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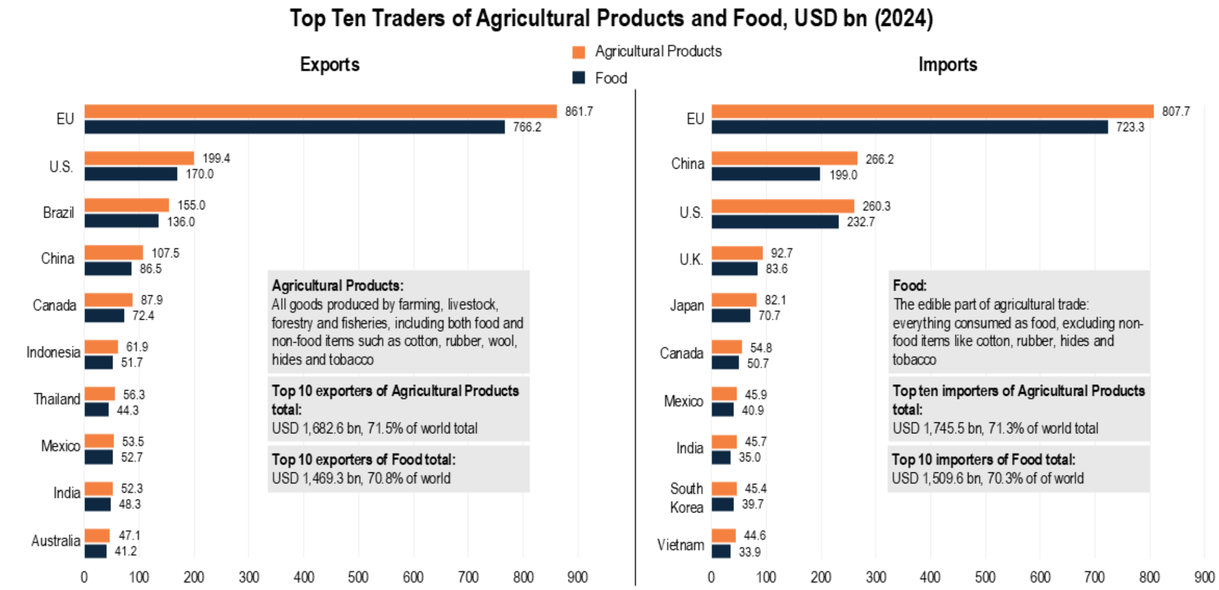
Global Leaders in Agricultural and Food Trade in 2024

The EU dominates both markets, while the U.S. and Brazil remain strong exporters. China plays a larger role as an importer, especially of Food, highlighting its growing dependence on global agricultural supply chains.



Source: WTO, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis. Note: Food is a subset of Agricultural Products under WTO classifications.

The global trade landscape for agricultural products and food is highly concentrated, with the top ten traders accounting for more than 70% of world flows. The European Union (EU) overwhelmingly anchors both markets: it is by far the largest exporter and importer of agricultural goods and food, reflecting the depth of its integrated value chains, its strong production base and its heavy intra-EU trade.

For a detailed study on global agricultural trade in the years before 2024, please see *Global Agriculture: Producing and Trading the World's Food and Strategic Implications for Agri Businesses*.

The U.S. and Brazil follow as the next major exporters, but neither comes close to the EU's scale, underscoring the bloc's central role in shaping global agricultural supply and demand. The U.S. and Brazil remain structurally strong agricultural suppliers, while China's export role is more limited.

The picture flips on the import side: China is the second-largest importer of agricultural products after the EU and a significant overall food importer. This divergence highlights a fundamental structural pattern: the U.S. and Brazil are net providers of global agricultural commodities and food, whereas China is increasingly a primary destination market.

Other advanced economies, such as the U.K., Japan and Canada, also appear prominently as importers, reflecting their heavy dependence on external suppliers of food and agricultural raw materials.

The side-by-side comparison reveals that food is consistently slightly smaller than total agricultural trade for every major country, confirming that a meaningful portion of global agricultural commerce lies in non-food items such as cotton, rubber, hides and wool.

For countries like Brazil, Indonesia, and India, the gap between agricultural and food exports is especially visible, suggesting a strong role in supplying raw agricultural materials and edible goods. Conversely, on the import side, China and the U.S. show large food import volumes relative to total agricultural imports, indicating the scale of their domestic consumption needs.

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Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:

- Global Agriculture: Producing and Trading the World's Food and Strategic Implications for Agri Businesses
- The Global Agricultural Trade Landscape
- Petrochemicals, Metals, Agriculture and Advanced Manufacturing: Canada's Exports at the Crossroads of Resources and Industry

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