

Seeds of Change:

Ukraine's Integration into the EU Agricultural Sector



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Ukraine stands at the crossroads of history, poised to join the European Union and bring its vast potential to the table.

As Europe faces increasing pressures from global economic instability, climate change, and supply chain disruptions, Ukraine emerges as a vital partner with the resources, expertise, and commitment to achieve a more sustainable, resilient agricultural future jointly. With its fertile lands, "greening" potential, and growing alignment with EU standards, Ukraine's integration into the Union promises profound mutual benefits, bolstering food security and stabilizing economies across Europe.

Over the past decade, Ukraine's journey toward EU accession has been characterized by resilience, reform, and a steadfast commitment to Eu-

ropean integration. The country has steadily aligned its policies, standards, and economic practices with those of the EU, demonstrating its readiness to become a full member. A decisive turning point in this process came under the unprecedented circumstances of a full-scale Russian war. Ukraine submitted its application for membership and continued the reform process despite the challenges of the war. Following this, in December 2023, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Ukraine. While the war complicates the accession process, Ukraine continues to make significant progress towards meeting the entry conditions.

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An aerial photograph of a vast, green agricultural field. The field is divided into rows by thin, dark lines, likely furrows or paths. Scattered across the field are numerous cylindrical hay bales, some standing upright and others lying on their sides. The lighting is bright, casting long, dark shadows from the bales and the furrows, suggesting a low sun position. The overall color palette is dominated by vibrant greens and earthy browns.

Ukraine's Agricultural Sector:

**A Resilient Asset for the
European Union and the World**



When discussing Ukraine's EU membership, it is impossible to start with anything other than the agro-industrial sector and its significant impact on both the European Union and globally.

Historically, Ukraine has been known as a breadbasket for many regions, thanks to its one-third share of the world's most fertile black soils and its relatively flat landscape, which enables higher yields and larger fields. This has significantly contributed to the development of Ukraine's crop-based agriculture and becoming a global supplier of cereals, oilseeds, and other crops.

Before the full-scale Russian invasion, Ukraine supplied approximately 50% of the world's sunflower oil (primarily for human consumption) and nearly two-thirds of sunflower meal (for livestock feed) exports. The main markets for Ukrainian sunflower oil included China (48%), the EU (25%), and Turkey (7%). Ukraine was also the third-largest exporter of rapeseed and the seventh-largest exporter of soybeans before the war. Additionally, it ranked fourth in corn exports, with top destinations being China, the EU, Egypt, Iran, and Turkey.

Ukraine's wheat exports were equally vital.

Ukraine was the 7th largest wheat exporter and was expected to be the 5th largest in the 2021/2022 marketing year.

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa, such as Egypt, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, heavily depend on Ukrainian wheat. Indeed, in 2021, Ukraine supplied 35% of Egypt's total wheat imports, where wheat and wheat products comprised 31.5% of daily consumption. Other African nations, including Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, are also highly dependent on Ukrainian wheat and vulnerable to price volatility.

The war has significantly disrupted these trade flows, jeopardizing global food security and destabilizing commodity

markets. Following the Russian invasion, global agricultural commodity prices nearly doubled between February and June 2022 before gradually stabilizing below pre-war levels by fall 2023. Despite this stabilization, prices remain relatively high, underscoring the fragility of the global food supply chain. Adding to these challenges, nearly 20% of Ukraine's territory has been occupied since February 2022, and 28% of its agricultural capital assets (valued at \$8.7 billion) have been destroyed. These factors, coupled with rising fertilizer prices and reduced input availability, have led to lower planting and yields.

Yet, Ukraine's agricultural producers continue to demonstrate extraordinary resilience. Even amid occupation, military engagements, and logistical challenges, Ukraine remains a vital supplier of grains, oilseeds, and other agricultural products. According to Ukraine's Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, the country has successfully harvested its third wartime crop, totaling over 53 million tonnes of grains and legumes. Export capacity has been restored, primarily through the Black Sea Logistics Corridor and alternative trade routes. In the first 10 months of 2024, Ukraine exported more goods than in the entirety of the previous year.

Ukraine continues delivering products to over 100 countries and feeding more than 400 million people — primarily in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Looking ahead, Ukraine has the potential to double its agricultural export volume in the medium term, increasing its capacity to feed up to 600 million people worldwide.

