

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE WORLD AGRI-FOOD TRADE AND THE POSITION OF THE EU-28

Agatha POPESCU

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest, 59 Marasti, District 1, 011464, Bucharest, Romania, Phone: +40 21 318 25 64/232, Fax: + 40 21 318 28 88, Email: agatha_popescu@yahoo.com

Corresponding author: agatha_popescu@yahoo.com

Abstract

The purpose of the paper was to present the actual statement of the agri-food trade at world level and by geographical region, the top exporters and importers and the role of the EU-28 in the global trade. The world agricultural trade accounted for USD 3,419 Billion of which 48.31 % export and 51.69 % import in 2013. The annual percentage change was 2.5 % for export and 4 % for import, explained by the low demand in the emergent countries, and increased competitiveness and changes in the international market. The Americas are the top exporting regions of agricultural products with 40.5 % market share. The EU-28 is the top world exporter of agricultural products having 40.01 % market share and also the top world importer with 37.57 % market share. It registered Euro 18.6 Billion surplus in its trade balance due to the contribution of China, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. About 2.8 % of the EU-28 import value came from the least developed countries, representing more than 0.4%, the average of other main suppliers USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Besides the top positions occupied by The EU-28 and the USA, Brazil, India and Argentina have a faster growth rate with a deep impact on the structure of the world agri-food market.

Key words: actual statement, agricultural products, food products, export, import, world trade

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of the global economy, consumers' s income and food demand have had a deep impact on the dynamics of the agricultural production and international trade with agri-food products. [5]

Also the climate conditions, mainly drought and freezing weather and other extreme phenomena, as well as the conflict areas like in the Arabian countries, and Ukraine and the Russian Federation have affected the global agricultural and food output and prices. [8]

The international flows has recorded a fast development in the last decades because of disparities regarding food consumption and food production in various geographical regions. While some high developed countries are important producers and exporters, other countries belonging to the emergent economies have become important exporters of agri-food products.

The top 6 agricultural exporters in the world are EU28, USA, Brazil, China, Canada, Argentina. [5]

The CAP has substantially contributed to the creation and enlargement of the common agricultural market of the EU and to the foundation of the top supplier of agri-food products in the world.

The EU-28 has important commercial relationships and concluded bilateral agreements with over 120 countries and takes part to 30 international conventions. About 80 % of its Extra and Intra-trade with agri-food products is represented by the intra-community trade. The most important EU suppliers of agri-food products on the internal market belong to the EU-15 block whose deliveries represent about 72 % of the total intra community export. It is about the Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain and Italy. France is the most important exporter and importer of the EU-28 both on the intra and extra EU markets. [7]

The Uruguay Round (1994) stimulated the trade with agricultural products eliminating the protectionist measures on the internal markets transforming them in customs taxes, limiting the subsidies which created

distortions in the international markets. The EU reduced the number of guaranteed prices and the aids destined to support the market, and decided to offer direct subsidies per surface unit or animal capita and decoupled aids for agricultural producers.

The EU-28 and the USA having the highest number of agricultural holdings in the world are in a continuous competition for the 1st position in the world export with agricultural products. Also they compete with Canada, New Zealand and Australia, the main exporters as well as with Brazil, which is in the top among the developing countries, and India and China.

Various scenarios and simulations achieved by international organizations and research institutes were involved in finding solutions for customs taxes reduction and internal aids within preferential agreements. As a result, the EU and the USA, as well as Brazil and Argentina have benefited of the import growth at lower prices advantaging consumers, but the poor Caribbean and African countries have lost their preferential access on the European and American markets. In the future, it is needed an agreement where all the countries from various geographical regions of the world to be advantaged. [2]

In this context, the paper goal was to present the actual statement of the world trade with agricultural and food products by geographical region, the top exporting and importing countries and the role of the key player- the EU-28 in the international trade with agri-food products.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to set up this paper, the empirical data were collected from the WTO data bases. The specific indicators reflecting the dynamics and structure of the world agricultural trade and food trade were used to identify the main trends and also the market share allowed to establish the hierarchy of the top exporting and importing countries in the world.

