CSI DAILY NEWS

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Russia’s Grain Product Exports Top 17.8 Mln Tons in 2026, Up 52% Year-on-Year

Russia has exported more than 17.8 million tons of grain and grain-based products since the start of 2026, up 52% from the same period last year, according to data from the federal information system Argus-Phyto.

The increase was driven by strong growth across several product categories. Exports of grain crops rose by 63% year-on-year, legumes increased by 30%, and shipments of feed, compound feed and related components expanded by 22%.

By commodity, wheat exports totaled 11.2 million tons, while corn shipments reached nearly 1.6 million tons and barley exports amounted to 1.1 million tons.

Russia has also significantly expanded exports across a number of destinations. Shipments to Turkey doubled, exports to Egypt increased by 35%, and deliveries to China rose by 55%. Exports to Kenya surged ninefold, while shipments to Cameroon were up 83%, and supplies to South Africa increased multiple times. [7]

Russia Expands Five Key Transport Corridors to Strengthen Trade and Agricultural Exports

Russia is actively expanding its international transport infrastructure, with five major logistics corridors playing a growing role in foreign trade and agricultural exports, according to analysts at Agroexport.

The southern route through the Azov-Black Sea basin remains the country’s main gateway for agricultural exports, especially grain and vegetable oil. This corridor relies on the development of port infrastructure in the Black and Azov Seas, along with rail access to key terminals, and serves trade with the Mediterranean, the Middle East and North Africa.

The north-western corridor, historically focused on Europe, has seen its cargo geography shift in recent years but remains important for trade with West and North Africa, Southeast Asia and other destinations. It includes Baltic Sea ports and overland rail links. Key agricultural cargoes moving along this route include pulp, oilseed meal and cake, compound feed, oilseed seeds, grain and vegetable oil.

The North-South corridor is emerging as one of Russia’s most strategic multimodal routes, linking the country with India, Iran, Gulf states and the Caspian region through a combination of rail, road and maritime infrastructure. Main agricultural exports along this route include grain, sugar, flour, oilseed meal, vegetable oil and oilseed seeds.

The eastern direction connects Russia with the Asia-Pacific region, especially China, via the Trans-Siberian and Baikal-Amur railways as well as new cross-border road and rail bridges. Infrastructure expansion in this corridor is focused on boosting throughput for export-import flows. Major agricultural cargoes include meat and dairy products, grain, vegetable oil, oilseed meal and oilseed seeds.

The Arctic corridor, based on the Northern Sea Route, is viewed as a long-term strategic option for transit between Asia and Europe and for supporting Arctic resource development. Russia is continuing to expand its icebreaker fleet and port infrastructure to support this route.

According to Agroexport, all of the listed corridors except the Arctic are already being actively used for agricultural exports. The agency added that the Northern Sea Route could eventually become an important channel for agro-industrial cargoes, offering shorter delivery times to target markets and potentially lower security risks compared with some traditional routes. [5]

Russia’s Q1 Grain Product Exports Top 17.8 Mln Tons, Up 52% Year-on-Year

Russia’s grain product exports exceeded 17.8 million tons in the first quarter of 2026 as of April 3, up 52% from the same period last year, according to Rosselkhoznadzor, citing data from the Argus-Phyto federal information system.

The sharp increase was driven by strong growth across key export categories. Wheat shipments rose 63% year-on-year to 11.2 million tons, while corn exports doubled to nearly 1.6 million tons. Barley exports increased 33% to 1.1 million tons, and exports of other oilcakes rose 34% to more than 1 million tons.

Russia also expanded supplies significantly across several major destinations. Shipments to Turkey doubled, exports to Egypt rose 35%, and deliveries to China increased 55%. Exports to Kenya surged ninefold, while shipments to Cameroon were up 83%, and supplies to South Africa increased multiple times. [4]

Commodity Auctions: Results for 08.04.2026

Purchase

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 40, incl. VAT | 35,000 ₽/t | 2,500 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 38, incl. VAT | 33,000 ₽/t | 200 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 37, incl. VAT | 32,000 ₽/t | 100 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,500 ₽/t | 620 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,850 ₽/t | 75 tons

AO Granari Resources

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,600 ₽/t | 510 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,400 ₽/t | 90 tons

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,775 ₽/t | 600 tons [6]

Soybean Oil Exports via Krasnodar Krai Ports Jump Fivefold in Q1

Soybean oil exports through the ports of Krasnodar Krai increased fivefold in the first quarter, according to the Novorossiysk branch of the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Center for Quality Control in Agriculture.”