Ukraine's agricultural sector is not only resilient but indispensable. Its ability to recover and maintain global food supplies during an ongoing conflict underscores its importance as a reliable and critical asset for the European Union. With the right support and integration, Ukraine's agro-industrial strength will be a significant boon to the EU, enhancing its food security, market stability, and global influence.

Supply Chain Strengthening Through Ukraine's EU Membership

The integration of Ukraine into the EU's agricultural framework bolsters the overall resilience of the agro-industrial supply chain.

Diversified production bases, shorter supply chains, and a focus on sustainable practices will enhance the EU's ability to withstand future disruptions while maintaining a reliable supply of food products for its citizens.

For example, animal feed is the largest input cost for EU livestock farmers, comprising up to 55% of costs in poultry farming, 32% in pig farming, and 14% in cattle. Rising input prices directly impact the availability and affordability of meat, eggs, and dairy products for EU consumers. The EU's reliance on imported plant-based proteins, such as soybeans - 80% of which come from Brazil, the United States, and Canada - leaves the bloc vulnerable to geopolitical instability, climate-related disruptions, and environmental concerns like deforestation in supplier countries.

Ukraine's role as a feed producer is critical to overcoming these challenges. Before the Russian invasion, Ukraine accounted for 16% of global maize exports and 61% of sunflower cake exports, key components of EU animal feed. While Ukraine's soybean exports to the EU currently represent just 7%, the country is rapidly expanding production. Ukraine is a major soya producer: it produced 4 million tonnes in 2023 and could increase this by more than 1.5 million tonnes by 2030 - in comparison, European production stands at 3 million tonnes. Ukraine's growing capacity to supply essential feed ingredients can reduce the EU's reliance on distant suppliers and enhance feed autonomy.

Ukraine's abundant land, favorable climate, and proximity to EU markets make it an ideal location for expanding livestock farming. The EU is facing declining beef production, with output dropping by 3.9% in 2023 and expected to decrease by another 2.3% in 2024 due to reductions in cattle numbers and carcass weights. Meanwhile, high domestic prices have limited the EU's ability to offset production declines through imports.

Investing in Ukraine's livestock farming sector can mitigate these trends by creating decentralized production hubs that supply high-quality meat to EU markets. This would also reduce emissions associated with long-distance transportation and align with the EU's decarbonization goals. Ukraine's modernized facilities and innovative feed solutions, such as insect-based feed or co-products, would further enhance sustainability and align with circular economy principles.

Thus, the inclusion of Ukraine's agricultural resources in EU supply chains provides strategic benefits: enhanced feed security as Ukraine's exports of maize, sunflower cake, and soybeans can stabilize feed supply chains and protect against price volatility; localized production through expanding livestock farming in Ukraine reduces the EU's dependency on imports from Brazil and Argentina, mitigating environmental and ethical concerns while strengthening regional supply chains; decarbonize industry leveraging Ukraine's resources for low-carbon animal farming practices in line with the EU's climate commitments and reduce the agricultural sector's environmental footprint.

An aerial photograph of a wind farm in a rural, agricultural landscape. The scene is captured during the golden hour, with warm sunlight casting long shadows across the green fields. Several white wind turbines are visible, with one in the foreground on the right and others receding into the distance. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall mood is serene and hopeful, symbolizing clean energy and sustainable agriculture.

Climate Change and the Agri- Sector

**Enhancing Resilience Through
Ukraine's EU Membership**



Climate change poses an escalating challenge to the European Union's agri-food sector, directly affecting crop yields, feed availability, and food security.

The severe drought of 2022 exemplifies climate vulnerability, with maize, soybean, and sunflower yields dropping by 16%, 15%, and 12%, respectively, and the EU's cereal output declining by nearly 8% year-on-year. These reductions disrupted feed availability, raised production costs, and added pressure to the livestock sector already struggling with diseases like avian influenza and African swine fever.

In 2024, climate challenges persist. According to the JRC MARS bulletin, overly wet winters in northwestern Europe and rainfall deficits in central and eastern regions have diminished winter crop yield potential. Regions like northern France, Spain, and central Europe face replanting with spring and summer crops, further straining farmers' resources.

