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## Ukraine's Strategic Role and Challenges in the Global Food Market

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**Abstract.** *This paper provides a thorough analysis of Ukraine's position in the global food market, focusing specifically on the country's role as a major agricultural producer and exporter within the context of evolving geopolitical and economic conditions. This research aims to analyse the driving forces behind trends in Ukraine's agricultural exports, assess the impact of the war on production capacity and logistics, and propose strategic measures to strengthen Ukraine's position in the global food trade. This subject is relevant because Ukraine's contribution to global food security is critical, particularly in light of recent supply chain shocks and increased volatility in international markets. The present study employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating quantitative data analysis of production levels and exports, examination of trade routes and market diversification, and systematic review of agricultural policy and logistical challenges. The research indicates that despite the considerable destruction to its infrastructure and loss of arable land, Ukraine still has the potential to contribute a significant share of international commodities such as wheat, corn, barley, and sunflower oil. However, the research points towards certain disadvantages of low diversification of the export food products, reliance on traditional markets, logistic bottlenecks, and lack of value-added processing capacity. The article also highlights possible opportunities for modernisation by embracing new technologies, digitalisation, organic farming practices, and diversification of new Asian and European trade unions, which are all already being partially practised in Ukraine. The study emphasises the importance of state support and regulatory reform in shaping an investor-friendly environment and enhancing regimes of export facilitation. The practical application of this study is twofold: firstly, it provides effective recommendations for policymakers, farmers, and foreign investors who wish to support Ukraine's recovery of the agriculture sector, improve the resilience of the food supply chain, and secure Ukraine's future status as a stable, competitive, and responsible world food producer; secondly, it provides a framework for analysing the impact of the war on Ukraine's agricultural sector.*

**Keywords:** Ukraine, global food market, agricultural exports, the breadbasket of Europe, food security, full-scale invasion, Black Sea Grain Initiative.

**JEL Classification:** F14, Q17, Q18, O52

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### 1 Introduction

In the contemporary global context, characterised by the steady growth of the global population, mounting concerns regarding global food security, and the volatility of the global agricultural market, the significance of Ukraine as a major player in the global food market is escalating. This role cannot

be disregarded. The novelty of this research is that it focuses on the changing potential of Ukrainian agricultural exports during the present geopolitical uncertainty, and their evolution into a competitive and sustainable global food supplier. The present study considers the particular pertinence of this subject in the context of the substantial Russian

invasion of 2022, which exerted a considerable impact on Ukraine's agricultural production and supply chain logistics, whilst simultaneously exposing the capacities and vulnerabilities of global food supply chains.

This research aims to examine the position of Ukraine in the international trade of food, evaluate the effect of the war on its agri-food exports, and provide recommendations on how to increase Ukraine's position in international food trade. To this end, the following research goals have been defined:

1. To examine the agricultural export dynamics of Ukraine prior to the full-scale invasion.
2. To assess the effects of the war on agricultural exports and analyse adaptive logistic solutions.
3. To develop strategic directions for enhancing the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of Ukraine in global food markets.

The methodological foundation of the study is the quantitative and qualitative examination of Ukrainian state statistics, data from foreign organisations (Eurostat, FAOSTAT, USDA), and other reliable sources. The research employs a range of research methods, including desk research, comparative analysis, and systematic synthesis, to explore trends, disruption, and the recovery process.

The development of Ukraine's agricultural sector and its impact on global food security are subjects of extensive research by both domestic and international scientists. In particular, Pitel N. (2023) focuses on the challenges faced by Ukrainian agrarian exports during a full-scale invasion, analysing the reduction in supply volumes, logistics problems, and financial risks. In turn, Countryman, A. M., Litvinov, V., Kolodiazhnyi, I., Bogonos, M., & Nivievskyi, O. (2024) assess the global economic effect of the decrease in Ukrainian agricultural shipments to food markets, noting the importance of the "grain initiative" for safe supply to world markets. In their 2022 study, Nehrey and Trofimtseva (2022) consider the problems of the functioning of the agrarian sector of Ukraine during the war, outlining the loss of productive capacity, the breaking of supply chains, and the loss of consumers' purchasing power. Meanwhile, Shubravska and Prokopenko (2022) examine the state of agriculture before the invasion and outline the paths of its post-war development. The strategic importance of Ukraine for global food security in the context of modern challenges is emphasised in publications by Halkin (2024), Bogoroditska, Voitov and Zhyr (2024), and Mostenska (2024). Cherep A., Vienožinskienė M., Chorna L., Kudljanka S. and Mostenska T.G. (2024). These

publications consider an integrated approach to forming national food policy and ensuring a sustainable supply of agricultural products.