The EU-28 position in the world agri-food trade was analyzed based on its market share

in the global export and, respectively global import, also by means of the weight of extra and intra EU-28 trade, the agri-food trade structure by product and the main trade partners.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The world export of agricultural products accounted for USD 1,652 Billion in 2013, being by 2.5 % higher than in 2012, and having the highest growth rate compared to 2 % registered by other commodities. The share of the export of agricultural products in the world export of commodities was 9.53 %.

The world import of agricultural products recorded USD 1,767 Billion in 2013, being by 4 % higher than in 2012. The weight of the agricultural products import in the world commodity import was also 9.5 %.

The annual percentage change of the export with agricultural products was 3.5 % in the period 2005-2013, 2.5 % in 2012 and 2.5 % in 2013. The import of agricultural products recorded an annual percentage change of 9 % in the period 2005-2013, 22 % in 2012 and 4 % in 2013.

The agricultural production registered an average annual percentage change of 2.5 % in the period 2005-2013, 1.5 % in 2012 and 5.5 % in 2013.(Table 1).

Table 1. Annual percentage change of world agricultural products exports and imports and of world agricultural production (%)

Specification	Value in 2013 USD Billion	Annual percentage change		
		2005-2013	2012	2013
World exports of agricultural products	1,652	3.5	2.5	2.5
World imports of agricultural products	1,767	9	22	4
World agricultural production	-	2.5	1.5	5.5

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [9]

The share of agricultural products in the world commodity export by geographical region has been the following one: Central and South America on the 1st position with a share of 29.5 %, on the 2nd position North America 11 %, on the 3rd position Europe 10.7 %, followed by Africa with 10.3 %.(Table 2).

The share of agricultural products in the world commodity import by geographical region reflected that: on the 1st position came Africa with 15.9 %, on the 2nd position was the Middle East with 13 %, on the 3rd position CIS with 12.6 %, on the 4th position Asia with 9 % and Central and South America with 9 %.(Table 2).

Table 2.The weight of agricultural products in the world commodity export and import by geographical region in 2013

Region	The share of agricultural products in the commodity export (%)	The share of agricultural products in the commodity import (%)
In Total World	9.5	9.5
North America	11.0	6.7
Central and South America	29.5	9.0
Europe	10.7	10.5
CIS	8.9	12.6
Africa	10.3	15.9
Middle East	2.5	13.0
Asia	6.7	9.0

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, 2014, www.wto.org [10]

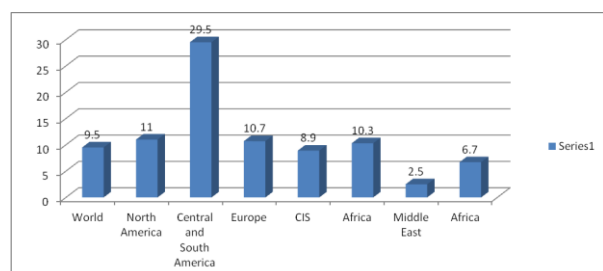


Fig.1.The share of agricultural products in the world commodity export by geographical region in 2013 (%) Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, 2014, www.wto.org. [10]. Own design.

The top 10 countries exporting agricultural products are: EU-28 on the 1st position with a market share of 40.01 % in the world export of agricultural products, USA on the 2nd position with 10.62 %, Brazil on the 3rd

position with 5.49 %, China 4.23 %, Canada 3.98 %, India 2.83 %, Indonesia 2.57 %, Argentina 2.50 %, Thailand 2.43 % and Australia 1.82 %.

