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Russia Reaffirms Role as Key Global Supplier of Grain and Oilseeds at World Grain and Pulses Forum

Russia remains a dependable and long-term partner in the global market for grain and oilseed products, Agriculture Minister Oksana Lut said during the official opening of the fourth international World Grain and Pulses Forum 2026, held in Dubai.

Speaking to international participants, Lut highlighted Russia's leading role in global food supply chains, noting that the country is among the world's largest producers of grain and a major exporter to international markets. Over the past five years, Russian grain and legume products have been shipped to 115 countries, underscoring the broad geography of its exports.

According to the minister, Russia exported around 50 million tons of grain last year, including 41 million tons of wheat, allowing the country to retain its position as the world's largest wheat exporter. She also emphasized the rapid development of the legumes sector, where production reached a record 8 million tons, while exports totaled approximately 3 million tons.

Looking ahead, Russia plans to increase grain shipments to about 55 million tons this year, with a longer-term objective of boosting exports to 80 million tons by 2030, Lut said.

Beyond grains, the minister pointed to Russia's strong performance in other agricultural segments. Exports of oilseed products reached nearly 11 million tons in 2025, including 6.7 million tons of vegetable oils. In addition, Russia shipped 43 million tons of mineral fertilizers to foreign markets last year, reinforcing its role in supporting global agricultural production.

Lut stressed that Russia is committed not only to maintaining stable supplies of high-quality agricultural products, but also to expanding cooperation with international partners in science, technology, education, and infrastructure development. As an example, she noted that Russian seeds were delivered to 35 countries last year.

"We clearly understand that achieving our long-term objectives requires deeper technological cooperation," Lut said. "Our ultimate goal is to ensure global food security while strengthening Russia's position in the world. Russia has always been and continues to be a reliable partner in all areas related to food. Despite existing challenges, we will continue to fulfill our obligations and act as a stable player in the global food market." [7]

Commodity Auctions: Results For 26.01.2026

Purchase

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybeans 40 (incl. VAT) | 33,000 ₽/t | 2,400 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,200 ₽/t | 600 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,700 ₽/t | 620 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,200 ₽/t | 1,200 tons

OZK Trading LLC

Wheat, Class 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,330 ₽/t | 300 tons

CHERKIZOVO-MASLA LLC

Soybeans 40 (incl. VAT) | 33,050 ₽/t | 2,000 tons[2]

Russia Boosts Rapeseed Oil Exports to China by One-Third in 2025/26 Marketing Year

Russia has significantly increased its supplies of rapeseed oil to China in the current 2025/26 marketing year, reinforcing its position as the leading exporter of this product to the Chinese market, according to estimates from Agroexport.

In the first half of the season (July–December 2025), Russian companies shipped more than 0.7 million tons of rapeseed oil to China, marking a 33% increase year on year. Compared with the average level of the past five years, exports surged by 79%. As a result, Russia now accounts for around 60% of China's rapeseed oil imports, far ahead of competitors such as the UAE, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the European Union, and other suppliers.

Agroexport analysts note that export growth from Russia has occurred despite an overall decline in China's imports from alternative suppliers during the first part of the 2025/26 agricultural year. At the same time, China's total rapeseed oil purchases for the current season are expected to remain broadly unchanged at about 2.15 million tons, similar to the level recorded in 2024/25. Domestic consumption in China, however, is estimated to be close to a historical high at 9.9 million tons.

Future demand dynamics will largely depend on the pace of Australian canola shipments to Chinese processing facilities through March, analysts said. At present, market assessments indicate that rapeseed oil inventories at Chinese plants are at multi-year lows, which continues to support demand for imported supplies.

Beyond China, Russia has also expanded rapeseed oil exports to a wider range of destinations, contributing to a broader increase in outbound shipments during July–December 2025. Deliveries to Tunisia rose more than 3.5 times compared with the same period a year earlier, exports to Iran increased by 92%, while sales to Israel climbed by an estimated 120%.

The strong export performance follows a record rapeseed harvest in 2025 and is further supported by a gradual increase in domestic oilseed processing capacity. Processing volumes in Russia are projected to reach a record 4.6 million tons in the 2025/26 season, up 25% from 2024/25, providing additional supply for both traditional and newly diversified export markets.[4]

Russia's Agricultural Exports to the Middle East Reach $4.3 Billion in 2025

Russia's agricultural exports to countries in the Middle East totaled $4.3 billion in 2025, Agriculture Minister Oksana Lut said at the opening of the Russian exposition at the Gulfood-2026 International Food Exhibition.