The EU expects its overall cereal production to be 4.3% below the 5-year average in the current season, mostly because of bad weather.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified declining yields of maize, rice, soybeans, and wheat as some of the most visible effects of climate change on Europe's agriculture. Rising temperatures are intensifying heatwaves, which not only impede plant growth but also exacerbate drought conditions that devastate crops. For example, the record-breaking heatwave in Europe last July, which caused widespread crop failures and livestock losses, was found to be overwhelmingly

driven by human-induced climate change, according to the World Weather Attribution group.

Conversely, a warming atmosphere, capable of holding more moisture, is leading to heavier and more destructive rainfall. In May, unprecedented flooding in Italy submerged thousands of farms, causing catastrophic damage to crops and infrastructure.

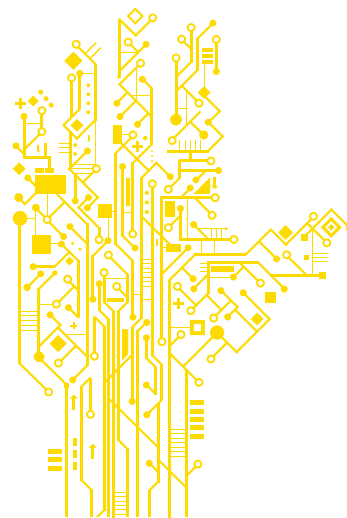
As climate change continues to strain European agriculture, integrating Ukraine's agricultural resources into the EU presents a significant opportunity to bolster resilience against these challenges. This integration can diversify production zones and ensure a more secure food supply for the region. Ukraine's geographic diversity provides a counterbalance to the climate risks ahead. The northward shift of natural climate zones may allow for the successful cultivation of heat-loving crops that

were previously unsuitable for the region. Additionally, an extended growing season due to rising temperatures could enhance the distribution and cultivation of certain species, fostering opportunities for new, more heat-tolerant crops. The expansion of areas suitable for cultivating crops like soybeans and corn, which thrive in warmer climates, is another potential advantage. By expanding the EU's agricultural base into Ukraine, the bloc can benefit from regions less affected by weather extremes that currently strain production in western and southern Europe. Ukraine's vast arable land offers flexibility to adapt crop patterns and rotate planting based on prevailing climate conditions.

Thus, integrating Ukraine into the EU provides opportunities to enhance climate resilience, diversify agricultural zones, and support sustainable agriculture practices, aligning with the EU's broader climate goals.

Ukraine's Role in Driving Agricultural Innovation

As Ukraine integrates into the European Union, its dynamic agricultural and IT sectors are well-positioned to enhance the bloc's approach to sustainable farming.



With a robust tech ecosystem and a long-standing agricultural tradition, Ukraine offers valuable opportunities to strengthen AgTech, green farming, and climate-smart solutions. This synergy of technology and agriculture provides tools to boost productivity, address environmental challenges, and bolster food security across Europe.

Ukraine is home to 50 AgTech product companies specializing in precision agriculture, robotics, IoT, and AI-driven solutions. These technologies include for instance smart farming solutions (remote sensing technology, and drones), pre-sowing seed treatment (such as microwave-based treatments, increase crop yields and enhance

resilience to climate variability), and automatics for greenhouses (aeroponics and hydroponics).

The potential for increased cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in agtech and climate innovation is significant and represents a large untapped potential for advancing sus-

tainable agriculture. Ukraine's agricultural sector faces various challenges, from climate change to soil degradation and the contraction of its resource base due to war. Yet, these obstacles also present opportunities for innovation, particularly through the development of advanced technologies and collaboration with EU and Ukrainian startups.

Carbon farming is an emerging practice with significant potential in Ukraine. By capturing

carbon through conservation tillage and agroforestry, farmers contribute to global decarbonization efforts while creating additional revenue streams through carbon credit markets. For instance, the push toward regenerative farming is gaining momentum in Ukraine, supported by the Lithuanian climate tech startup HeavyFinance's project, which aims to enroll 500,000 hectares of Ukrainian farmland into a carbon farming program by the end of 2024. These practices enhance soil

health and biodiversity while generating soil-based carbon credits.

Another promising area is microbial biotechnology, which can be applied to increase the fertility of soils degraded by war-related pollution and other environmental stressors. By restoring soil health, microbial solutions offer a sustainable way to boost agricultural productivity in affected regions.

The challenges of Ukraine's agriculture are prompting farmers to shift toward innovative solutions.