All these 10 countries exported agricultural products whose value accounted for USD 1,264.2 Billion in the year 2013, representing 76.52 % of the world export with agricultural products.(Table 3)

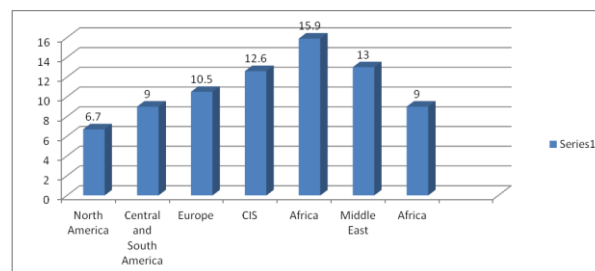


Fig.2.The share of agricultural products in the world commodity import by geographical region in 2013 (%) Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, 2014, [10]www.wto.org.Own design.

Table 3.Top 10 countries exporting agricultural products in 2013

Crt.No.	Country	Export USD Billion	Market share (%)
0	World export of agricultural products	1,652	100.0
1	EU-28 Extra EU-28 exports	661 175.3	40.01
2	USA	175.5	10.62
3	Brazil	90.7	5.49
4	China	70	4.23
5	Canada	65.7	3.98
6	India	46.9	2.83
7	Indonesia	42.6	2.57
8	Argentina	41.4	2.50
9	Thailand	40.3	2.43
10	Australia	30.1	1.82
	TOTAL TOP 10	1,264.2	76.52

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10]Own calculation.

The main countries importing agricultural products are: EU-28 with 37.57 % market share, China 9.36 %, USA 8.29 %, Japan 4.86 %, Russian Fed. 2.52 %, Canada 2.19 %, Rep. Korea 1.89 %, Mexico 1.65 %, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 1.43 %. All these 10 countries accounted for 71.37 % in the world import of agricultural products (Table 4).

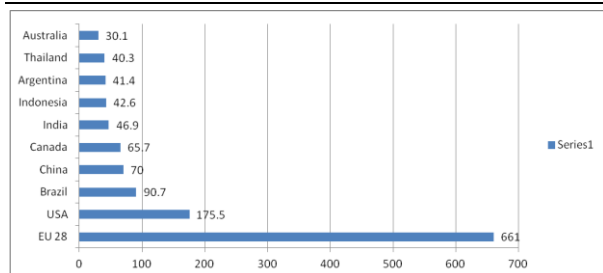


Fig.3. The top 10 countries in the world export of agricultural products in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10]Own design.

Table 4. Top 10 countries importing agricultural products in 2013

Crt.No.	Country	Import USD Billion	Market share (%)
0	World import of agricultural products	1,767	100.0
1	EU-28	664	37,57
	Extra EU-28 imports	178	
2	China	165.5	9.36
3	SUA	146.5	8.29
4	Japan	86	4.86
5	Russian Fed.	44.7	2,52
6	Canada	38,7	2.19
7	Rep. Korea	33.4	1.89
8	Mexico	29.2	1.65
9	Hong Kong China	27.8	1.57
10	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	25.4	1.43
	TOTAL TOP 10	1,261.2	71.37

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct. 2014, www.wto.org, [10]Own calculation.

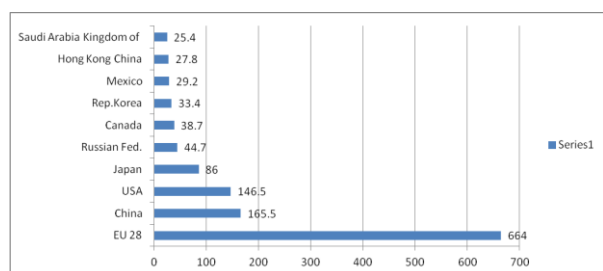


Fig.4. The top 10 countries in the world import of agricultural products in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct. 2014, www.wto.org, [10]Own design.

Europe is the main world supplier of agricultural products, the value of its export being USD 708 Billion in 2013, representing 40.57 % of the world export of agricultural products.

