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DYNAMICS AND STRUCTURE OF IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN IVORY COAST: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

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Summary. The article analyzes the foreign trade activity of Ivory Coast for the period 2005–2024, with an emphasis on the import of agricultural products. The study is based on data from the International Trade Centre (ITC Trade Map) and includes an assessment of the dynamics of the value of exports and imports, the commodity structure of purchases, as well as key supplier countries. The study highlights the dependence of Ivory Coast on food imports, despite the development of the agricultural sector, and offers recommendations for reducing food security risks.

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Introduction. Ivory Coast is the second largest economy in West Africa and belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries. The 2002 civil war split the country, but the 2007 peace agreement brought stability back to the economy [1, p. 112]. Ivory Coast is one of West Africa's most influential, stable, and rapidly developing economies; poverty declines in urban but increases in rural areas; strong construction sector and increasingly diverse economic portfolio; increasing but manageable public debt; large labour force in agriculture [2]. Given the high dependence on imported agricultural products, Ivory Coast could become an interesting destination for food products. In the meantime, Ivory Coast continues to be highly dependent on French exports (about 20 % of all supplies) due to historical ties [3, p. 2].

The purpose of the work: to study the state of foreign trade and trends in imports of agricultural products in Ivory Coast.

Materials and methods of research. In the process of conducting the study, official statistical information of the International Trade Centre was used, which presents groups of agricultural products according to the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System. On the basis of these data, the changes in the foreign trade of Ivory Coast are reflected, as well as the values of individual groups, and the periods of transformation of foreign trade values are outlined.

Research results and discussion.

An analysis of data on the value of Ivory Coast's merchandise exports for 2005–2024 shows a steady increase, especially during periods of

economic recovery. The value of merchandise exports increased from \$7.2 bn in 2005 to \$20.5 bn in 2024. The value of merchandise exports increased from \$7.2 bn in 2005 to \$20.5 bn in 2024 – almost \$20.5 bn in 2024. The value of merchandise exports increased from \$7.2 bn in 2005 to \$20.5 bn in 2024 – almost a triple increase in 20 years. The highest growth rates were in 2013 (126.5 %) and 2021 (123.3 %). Falling year-on-year growth rates were seen in 2016 (84.6 %) and 2018 (92.9 %). By 2024, merchandise exports grew by 282.8 % relative to the 2005 baseline. The value of imports increased from \$5.9 bn in 2005 to \$17.2 bn in 2024. Although the growth in imports is less significant than in exports, volumes nearly tripled. The largest jump in imports of goods was in 2012 (145.6 %). Slower growth rates to the previous year were recorded in 2016 (80.8 %) and 2024 (91.4 %). Imports grew by 293.4 % by 2024 relative to the 2005 baseline level. Despite the slowdown in imports in recent years (a deficit of -\$1.6 bn was recorded in 2022 and a deficit of -\$1.6 bn in 2023), imports are expected to grow by -\$1.6 bn by 2024 relative to the 2005 baseline level. In 2022, a deficit of -\$1.6 bn and in 2023, a deficit of -\$0.5 bn. The country has maintained a positive overall trade balance: 2024 showed a recovery of the balance, indicating stabilisation of foreign trade policy.

Table 1 – Dynamics of the value of Ivory Coast's foreign trade in goods for 2005–2024

Year	Value of exports of goods, billion dollars United States	Growth rate compared to the previous year, %	Cumulative growth rate, %	Value of imports of goods, billion dollars United States	Growth rate compared to the previous year, %	Cumulative growth rate, %	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2005	7,2	–	100,0	5,9	–	100,0	1,4
2006	8,1	112,4	112,4	5,8	99,2	99,2	2,3
2007	8,1	99,0	111,3	6,7	114,8	113,9	1,4
2008	9,7	120,6	134,2	7,8	117,4	133,8	1,9
2009	10,3	105,9	142,2	7,0	89,1	119,2	3,3
2010	10,3	99,8	141,9	7,9	112,4	134,0	2,4
2011	11,1	108,0	153,3	6,7	85,4	114,4	4,4
2012	10,9	97,8	149,8	9,8	145,6	166,6	1,1
2013	13,7	126,5	189,6	12,7	130,2	216,9	1,0
2014	12,7	92,3	175,0	11,1	87,4	189,6	1,6
2015	12,6	99,0	173,3	10,4	93,6	177,4	2,2
2016	10,6	84,6	146,7	8,4	80,8	143,3	2,2
2017	12,7	119,3	175,1	9,6	114,5	164,1	3,1
2018	11,8	92,9	162,7	11,0	114,3	187,6	0,8
2019	12,9	109,7	178,5	10,7	97,2	182,3	2,2
2020	12,5	96,3	171,8	10,5	98,5	179,6	1,9
2021	15,4	123,3	211,9	14,0	132,9	238,7	1,4

