CSI DAILY NEWS

17.04.2026

Turkey Introduces 3 Million Ton Corn Import Quota

Turkey has introduced a tariff quota for corn imports, setting a limit of 3 million tons. Imports within this quota will be subject to a reduced customs duty of 5%, while volumes exceeding the quota will face a significantly higher tariff of 130%.

The measure will be in effect from April 20 to July 31, 2026, and is aimed at regulating import flows during the period.

Earlier reports indicated that Russia has significantly increased its corn exports to Turkey in 2026, highlighting growing trade activity between the two countries in the grain sector. [6]

Grain Shipments Drive Surge in Russia's Port Throughput

Exports of agricultural products through Russian seaports rose sharply in the first quarter of 2026, increasing by 48% year-on-year, according to data from Logistic OS. Total agricultural cargo throughput reached 12.7 million tons during the January–March period.

Earlier figures also show strong growth in grain shipments, with transshipment volumes rising by 39.4% to 13.1 million tons compared to the same period last year.

However, not all segments followed this upward trend. Fertilizer transshipment declined by 3.8% to 11.6 million tons, while shipments of bulk food cargo through ports decreased by 4.1% to 1.4 million tons. [3]

Russia Sets Wheat Export Duty at Zero from April 22

Russia will set its wheat export duty at zero starting April 22, according to the Russian Ministry of Agriculture. Export duties on corn and barley will also remain at zero for the second consecutive week.

The updated duty levels are based on revised indicative prices. Wheat is now priced at $234.4 per ton (up from $233.3), barley at $223.8 (previously $218.2), while corn declined slightly to $220.8 per ton from $222.2.

Russia's flexible export duty mechanism, introduced in 2021, sets tariffs at 70% of the difference between indicative and base prices. Indicative prices are calculated using export contracts registered on the Moscow Exchange.

The zero-duty level reflects current pricing dynamics within the framework of the grain buffer mechanism.[3]

Russia's Agricultural Exports Decline in Volume and Value in 2025

Russia's agricultural exports totaled more than 83.3 million tons in 2025, down from 109 million tons in 2024, according to estimates by Agroexport.

In value terms, exports also declined, falling by 4.1% year-on-year to $40.9 billion, based on data from the Federal Customs Service of Russia.

China remained the largest importer of Russian agricultural products, accounting for $7.7 billion in purchases. Belarus ranked second with $4 billion, followed by Kazakhstan and Turkey at $3.8 billion each. Iran and Egypt also featured among the top buyers, with imports valued at $2.9 billion and $2.3 billion, respectively. [3]

Russia Strengthens Position as Oilseed Output Expands Worldwide

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the US Department of Agriculture has raised its forecast for Russia's sunflower oil exports in the 2025/26 marketing year from 4 million to 4.2 million tons. This revision has also pushed the outlook for global sunflower oil exports higher, now approaching 13.4 million tons.

According to the agency, global sunflower production has recovered from last season's five-year low, supported by expanded planting areas in Argentina, Kazakhstan, Russia, and the United States.

However, weaker output in Ukraine, the European Union, and Turkey has limited the overall recovery in supply amid strong global demand.

As a result, sunflower oil prices have continued to rise. Between September 2025 and March 2026, average export prices reached nearly $1,300 per ton (FOB), up from about $1,100 per ton during the same period a year earlier.[4]

Russia's Oilseed Area Set to Hit Record in 2026/27

Russian farmers are increasingly shifting toward oilseed crops, driven by strong global prices for vegetable oils. According to analysts from ICAR, the total area under key oilseeds in Russia could reach a record 21.5–22 million hectares in the 2026/27 season, with production projected at a record 36 million tons. This compares to 21.06 million hectares and 34.9 million tons in 2025/26.

Part of this growth will come from newly integrated regions, which could add up to 2 million hectares to the oilseed area. Nearly half of this expansion is expected to be allocated to sunflower, while smaller shares will go to rapeseed and other oilseeds.

Sunflower remains the dominant crop in the sector, accounting for more than half of total oilseed acreage. After two seasons of relatively stable output, production is forecast to jump to 19 million tons in 2026/27, becoming the main driver of overall growth.

Soybean production, which saw a sharp increase in 2025/26, is expected to stabilize at around 8.9 million tons, indicating a plateau after rapid expansion.

Meanwhile, flax production is projected to decline moderately to 1.6 million tons following last season's surge. The decrease is attributed to a shift in planting toward more profitable crops such as sunflower and rapeseed, as well as reduced competitiveness due to export duties and still-developing processing capacity. [6]

Fuel and Gas Prices Put Pressure on Ukraine's Agricultural Sector

Rising fuel costs could significantly increase the cost of agricultural production in Ukraine, according to Oleh Khomenko, speaking during a discussion on the economic impact of the fuel crisis, as reported by Ukrinform.