Moreover, particular importance is attributed to research into the competitiveness of Ukrainian agricultural produce in foreign markets, export diversification and transportation barriers (Babets I., Vlasenko L., Fleychuk M., Nakonechna N., & Salamin O., 2024; Matuszak S., 2021), and international food security issues, as well as the role of Ukraine as an important raw material and finished goods provider for developing countries. It is evident from the findings of these studies that the agricultural exports of Ukraine hold significant scientific and practical value in elucidating contemporary global trends in food trade. The post-war reconstruction, modernisation and sustainable development issues of the agrarian sector are of paramount importance and warrant further scientific investigation.

The argument of the presentation is equivalent to the research objectives. The initial segment examines Ukraine's pre-war performance and the historical context of its agricultural exports, underscoring the pivotal role it plays in global food security. The second segment of this study discusses the impact of war on Ukraine's agricultural exports and marks out changes that have made it possible for the country to restore its trade to some degree. The third section of this study outlines key strategies for maximising Ukraine's place in the global food market. These strategies include diversification, modernisation, sustainability, and positive state policy.

## **2. Analysis of Ukrainian Agricultural Exports and Their Position in Global Food Trade**

Ukraine is considered to be one of the primary global guarantors of food security, a position that can be attributed to its historically robust food exports. Following the dissolution of collective farms and the introduction of private ownership of agricultural land, Ukraine has witnessed a consistent enhancement in both the productivity and the volume of its agricultural exports.

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in 2020, 41.3 million hectares, representing 68.5% of Ukraine's total land surface, were utilised for agricultural purposes. Arable lands constituted approximately 32.7 million hectares of this agricultural area. In contrast, France and Spain accounted for the largest proportion of the EU's 157 million hectares utilised for agricultural production in the same year, with 27.4 million and 23.9 million hectares of used agricultural land, respectively (Eurostat, 2022).

Ukraine is ideally suited to agriculture, boasting generally level terrain, a moderate continental climate and sufficient rainfall. Its extensive network of rivers, including the Dnipro and Dniester, as well as over 3,000 lakes, provides an abundant water supply. Perhaps most importantly of all, Ukraine's extremely fertile soils, particularly the nutrient-rich black earth known as chernozem, cover nearly two-thirds of the country, earning it the nickname "the breadbasket of Europe" (Matuszak, 2021).

In 2013, agriculture accounted for 27% of Ukraine's exports, with metallurgy coming in second at 28%. By 2021, agriculture had overtaken metallurgy to reach a post-independence peak, accounting for 41% of exports, valued at 27.71 billion USD, as shown in Figure 1 (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025).

For many years, international demand for Ukrainian crops was very strong, as a result of which corn, wheat, barley, sunflower oil, and sunflower meal accounted for about one-third of the country's total exports and over 70% of Ukrainian agri-food exports in the pre-war years (Shubravska & Prokopenko, 2022).

Ukraine has maintained its position as a major agricultural producer and exporter, playing a pivotal role in addressing the global food crisis. In the 2021/22 marketing year, it was the leading producer of sunflower seeds and the largest exporter of sunflower oil and meal, with 46% and 54% of global exports, respectively. Ukraine was also the

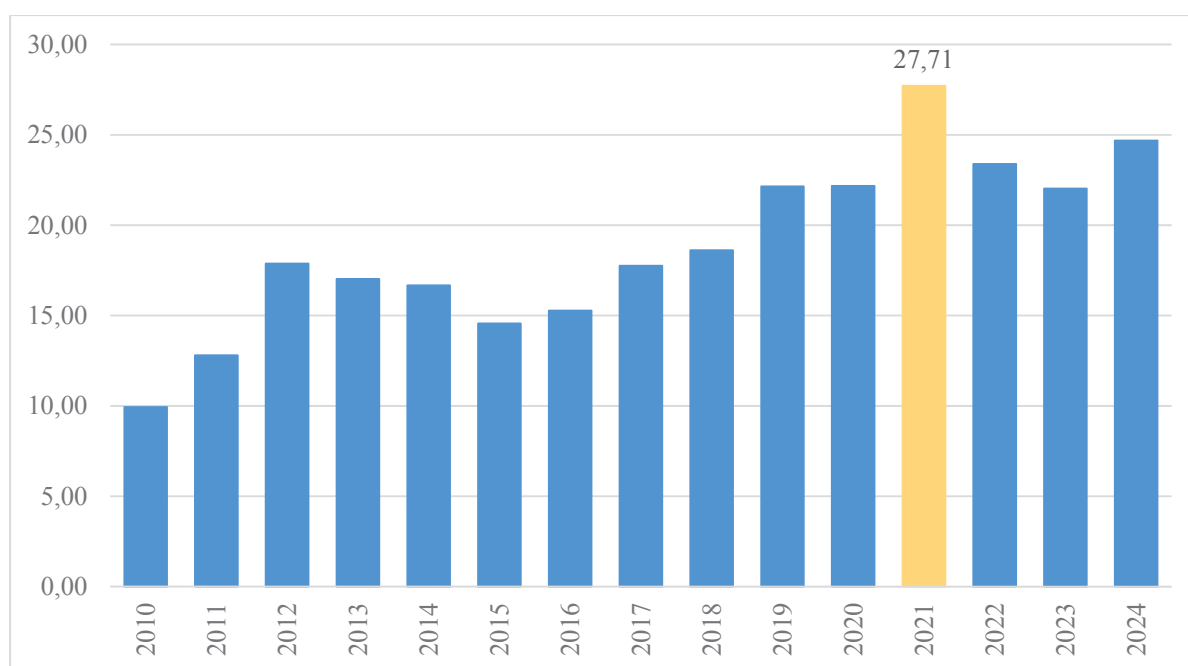
third exporter of barley and rapeseed and took fourth place among global exporters of corn (Foreign Agricultural Service & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, 2022) (Table 1).