Speaking at the event, Lut noted the steady development of trade relations between Russia and Middle Eastern countries, emphasizing the growing role of Russian agricultural producers in supplying the region. According to the minister, export deliveries to the Middle East reached $4.3 billion last year, reflecting sustained demand for Russian food and agricultural products.

She highlighted that Russian exporters are increasingly focusing not only on bulk commodities but also on consumer-oriented food products, expanding their presence in regional retail and food service markets. This shift, Lut said, demonstrates the ability of Russian producers to adapt to the preferences and requirements of Middle Eastern consumers.

The minister also underlined that countries in the Middle East are known for strict quality and safety standards, which Russian producers consistently seek to meet. "We are well aware that the Middle East markets have very high requirements in terms of quality," Lut said. "Our producers make every effort to comply with these standards, and I am confident that Russian products rank among the highest quality in the world."

Participation in Gulfood-2026, one of the world's largest food exhibitions, is seen as an important platform for further strengthening trade ties, showcasing Russian products, and expanding cooperation with partners across the Middle East. [6]

Russia Plans to Expand Grain Handling Capacity to 100 Million Tons by 2030

Russia plans to increase its grain handling capacity from 80 million tons to 100 million tons per year by 2030, Agriculture Minister Oksana Lut said at the opening of the fourth World Grain and Pulses Forum 2026 in Dubai.

Speaking at the international event, Lut emphasized that the expansion of logistics and port infrastructure remains a strategic priority for Russia's agricultural sector, aimed at supporting growing export volumes and ensuring stable supplies to global markets.

According to the minister, the Azov–Black Sea basin continues to play a central role in grain exports and remains the country's key loading hub. Despite the current geopolitical and logistical challenges, transshipment and transportation volumes through the basin have not declined, she said.

Lut also pointed to the active development of Baltic Sea ports, noting that shipments from this direction are expected to increase on an annual basis. Investments in port facilities and transport infrastructure in the Baltic region are helping diversify export routes and strengthen Russia's export resilience.

In addition, the minister highlighted rising shipments of food products, including grain, along the North–South international transport corridor, which links Russia with markets in the Middle East, South Asia, and beyond. The growing use of this corridor is contributing to broader geographic diversification of exports and improved connectivity with key importing regions.

The planned increase in grain handling capacity is intended to support Russia's long-term export ambitions and reinforce its position as one of the world's leading grain suppliers. [3]

Weather Disruptions Push Ukrainian Corn Prices Up

Prices in the Ukrainian corn market edged higher last week, supported by limited supply and weak selling activity from farmers, according to market analysts at White Brokers.

Corn prices on DAP port terms increased to around $210 per ton, reflecting reduced market availability. Analysts attributed the tightening supply primarily to adverse weather conditions, as severe frosts and snowstorms disrupted logistics, complicating grain transportation and discouraging farmers from entering the market with new sales.

Supply was further constrained by developments in the oilseed segment. A sharp increase in sunseed prices encouraged some producers to shift their sales focus toward sunflower seeds, which offered more attractive market conditions. As a result, farmers were able to generate working capital through sunseed sales while holding back corn, limiting overall market supply.

On the global market, activity remained subdued. Buyer interest was limited and demand stayed weak, although isolated corn transactions were reported at about $220 per ton on an FOB port basis, indicating that export prices remain relatively firm in selected deals.

Looking ahead, White Brokers described the short-term market outlook as mixed. On one hand, ongoing supply constraints continue to provide price support. On the other hand, analysts expect farmers' selling activity to pick up in the coming days, driven by forecasts of improved weather conditions and a gradual normalization of logistics. The increasing need for working capital may also prompt additional sales.

"As a result, a rise in supply on the domestic market could put downward pressure on prices, potentially triggering a corrective decline in corn quotations," White Brokers said. Analysts also noted a gradual increase in forward contract activity, which is helping shape expectations of a more balanced market in the near term.[1]

EU–Mercosur Deal Seen as Potential Risk for Ukrainian Agri Exports, Especially Corn and Sugar

The possible expansion of Mercosur's access to global markets under the EU–Mercosur trade agreement could pose medium-term risks for Ukrainian agricultural exporters, particularly by intensifying competition in key destinations and narrowing export opportunities in Asia, according to market analysis by UkrAgroConsult.

