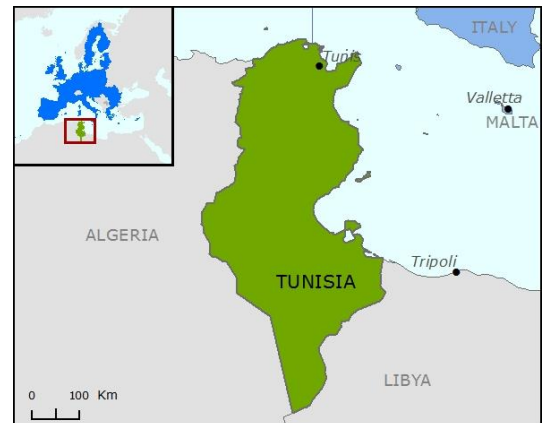




## Tunisia

### Bilateral relations in agriculture



#### Main Country Indicators 2013

	Tunisia	EU28
Total area (km <sup>2</sup> )	163 610	4 385 992
Population (million)	10.9	506.7
Population density (per km <sup>2</sup> )	70	120
GDP (current USD)	47.1 billion	17.3 trillion
GDP per capita (current USD)	4 329	34 240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	2.8	0.1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

#### Economic importance of agriculture (2012)

	Tunisia	EU28
Agricultural land (km <sup>2</sup> )	100 790	1 878 817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	64.8	44.3
Arable land as % of land area	18.3	25.6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	15.5	2.8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	16.2*	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	8.7 **	1.6 *

Sources: World Bank \* year 2011, \*\* year 2013

#### Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Tunisia (2013): EUR 731 million

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Tunisia (2013): EUR 467 million

More statistical information

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/tunisia\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/tunisia_en.pdf)

Latest update October 2014



## Agriculture in Tunisia

Agricultural output is central to the Tunisian economy; the 2 most important export crops are dates and olive oil, with almost half of all the cultivated land sown with cereals and another third planted with more than 80 million olive trees.

Tunisia is the 4<sup>th</sup> world's biggest producers and 3<sup>th</sup> exporter of olive oil, and it exports dates and citrus fruits that are grown mostly in the northern parts of the country. The center of the country is used largely to raise cattle, fruits and the Sahel region is famous for its olive groves, and the southern part of the country is known for its date production. Tunisia remains one of the few Arab countries which is self-sufficient in dairy products, vegetables, and fruit and almost self-sufficient in red meat. Since the 1980s, agricultural output has increased by about 40%, and exports of food have risen considerably. At the beginning of 2000 the government entered into talks with the European Union seeking a free-trade agreement for its agricultural goods. The remainder of Tunisia's agricultural production consists of several smaller export products including tomatoes, peppers, artichokes, melons, onions, potatoes, sugar beets, almonds, apricots, and wine.

Tunisia's labor-intensive agricultural sector uses very low levels of fertilizers and pesticides. Because farms are not highly mechanized, plowing a field may take 5 times longer than in the United States. Most of the land is split into very small farms making production much less efficient. Some 80% of farms are smaller than 20 hectares, and only 3% are larger than 50 hectares. 3% of landowners own 40% of the soil. So land concentration is HUGE. Transportation and storage facilities are poor, leading to high levels of waste. Severe droughts, like the one experienced in 2013, have proven to be enormously costly.

Annual agricultural production can vary significantly from year to year due to Tunisia's unpredictable and largely irregular rainfall patterns. Almost all of Tunisia's water is used in irrigation, and the government is seeking more efficient methods that will conserve water. Its national plan aims to increase water resources from 2.1 to 3.5 cubic meters billion per year by building 21 large dams, 203 hillside dams, 547 reservoirs, and 1 580 deep wells by the end of 2001.

The fishing industry employs 25 000 people and catches an average of 93 000 tons of fish a year. However, coastal fishing has declined dramatically since 1995 due to pollution and the depletion of fish stocks. Fish is Tunisia's second most important food export after olive oil, and the government has made strong efforts to improve processing and storage facilities in order to match European standards. The government has also invested heavily in the upgrading of its ports and the improvement of its fleets.

## EU-Tunisia Relations

The EU seeks to develop particular close relationship to Tunisia, its geographical neighbor, and to support Tunisia's economic and political reforms.

The relationship emphasizes close cooperation on democratic reform, economic modernization, and migration issues. The current agenda of EU-Tunisia relations is spelled out in an [Action Plan](#) under the [European Neighbourhood Policy](#). Tunisia and the EU are bound by the legally binding treaty in the form of an [Association agreement](#). Within the framework of the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013, two National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) define priorities for financial co-operation for 2011-2013.



The NIP 2011-2013 which foresaw an initial indicative budget of EUR 240 million, was increased by EUR 150 million i.e. a total of EUR 390 million. Tunisia was the first Mediterranean country to sign an Association Agreement with the EU, in July 1995. Tariff dismantling under the Agreement was completed in 2008, with the resulting Free Trade Area, the first between the EU and a Mediterranean partner.

The Council of the European Union adopted in December 2011 negotiating directives for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas for four Southern-Mediterranean countries, including Tunisia. Negotiations are foreseen in Spring 2015. The launch of this agreement is foreseen in spring 2015.

The main objective of the DCFTA is to bring Tunisian legislation closer to EU legislation in trade-related areas. The current framework for EU-Tunisia trade relations is the [Association Agreement](#) between the EU and Tunisia which entered into force 1st March 1998, and provided for a Free Trade Area (on agriculture progressive liberalization is provided). 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.

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

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