Furthermore, as demonstrated in Table 1, Ukraine is positioned as the fifth largest global exporter of wheat, with the United States, Canada, Australia, and Russia constituting the top four exporters. It has been determined that the country in question controls between 5% and 9% of the world's wheat export market, and is Europe's largest wheat exporter (FAOSTAT, 2024).

In the period preceding the war, Ukrainian agri-food products experienced a steady expansion of their market share in the EU, as well as in African and Asian countries. It is noteworthy that Asia has emerged as the predominant market for wheat, barley, and sunflower oil, while Europe has dominated the rapeseed import sector (International Grains Council, 2022) (Figure 2).

In 2021, based on OEC, the most significant destinations included:

- Asia: China (14,5%), India (6,69%), Turkey (4,98%), Saudi Arabia (2,71%), Pakistan (2,68%), Indonesia (2,45%);
- Europe: the Netherlands (5,73%), Spain (4,02%), Poland (3,35%), Germany (2,74%), Italy (2,5%), the United Kingdom (2,02%);
- Africa: Egypt (5,75%), Nigeria (2,01%), Ethiopia (1,82%), Morocco (1,38%), Libya (1,29%), Tunisia (1,12%).



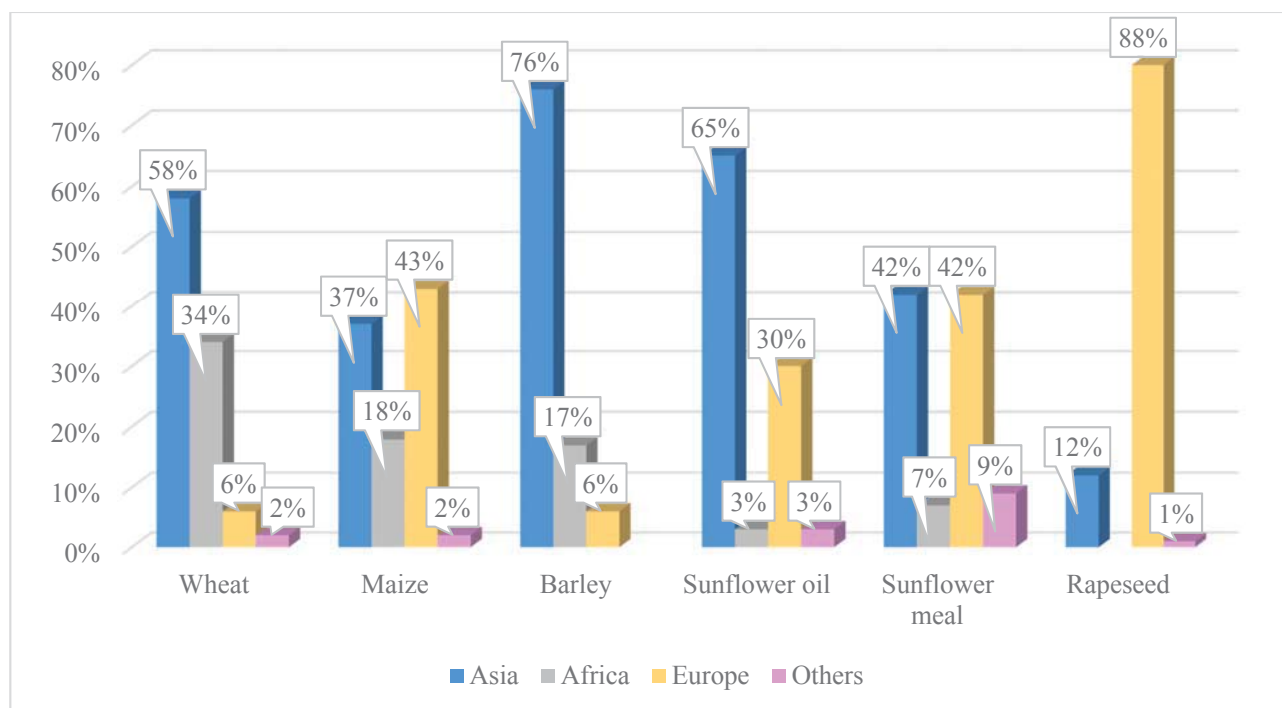
**Figure 1** The dynamics of export of agricultural products in Ukraine, 2010–2024, billion USD