Ukrainian farmers address the soil degradation problem by increasingly adopting conservation tillage technologies, including no-till farming, to preserve soil structure and fertility. Organic farming practices are also rising, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional methods.

Ukraine is also rapidly advancing in the development and manufacturing of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), leveraging expertise gained through military technological innovations. Sprayer drones, introduced in 2019, have seen significant growth, with their numbers reaching 1,100 by 2024. These drones play a pivotal role in pesticide application and crop monitoring. However, their use during wartime requires special permissions, which has constrained widespread adoption.

Vertical farming is gaining traction in Ukraine, supported by domestic providers of hydroponic and aeroponic technologies. These climate-controlled systems offer efficient solutions for urban agriculture and food production in limited spaces. Ukrainian vertical farming companies are already competitive enough to expand internationally, though power outages caused by the war have posed challenges to their operations.

Other technologies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Ukraine include drip irrigation in combination with conservation agriculture practices, agroforestry practices (shelterbelt reconstruction), integrated pest and disease management, development of an agrometeorological early warning system, organic agriculture, biogas production from animal waste, conservation tillage technologies, production and use of solid biofuels from agricultural residues, and the use of ICT in agriculture for the reductions of greenhouse gases emission. These challenges and opportunities create fertile ground for collaboration between EU and Ukrainian innovators, laying the foundation for a more sustain-

able, efficient, and climate-resilient agricultural sector.

Ukraine's expansive agricultural land provides a strong foundation for the production of biomass fuels, including biomethane, hydrotreated vegetable oil, and advanced biodiesels. These renewable energy sources are not only crucial for Ukraine's energy independence but also significantly contribute to reducing carbon emissions in agriculture.

Ukraine boasts the largest agricultural land area in Europe, making it one of the world's leading candidates for biomethane production. Its competitive advantages include cost-effective feedstock, an established natural gas network (GTS and GDS) for integration and distribution, and a high proportion of large and medium-sized agricultural enterprises ensuring scalability. Through the REPowerEU plan, the EU aims to produce 35 billion cubic meters of biomethane annually by 2030. Experts forecast that Ukraine could meet up to 20% of this demand by 2050, positioning itself as a key supplier for the premium EU biomethane market.

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Transform Agriculture

Agriculture is rapidly becoming a key field for applying artificial intelligence (AI) solutions due to its ability to analyze massive amounts of data.

AI has the potential to replace conventional farming practices such as monocropping, intensive land use, and blanket application of synthetic fertilizers with more sustainable and regenerative approaches. By utilizing data from drones, remote sensors, satellites, and smart farming equipment, farmers can gain real-time insights into soil conditions, crop health, and weather patterns.

These insights enable smarter decision-making, such as optimizing crop rotations, identifying the best times for sowing and harvesting, and reducing resource waste. AI-powered analytics also eliminate the need for costly and time-consuming field trials, allowing farmers to adopt regenerative agricultural practices more efficiently. Furthermore, AI applications in food supply chains - such as visual imagery technologies used

during food inspections—can improve overall efficiency and reduce losses. When integrated with geographic information systems (GIS), AI can create dynamic, adaptive land use models that respond to changing environmental and economic conditions. Predictive analytics driven by AI can also forecast weather patterns and potential environmental impacts, enabling proactive risk mitigation and fostering resilience in agricultural practices.

Ukraine is rapidly positioning itself as an AI hub in Eastern Europe, with agriculture being one of its primary focus areas.

In April 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved a targeted program to integrate AI technologies into key sectors of the economy by 2026, prioritizing agriculture among others. Leading Ukrainian agroholdings, such as Astarta-Kyiv, Kernel, and MHP, are actively

adopting digital tools and AI solutions to streamline operations. Many of these agroholdings have also created their own IT companies, offering advanced solutions to external customers, further highlighting the synergy between Ukraine's agricultural and tech

sectors. This is a great example of how private businesses can foster innovation in a strategic sector, driving progress and competitiveness.

One notable example of Ukraine's AgTech potential is Syngenta's pre-war acquisition



of Cropio, a Ukrainian software company specializing in imaging, recordkeeping, and equipment tracking for agriculture. Another instance is FarmFleet startup, ERP system for companies that are using robotics in agriculture, which raised \$550,000 in 2023, with a valua-

tion of \$3.7 million. Such success stories underline the country's ability to contribute to the global AgTech ecosystem.