Continuation of the table 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2022	16,4	106,8	226,2	18,0	128,4	306,4	-1,6
2023	18,4	112,0	253,3	18,8	104,8	321,1	-0,5
2024	20,5	111,6	282,8	17,2	91,4	293,4	3,3

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

Over 2005–2022, the balance of foreign trade in services remained negative. The maximum deficit was observed in 2021 (-\$3.0 bn). The dynamics of Ivory Coast's foreign trade in services shows a slow but steady growth in exports and imports. At the same time, the country consumes significantly more services from outside than it provides. The year 2021 stands out in particular, characterised by high growth rates in both exports and imports of services. Low growth rates of services exports were observed in 2009 (97.8 per cent) and 2020 (92.3 %) due to global economic factors.

Table 2 – Dynamics of the value of Ivory Coast's foreign trade in services for 2005–2022

Year	Value of exports of services, billion dollars	Growth rate compared to the previous year, %	Cumulative growth rate, %	Value of imports of services, billion dollars	Growth rate compared to the previous year, %	Cumulative growth rate, %	Balance
2005	0,9	–	100,0	2,3	–	100,0	-1,3
2006	1,0	105,1	105,1	2,4	105,1	105,1	-1,4
2007	1,0	110,9	116,5	2,6	110,9	116,5	-1,6
2008	1,2	107,6	125,4	2,8	107,6	125,4	-1,7
2009	1,2	97,8	122,6	2,8	97,8	122,6	-1,6
2010	1,2	107,3	131,6	3,0	107,3	131,6	-1,8
2011	1,0	93,8	123,4	2,8	93,8	123,4	-1,8
2012	1,0	104,5	129,0	2,9	104,5	129,0	-1,9
2013	0,9	102,8	132,6	3,0	102,8	132,6	-2,1
2014	0,9	101,8	135,0	3,1	101,8	135,0	-2,2
2015	0,8	90,8	122,6	2,8	90,8	122,6	-2,0
2016	0,9	104,3	127,8	2,9	104,3	127,8	-2,0
2017	1,0	115,0	147,0	3,3	115,0	147,0	-2,4
2018	1,2	103,8	152,6	3,5	103,8	152,6	-2,3
2019	1,2	98,1	149,8	3,4	98,1	149,8	-2,2
2020	0,7	92,3	138,3	3,1	92,3	138,3	-2,4
2021	0,9	124,9	172,7	3,9	124,9	172,7	-3,0
2022	1,0	98,3	169,8	3,9	98,3	169,8	-2,9

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

The value of all exports rose from \$8.2 bn in 2005 to \$17.4 bn. The value of all exports increased from \$8.2 bn in 2005 to \$17.4 bn in 2022. The

most significant growth was in 2013 (+123.9 % against the previous year). In 2016, the export growth rate was only 86.6 %, which was the lowest in the entire period. By 2022, exports increased by 212.1 % compared to the initial level of 2005. The balance of foreign trade, starting from a positive indicator in 2006 (+\$0.9 bn), continued to fluctuate. It turned negative in some years, especially in 2022 (-\$4.5 bn). The largest deficit was recorded in 2022, indicating the need to improve the trade balance. Both exports and imports showed stable growth, which reflects the development of foreign economic activity.