The institution reported that specialists inspected 11.9 thousand tons of soybean oil intended for export over the three-month period, compared with just 2.6 thousand tons during the same period last year.

At the same time, total vegetable oil exports monitored by the branch reached 386 thousand tons in Q1. Sunflower oil continued to dominate the export structure, with shipments rising 2% year-on-year to 350.7 thousand tons. In contrast, rapeseed oil exports fell 2.5 times to 17.7 thousand tons, while linseed oil shipments totaled 5.5 thousand tons.

The main export destinations for these oils were India, China, Tunisia, and Turkey. Significant volumes were also shipped to Persian Gulf markets, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE.[4]

Unexpected April Snow Puts Kuban's 2026 Harvest at Risk

A sudden cold snap following unusually warm weather in Kuban may threaten the region's 2026 crop outlook. After temperatures climbed to +20°C, snowfall and return frosts hit the area — one of the most dangerous weather scenarios for agriculture during spring development.

Winter wheat and barley are among the most exposed crops. At present, they have already reached the ear formation stage, a critical phase when plants become especially sensitive to adverse weather conditions.

According to Vladimir Kurbatov, head of the Plant Growing department at the Labinsk agro-complex, subzero temperatures at this stage can significantly damage winter cereals, as the developing ear is highly vulnerable to frost stress.

Sugar beet crops are at even greater risk. They are currently in the germination stage, where even short-term frosts can cause severe damage or complete crop loss. By contrast, winter and spring peas are considered more resilient and can tolerate light frosts relatively well.

Experts note that return frosts cannot be fully prevented, but their impact can be reduced. For household plots and smaller farms, recommended protective measures include covering crops with agrofiber or plastic film, applying mulch, and using protective frames to retain soil heat around the root zone. [9]

Feed Corn Prices in Ukraine's Ports Edge Lower Amid Weaker Market Sentiment

Purchase prices for feed corn in Ukraine's ports have been moving lower since the start of the current week, according to APK-Inform.

The decline is primarily driven by a similar downward trend in global grain markets, influenced by developments in energy markets. Additional pressure came from the fact that many companies have already covered positions under previously concluded contracts, reducing the urgency for further corn purchases.

At the same time, a sharper drop in prices was limited by restrained corn supply and low farmer selling activity, as many producers are delaying sales until after the holiday period.

As of April 8, bid prices for feed corn in the ports of Greater Odesa were mostly in the range of $210-218 per ton CPT port, while in the Danube ports they stood at $208-215 per ton CPT port. This is $1-2 per ton lower than at the end of last week. Meanwhile, offer prices remained stable at $219-221 per ton CPT port. [2]

Ukraine's Port Corn Prices Correct Downward at Start of Week

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Hormuz Disruption Raises Costs for Russian Agri Trade, but Export Flows Remain Largely Stable

The escalation of the Middle East conflict and the prolonged disruption around the Strait of Hormuz are increasing pressure on global logistics, energy, and fertilizer markets, but the impact on Russian agricultural exports remains limited so far, according to experts interviewed by Agroexpert.

Since early March 2026, the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's key arteries for oil, gas, fertilizers, and broader commodity flows — has remained blocked. During this period, oil and gas prices have risen by roughly 1.5 times, while fertilizer prices have increased by nearly one-third, intensifying concerns across global supply chains.

Despite this, there has been no major rerouting of Russian agricultural exports. According to Artem Suvorov of Strategy Partners, the bulk of shipments still move through Black Sea ports, primarily Novorossiysk, Taman, and Tuapse. Export activity strengthened during the period mainly because importing countries accelerated purchases, while alternative routes such as the Caspian corridor have seen more active use without fundamentally changing the structure of Russian export logistics.

For fertilizers, however, the situation is more sensitive. Alexey Kletsko of Yakov and Partners noted that Russia's Baltic ports have effectively become the only major export hub unaffected by the Iranian crisis, leading to a redistribution of demand toward northern routes. By mid-March, the cost of Russian fertilizers on an FOB Baltic basis had risen by about 39–40%. At the same time, Russia's ability to fully capitalize on this shift is constrained by temporary domestic restrictions, including a ban on ammonium nitrate exports from March 21 to April 21, 2026, and quotas on nitrogen and complex fertilizer exports through May 31.

