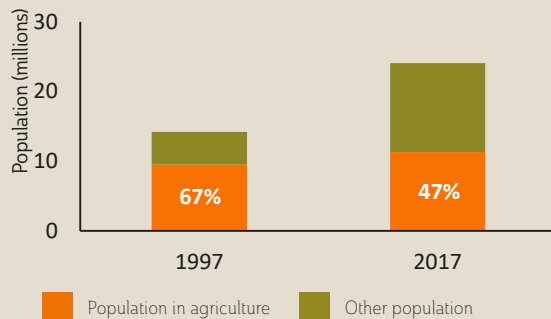
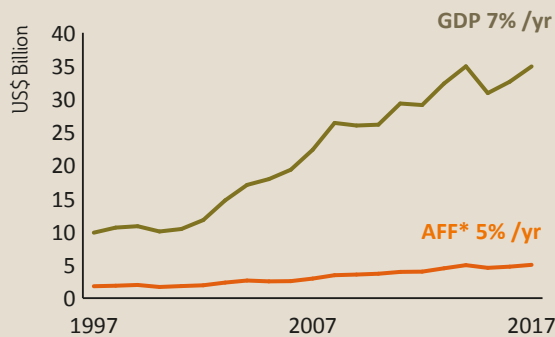




Macroeconomic context

Cameroon is the largest economy in CEMAC, a region experiencing an economic crisis triggered by the steep fall in oil prices.¹ Real GDP growth in 2019–23 is predicted at 4.3%, supported by production from a new liquefied natural gas offshore terminal.² Agriculture contributes importantly to GDP, but less than oil, mining and services. In 2017 agriculture contributed 76% of economic growth due to efforts to improve high-value-added subsectors (cocoa, coffee, cotton) and establishment of farms.³

Cameroon is classed by the World Bank as a lower-middle-income country and has a medium Human Development Index (ranked 151 of 189 countries).



* AFF: Gross Output Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

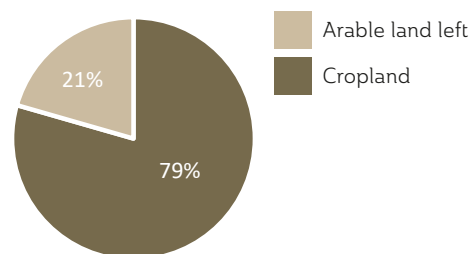
FOOD PRODUCTION

Top 10 horticultural crops (000 tons, 2017)

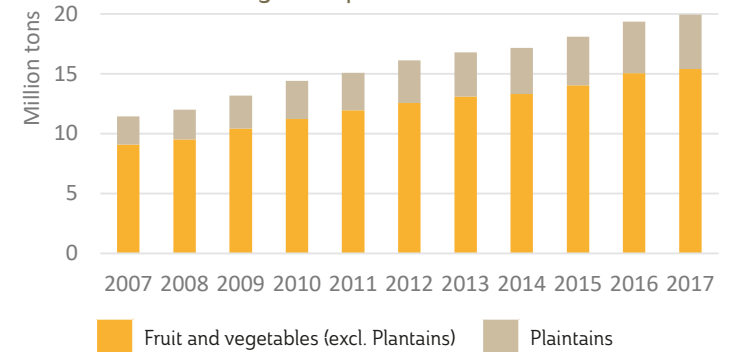
1	Cassava	5,799	6	Other veg.	776
2	Plantains	4,536	7	Yams	648
3	Taro	1,847	8	Groundnuts	480
4	Tomatoes	1,280	9	Sweet potatoes	466
5	Bananas	1,246	10	Beans	462

Cameroon's comparative advantages

- Cameroon is located in the centre of the subregion and its agricultural sector has been historically important in the global economy.
- Many agroecological assets allow the production of a wide range of plant products throughout the year.
- Current government programmes under the National Agricultural Investment Plan 2017–20 include the Agropole Programme,⁴ support to young farmers,⁵ and agricultural value chain development.⁶
- In 2018 a second seaport opened at Kribi with a new container terminal to supply CEMAC countries, and there are plans to modernise Douala seaport.
- High informal trade figures suggest there is great potential in the regional economy to increase the volume of trade within CEMAC by lifting trade barriers.⁷