Table 3 – Dynamics of the value of Ivory Coast's foreign trade for 2005–2022

Year	Value of exports, billion dollars United States	Growth rate compared to the previous year, %	Cumulative growth rate, %	Value of imports, billion dollars United States	Growth rate compared to the previous year, %	Cumulative growth rate, %	Balance
2005	8,2	–	100,0	8,1	–	100,0	0,1
2006	9,1	111,2	111,2	8,2	100,9	100,9	0,9
2007	9,1	100,2	111,4	9,3	113,7	114,7	-0,2
2008	10,9	119,4	133,0	10,7	114,6	131,5	0,2
2009	11,5	105,5	140,3	9,8	91,4	120,2	1,7
2010	11,5	99,9	140,2	10,9	111,0	133,3	0,6
2011	12,1	105,7	148,2	9,5	87,7	116,9	2,6
2012	11,8	97,7	144,8	12,7	133,5	156,1	-0,9
2013	14,7	123,9	179,4	15,7	123,9	193,3	-1,1
2014	13,6	92,6	166,1	14,2	90,2	174,3	-0,6
2015	13,3	98,0	162,9	13,2	93,0	162,1	0,1
2016	11,5	86,6	141,1	11,3	85,7	139,0	0,2
2017	13,7	118,3	167,0	13,0	114,6	159,3	0,7
2018	13,0	94,9	158,4	14,5	111,6	177,8	-1,5
2019	14,1	108,8	172,3	14,1	97,4	173,2	0,0
2020	13,2	93,5	161,1	13,7	97,0	168,0	-0,5
2021	16,3	123,4	198,8	17,9	131,1	220,2	-1,7
2022	17,4	106,7	212,1	21,8	121,8	268,3	-4,5

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

An analysis of the commodity structure of Ivory Coast's imports of goods leads to the conclusion that mineral products accounted for the major share over the period 2005–2024 (excluding 2005, 2013, 2015–2018, 2020–2021, 2023). The share of this group of goods was 27 % on average over 2005–2024, with the maximum share reached in 2008 at 38.4 %. Machinery, equipment and transport vehicles constituted the next most important import item (26 %), but their share compared to 2005 underwent the most significant changes, decreasing by 11 %. Chemical industry products occupied slightly less than a fifth of the total volume of imports of goods, with an average

specific weight of 15 %. The share of agricultural products in Ivory Coast's total imports underwent the most significant change, from 14.7 % (2005) to 21 % (2024), an increase of 6.2 percentage points, which is of concern to the Government; non-precious metals, 6 %. A very small share, about 3 %, of Ivory Coast's import purchases was taken up by other goods, light industrial products and timber at 2 %.

Table 4 – Commodity structure of imports of goods by Ivory Coast for 2005–2024, %

Year	Agricultural products	Mineral products	Chemical products	Wood	Light industry products	Base metals	Machinery, equipment and vehicles	Other Products
2005	14,7	29,8	10,5	1,6	1,6	6,4	33,1	2,4
2006	17,4	33,7	13,0	1,9	1,7	4,8	24,9	2,5
2007	17,6	32,5	12,4	2,1	2,0	5,6	25,7	2,1
2008	19,8	38,4	12,7	2,1	1,9	5,6	17,6	1,9
2009	23,5	27,3	14,3	2,4	2,4	5,6	22,7	1,8
2010	19,4	25,8	13,2	2,0	2,5	4,9	30,4	1,8
2011	25,4	30,9	15,7	2,2	2,4	4,0	16,5	2,9
2012	20,2	32,8	13,0	1,6	2,4	4,7	23,2	2,1
2013	14,7	27,0	11,1	1,3	1,8	4,4	38,3	1,5
2014	17,1	27,7	14,9	1,7	4,0	6,0	26,1	2,5
2015	17,8	18,7	14,8	1,7	2,2	7,8	34,3	2,7
2016	22,1	17,3	17,9	2,0	2,7	6,5	28,4	3,2
2017	21,3	19,0	16,9	2,1	2,8	5,9	29,1	2,9
2018	21,4	23,9	15,7	2,0	2,1	7,3	25,1	2,5
2019	21,8	23,8	17,0	2,1	2,3	7,1	23,2	2,7
2020	22,0	21,8	17,8	2,2	2,6	6,6	24,0	3,0
2021	22,4	19,9	17,1	2,2	3,0	7,1	25,3	3,0
2022	18,3	29,0	14,5	1,9	1,7	6,7	25,0	2,7
2023	17,2	27,4	14,3	1,7	1,7	6,4	28,5	2,8
2024	21,0	28,8	14,6	1,8	1,7	7,0	22,1	3,1

Note – In-house development based on the commodity classification of the Unified CN of FEA of the EAEU and ITC Trade Map international trade data

Let's analyze the import of goods from Ivory Coast in the context of key agricultural commodity items.

