



The view of European farmers and agri-cooperatives on the resilience and sustainability of Europe's farming systems

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Summary

1. The EU in the global context:
Russian invasion of Ukraine
2. State of play of agriculture in the EU
and sustainability initiatives
3. What are the enablers to ensure Food
security and affordability
4. Conclusions



EU in the global context: Russian invasion of Ukraine: Markets (1)

Cumulative impact of the crisis (e. g. Covid-19, energy, inflation, etc.)

- Sanctions (8th package) – Do not impact directly agri products
- Food security (wheat, barley, corn, sunflower oil, seeds and oilcake for animal feed come from this region).
- Cost of production - Energy and access (availability and price) to inputs
- Transport and logistics (e. g. drivers, logistics, investments, etc.)



EU in the global context: Russian invasion of Ukraine: Markets (2)

General situation:

- Food security is not in danger, for the EU as a whole. Food availability and affordability are.
- High dependence of some non-EU regions (Maghreb, Africa) on Ukraine and Russia => geopolitical and social tensions ? How long will this last?

Fears becoming reality

Food, fuel and fertiliser prices have reached new all-time highs.

High dependence on imports of energy, fertilisers and selected feeds.

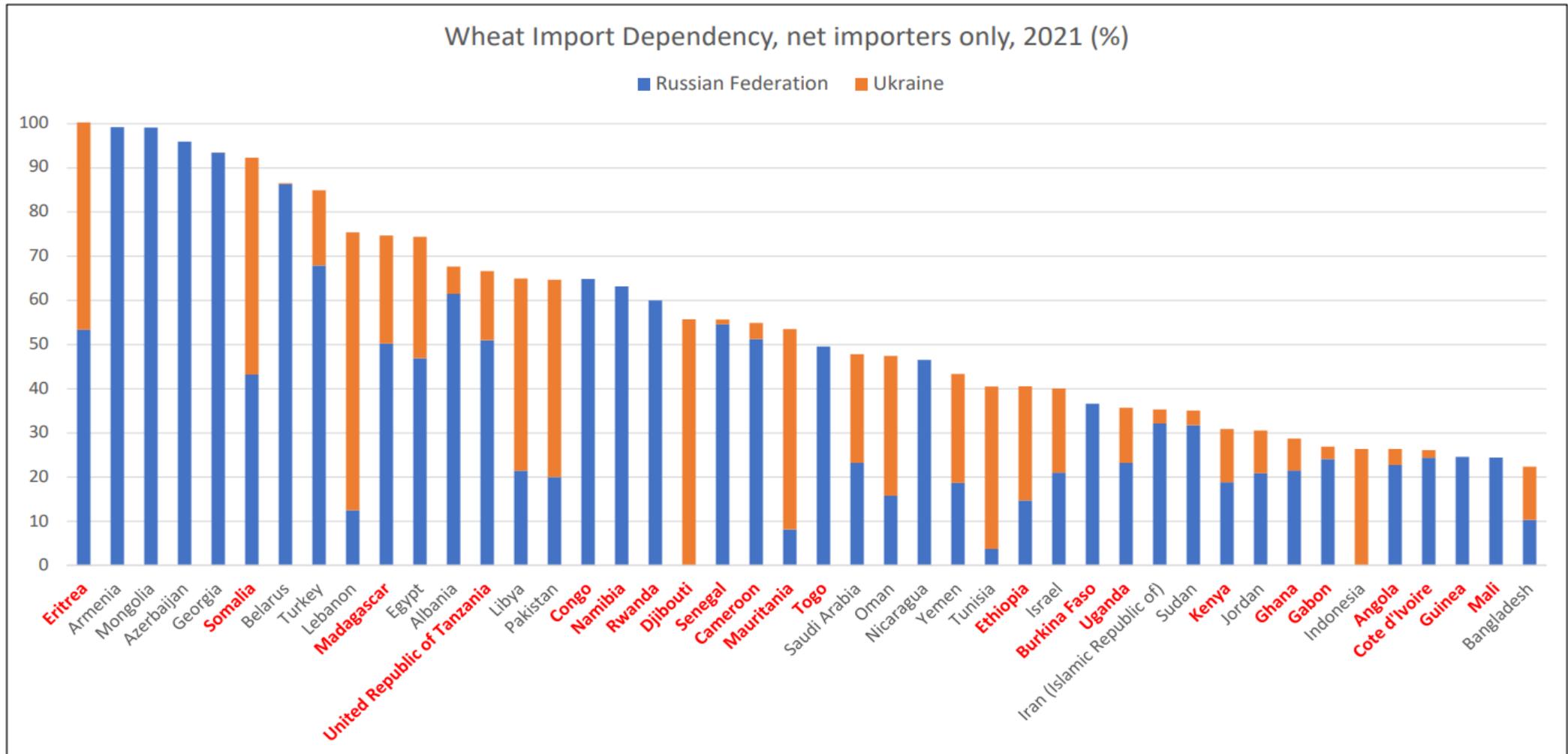
Reduction in fertiliser production in the EU in 2022 and 2023.
Affordability and availability for farmers.