Source: created by the authors based on the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025

**Table 1** Ukraine's agricultural production and exports in 2021/22 marketing year

Product	Production			Exports		
	Volume (bn tons)	Rank among global producers	% of global production	Volume (bn tons)	Rank among global exporters	% of global exporters
Maize	41,90	№ 6	3,5%	23,00	№ 4	12,0%
Wheat	33,00	№ 7	4,3%	19,00	№ 5	9,0%
Sunflower	17,50	№ 1	30,6%	75,00	№ 9	3,0%
Barley	9,90	№ 4	6,8%	5,80	№ 3	17,0%
Sunflower oil	5,68	№ 2	30,6%	4,95	№ 1	46,0%
Sunflower meal	5,45	№ 2	27,5%	4,10	№ 1	54,0%
Rapeseed	3,02	№ 6	4,4%	2,70	№ 3	20,0%

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, 2022

**Figure 2** Average export share of agricultural products of Ukraine by destination, 2016/17–2020/21

Source: structured by the authors based on the International Grains Council, 2022

Moreover, as can be seen in Table 2, the EU, China and India were the largest trade partners for all commodities, highlighting Ukraine's strategic location in the context of international agricultural markets and food security.

Moreover, a preponderance of importer nations – including Egypt, Bangladesh, Yemen, Libya, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Kenya, and Pakistan – are confronted with pervasive food insecurity issues, attributable to population growth, armed conflict, or economic turbulence. During the period 2016/17–2020/21, Ukraine exported

millions of tons of wheat, maize, and other staple grains to these vulnerable countries: an annual total of 5.3 million tons is exported to Egypt, 1.6 million tons to Bangladesh, and close to 0.5 million tons to Yemen (International Grains Council, 2022).

Such exports are of critical importance in ensuring the stabilisation and affordability of food in these nations, thereby mitigating the risk of hunger and promoting food security. Ukraine's strategic position in ensuring the stability of global grain supplies and mitigating food insecurity in vulnerable regions is of paramount importance.

**Table 2** Top markets for Ukraine's agricultural exports by commodities in 2021 calendar year, in USD

Product	Value	Top markets		
TOTAL	27,7 billion	EU – 7,7B	China – 4,2B	India – 2,0B
Sunflower oil	6,4 billion	India – 1,9B	EU – 1,9B	China – 0,9B
Maize	5,9 billion	China – 1,9B	EU – 1,8B	Egypt – 0,5B
Wheat	5,1 billion	Egypt – 0,9B	Indonesia – 0,7B	Turkey – 0,4B
Rapeseed	1,7 billion	EU – 1,1B	Pakistan – 0,2B	UK – 0,2B
Barley	1,3 billion	China – 0,7B	Turkey – 0,2B	S. Arabia – 0,1B
Sunflower oilcake	1,2 billion	China – 0,6B	EU – 0,3B	Belarus – 0,1B