Analysts note that the main concern for Ukraine is not a sudden surge in European demand for South American commodities, but the potential re-routing of global trade flows. Changes in tariff regimes could alter price spreads, shift traditional supply chains, and exert downward pressure on margins across the Black Sea–Danube–Balkans region.

On 9 January 2026, the EU Council authorized the signing of the EU–Mercosur agreement and approved the provisional application of the Interim Trade Agreement. At the same time, the broader Partnership Agreement will require a longer ratification process, meaning its full impact will unfold gradually.

Wheat: Limited Direct Impact Expected

In the wheat segment, UkrAgroConsult believes that near-term risks may be overstated. Even with Argentina's record 2025 wheat harvest of 27.5 million tons, up 46% year on year, Mercosur's access to the EU wheat market remains restricted. Imports of Mercosur wheat into the EU are subject to an annual quota of 180,000 tons, limiting the scope for significant displacement of Ukrainian or other Black Sea supplies in the near future.

Corn: Competition Likely to Intensify

The outlook is more complex for corn. Under the agreement, the EU will introduce a duty-free import quota of 1 million tons per year for Mercosur corn and sorghum. This quota will be phased in over six years, increasing annually by about 166,600 tons, while safeguard mechanisms may remain in place for up to 12 years.

By contrast, the EU's tariff quota for Ukrainian corn has traditionally been much smaller than Ukraine's actual export volumes. However, imports beyond the quota have often benefited from a 0% duty, depending on the relationship between EU and global corn prices, a mechanism that has worked in Ukraine's favor in recent years.

According to analysts, Ukrainian corn competitiveness in the EU is driven less by quotas and more by price levels, freight costs, execution risks linked to the war, and overall delivery reliability. Buyers in key markets such as Spain and Italy are unlikely to pay a premium to offset higher logistical or contractual risks. If disruptions occur at Ukrainian ports, alternative origins —

including South America, the United States, and Canada — may become more attractive due to more predictable execution.

This dynamic also applies to other exporters in the Black Sea–Danube–Balkans region. When logistics come under pressure, importers tend to shift away from the cheapest suppliers toward those offering the lowest execution risk.

Sugar and Ethanol: Higher Sensitivity

UkrAgroConsult warns that the EU–Mercosur agreement could be more challenging for Ukraine in sugar and ethanol than in grain markets. These sectors are politically sensitive within the EU, and any changes to quota regimes could significantly affect margins for producers operating inside the European market. Increased access for Mercosur suppliers may therefore intensify competition and reduce profitability for Ukrainian exporters in these segments.

Overall, analysts conclude that while the immediate impact of the EU–Mercosur agreement on Ukrainian grain exports may be limited, its longer-term implications for trade flows, competition, and margins warrant close monitoring, particularly for corn, sugar, and ethanol.[1]

Ukraine Boosts Rapeseed Meal Exports by 70% in First Half of 2025/26, Shifts Focus to China

Ukraine significantly increased its exports of rapeseed meal in the first half of the 2025/26 marketing year (July–December), with shipments rising 70% year on year to 340,000 tons, according to market estimates. This marked the second-highest export volume on record for the first half of a season, second only to MY 2023/24, when 374,000 tons were shipped.

The sharp growth in exports was largely driven by an expansion in domestic rapeseed processing, which reached nearly 800,000 tons during the first six months of the season. Analysts attribute this increase to the introduction of a 10% export duty on rapeseed, which encouraged domestic processing, as well as to improved processing margins that made meal production more economically attractive.

Despite higher output, the marketing of rapeseed meal remains structurally challenging. Domestic consumption in Ukraine is traditionally low, forcing producers to rely heavily on foreign markets. To avoid excessive stock accumulation, exporters often resort to price discounts, analysts noted.

Demand from the European Union, traditionally the main destination for Ukrainian rapeseed meal, has also weakened in the current season. This is due to the EU's strong domestic rapeseed harvest and increased imports of lower-priced Canadian canola, which have reduced the need for Ukrainian supplies. As a result, Ukrainian exports of rapeseed meal to the EU fell sharply in July–December 2025 to 71,000 tons, down from 171,000 tons in the same period a year earlier.

In contrast, Canada significantly expanded its presence in the EU market, shipping 436,000 tons of rapeseed meal during the period, despite having supplied almost none in the previous season.