Experts also warn that higher insurance costs and logistical disruptions may weigh on Russian supplies to Middle Eastern markets, even though these remain friendly destinations for the agro-industrial complex. Redirecting volumes to more distant regions such as Southeast Asia would expose Russian exporters to stronger competition from alternative suppliers.

Grain exports, by contrast, remain relatively stable. According to market participants, the Strait of Hormuz is not a major transit route for Russian grain cargoes, and seaports continue to carry the main export burden. Land routes, particularly toward China, are expanding, but mostly as a complementary channel rather than a crisis-driven replacement. In January, Russian grain exports through land border crossings rose 2.2 times year-on-year to 676 thousand tons, reflecting stronger use of rail and border infrastructure for selected destinations.

The southern export direction remains especially active. Grain shipments through Krasnodar ports in March rose 2.4 times year-on-year to 4.3 million tons, according to the Center for Quality Control in Agriculture. Wheat accounted for the largest share, and total wheat exports via Kuban ports increased 1.5 times over the quarter.

In pricing terms, Russian wheat has shown only limited reaction to the geopolitical escalation. According to the Center for Price Indices, the export index for 12.5% protein wheat rose by just $6 from the end of February to the end of March, reaching $241 per ton FOB Novorossiysk — the highest level since early August 2025.

Vegetable oils, however, reacted much more sharply. Soybean oil prices climbed to two-year highs, while the sunflower oil export index reached $1,333 per ton FOB Novorossiysk in early March, up $25 from early February and $215 above the level of March 2025.

At the same time, Russian wheat export momentum remains strong. Rusagrotrans raised its estimate for March 2026 wheat exports from 4.65 million tons to 4.85 million tons, close to the 2024 record of 4.89 million tons. As a result, cumulative wheat exports in July–March 2025/26 are projected at 37.7 million tons, surpassing the pace of the previous season for the first time.

Analysts emphasize that the growth in Russian grain exports is driven more by domestic export quota dynamics and seasonal market conditions than by the conflict itself. Russia's current grain export quota is roughly twice the size of last year's, which helps explain the stronger shipment pace.

Russia continues to supply grain to key Middle Eastern and North African buyers. Egypt remains the leading destination for Russian wheat, while Turkey moved to the top spot for total grain purchases in March due to stronger barley and corn demand. Supplies to Sudan and Libya are also increasing. Russia is still exporting grain to Iran as well, with around 320 thousand tons delivered via the Caspian Sea. In the first half of the 2025/26 agricultural year, Iran ranked third among buyers of Russian wheat after Egypt and Turkey.

Still, some experts caution against overstating Iran's strategic importance. Although Iran and the broader Middle East account for more than $5 billion in annual Russian agricultural exports — over 10% of the country's total agri-export value — Russian suppliers have historically faced recurring payment and settlement difficulties with Iranian partners.

The sharpest transmission channel from the crisis into Russian agricultural trade is freight. According to the Center for Price Indices, disruptions in oil supply have quickly pushed up bunker fuel costs, which in turn raised maritime freight rates across nearly all basins, including routes not directly tied to Hormuz or Bab el-Mandeb. Russian grain shipping costs have already increased in most directions, and if fuel prices remain elevated, medium- and large-capacity bulk carrier segments could face greater volatility, adding further pressure to export logistics.

On the import side, the crisis may become more visible on Russian retail shelves. Iran is a key supplier of several agricultural products to Russia, including more than 90% of imported celery and pistachios, around 75–80% of lettuce, eggplant, and kiwi, and roughly half of imported dates and bell peppers. Israel supplies around one-third of Russia's avocado imports. In total, imports of these products from the Middle East amount to roughly $500 million annually. However, experts note that global food markets offer sufficient alternative sourcing options, meaning any supply disruptions would likely be temporary rather than structural. [3]

Pakistan to Resume Wheat Imports in 2026/27, USDA Forecasts

Pakistan is expected to return to the global wheat market in the 2026/27 season, with imports projected at 1.4 million tons to help bridge the gap between domestic production and consumption, according to the USDA office in Islamabad.

The actual volume of wheat purchases will depend largely on the size of Pakistan's upcoming harvest. While the forecast points to renewed import demand, final decisions will likely be influenced by local crop performance and domestic stock levels.

