yemen. Competition among government agencies for control over business and investments has created confusing and overlapping jurisdictions, which create opportunities for corruption. Low pay for government officials and inadequate accountability systems also contribute to the problem. Yemen scored only 18 out of a possible 100 points (with 100 being the least corrupt) on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, making it the fourth most corrupt country evaluated.

### Grain-oilseed situation

Limited agricultural resources and a growing population (just under 29 million people) make Yemen dependent on imports. The U.S. is a key exporter of wheat to Yemen. Wheat imports have steadily increased over the past five years to 3.7 MMT in 2019/20, 845,000 MT coming from the U.S. Yemen also imports about 600,000 MT of corn each year, primarily for food use, but none from the U.S.

Only 500,000 MT of grain and oilseeds are used for animal feed, most of that being corn. Yemen's livestock product sector is, for the most part, either subsistence based or reliant on grazing rather than intensive feeding operations. As such, there is limited demand for oilseed or protein meal imports, and the demand that is present is from the poultry and egg sector. Yemen imports about 233,000 MT of soybean meal annually, all of it from South America.

Attribute	Yemen: Corn (1,000 mt)					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Area Harvested	37	34	37	37	37	37
Beginning Stocks	69	16	10	19	15	31
Yield	1	1	1	1	1	1
Production	43	37	42	40	40	40
Imports	609	582	687	596	736	700
TY Imports	609	582	687	596	736	700
TY Imp. from U.S.	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	721	635	739	655	791	771
Exports	10	10	10	10	10	10
TY Exports	10	10	10	10	10	10
Feed Dom. Consumption	420	340	410	360	450	400
FSI Consumption	275	275	300	270	300	350
Domestic Consumption	695	615	710	630	750	750
Ending Stocks	16	10	19	15	31	11
Total Distribution	721	635	739	655	791	771

Source: USDA PS&D, 2021