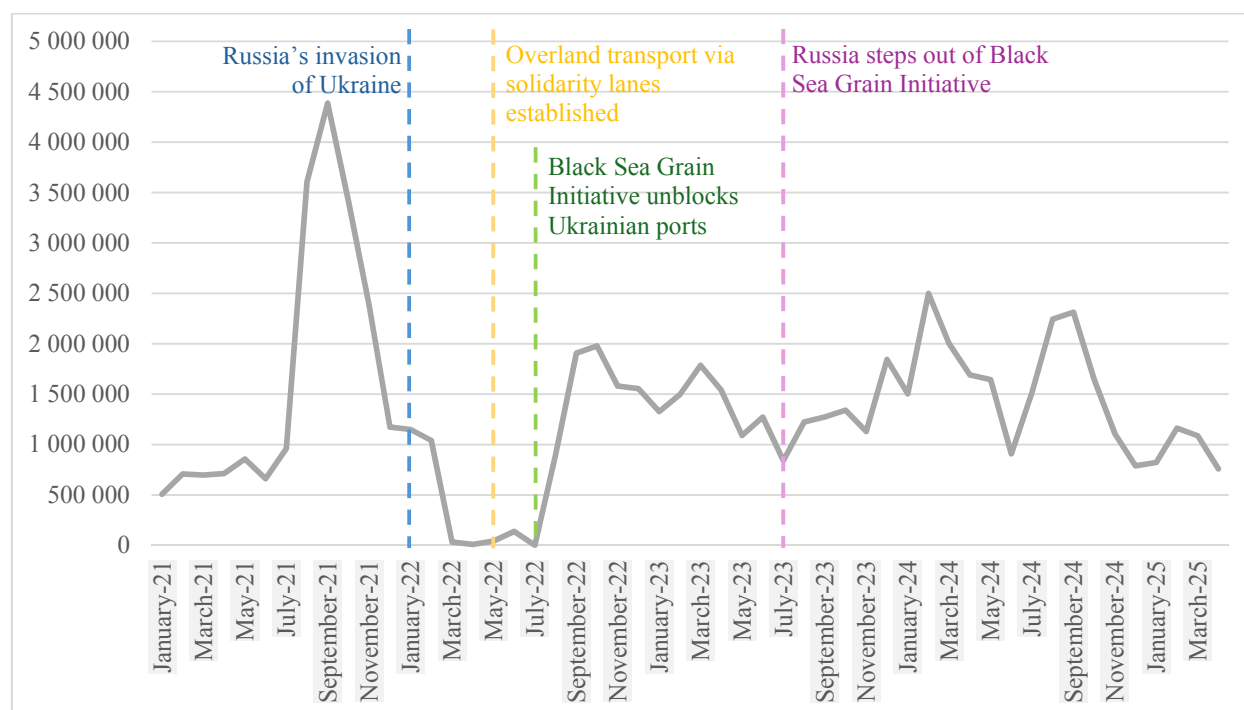
Source: Foreign Agricultural Service & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, 2022

### 3. Impact of the Ongoing War on Ukraine's Agricultural Exports

Since the commencement of the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, Ukrainian agriculture has suffered considerable losses with regard to resources and infrastructure. A significant number of grain storage facilities have been destroyed, damaged, or occupied. It is estimated that 20–25% of the land is mined or otherwise inaccessible. A considerable proportion of agricultural land has remained fallow for extended periods due to the risk of landmines, while other areas are occupied or situated in proximity to active conflict zones, where agricultural activity is considered too hazardous.

In the aftermath of the war, there has been a precipitous decline in Ukraine's exports, with figures showing a 90% decrease. This has given rise to significant global concerns regarding food security, particularly in countries that are reliant on imports (see Figure 3). The disruption has resulted in food shortages and rising prices on the international market.

In addition to the appropriation of Ukraine's most fertile agricultural terrain, the Russian Federation has implemented a blockade of major Ukrainian Black Sea ports, including Odesa and Mykolaiv, with the objective of impeding the transportation of grain. In the context of the war, the primary mode of transportation for Ukrainian farmers was

**Figure 3** The dynamics of Ukraine's wheat exports, 2021–March 2025, in tons

Source: structured by the authors based on European Council & Council of the European Union and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, 2025



by sea. However, the conflict compelled them to explore alternative shipping routes, particularly the utilisation of land routes through EU countries. This has given rise to a number of new challenges, including congestion at the borders, limited rail and river transportation, and the volatility of customs procedures.