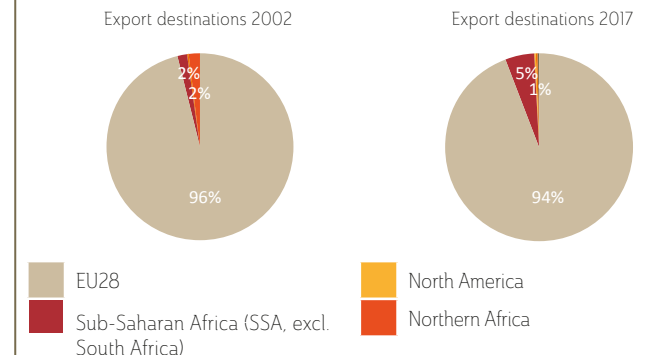
Trends in fruit and vegetable production



TRADE

Cameroon has maintained a positive trade balance for fruit and vegetables over the past decade – in 2017 it exported 271,799 tons more than it imported.

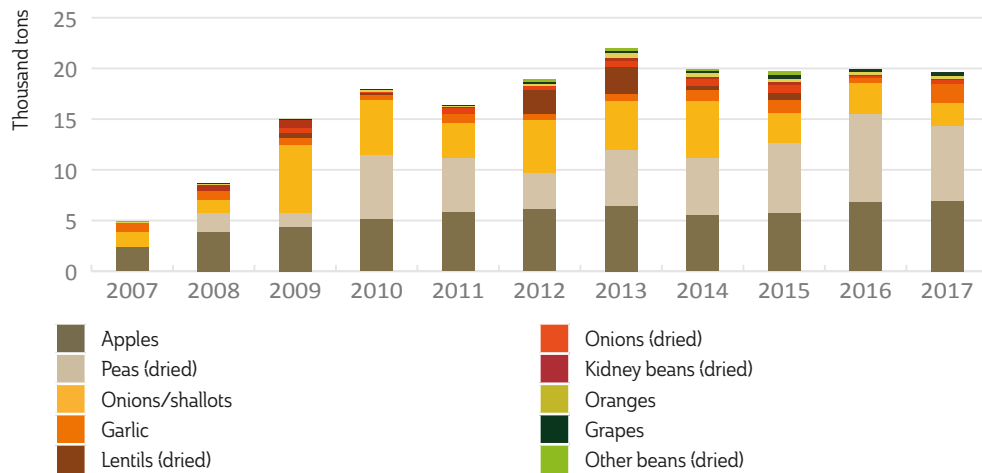
According to formal statistics exports are almost entirely to the EU (94% of the quantity and 97% of the value of all exports). However, a high level of informal trade with neighbouring countries goes unrecorded. The bulk of exports to the EU are bananas and plantains; also pineapples, dried and processed beans, and fresh and chilled vegetables.