By advancing AI integration in agriculture, Ukraine not only strengthens its own economic resilience and sustainability

but also contributes to Europe's global competitiveness in AgTech. As these technologies continue to evolve, Ukraine is well-positioned to thrive in the post-war era, setting a standard for innovation and sustainable growth in agriculture.

A close-up photograph of a hand gently touching a wheat stalk. The background is a soft-focus field of golden wheat under warm, natural light. The hand is positioned in the upper right quadrant, with fingers delicately grazing the grain. The overall mood is one of care and connection to nature.

The CAP Challenge

A Manageable Transition



The potential integration of Ukraine into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has sparked extensive debate, particularly regarding its financial implications and structural challenges.

However, framing Ukraine's inclusion as an insurmountable burden overlooks the immense opportunities it offers. With thoughtful reforms and strategic adjustments, integrating Ukraine into the CAP can be a manageable transition that strengthens both Ukraine's agricultural sector and the EU's long-term objectives.

The CAP plays a critical role in stabilizing agricultural markets, supporting farmers through subsidies, and shaping agricultural strategies across the EU. Subsidies, allocated based on farm size, constitute over half of EU farmers' incomes and represent roughly one-third of the EU's budget. When Ukraine joins the EU, its vast agricultural sector—comprising approximately 30 million hectares of fertile soil—may become the bloc's largest CAP beneficiary. Estimates suggest that Ukraine could receive up to €96.5 billion in CAP funds, necessitating a 20% reduction in subsidies for existing member states.

Successfully integrating Ukraine into the CAP would likely require significant reforms to balance funding distribution and address structural disparities.

The structural differences between Ukrainian and EU agriculture intensify the challenges. Ukrainian farms average 485 hectares, dwarfing the 30-hectare average in France and the 8-hectare average in Poland. This disparity favors Ukraine's large agroholdings under the CAP's current allocation formula, potentially exacerbating tensions with smaller, family-run farms prevalent in the EU.

Several approaches could be considered:

- **External Convergence of Payments:**

Adjusting payments to align with the EU average per hectare, considering both farm size and regional factors. The CAP budget could be reallocated to favor smaller enterprises, balancing the dominance of large Ukrainian farm complexes. Additionally, external convergence of payments could be implemented to ensure a more equitable distribution of direct support, aligning payments among member states. This policy would determine each state's average payment per hectare not only by farm size but also in relation to the EU average payment per hectare. This approach would theoretically reduce disparities between member states and facilitate a smoother accession process for Ukraine.

- **Phased Integration:**

Drawing on the precedent of the 2004 EU enlargement, a gradual phasing-in period for Ukraine's CAP participation could help mitigate the budgetary impact and allow member states time to adapt.¹⁸

- **Revising Allocation Criteria:**

Reforming the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) allocation criteria to consider not only agricultural land but also environmental and social objectives. This approach could transform CAP into a tool for sustainability and rural development while managing the impact of Ukraine's accession.

Negotiations over CAP reform and Ukraine's accession terms will shape the path forward.

These discussions will be crucial in balancing the interests of current member states with the opportunities presented by Ukraine's integration.

In the long term, Ukraine's inclusion in the EU could catalyze CAP reforms that not only address budgetary challenges but also align the policy with modern priorities such as environmental sustainability, global food security, and rural development. Such integration would strengthen the EU's agricultural sector while promoting a resilient and competitive future for European and Ukrainian farmers.

Despite concerns over CAP spending, Ukraine's agricultural sector operates with far lower subsidies than its EU counterparts, demonstrating remarkable efficiency and competitiveness. Ukrainian farms have consistently delivered high yields at low costs, even in challenging conditions, minimizing the need for extensive financial support. Integrating Ukraine's efficient practices could inspire greater productivity and innovation across the EU. It is worth mentioning that, despite various opinions, Ukraine boasts a diverse agricultural sector comprising both small family farmers and large agricultural enterprises. Large enterprises do not displace small farmers; instead, each market segment finds its niche. Large companies focus