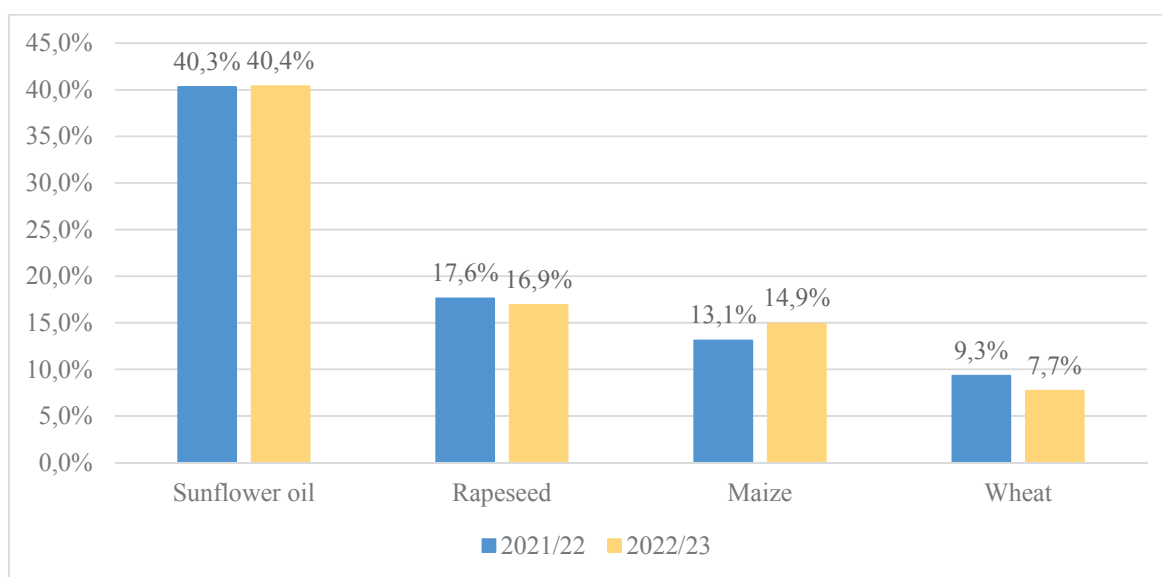
In terms of both financial efficiency and temporal expediency, maritime transportation has been demonstrated to be the optimal *modus operandi* for the delivery of products to consumers. Consequently, historically, Ukraine exported approximately 5–6 million tons of grain per month, predominantly via its seaports. In March 2022, Ukraine's grain exports amounted to only 0.2 million tons. However, by April, this figure had increased significantly to 1.2 million tons, primarily transported by rail. The nation also made use of its ports on the Danube, accessible by a number of maritime vessels. As a consequence of a reorganisation of export channels, Ukraine exported 1.74 million tons of grains and oilseeds, and agricultural products, by all transport means in May (Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, 2022).

Furthermore, the European Commission initiated the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes in May 2022, with the objective of facilitating the export of Ukrainian agricultural produce through alternative land routes (see Figure 3). The initiatives encompassed the provision of transport vehicles, the streamlining of logistics processes, the facilitation of customs procedures, and the storage of goods within the European Union. To date, the export of grain and oilseeds has exceeded 48 million tonnes (European Commission, 2024).

In July 2022, the UN-facilitated Black Sea Grain Initiative, overseen by Turkey, temporarily reopened Ukrainian ports (Figure 3). Nearly 33 million tonnes of agricultural products were shipped out, 65% of which was wheat destined for developing countries (European Council & Council of the European Union, 2025). Even after the grain deal expired in July 2023 when Russia declined to extend it, Ukraine and its allies found alternative ways of exporting grain. Ukraine continues to export grain via a second Black Sea corridor, transporting wheat overland through neighbouring countries. This minimised the risk of Russian interference by hugging the borders of allied Bulgaria and Romania.

In addition, Ukraine initiated the Grain from Ukraine program, which involved the export of substantial quantities of grain to areas experiencing severe food insecurity. As a result of the programme, 170,000 tons of wheat have been exported by Ukraine to Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, facilitated by Khartoum. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has stated that Nigeria, Sudan, Mozambique/Malawi, Madagascar, Djibouti, Liberia, Mauritania, Lebanon, and other nations are scheduled to participate in the program.

Consequently, the position of Ukraine in the global food market underwent a shift during the full-scale invasion. Initially, a number of products experienced a decline in their respective positions within the export rankings of global agricultural produce. However, Ukraine was able to retain them to a significant extent and occasionally advance (Figure 4). The primary factors contributing to this upward trend were the increased accessibility of



**Figure 4.** Share of Ukraine in world exports of agricultural products, %

Source: structured by the authors based on TOP Lead & Latifundist Media, 2023

the European market for certain products and the resumption of production and exportation.

Nowadays, agriculture remains Ukraine's largest export sector, accounting for over half of its GDP. In March 2025 alone, the country exported agricultural goods worth 2.1 billion USD to 36 countries, including 5.4 million tonnes of corn (514 million USD), sunflower oil (503 million USD), wheat (254 million USD), soybeans (150 million USD) and chicken meat (95 million USD). According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, food accounted for 58% of Ukraine's total 3.6 billion USD of exports in March 2025.

Nevertheless, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine remains the primary barrier to the growth of its export share. It is evident that the Russian Federation continues to engage in hostile actions against Ukrainian ports situated along the Danube River and in the city of Odesa. The consequences of this are twofold, both for Ukraine's export capacities and its ports, grain storage facilities and ships. These measures are intended to jeopardise global food security, in addition to impeding Ukrainian exports. Furthermore, Russia has disregarded the ongoing peace talks in the Black Sea and has continued its attacks on Ukrainian port facilities.