Khomenko estimates that production costs may rise by 5–10% under an optimistic scenario, but could increase by as much as 20% under more realistic conditions. He emphasized that agriculture is highly dependent on fuel, particularly diesel, as nearly all field operations require it. Natural gas also plays a crucial role, especially in grain drying and fertilizer production, where it accounts for up to 90% of costs.

Although many farmers had previously secured some inputs such as fertilizers and fuel at lower prices, future purchases will need to be made at significantly higher rates, adding to overall production expenses.

The expert warned that these rising costs are likely to push up prices not only domestically but also on international markets. Countries that actively support their agricultural sectors—such as through tax relief or subsidies—are expected to be more competitive.

Khomenko suggested that Ukraine could mitigate cost pressures by introducing fuel excise tax relief for farmers, removing import duties on mineral fertilizers, and avoiding further increases in rail freight tariffs proposed by Ukrzaliznytsia. [2]

Ukraine's Grain Exports Lag Behind Last Season Despite April Shipments

As of April 17, Ukraine has exported 28.215 million tons of grain and pulses since the start of the 2025/26 marketing year, according to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine, citing data from the State Customs Service of Ukraine. Of this total, 2.056 million tons were shipped in April alone.

This marks a decline compared to the same period last season, when exports had reached 34.345 million tons by mid-April, including 1.521 million tons shipped during that month.

By commodity, wheat exports since the beginning of the season totaled 10.704 million tons, including 677,000 tons in April. Corn accounted for the largest share at 15.65 million tons, with 1.363 million tons exported during April, while barley shipments reached 1.423 million tons, including 15,000 tons for the month. Rye exports remained negligible.

In addition, Ukraine exported 51,700 tons of flour over the same period, including 1,900 tons in April. Wheat flour made up the majority of these shipments, totaling 50,300 tons.[2]

Ukraine Crushers Shift to Soy and Rapeseed Amid Weak Oil Demand

The global sunflower oil market remains subdued, even as domestic prices in Ukraine continue to rise alongside increasing freight costs. According to Serhii Repetskyi, this imbalance is prompting processors to shift toward alternative oilseeds such as rapeseed and soybeans.

Sunflower oil prices have climbed to $1,355–1,365 per ton (FOB), but these levels are failing to attract buyers, further weakening demand. Trading activity globally remains limited, with only small volumes reported in the UAE and at a recent tender in Turkey.

Demand in Europe and India remains weak. European buyers are resisting high asking prices, leaving offers to Spain and Italy unsold. In India, cheaper Argentine oil, seasonal consumption patterns, and reduced usage by food service operators due to gas shortages are dampening demand.

In Russia, a stronger ruble has reduced processing margins and increased export duties in dollar terms. At the same time, record production levels—exceeding 600,000 tons per month—have led to stock accumulation, forcing exporters to sell at lower prices.

Meanwhile, ports in Turkey and Egypt are facing congestion due to weak demand for refined products and high freight rates. Payment delays in Egypt have further complicated trade, with some shipments incurring demurrage costs.

Soybean oil prices in India have already declined by about $100 per ton from recent highs. Market participants anticipate a short-term rebound, but expect broader downward pressure across the vegetable oil complex in the near term.

Despite weak current demand, low shipment volumes from the Black Sea region in April could tighten supply by June. As a result, some buyers are considering forward purchases in May to secure volumes through the summer period. [1]

EU Sunflower Seed Output Set to Hit Three-Year High in 2026

The European Commission forecasts that the European Union will produce 9.6 million tons of sunflower seeds in 2026, according to data cited by UFOP. This represents an increase of about 1.2 million tons compared to last year and would mark the highest output in three years.

The growth is largely driven by a roughly 5% expansion in planted areas across the EU. Production gains are expected to be particularly strong in Romania, France, and Bulgaria. Romania is projected to remain the bloc's leading producer, with output rising 18% year-on-year to 2.1 million tons, supported by an increase in cultivated area to 1.2 million hectares. France, the second-largest producer, is expected to boost production by about 33% to 1.9 million tons.

Other countries, including Hungary, Spain, and Greece, are also forecast to post notable increases in sunflower output.

In Germany, production is expected to reach a record 175,000 tons, up by around 32,000 tons, with planted area expanding to 77,000 hectares from 62,000 hectares last year. Despite this growth, Germany remains a relatively small player compared to the EU's leading sunflower producers.

The upward revision reflects increasing interest among European farmers in crop diversification, UFOP noted.[1]

Algeria Buys 400,000 Tons of Durum Wheat in International Tender

OAIC has purchased approximately 400,000 tons of durum wheat through an international tender, significantly exceeding the initial volume of 50,000 tons—a common practice for Algeria when market conditions are favorable.

