

# EU 2011 review shows growing importance of ACP markets

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*Brussels, 14 May 2012/ CTA Agritrade:* The EC has published its review of agriculture in the EU for 2011. Tables annexed to the review highlight the growing importance of the ACP as a market for EU agricultural exports. While between 2007 and 2010 total EU agricultural exports grew by 22.2%, agricultural exports to the ACP group as a whole grew by 37.5%. Within the ACP group, exports to South Africa grew faster than the overall ACP average, increasing by 51% (exports to the ACP excluding South Africa grew by 35.3%). The data also suggest stronger growth in recent years in EU agricultural exports to West Africa (Ghana +22.7%, Côte d'Ivoire +19.6% and Nigeria +15.3% in value terms between 2008 and 2010, compared to an increase in the total value of EU agricultural exports of 12.1% over the same period).

Between 2007 and 2010 EU agricultural exports to the ACP as a whole grew faster than EU agricultural exports to ASEAN countries, Russia, India, Japan, Switzerland, Norway, candidate countries, Gulf states and NAFTA. The main destinations where EU agricultural product export growth was higher than to the ACP included China, the Mediterranean area and Mercosur.

These trends saw the ACP's share of total EU agricultural exports increase from 6.9% to 7.7%.

In contrast, between 2007 and 2010 the value of ACP agricultural exports to the EU grew by only 19.8%. However, with the value of total EU agricultural imports increasing by only 11.3%, this saw the ACP's share of EU agricultural imports increase from 12.7 to 13.7%.

In 2011, the EU recorded an agricultural trade surplus for the second year in a row. In value terms, EU agricultural exports grew by 16% in 2011 compared to 2010. The increase in export values was most pronounced in the categories of 'spirits and liqueurs and wine and vermouth' (+20%) and 'cereals preparations' (+17%). EU imports of agricultural products at 16% increased by a similar proportion.

[Read more at CTA website](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

*\* The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.*

*CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area.*

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