#### **4. Strategies for Strengthening Ukraine's Position in the Global Food Trade**

Ukraine's potential to enhance its position in the global food trade is significant, given its abundant natural resources, specialised agricultural sector, and advantageous geographical location. The enhancement of Ukraine's involvement in international food trade is of paramount importance for the promotion of economic growth, the maintenance of currency stability, and the facilitation of post-war rehabilitation, given that the agricultural industry supplies a considerable share of GDP, exports, and employment. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that the nation's political authority is thereby strengthened on the international stage, that it is enabled to make a significant impact on the realm of international food security, and that it is able to reduce its dependence on foreign financial aid. By establishing itself as a reliable provider of ethical oil and grain to numerous countries, Ukraine not only contributes to the development of its own economy but also cultivates its reputation as a responsible, strategically significant partner on the global stage.

In order to realise the potential of Ukraine, it is necessary to implement a package of measures including export diversification, increasing competitiveness, sustainable development of agriculture, digitalisation, and government support.

1. Of paramount importance is the necessity to focus on the diversification of agricultural exports. The Ukrainian agricultural sector continues to prioritise the export of raw materials, including grain, corn, and sunflower oil. In order to enhance sustainability and profitability, it is imperative to expand the range of exported products, primarily by cultivating regions for the production of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, and foodstuffs with high added value. Investments in the processing industry will facilitate the entry into new markets and allow for higher margins due to the sale of finished products instead of raw materials.

It is important to note the significance of geographical diversification of sales markets separately. It is evident that traditional markets, such as those of the European Union, China and Turkey, continue to wield significant influence. However, in light of the prevailing geopolitical turbulence and competitive dynamics, there is an imperative for the proactive promotion of Ukrainian products in the markets of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. In order to achieve this objective, it is essential to employ effective trade diplomacy, participate in international exhibitions, and conclude free trade agreements with new partners.

2. It is imperative that the competitiveness of Ukrainian goods is enhanced through the implementation of innovative technologies and adherence to international standards. The implementation of advanced technologies, including precision farming, satellite monitoring, agricultural platforms for production accounting, drones, and automated warehouse complexes, has been demonstrated to enhance product quality while concomitantly reducing expenditures. Concurrently, certification of goods in accordance with HACCP, ISO, and GLOBAL G.A.P. standards facilitates access to high-income markets.

3. Logistics remains a critical factor for agricultural exports. It is imperative to establish alternative transport routes, particularly Danube ports, railway lines to EU countries, and augmented capacities for transshipment and product storage. In this particular context, it is imperative that agricultural enterprises make a concerted effort to capitalise on the opportunity to obtain the status of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO). The status in question confers a number of advantages, including customs simplifications, priority border crossing, a reduction in inspections, and acceleration of export-import procedures. This latter benefit is especially salient in conditions of martial law.

4. Concurrently, it is imperative to acknowledge the pivotal role of sustainable development in the agricultural sector, encompassing initiatives such

as greening, the provision of support to small and medium-sized farmers, and the judicious utilisation of resources. The export potential of organic farming products is significant, with demand for products bearing the "organic" label being high in the EU, the USA, and Japan. The promotion of the development of small and medium-sized farms through access to finance, knowledge, and technology will contribute not only to increased production but also to the socio-economic development of rural communities.

5. It is imperative that state policy assumes an active role in the support of agricultural exports. In order to ensure a favourable investment climate, it is necessary to simplify regulatory procedures, to offer

tax incentives, and to interact transparently with businesses. Furthermore, the development of export support instruments is recommended, including risk insurance, credit guarantees, product promotion in international markets, and the expansion of presence in trade representations abroad. In the contemporary era, there is a necessity to modernise the institutional infrastructure. This process entails the establishment of effective bodies that will be engaged in the promotion of exports, the digitalisation of the agricultural sector, and the support of innovations.

In the contemporary era, a significant proportion of these areas of improvement have been introduced, with others in the process of implementation (see Table 3). Consequently, the endeavour to enhance