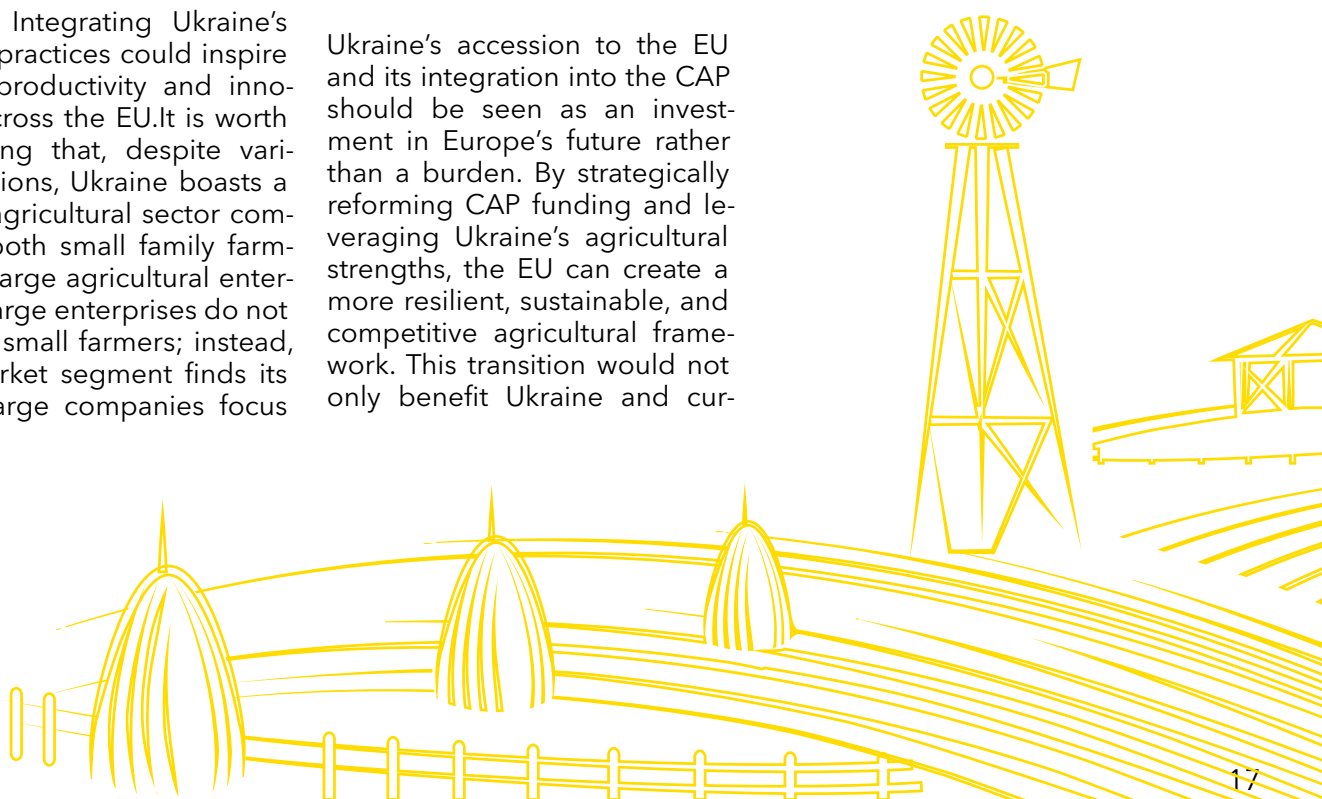
on mass production and export, while small farmers specialize in organic products, niche crops, or local markets. This creates added value and enables small farmers to join value chains with the larger enterprises.

Concerns among EU farmers about competition could be alleviated if Ukrainian exports remain primarily directed toward established markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. By channeling its agricultural products to these third markets—where Ukraine has traditionally been a key supplier—competitive pressures within the EU could be minimized. This approach would not only protect the interests of EU farmers but also bolster the EU's position as a global leader in the food market.

Ukraine's accession to the EU and its integration into the CAP should be seen as an investment in Europe's future rather than a burden. By strategically reforming CAP funding and leveraging Ukraine's agricultural strengths, the EU can create a more resilient, sustainable, and competitive agricultural framework. This transition would not only benefit Ukraine and cur-

rent member states but also position the EU as a global leader in agriculture and food security. By adding Ukraine's agricultural capacity, the EU would become the world's leading exporter of wheat, surpassing Russia. With collaboration and foresight, the challenges of CAP integration can be transformed into a shared success story for Europe.