The distribution of the Europe's export of agricultural products by geographical area pointed out that most of the products, more exactly 75.9 %, are exported in the European countries, and the remaining in Asia 7.41 %, in North America 4.2 %, in Africa 4 %, in CIS 3.8 %, in the Middle East 3.4 % and in the Central and South America 1 %.(Table 5).

Table 5. Europe's export of agricultural products in 2013

Region	Export USD Billion	Share by region (%)
World	1,745	-
In Total world	708	100.0
Europe	537	75.9
Asia	52	7.41
North America	29	4.2
Africa	29	4.0
CIS	27	3.8
Middle East	24	3.4
Central and South America	7	1.0

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10]Own calculation.

The EU-28 is the world leader in the export of agricultural products. In the period 2000-2013, its export with agricultural products increased 2.86 times from USD 230.9 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 661 Billion in 2013. The extra UE-28 export of agricultural products increased 3.17 times from USD 55.2 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 175.3 Billion in 2013, and the intra EU-28 export raised 2.76 times from USD 175.7 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 486 Billion in the year 2013 (Table 6).

Table 6. The EU-28 export of agricultural products (USD Billion)

Specification	2000	2013	2013/2000 %
EU-28	230,985	661,002	286.16
-Extra EU-28	55,286	175,332	317.13
-Intra EU-28	175,699	485,650	276.41
Total World Export	550,868	1,652,780	300.03
The EU-28 contribution to the world export (%)	41.93	37.88	-

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10]Own calculation.

The share of the EU-28 export with agricultural products in the world export declined from 41.93 % in the year 2000 to 40.01 % in the year 2013.

The European Union is also on the top position regarding the import of agricultural products. In the period 2000-2013, the import of agricultural products of the UE-28 increased 2.6 times from USD 254.5 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 663.9 Billion in 2013.

The extra EU-28 import of agricultural products increased 2.26 times from USD 78.8 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 178.2 Billion in 2013. The intra EU-28 imports increased 2.76 times from USD 175.6 Billion in 2000 to USD 485.6 Billion in 2013 (Table 7).

Table 7. The EU-28 import of agricultural products in 2000 and 2013 (USD Billion)

Specification	2000	2013	2013/2000 %
EU-28	254,480	663,904	260.88
-Extra EU-28	78,865	178,246	226.01
-Intra EU-28	175,615	485,658	276.54

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org. [10]Own calculation.

The world export of food products accounted for USD 1,457 Billion in 2013.

The distribution of the export of food products by geographical region is presented in Table 8.

Europe is the world leader in the export with food products, its export value reaching USD 610 Billion in 2013, representing 7.6 % of the world export with food products. Asia is on the 2ns position contributing to the world export by 6.2 %. On the 3rd position is North America 4.4 %, followed by Africa 4 % and CIS also with 4 %, the Middle East 3.1 % and Central and South America 1.1 %.(Table 8).

The main countries exporting food products are: The EU-28 with 36.9 % market share, the USA with 9.7 %, Brazil 5.6 %, China 4.1 %, Canada 3.2 %, Argentina 2.8 %, India 2.6 %, Indonesia 2.2 %, Australia 2.1 % and Thailand 2 %. All these 10 countries achieved 73.16 % of the world export with food products (Table 9).

Table 8. Europe's export of food products in 2013

Region	Export of food products USD Billion	Share by region %
Total world	1,457	-
Europe at world level	610	100.0
Europe	466	7.64
Asia	38	6.2
North America	27	4.4
Africa	25	4.0
CIS	25	4.0
Middle East	23	3.7
Central and South America	6	1.1

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10] Own calculation.

The main countries importing food products are: The EU-28 with 36.9 % market share, the USA 8 %, China 6.4 %, Japan 4.6 %, Russian Fed. 2.7 %, Canada 2.2 %, Rep. Korea 1.6 %, Mexico 1.6 %, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 1.6 % and the Arabian Emirates 1.1 %. All these 10 countries carried out 66.70 % of the world import of food products (Table 9).