Faced with declining demand in Europe, Ukrainian exporters redirected shipments to alternative markets, most notably China. Chinese imports of Ukrainian rapeseed meal reached a record 155,000 tons, making China the largest single destination for Ukrainian meal exports in the first half of the season. China has been experiencing a shortage of rapeseed meal, as it has been unable to fully replace the reduction in supplies from Canada.

However, analysts caution that Ukraine's position in the Chinese market may prove temporary. The bulk of China's rapeseed meal imports continues to come from Russia, India, and the UAE, and a potential improvement in trade relations between China and Canada, including reciprocal reductions in import duties, could make Canadian product more competitive. This, in turn, may limit opportunities for Ukrainian exporters in China in the near future.[1]

Iraq Holds 4.2 Million Tons of Wheat in Reserve, Securing Annual Flour Needs

Iraq's strategic wheat reserves currently stand at around 4.2 million tons, a volume sufficient to fully cover the country's annual flour requirements under the public food ration system, the Iraqi General Company for Grain Trading said on Monday.

Director General Haider Nouri Al-Karaawi stated that the existing wheat stock guarantees stable flour supplies for Iraqi citizens for an entire year and will remain unaffected by any potential financial difficulties. He emphasized the company's capacity to manage emergency situations, noting that the reserves provide a strong safeguard for national food security.

According to Al-Karaawi, Iraq's wheat reserves act as a strategic buffer, enabling the government to respond to unforeseen crises with stability and confidence. He also rejected circulating reports claiming that Iraqi wheat would be sent as humanitarian aid to Syria or Lebanon, stressing that such discussions are currently on hold and no decisions have been taken in this regard.

The official also noted that the Cabinet has approved the sale of surplus domestically produced wheat at a price of 420,000 Iraqi dinars per ton, equivalent to approximately $323 per ton. At the same time, the authorities have not ruled out the possibility of exporting wheat to neighboring countries should official purchase requests be received from partners such as Iran, Jordan, or other regional states.

Earlier, Iraq's Minister of Agriculture Abbas Jabr said the country has achieved self-sufficiency in several key crops and has begun exporting agricultural products for the first time in its modern history. Official figures show that Iraq produced 5.3 million tons of wheat in 2023, more than 6 million tons in 2024, and over 5 million tons in 2025, marking a record period for the country's agricultural sector and reinforcing its growing role in regional grain markets.[1]

Thai Soybean Imports Stalled as Duty and Quota Uncertainty Disrupts Supply Chain

Thailand's soybean supply chain has been thrown into disarray after several soybean cargoes were unloaded at the port of Koh Sichang but remain unable to clear customs amid ongoing uncertainty over import duty rates and quota allocations, market participants told Platts, a division of S&P Global, on January 26.

According to traders and a Thai feed producer, at least three soybean shipments have already arrived and been discharged onto barges at the port, but have been detained by customs authorities. A Singapore-based grain and oilseed trader said the cargoes include two shipments destined for a meat processing plant and one consigned to the Thai Feed Mills Association, all of which are currently awaiting clearance.

A representative of the Thai Feed Mills Association confirmed that soybean imports into Thailand have effectively been banned since January 1, 2026, as the country awaits further direction from the government. The representative added that approximately 200,000 tons of soybeans are still expected to arrive at Thai ports, further heightening concerns over supply disruptions.

The situation is expected to be discussed at a Thai cabinet meeting scheduled for January 27, which may address the prolonged uncertainty surrounding import licenses and outline emergency measures to stabilize the market. Market participants said the outcome of the meeting will be critical in determining whether soybean imports can resume normal flows or remain severely constrained for several more weeks.

Concerns are mounting ahead of the anticipated arrival of three additional soybean cargoes in February. According to a source at a Thai soybean importing company, the lack of clarity over permits and quotas could further exacerbate congestion and supply shortages if regulatory approvals are not reinstated in time.

The uncertainty has already had a tangible impact on downstream industries. A second Singapore-based trader said several soybean crushing plants and animal feed mills have suspended sales and shipments, while demand for soybean meal — a key byproduct of soybean processing and a critical ingredient in animal feed — has begun to rise sharply.

A Thai grain and oilseed trader said confusion over import duties has "created chaos in the market," pushing soybean meal prices up from 14.25 baht per kilogram in early January to 16.1 baht per kilogram, equivalent to around $520 per ton.