Potential increase in food import prices.

Food inflation on the rise



Some countries are heavily dependent on grain imports from Ukraine and the Russian Federation



State of play of agriculture in the EU

*Facing a number of **challenges**:

- * Ensuring **food security** under increasing demand for food, feed, non-food outlet production, and climate change pressure, while taking into account the 3 pillars of sustainability (economic, environmental, and social).
- * Contributing to the vitality of rural areas
- * Producing food with fewer natural resources, while:
 - * Facing **new pests and diseases** derived from climate change effects
 - * **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions**
 - * Maintaining productivity on reducing agriculture land
 - * Adapting to consumers' demands with increased products' requirements and their production process



EU agriculture and sustainability

* European farmers, forest owners and their cooperatives
→ first to feel the **impact of climate change (exceptional draught, hails...)**

* EU agriculture

* Since 1990: **increased productivity by 25%** while **reducing** its **GHG emissions by 21%**

* Based on diversified, local and family farm structures

Committed to the **Paris Agreement**, ensuring Food security and supporting worldwide climate change mitigation international political agenda.

Support for implementation of **FARM initiative following Versailles declaration**



Russian invasion of Ukraine and EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork: Where do we stand

After 24 months of pandemic, 8 months of war, the situation on the ground for farmers is severe.

Food inflation: +11,8% last 12 months

Access and price of inputs; +36% last 12 months with hikes for fertilisers and soil improvers (+116%) and energy (+61%)=> Increase of costs not covered by farmgate prices.

Short term:

Important actions by Commission: deploy all available EU land to safeguard food security and affordability in the EU, in Ukraine and around the world.

Medium term:

Reality is witnessing a different EU and world since December 2019 (EU Green Deal) and May 2020 (Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategy).

Experiencing multiple crisis (Covid-19, war in Ukraine, energy crisis, climate change) which need to be factored in by the Commission in its initiatives.



Russian invasion of Ukraine and EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork: Where do we stand

Key questions to which so far, we don't see clear strategic replies in the context of weaponising of food by one country:

- ✓ Will the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork lead to a reduction of European food production?
- ✓ How to reduce EU dependency and affordability on key inputs for the farming community such as fertilizers?
- ✓ Which place sustainable biofuels production can play to reduce fossil fuels into the EU?
- ✓ How to factor in the new reality of the EU and world to the EU Green Deal Road Map?
- ✓ Which are the means to accelerate the transition without compromising production?
- ✓ Is there a need to freeze all new legislative initiatives that could reduce European food output?



Russian invasion of Ukraine and EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork: Where do we stand

- 22nd June on the day of the publication of Nature package, Executive Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioners Kyriakides : *“Today we announce that we will launch a comprehensive analysis on the drivers of food security in all their dimensions.”*
- Will the comprehensive analysis of the “drivers of food security” shed more light into the EU direction and means to go forward?

We hope that it will be robust, comprehensive, data driven and fully transparent in its results



Conclusions

- *We **support the EU objectives** of making our Union healthier, improving its biodiversity, and producing more sustainably; but we **must also have the tools to continue producing** in a sustainable way and maintaining stable and **sufficient output**
- *The objectives of the **EU Green Deal and F2F did not foresee the cumulative crises** that have hit us since their setting (Covid-19, war, energy, climate).
- *EU Green Deal implementation cannot be at the **cost of a decrease of our production** and thus the **EU Institutions need to speed up** all the work providing EU agriculture with **tools allowing to achieve those objectives** while not reducing our production (e.g. NGTs, low risk substances).
- *Transition to be fully successfully should **leave no one behind**
- *If we face **tighter restrictions on cultivation** and higher production standards due to the EU framework (the Green Deal, the Farm to Fork, the Biodiversity strategy and the CAP) we **expect to be treated fairly**.



Conclusions

In the context of Russian invasion of Ukraine we need:

- * A **reality check** to consider the new elements that are impacting the farming sector
- * Focus on **solutions** that could bring clarity and answers
- * **Food security/affordability and sustainability** are priority objectives for farming community, with cooperation, innovation and investments connecting them
- * As farming community, we expect through an open mind and practical approach, that the **EU will make available all existing tools to support the EU agri-food sector**, by:
 - ✓ **reducing even more the dependence** on imports and
 - ✓ **step up our own European production** with sustainable practices.
- * EU farmers and cooperatives want to **produce food, make transition to sustainable food systems a success** and **provide solutions** in the fight against **climate change**.





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