Moreover, Ukraine's alignment with EU standards would preserve its fertile soils and boost organic farming, meeting the rising demand for sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices. These benefits extend beyond Europe, contributing to global food security in a time of increasing climate unpredictability.



Trade Integration

Opportunities for the EU from Ukraine's Agricultural Sector

Ukraine's agricultural exports have long played a stabilizing role in European and global markets, and its potential integration into the EU represents a unique opportunity to strengthen trade relations.

While concerns about competition from Ukraine's agricultural sector are valid, they are often overstated. For Ukraine, the EU has always been a crucial trade partner, a relationship that has intensified since Russia's full-scale war of aggression began. In 2022, trade in goods with the EU exceeded half of Ukraine's total trade in goods, up from a stable 40% in previous years. Despite this increase, Ukraine's role as an EU trade partner remains relatively minor. The share of trade with Ukraine was less than one percentage point of the EU's total trade in 2022, almost unchanged compared to 2021.

Ukraine's membership could deliver substantial benefits, including stabilizing food prices, reducing import dependence, and enhancing the EU's strategic autonomy in agriculture.

Ukrainian agricultural exports have been instrumental in curbing agricultural inflation in Europe. In 2023, the European Commission acknowledged that Ukrainian products helped stabilize food prices amid supply chain disruptions caused by adverse weather conditions. For European consumers, this has meant greater access to affordable staples, including bread, milk, eggs, and oils, at a time when food inflation reached an unprecedented 14% in August 2022.

Ukraine's steady supply of grains and oilseeds has also mitigated shortages in years of EU crop failures. For example, during the 2022/2023 marketing season, Ukraine supplied 22 million tons of grain to the EU, including 15 million tons of corn, addressing critical gaps caused by unfavorable climatic conditions. This role as a stabilizing force in European food markets underscores Ukraine's value as a reliable agricultural partner.

The EU remains heavily dependent on imports of critical agricultural products, such as soybeans, with 80% sourced from Brazil, Canada and the United States. Ukraine's agricultural sector offers a solution by providing a stable and sustainable alternative. Ukrainian soybean production, nearly double the EU's output, could reduce this dependency, offering European livestock farmers a local and reliable supply of feed proteins.

This shift aligns with the EU's broader goals of reducing vulnerability to external shocks and enhancing strategic autonomy in agriculture.

By incorporating Ukraine's agricultural capacity, the EU can strengthen its self-reliance in plant proteins and other essential commodities.

As climate change increases the frequency of extreme weather events, Ukraine's agricultural exports provide the EU with a buffer against market volatility. Reliable partners like Ukraine are critical in stabilizing food supplies during periods of crop failure or unpredictable weather. The country's agricultural potential, supported by its vast black soils and advanced production methods, positions it as an essential ally in addressing Europe's climate-related agricultural challenges.

The integration of Ukrainian agriculture into the EU creates opportunities for both sides. European companies benefit from access to cost-effective Ukrainian raw materials, which support domestic processing industries and make food more affordable for consumers. In return, Ukraine gains predictable access to EU markets, ensuring long-term cooperation and regional economic stability.

Evidence of this mutual benefit is clear. In 2022, countries

like Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria saw record agricultural export growth—ranging from 23% to 37%—driven by the processing and re-exporting of Ukrainian agricultural products. For example:

- Poland's poultry production increased by 7.5%, supported by Ukrainian grain imports.
- Bulgaria's vegetable oil exports surged by 145%, bolstered by Ukrainian oilseed imports.

This interdependence highlights the potential for EU-Ukraine trade to benefit a wide range of stakeholders, from farmers and processors to consumers.

By channeling Ukrainian products to traditional third markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, competitive pressures within the EU can be eased. This approach would strengthen the EU's global position in the food trade while maintaining solidarity among member states. A transparent, balanced, and collaborative trade framework will ensure that Ukraine's integration into the EU benefits all parties, fostering a stable, interconnected, and resilient agri-food system.

Conclusion:

A Partnership for the Future

Ukraine's membership in the EU represents more than a political milestone; it is an opportunity to build a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agricultural future for Europe. By embracing Ukraine as a partner, the EU can secure a stable food supply, advance its environmental goals, and strengthen economic ties that benefit all member states. The seeds of change are already planted - now it is time to cultivate this partnership and reap the rewards of a united agricultural vision.



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