As of March 2026, wheat imports into Pakistan remained officially banned. For imports to resume, the government would need either to authorize private companies to buy wheat abroad or to assign import responsibilities to the state-run Pakistan Trading Corporation.

Pakistan has periodically eased wheat trade restrictions in the past when domestic supply conditions required stock replenishment. In the current season, the country has not imported wheat at all, while in 2024/25 imports totaled only 3 thousand tons. [5]

Jordan Secures 60,000 Tons of Wheat in April 7 Tender

Jordan purchased around 60,000 tons of milling wheat in an international tender held on April 7, according to traders.

The grain was reportedly bought from Bulgarian trading house Buildcom at an estimated price of $275.95 per ton c&f, with shipment scheduled for the second half of July.

Several major trading companies, including Bunge, CHS, Cargill, and Ameropa, also took part in the tender, but their offers were higher than the winning bid.

This was Jordan's second consecutive wheat purchase at the same price level, following a similar 60,000-ton deal concluded in late March. The country continues to actively replenish its reserves amid stable demand and ongoing volatility in global wheat markets. [1]

Argentina Boosts Sunflower Seed, Oil and Meal Exports on Strong 2026 Harvest

Argentina's sunflower seed exports remained exceptionally strong in March, reaching 202,000 tons, as early and active sales of the new crop continued, according to Oil World.

Since the beginning of 2026, total sunflower seed exports have climbed to 620,000 tons — more than 56 times higher than the 11,000 tons shipped during the same period last year.

The main destinations were Bulgaria with 283,000 tons, Turkey with nearly 100,000 tons, Romania with 77,000 tons, Portugal with 53,000 tons, France with 22,000 tons, and Spain and the Netherlands with 20,000 tons each. Oil World noted that part of the cargoes originally destined for Turkey may have been redirected to Romania.

At the same time, Argentina sharply increased exports of processed sunflower products in March as crushing activity accelerated. Sunflower oil shipments rose to 175,000 tons, up 47% from 119,000 tons a year earlier, while sunflower meal exports reached 174,000 tons, a 49% increase from 117,000 tons in March 2025.

Argentina's 2026 sunflower harvest is expected to exceed 6.5 million tons. Harvesting is moving much faster than last year: by March 31, farmers had already collected 5.1 million tons, compared with 3.5 million tons at the same point in 2025 — a 46% increase, pointing to strong yields.

The USDA has previously projected a record sunflower crop and record processing volumes for Argentina in the 2026/27 season. Total production is expected to reach a historic high, while crushing could rise to 5 million tons.

With rising supply and stronger processing, Argentina may continue to pressure the global sunflower oil market. Since the start of the year, Argentine sunflower products have been offered to India at a discount of about $30 per ton compared with Black Sea origin, which could weigh on international sunflower oil prices. [1]

Lower Yields May Cut Canada’s Lentil Exports in 2026

Lentil exports from Canada may decline in 2026 as lower yields are expected to significantly reduce production, despite only a modest drop in planted area.

According to Statistics Canada, lentil acreage in 2026 is projected to decrease by nearly 6% from the previous year. However, over the past decade, Canada’s lentil area has remained broadly stable, meaning the reduction in sowings itself is not expected to be the main driver of lower output.

A more important shift is taking place in crop structure. In recent years, green lentils commanded a strong price premium over red lentils, which encouraged a significant expansion of green lentil acreage, especially in 2025. This winter, however, red lentil prices nearly caught up with large green lentils and moved well above small green lentils. As a result, the share of red lentils in the 2026 crop mix is expected to recover, while green lentil acreage may decline noticeably.