According to European traders, prices for the закупки were reported at $324–327 per ton on a C&F basis for larger Panamax shipments, while smaller Handymax cargoes were priced slightly higher at around $332–334 per ton.

Most of the wheat is expected to originate from Canada, particularly grade No.3 Canada Western Amber Durum (CWAD), with additional volumes likely supplied by the United States. This reflects Algeria's strategy of diversifying its sourcing.

Deliveries are scheduled in stages from early November through the end of December, allowing for steady supply and stable availability of durum wheat on the domestic market. [1]

Pakistan's Wheat Output Estimated at 29.3 Million Tons for Rabi Season

Wheat production in Pakistan for the 2025–26 Rabi season is estimated at 29.31 million tons, cultivated over 9.385 million hectares, according to figures presented at a meeting of the Federal Committee on Agriculture.

The meeting, chaired by Rana Tanveer Hussain, reviewed the performance of major crops and highlighted the importance of improving productivity to strengthen food security.

Looking ahead to the 2026–27 Kharif season, the committee set production targets of 9.17 million tons for rice, 9.77 million tons for maize, 80.3 million tons for sugarcane, and 9.64 million bales for cotton.

Water availability at canal headworks is projected at 67.45 million acre-feet. While rainfall in March and early April has improved conditions, soil moisture remains under strain following earlier dry periods. Weather risks, including heavy rain, hailstorms, and strong winds, could still affect harvesting operations.

Rising temperatures and additional rainfall expected in April–May may help improve reservoir levels, though the agricultural sector remains exposed to weather-related uncertainties during the harvest period. [1]

India Eyes Bangladesh as Key Market for Potential Wheat Exports

India is considering a substantial increase in wheat export quotas, potentially doubling current limits of 2.5 million tons for grain and 500,000 tons for processed products, according to market sources cited by S&P Global Platts. The move is driven by a sharp rise in domestic stockpiles.

Data from the Food Corporation of India show wheat reserves reached 23.6 million tons in March—71% above the required buffer levels and 76% higher than a year earlier. Maintaining these elevated inventories is increasing storage and handling costs for the government.

However, traders caution that higher quotas may not automatically translate into increased exports. Indian wheat remains less competitive in price compared to supplies from the Black Sea region and South America, limiting its appeal in global markets.

Bangladesh is seen as the most likely destination, given its annual import demand of 6.7–7.2 million tons. Still, even in this market, Indian wheat competes only in certain segments due to pricing and logistical constraints, while demand from other Southeast Asian countries remains limited.

Quality considerations also pose challenges. Buyers in Vietnam and Indonesia report that Indian wheat struggles to match the consistency and pricing of supplies from Australia, South America, and the Black Sea region.

Market participants expect that prices could ease following the arrival of the new harvest. Additional government support measures, including possible export subsidies, may further enhance the competitiveness of Indian wheat on the global market. [1]

Argentina to Boost Soybean Output to 49 Million Tons in 2026/27

Argentina is expected to increase soybean production to 49 million tons in the 2026/27 season, up 1 million tons from the previous year, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the US Department of Agriculture. The growth will be supported by a modest expansion in planted area and a return to more typical yields.

Soybean acreage is projected to rise to 17.4 million hectares from 16.5 million hectares, largely due to a reduction in corn planting. However, overall acreage is expected to remain relatively stable in the long term, with fluctuations driven mainly by crop rotation and relative profitability between soybeans and corn.

Fertilizer prices are emerging as a key risk factor for the upcoming season. A sharp increase of more than $200 per ton—linked to geopolitical developments involving Iran—has pushed up input costs. Given Argentina's reliance on imported fertilizers and limited reserves, this could influence final planting decisions.

Soybean processing is forecast to decline slightly, with crushing volumes expected to fall by 1 million tons to 42 million tons due to weaker margins. As a result, soybean meal production is projected to decrease by 2% to 31.9 million tons, although export volumes are expected to remain high at around 30 million tons.

Argentina's crushing industry remains highly developed, with about 345 processing plants and total capacity of roughly 67 million tons per year. Around 80% of this capacity is concentrated in Santa Fe, benefiting from direct access to the Paraná River and strong logistics infrastructure.

The country is expected to maintain its position as the world’s leading exporter of soybean meal and soybean oil, with approximately 86% of the soybean harvest processed domestically. Meanwhile, soybean exports are projected to remain stable at around 5.5 million tons, with China continuing to account for over 90% of shipments.

In addition, Argentina’s sunflower sector is set for further expansion. Planted area is expected to grow by 14% to 3.3 million hectares, with production rising to 6.8 million tons. Processing volumes are also forecast to increase to 5.6 million tons, with more than 80% of output processed domestically into higher-value products for export.[1]

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