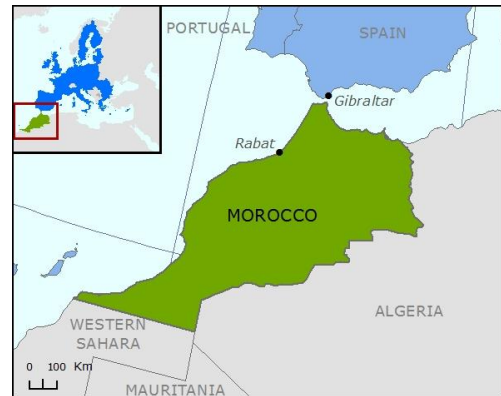




Morocco

Bilateral relations in agriculture



Main Country Indicators 2013

	Morocco	EU28
Total area (km ²)	446 550	4 385 992
Population (million)	33.1	506.7
Population density (per km ²)	73.9	120
GDP (current USD)	104.4 billion	17.3 trillion
GDP per capita (current USD)	3 108.6	34 240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	4.4	0.1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

Economic importance of agriculture (2011)

	Morocco	EU28
Agricultural land (km ²)	301 038	1 878 817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	67.5	44.3
Arable land as % of land area	17.8	25.6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	2.6	2.8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	39.2 *	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	14.6 *	1.6 *

Sources: World Bank * year 2012

Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Morocco (2013): EUR 1.25 billion

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Morocco (2013): EUR 1.3 billion

[More statistical information](#)

Latest update October 2014



Agriculture in Morocco

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy since it contributes 17% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides employment to half of the active labour force. It has benefited as a priority investment sector by the Government during the last four decades. Thus, it is the largest employer in the country. However, agricultural production varies with the weather conditions and most crops are grown by subsistence farmers, but a modernized sector produces food for export. In the rainy sections of the northwest, barley, wheat, and other cereals can be raised without irrigation. On the Atlantic coast, where there are extensive plains, olives, citrus fruits, and wine grapes are grown, largely with water supplied by artesian wells. The main products include wheat, barley, pulses, vegetables, citrus fruit, olives and olive oil, figs, and dates. Agricultural exports include vegetables, citrus, olive oil and wine. Animal products are consumed locally, except for processed leather. Morocco also produces a significant amount of illicit hashish, much of which is shipped to Western Europe. Livestock are raised and forests yield cork, cabinet wood, and building materials. Part of the maritime population fishes for its livelihood. Agadir, Essaouira, El Jadida, and Larache are among the important fishing harbors.

Moroccan agricultural production also consists mainly in fruit and vegetables in particular of orange, tomatoes, potatoes, olives, strawberries and olive oil. High quality agricultural products are usually exported to Europe. Morocco produces enough food for domestic consumption except for grains, sugar, coffee and tea. More than 40% of Morocco's consumption of grains and flour is imported from the United States and France.

EU-Morocco Relations

The EU seeks to develop particular close relationship with Morocco, its geographical neighbor, and to support Morocco's economic and political reforms. The relationship emphasizes close cooperation on democratic reform, economic modernization, and migration issues. The current agenda of EU-Morocco relations is spelled out in an Action Plan under the European Neighborhood Policy. Morocco and the EU are bound by the legally binding treaty in the form of an [Association agreement](#).

EU support to Agriculture in Morocco

Trade remains another important subject of relations, as well as the development cooperation, details of which can be found in the country strategy paper. For the agriculture sector, the CSP asked for:

- Ensuring the introduction of a coherent agricultural policy (including sustainable rural development measures and product quality policy) with the aim of convergence towards the necessary conditions for establishment of a Morocco-EU free trade area;
- Promoting the dissemination and exchange of information on agricultural policies and contribute to the transfer of know-how and experience;
- Improving agricultural structures and marketing chains;
- Developing and improving rural infrastructure;
- Diversification of rural economic activities;
- Development and promotion of quality products;
- Private-sector investment incentives;



- Researching on improvements in productivity and quality;
- Introduction of socio-economic measures to accompany the various reforms;
- Supporting the introduction of sectorial agricultural policy reforms;
- Supporting land tenure reform.

EU trade relations with Morocco

Negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the EU and Morocco were launched on 1st March 2013. The first round of negotiation started on 22 April 2013 in Rabat (4 rounds of negotiations held for the time being). This DCFTA will extend significantly beyond the scope of the existing Association Agreement to include trade in services, government procurement, competition, intellectual property rights, investment protection and the gradual integration of the Moroccan economy into the EU single market, for example in areas like industrial standards and technical regulations or sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

The main objective of the DCFTA is to bring Moroccan legislation closer to EU legislation in trade-related areas. The current framework for EU-Morocco trade relations is the [Association Agreement](#) between the EU and Morocco which entered into force 1st March 2000, and provided for a Free Trade Area (on agriculture progressive liberalization is provided).

In addition, an EU-Morocco Agreement on agricultural, processed agricultural and fisheries products entered into force 1st October 2012. The EU and Morocco are currently negotiating an agreement on mutual protection of Geographical Indications (4 rounds of negotiations held so far).

General information about EU-trade with Morocco can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/morocco/>