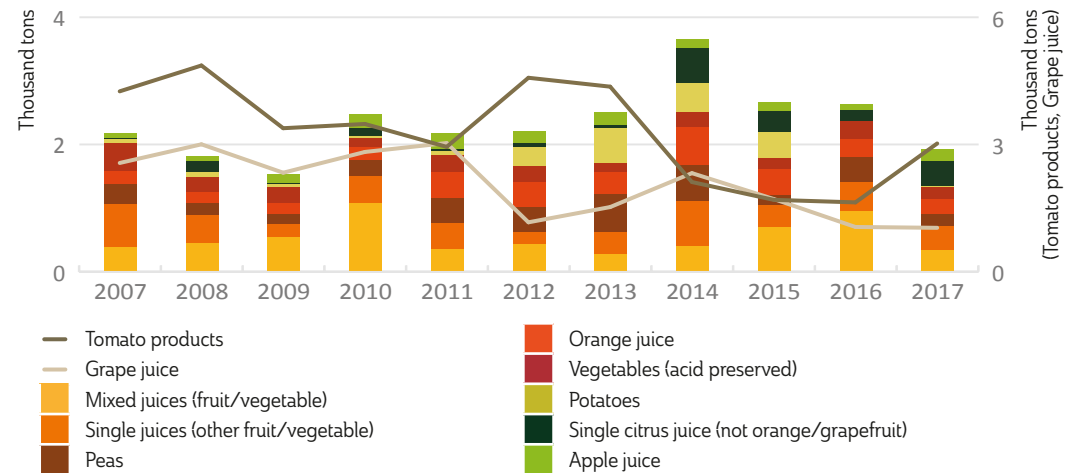


GLOBAL TRADE IN FRUITS, NUTS AND VEGETABLES (BY VOLUME)

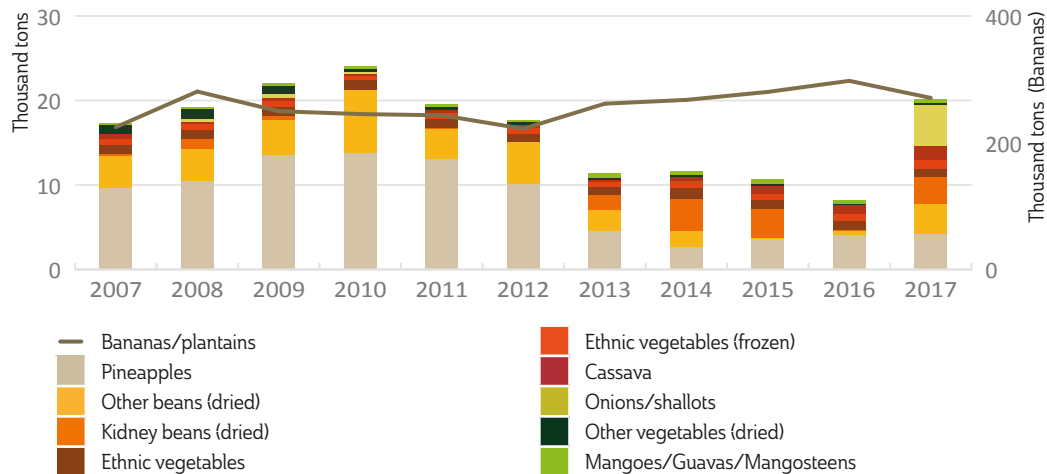
IMPORTS of top 10 FRESH fruits, nuts and vegetables



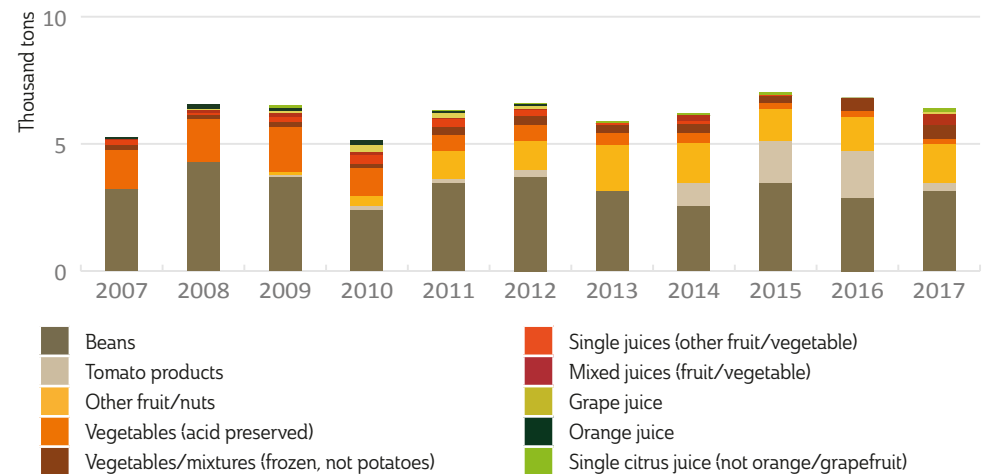
IMPORTS of top 10 PROCESSED fruits, nuts and vegetables