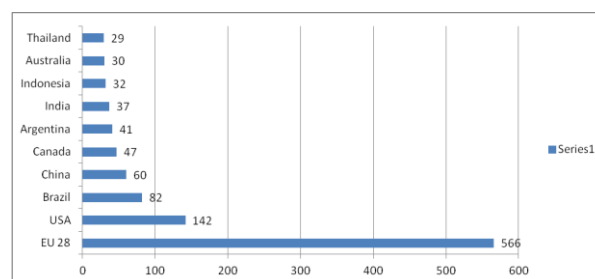


Fig.5.The top 10 countries in the world export of food products in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, [10] www.wto.org, Own design.

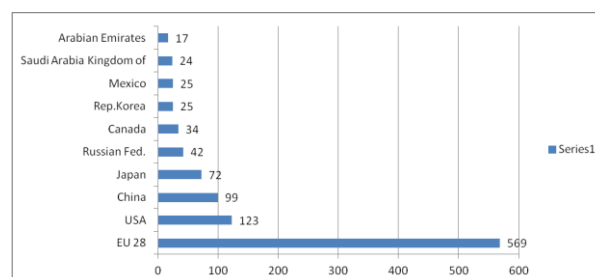


Fig.6.The top 10 countries in the world import of food products in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10] Own design.

Table 9. Top countries exporting and importing food products and their contribution to the world trade with food products in 2013

Crt.No.	Country	Export of food products USD Billion	Market share %	Crt.No.	Country	Import of food products USD Billion	Market share %
1	UE-28	566	36.9	1	UE-28	569	36.9
2	USA	142	9.7	2	USA	123	8.0
3	Brazil	82	5.6	3	China	99	6.4
4	China	60	4.1	4	Japan	72	4.6
5	Canada	47	3.2	5	Russian Fed.	42	2.7
6	Argentina	41	2.8	6	Canada	34	2.2
7	India	37	2.6	7	Rep.Korea	25	1.6
8	Indonesia	32	2.2	8	Mexic	25	1.6
9	Australia	30	2.1	9	Arabia Saudita	24	1.6
10	Thailand	29	2.0	10	Emiratele Arabe	17	1.1
	Total	1,066	73.16		Total	1,030	66.7

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org, [10] Own calculation.

The EU-28 is the leader in the world export of food products. In 2013, the value of its exported food products was USD 566.4 Billion, 2.98 times higher than in the year 2000 when the value of its export was USD 189.7 Billion.

The extra EU-28 export value of food products increased 3.15 times from USD 45.9 Billion in 2000 to USD 144.6 Billion in 2013.

The value of the intra EU-28 export increased 2.93 times from USD 143.8 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 421.7 Billion in 2013. (Table 10).

Table 10. The EU-28 export of food products in 2000 and 2013 (USD Billion)

Specification	2000	2013	2013/2000 %
EU-28	189,781	566,461	298.48
-Extra EU-28	45,921	144,699	315.10
-Intra EU-28	143,860	421,761	293.17
World	431,141	1,456,682	337.86
The EU-28 share in the world export (%)	44.01	38.88	-

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org. [10] Own calculation.

The share of the EU-28 in the world export with food products declined from 44.01 % in the year 2000 to 38.88 % in the year 2013.

The EU-28 import of food products increased 2.53 times in the interval 2000-

2013. In 2013, it accounted for USD 509.4 Billion compared to USD 200.6 Billion in the year 2000.

The extra UE-28 import increased 2.58 times from USD 57.2 Billion in the year 2000 to USD 147.6 Billion in 2013.(Table 11).

Table 11. The EU-28 Import of food products in 2000 and 2013 (USD Billion)

Specification	2000	2013	2013/2000 %
EU-28	200,685	509,446	253.85
-Extra EU-28	57,224	147,684	258.08
-Intra EU-28	143,461	361,762	252.16

Source: WTO Secretariat, Oct.2014, www.wto.org., [10] Own calculation.

The EU-28 agri-food trade.