Thailand has been governed by a caretaker administration since the dissolution of parliament on December 11, limiting its ability to introduce new policy measures. As a result, the government has been unable to approve the 2026 duty-free soybean import quota or set new soybean meal import tariffs, as previously reported by Platts.

In the absence of updated regulations, soybean imports automatically fall under World Trade Organization tariff rules. According to the US Soybean Export Council, an initial quota of 10,922 tons can be imported at a 20% duty, while volumes exceeding that threshold are subject to a steep 80% tariff.

These duties pose a significant financial burden for Thai soybean processors, particularly given the country's limited domestic production, which stands at just 50,000–60,000 tons per year, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Thailand operates four major soybean crushing plants with a combined daily capacity of 12,500 tons, though utilization rates currently average only around 70%.

A Thai soybean producer said domestic buyers are holding between one and six weeks' worth of inventories, but warned that without a resolution on import licenses and quotas by the end of January, the supply situation could deteriorate rapidly.[1]

EU and India Finalize Free Trade Agreement, Cutting Tariffs and Boosting Trade

The European Union and India have concluded negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement, marking a major milestone in economic relations between the two sides, the European Commission announced.

In a statement, the Commission said the agreement is expected to deliver annual savings of around €4 billion in customs duties for European exporters. Under the deal, approximately 90% of tariffs will be eliminated or significantly reduced, easing market access and lowering costs for businesses on both sides.

According to the Commission, the agreement will provide the EU with a strong competitive advantage in a range of key sectors, including industrial goods and agri-food products. The deal is also expected to strengthen supply chains, increase bilateral trade flows, and create new opportunities for companies operating in both markets.

"The agreement is ambitious and comprehensive," the Commission said, adding that it reflects the strategic importance of deepening economic ties with India, one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Negotiations on the EU–India free trade agreement began in 2007, but talks faced multiple delays over the years due to differences on market access, tariffs, and regulatory issues. The successful conclusion of the negotiations signals renewed momentum in EU–India relations and underscores both sides' commitment to expanding cooperation amid shifting global trade dynamics.

The agreement will now move forward for legal review and ratification, a process that must be completed before it can formally enter into force.[3]

IGC: Global Lentil Demand Set to Surge in 2025/26, Asia to Drive Growth

Global demand for lentils is expected to rise sharply in the 2025/26 marketing year, supported by abundant harvests in major exporting countries and expanding consumption in Asia, according to analysts at the International Grains Council (IGC).

The IGC forecasts that worldwide lentil demand will increase by around 15% year on year in 2025/26. Asia is expected to play a decisive role in this trend, driven by population growth, rising awareness of healthy diets, and stable demand for lentil-based food products. As a result of higher supplies to South and Middle East Asia, global lentil trade volumes in 2026 are projected to reach 4.9 million tons, up 14% from the previous year.

According to 2024 data, the value of lentil sales on the global market exceeded $4.5 billion. The world's leading exporters remain Canada, Australia, and Turkey, while Russia accounts for roughly 40% of global supplies, reinforcing its growing importance in the sector.

Lentil production in Russia continues to expand steadily, supporting rising export volumes. In 2025, Russian farmers harvested approximately 0.9 million tons of lentils, an increase of 300,000 tons compared with the previous year. This production growth translated into a sharp rise in exports, which increased by nearly 50% in volume and 19% in value year on year.

Turkey, one of the world's top three lentil exporters, has also emerged as a major buyer of Russian product. Between July and November of the 2025/26 season, Turkey imported around 125,000 tons of lentils from Russia, almost double the volume recorded in the same period a year earlier.

Traditionally, Turkey's main lentil suppliers have been Canada, Kazakhstan, and Russia. However, analysts note a shift in market dynamics this season. Canada's share, historically one of the largest, is beginning to decline, while Kazakhstan and Russia now occupy the first and second positions in terms of supply volumes. This trend highlights the growing competitiveness of Russian producers in the global lentil market.

Despite ongoing challenges related to international trade, the overall outlook for the lentil market remains positive, analysts said. Expanding production, combined with increasing global interest in plant-based and healthy foods, is expected to sustain demand growth worldwide. As a result, new opportunities are emerging for Russian producers to enhance profitability by diversifying crop portfolios and strengthening their presence in international markets.[5]

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