EXPORTS of top 10 FRESH fruits, nuts and vegetables



EXPORTS of top 10 PROCESSED fruits, nuts and vegetables





FOCUS ON THE MARKET

Supply

The main production areas are the West Region for plantain banana, avocado, tomato (71% of national production), red bean (37%), potato (57%), pepper and eggplant, south and west for pineapples (Smooth Cayenne and sugarloaf); and the north for tomato, onion and red bean. Despite the good climate, production is vulnerable to climate shocks, and there is a climate of insecurity in some production areas.

Until the late 1980s Cameroon was considered self-sufficient in agricultural production but food imports have been growing since the 1990s.⁸ Fresh fruit and vegetables are imported from Nigeria, USA, South Africa and the Caribbean, and processed products (preserves, tomato paste, juice) from China and the EU.

Demand

Consumption of fresh products is 36–65 kg/capita/year on average.⁴

Key facts

Cameroon is responsible for 75% of fruit and vegetable exports within the ECCAS region (mainly to neighbouring countries). One study suggests that 96% of regional trade is informal or unrecorded.⁴ According to official data, in 2015 Cameroon exported US\$13 million of agricultural products within CEMAC, whereas an estimation based on the study above and taking account of demographic growth suggests a figure of US\$85 million.

Processing is traditional, carried out by semi-industrial SMEs, and on a more industrial scale for beverages. Processed products are mainly for local consumption or exported to West Africa.

Bananas are mostly cultivated in large agro-industrial plantations for export; France, Belgium and UK were the main importers in 2016. In 2017, 270,415 tonnes were exported to the EU.

Niches with potential include safou (*Dacryodes edulis*), which is in demand in Central Africa for both food and cosmetics uses; also cola, mango kernels, and forest fruits.

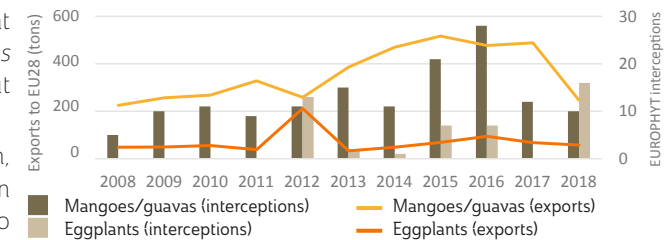
In 2017, about 1,100 ha was under organic cultivation by 500 producers.⁹

EU MARKET AND SPS ISSUES

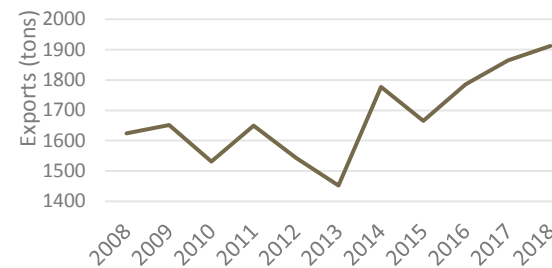
The main problem is in mangoes, with continual interceptions of fruit flies (Tephritidae) and some *Bactrocera* spp.

In eggplants, the main issue is eggplant fruit and shoot borer (*Leuconides orbonalis*) with interceptions falling but then rising again to 16 in 2018.

There has been one RASFF notification, for excess ethephon on pineapple in 2016. Various initiatives are working to support and improve the SPS control system in Cameroon.¹⁰



One to watch: other vegetables



African nightshade (*Solanum scabrum*) is one example of ethnic vegetables widely grown in Cameroon. Vast amounts of the crop are conveyed from collection centers to cities as far as 300 km away. WorldVeg's contributions from 2008 onwards on variety evaluation, demand creation and linkage activities to bring this nutritious vegetable to the (export) market appear to be paying off.¹¹