Agrifood export. The EU-28 agricultural products account for 7 % of the total commodity export value in 2013, coming on the 4th position after machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

With agri-food exports reaching €120 Billion in 2013, the EU-28 became the top exporter of agricultural and food products in the world. However, the growth is slower, just 5.8 % than in previous years.

The EU export growth was stimulated by demand for particular commodities in the developing countries.

The EU growth of export in 2013 is due to the sold amounts of cereals, mainly wheat and barley, accounting for over 2/3 of the total export gain. The EU export deeply increased to China, and slowly declined to the USA.

Among the EU-28 agricultural exports, final products for direct consumption account for 2/3, and commodities for 10%. Their growth was about 3-4%.

More than 50 % of the EU exports are represented by six product categories, mainly final goods for direct consumption, except cereals.

Of the total Euro 120.1 Billion export value registered in 2013, the share of various products in the EU-28 agricultural export was the following one: Spirits and liqueurs 7%, Wine and vermouth 7%, Bakery products, pasta, infant food, etc. 6%, Wheat 4%, Non-specific food preparations 4%, Chocolate, confectionery and ice cream 3%, Pork meat (fresh, chilled or frozen) 3%, Cheese 3%, Fruit and vegetable preparations 3%, Raw hides, skins and fur skins 3%, and Remaining agricultural products 57% (Fig.7).

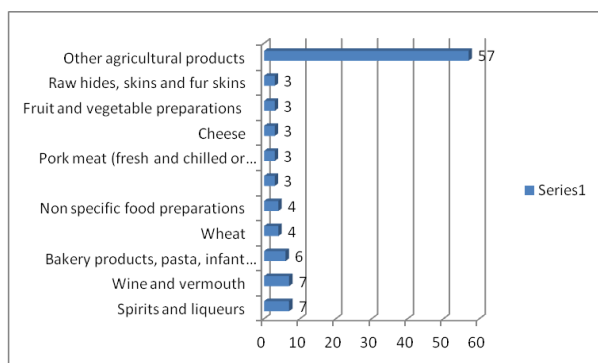


Fig.7. The share of various agri-food products in the EU-28 export value in 2013 (%)

The main products contributing to the increase of EU agricultural exports in 2013 were: Sowing maize Euro 103.2 Mil., Tobacco Euro 111.1 Mil., Dog food Euro 115.7 Mil., Frozen pig meat Euro 135.8 Mil., Ethyl alcohol Euro 172.9 Mil., WMP Euro 179.4 Mil., Malt extract Euro 181.4 Mil., Maize Euro 191.9 Mil., Sunflower seeds Euro 215.6 Mil., Rape oil Euro 256.5 Mil., Fur skins & mink Euro 431.8 Mil., Food preparations Euro 462.9 Mil., Infant food prep. Euro 495.6 Mil., Barley Euro 674.8 Mil., Wheat Euro 1,736.3 Mil. All these products contributed by 85 % to the absolute gain in the EU-28 exports.

In 2013, the USA continued to be the top destination of the EU-28 agricultural

products, with 13 % market share. On the 2nd position is Russia with 10 % market share, and on the 3rd position came China with 6.1 % market share, Switzerland with 5.9 %, Japan with 4.2 %, Hong Kong China 3.9 %.

The top market for spirits and liqueurs supplying 60% of export revenues came from the top 5 destinations: USA, Canada, South Africa, China.

The top market for wine continued to be: the USA, Switzerland, Canada, Japan and China, all these countries accounting for 63% of the EU sales.

The top markets for wheat were the Middle East and the North African countries, accounting for 66 % of the EU wheat sales.

Infant food was exported mainly in China and Hong Kong with 17 % market share and 38 % the main top five destinations.[1]

Agri-food import. The top 6 agricultural importers in the world are EU-28, USA, China, Japan, Russia and Canada.

The EU remains the top importer of agricultural goods totalizing Euro 101.5 Billion in 2013.