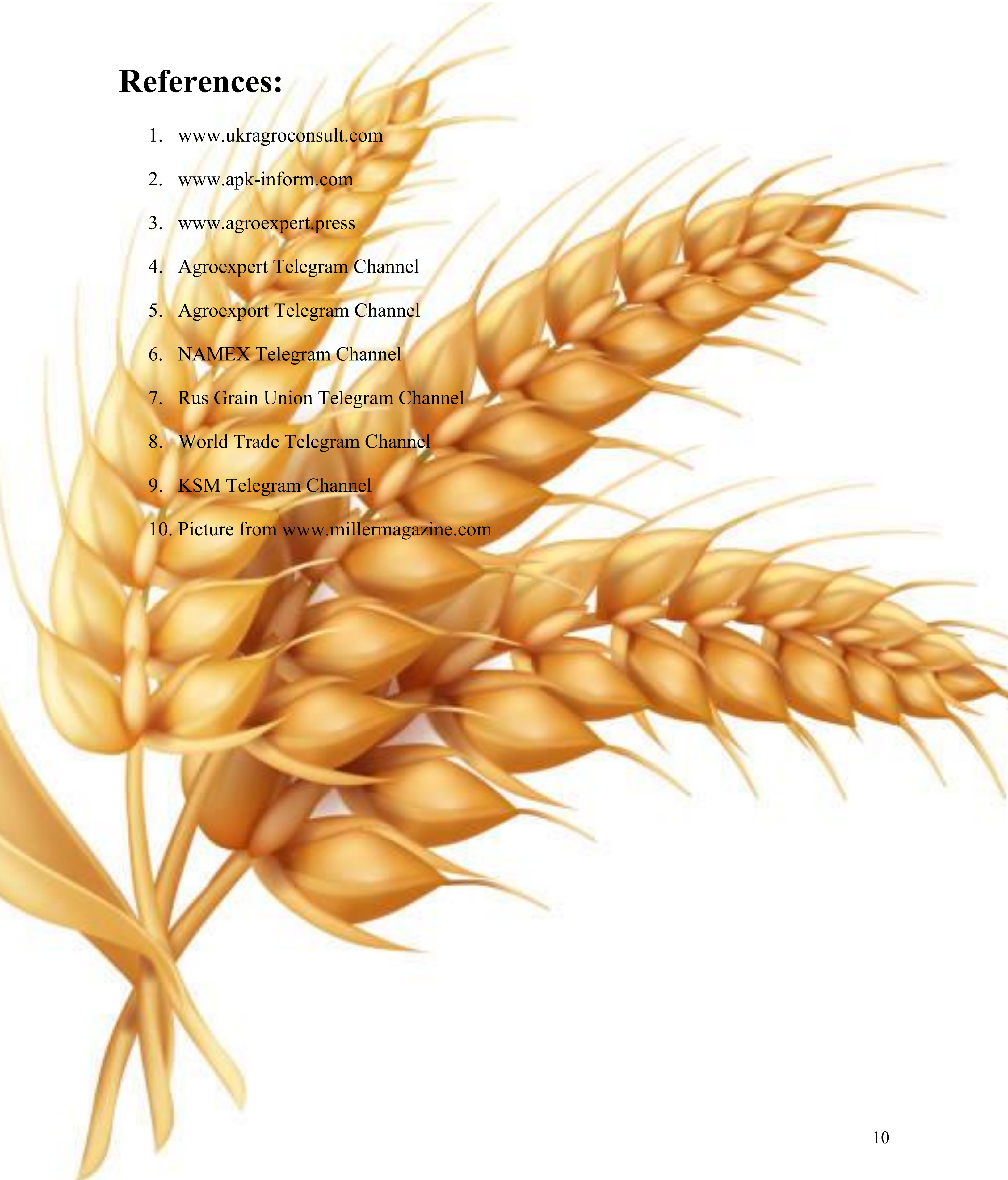
Historically, red lentils accounted for about two-thirds of Canada’s lentil area over the past ten years, but in 2025 their share dropped sharply. If the red-to-green ratio returns closer to normal levels in 2026, this would imply a meaningful increase in red lentil sowings and a corresponding reduction in green lentils.

The key factor for the market, however, is yield. Average lentil yields in 2026 are projected at 1.22 tons per hectare, far below last year’s near-record 1.93 tons per hectare. If yields fall back to more typical levels, total lentil production could decline to 2.21 million tons, down 34% from last year’s 3.36 million tons.

Such a production drop would help ease the burden of large lentil inventories, particularly green lentils, which have been weighing on the market. Lower output could therefore support prices and improve the supply-demand balance.

Canada remains the world’s largest lentil producer and exporter, typically accounting for up to 40% of global supply. In the 2024/25 marketing year, Canadian lentil exports reached around 1.9 million tons. Key destinations include South Asia — especially India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka — as well as Turkey and Middle Eastern markets. Canada also benefits from exporting a large share of lentils in processed and cleaned form, which increases value-added and enhances competitiveness.

By comparison, Russian lentil exports hit a record 0.3 million tons in 2025. With domestic production continuing to expand, any reduction in Canadian shipments could create additional opportunities for Russian exporters to strengthen their position in international markets. [8]



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