	National	Regional	EU	World
Potential		Safou		
Developing	Plantain chips; Cassava pastes; Fruit juices; Fruit pulps; Jellies; Jams	Plantain chips; Cassava pastes; Fruit juices; Fruit pulps; Jellies; Jams; Safou	Chillies; Organic papayas; Organic mangoes; (Improved from Cameroon)	Spices e.g. Penja pepper
Mature	Plantain bananas; Avocados; Tomatoes; Red beans; Potatoes; Peppers; Eggplants; Onions	Plantain bananas; Avocados; Tomatoes; Red beans; Potatoes; Peppers; Eggplants; Onions	Sweet bananas; Pineapples; Guavas; Papayas; Green beans (fresh and frozen)	



Notes

- ¹ World Bank (2019) *The World Bank in Cameroon: Overview*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cameroon/overview>
- ² The Economist (2019) *Cameroon*. <https://country.eiu.com/cameroon>
- ³ Business in Cameroon (2018) Cameroon: Agriculture contributed 76.38% to GDP in 2017. *Business in Cameroon*, 23 August. <https://www.businessincameroon.com/agriculture/2308-8270-cameroon-agriculture-contributed-76-38-to-gdp-in-2017>
- ⁴ MINEPAT (n.d.) *Programme Agropoles Cameroun*. Ministry of Economy, Planning and Land Planning. <https://programme-agropoles.cm>
- ⁵ Anon. (2019) FCfa one billion to set up young Cameroonian farmers in 2017. *Business in Cameroon*, 21 August. <https://www.businessincameroon.com/agriculture/2203-6996-fcfa-one-billion-to-set-up-young-cameroonian-farmers-in-2017>
- ⁶ AfDB (2019) *Cameroon – Agricultural Value Chain Development Project*. Abidjan: African Development Bank. <https://projectsportal.afdb.org/dataportal/VProject/show/P-CM-AA0-012>
- ⁷ Nkendah, R. (2010) The informal cross-border trade of agricultural commodities between Cameroon and its CEMAC's neighbours. Paper for the NSF/AERC/IGC Conference, Mombasa, 4 December. <https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/nkendah.pdf>
- ⁸ Abia, W.A., Shum, C.E., Fomboh, R.N., Ntungwe, E.N. and Ageh, M.T. (2016) Agriculture in Cameroon: proposed strategies to sustain productivity. *International Journal for Research in Agricultural Research*, 2(2). https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319312288_Agriculture_in_Cameroon_Proposed_Strategies_to_Sustain_Productivity
- ⁹ FiBL and IFOAM (2019) *The World of Organic Agriculture*. Bonn: Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). <https://www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2019/02/13/world-organic-agriculture-2019>
- ¹⁰ Mbodiam, B.R. (2018) EU could ban fruits and vegetables from Cameroon. *Business in Cameroon*, 24 April. <https://www.businessincameroon.com/agriculture/2404-7988-eu-could-ban-fruits-and-vegetables-from-cameroon>
- ¹¹ Dinssa, F.F., Kamga, R. and Afari-Sefa, V. (2017) *Traditional African vegetables go commercial in Cameroon*. Tainan: World Vegetable Center. <https://avrdc.org/traditional-african-vegetables-go-commercial-cameroon/>

Local research: ClassM



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World Bank Country Overviews: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16833769>

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

Human Development Index 2018 – a composite index of life expectancy, education and per capita income indicators: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf

AFF as percentage of GDP (AFF = Gross Output Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing): <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/nv.agr.totl.zs>

Population: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/>

Population employed in agriculture: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.rur.totl.zs>

Food production: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/>

Trends in fruit and vegetable production: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/>

Cropland and arable land left: World Bank

Total exports (quantity and value): IFPRI

Global imports and exports, top 10 fresh fruit and vegetables, and top 10 processed fruit and vegetables: IFPRI

Regional imports and exports, top 10 fresh fruit and vegetables, and top 10 processed fruit and vegetables: IFPRI

Exports to EU28, top 10 fresh fruit and vegetables, and top 10 processed fruit and vegetables: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Focus on the EU market: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/europhyt_en