The structure of the EU-28 imports includes: Final products 50 %, Intermediate products 30%, Commodities 19%, and other products 1%.

In more details, by products, the import structure is the following one: Tropical fruits and spices 9%, Oilcakes 8%, Coffee, tea and mate 8%, Fats and oils, other than butter and olive oil 8%,

Soybeans 6 %, Fresh and dried fruits 5%, Other agricultural products 56% (Fig.8).

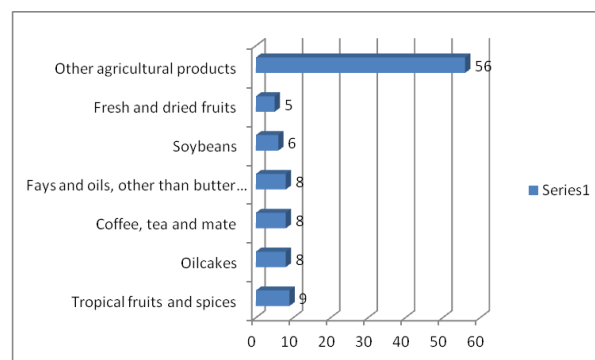


Fig.8. The share of various agri-food products in the EU-28 import value in 2013 (%)

The main suppliers of agricultural products for the EU market are Brazil (soya and soya meal, coffee, meat), which remained the EU-28 top import partner in 2013 (13%), the USA (10%), Argentina (5%) and China (5%), Indonesia 4% (palm oil, coffee, tea, industrial alcohols), Switzerland 4%, Turkey 4% (nuts, dates and figs, olive oil) and Ukraine 4%, South Africa (for fruit and wine), Chile (wine, fruit, nuts, maize).

The EU-28 is also the top importer of agricultural products from the least developed countries (LDCs). Its import value of agricultural products from LDCs accounted for Euro 2.8 Billion in 2013, being 4 times higher than from Canada, US, Australia, New Zealand and Japan taken together.

The main agricultural products imported from LDCs in 2013 were Raw tobacco with 17% market share, Beet and cane sugar 14%, Cut flowers and plants 7%, Fresh and chilled 5%, Tropical fruits and spices 5%, Rice 5 % and other agricultural 47%. [1]

Agri-food trade balance. After being a net importer in 2009, the EU became a net exporter of agricultural products since 2010. In 2013, The EU-28 trade balance surplus increased to Euro 18.6 Billion, because the export value exceeded the import value. [3, 4, 9]

CONCLUSIONS

The world trade value with agricultural products totalized USD 3,419 Billion of which 48.31 % export and 51.69 % import in 2013. While the world export increased by 2.5 %, import value increased by 4 %.

The year 2013 recorded a slight increase of the world trade performance of just 2.5 % due to the slow demand in the developing countries, the stagnant economy, export and import of many traders.

The top exporting regions of agricultural production in the world are the Americas with 40.5 % market share.

The EU-28 is the top world exporter of agricultural products having 40.01 % market share and also the top world importer with 37.57 % market share. This was due to the increased quantity of cereal exports and the

higher prices for meat and dairy products which are the key export products.

Since 2010, the EU became a net exporter of agricultural products, the trade balance surplus reached the record of Euro 18.6 Billion in 2013.

The EU agricultural imports stagnated in 2013, because the demand has not recovered after the economic crisis and the low prices of the commodities which maintained the import value down.

The export gain was due 90 % to the sold quantities and 10 % to the price driven.

Wheat is top export product contributing with the highest percentage to the export gain, while the beverages had a negative impact on export value.

To the export gain of the EU-28 contributed China, Saudi Arabia, and the USA.

Chinese demand for agricultural products recorded a fast growth, but the growth rate in imports value slowed down because of lower prices.

However, China has become the world's third exporter and importer of agricultural products coming on the 4th position in 2013.

The EU continued to be the top importer of products from LDCs, whose share in its agricultural imports was only 2.8%, but more than the average of 0.4% of the other main suppliers like USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia.

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