**Table 3** Examples of implementing strategic measures to increase the efficiency of Ukrainian agricultural exports

Strategy	Strategy implementation practices
<b>Export diversification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Companies are expanding their range of value-added exports, including cheeses (e.g., Komo exports cheese to the EU), meat products (MHP exports poultry to over 80 countries), and preserved vegetables (brand like Nizhyn and Veres).</li> <li>Ukraine is increasing its production of niche crops (blueberries, microgreens, asparagus) for export to the EU and UK.</li> <li>The government is actively broadening the geography of exports by signing free trade agreements with countries like Canada, the UK, and the UAE.</li> </ul>
<b>Increasing competitiveness through innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ukrainian farms use yield monitoring systems (e.g., AgriChain, Cropwise), drones for crop treatments, and satellite imagery for field analysis.</li> <li>More and more agricultural enterprises are increasingly seeking and receiving certification under international standards. For example, Kernel Holding maintains various international certifications, including ISO 9001, ISO 22000 (HACCP), IFS, BRCGS, GMP+R 1.0, and ISCC EU, across its diverse agricultural operations to meet global quality and safety standards.</li> <li>Investment in processing capacity (e.g., Oliyar's sunflower oil refineries produce high-value, refined oil for export).</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics optimisation and trade facilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the blockade of Black Sea ports, Danube ports (Izmail, Reni, Kiliya) have increased grain and sunflower oil transshipment five- to six-fold in 2022.</li> <li>Expansion of railway connections with Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary for smoother agricultural exports to the EU.</li> <li>Almost 100 Ukrainian companies have been granted AEO status, which speeds up customs clearance and reduces border delays. Among the agricultural firms are Radekhivskyi Sugar LLC, Agrosem, Oliyar.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable agricultural development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 600 organic farms in Ukraine (e.g., EtnoProdukt, Organic Milk) are certified and export to Germany, the USA, and Japan.</li> <li>Grant programs from USAID AGRO and EU projects support small farms and co-operatives in upgrading equipment and technology.</li> <li>Government programs encourage renewable energy adoption in agriculture, installing solar panels on silos and biogas units at farms to reduce energy costs.</li> </ul>
<b>State support and policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The "Affordable Loans 5-7-9%" program provides financing to farmers to grow their business despite the war.</li> <li>The Export Credit Agency offers insurance for international shipments, mitigating risks for exporters.</li> <li>The Ministry of Agrarian Policy simplifies licensing and export permits and has launched the State Agrarian Registry for transparent administration of subsidies and grants.</li> <li>Ukraine actively participates in international trade fairs (e.g., SIAL Paris, Gulfood Dubai) to promote its "Made in Ukraine" brand worldwide.</li> </ul>

Source: structured by the authors



Ukraine's standing in the global food trade is not merely hypothetical; it is grounded in tangible initiatives that can be expanded and strengthened.

Consequently, the enhancement of Ukraine's standing in the global food trade should be accomplished through a systemic approach, encompassing the advancement of processing, digitalisation, environmental modernisation, logistical mobility, and proactive integration into the global economic framework. This will enable Ukraine to maintain its position as a major producer of food for Europe, whilst also becoming a modern, secure, and competitive food producer on the global market.

### 5. Conclusions

The study confirmed Ukraine's important role in global food trade and determined its agriculture as an economic and geopolitical strategic asset. A review of Ukraine's export statistics prior to the war indicates that the country was a major player in the global trade of cereals, oilseeds, and associated food products. Notwithstanding the robust foundations upon which the system was established, a major Russian invasion has had a substantial deleterious effect on production, transportation and entry into the set export routes. However, Ukraine has demonstrated its capacity for resilience and adaptability by implementing alternative routes, re-routing exports through European transportation networks, and participating in global support initiatives such as the EU Solidarity Lanes and the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The findings further demonstrate that, despite incurred losses, Ukraine maintains its position as a pivotal supplier to vulnerable nations, ensuring their food security. Recent data pertaining to the agricultural sector have indicated its strength and flexibility, thus affirming its leading role in the national economy.

The recovery and improvement of Ukrainian export performance is contingent upon the cessation of hostilities. It is imperative to acknowledge the significance of this not only in global terms but also with regard to Ukraine. The revenue generated from each export is allocated towards the protection of the nation, thereby underscoring the crucial role exports play in the ongoing efforts to counter Russia. Thus, capturing this role in global food commerce requires a wide-ranging approach that includes:

- Broadening the range of exported products and developing value-added food processing.
- Diversification of export markets to reduce dependence on old partners.
- Adopting advanced farm technologies and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Increasing logistics capacity and trade facilitation through institutional support and international partnerships.

Ukraine has the potential to consolidate its position in the global food trade, and is already implementing measures to achieve this objective.

In the forthcoming period, further research and development initiatives are to be pursued. These will include the examination of the impacts of the ongoing conflict on rural livelihoods and land use over the longer term. In addition, the effectiveness of policy reform will be assessed, and models will be developed to illustrate potential investments in processing and logistics capacity. Further investigation is warranted in the following areas: adaptation to climate change; and the digital modalities that enhance agricultural efficiency. Finally, continuous monitoring of global trade dynamics will be critical in informing policy-making that will enable Ukraine to recover and ensure that it remains in the sustainable position of a stable, responsible food exporter to the world.

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