Table 5 – List of the most important commodity items of import by Ivory Coast for 2020–2024 (USD million)

Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
All Products	10532,2	13998,3	17972,1	18834,7	17207,0	6674,8
Mineral fuels, oil and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2040,6	2414,1	4837,5	4802,9	4625,6	2585
Cereals	758,9	1020,6	1174,5	999,8	1263,8	505
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	577,6	750,0	742,1	840,7	892,3	315
Meat and edible meat by-products	106,0	136,6	140,4	163,1	164,4	58
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and vinegar	110,3	150,1	153,7	171,4	154,0	44
Residues and waste from the food industry; Ready-made animal feed	77,3	131,6	105,3	152,1	152,8	75
Tobacco and industrial tobacco substitutes	125,6	179,4	170,7	111,8	147,4	22
Dairy products; bird eggs; natural honey; food products of animal origin, ...	99,1	134,2	141,0	132,5	128,9	30
Finished products made from cereal grains, flour, starch or milk; Flour confectionery	99,2	131,8	112,6	122,7	127,0	28

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

Ivory Coast's dependence on petroleum products is clearly reflected in the fuel import data for 2020–2024 (an 126.7 % increase). The significant growth in imports of cereals (+66.5 %) and fish (+54.5 %) confirms their key role in the food market. Animal feed (+97.7 %) showed an impressive increase due to the development of animal husbandry. Relatively stable imports

of dairy products (+30.1 %) and ready-to-eat products (+28.0 %) indicate the continued demand from the population. Moderate growth of tobacco (+17.3 %) reflects the global trend of changing consumer preferences towards its surrogates.

Let us analyse Ivory Coast's imports of the most important agricultural products for 2020–2024.

Table 6 – List of the most important agricultural commodity items of Ivory Coast's imports for 2020–2024 (USD million)

Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
Rice	550,3	731,0	810,0	722,1	1003,5	453,2
Frozen fish	572,8	743,7	736,3	835,8	886,5	313,7
Wheat and meslin	200,9	249,3	336,4	267,2	222,6	21,7
Edible pig by-products	42,6	70,2	78,6	92,3	94,4	51,8
Grape wines	36,6	54,4	52,7	64,1	53,5	16,9
Edible bovine by-products	40,6	46,0	46,1	50,4	53,0	12,4
Maize	3,9	34,3	25,9	7,5	33,4	29,5
Buckwheat, millet and canary seeds; other cereals	3,8	5,9	2,2	2,8	4,1	0,3

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

The sharpest increase in the value of the most important agricultural commodity imports of Ivory Coast for 2020–2024 was observed for maize (+756.4 %), indicating an increase in domestic demand and problems with local production. Ivory Coast's imports of rice (+82.3 %) and frozen fish (+54.8 %) increased significantly, confirming their importance in Ivory Coast's food market structure. Swine by-products (+121.7 %) showed a sharp increase, due to the expansion of processing capacity. The steady increase in imports of grape wines (+46.2 %) reflects the changing consumer preferences of the country's inhabitants. Imports of wheat and meslin (+10.8 %) remained relatively stable.

Table 7 – Top 10 rice exporting countries to Ivory Coast, 2020–2024 (USD million)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Vietnam	269,7	214,3	388,5	314,2	345,5	75,8
India	178,8	283,8	328,8	282,1	249,3	70,6
Thailand	45,6	95,0	18,1	35,1	198,0	152,4
Pakistan	22,6	48,2	46,4	57,0	133,4	110,8
China	27,8	57,7	12,5	25,8	37,3	9,5

Continuation of the table 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Myanmar	3,9	11,5	12,8	3,9	23,9	20,1
United States	0,0	18,8	0,0	0,9	7,6	7,6
Cambodia	1,4	1,2	1,3	2,8	3,0	1,6
Indonesia	—	—	—	—	2,6	2,6
Chinese Taipei	—	—	—	—	1,3	1,3
Other countries	0,6	0,5	1,5	0,2	1,5	0,9

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

Vietnam and India consistently led the way in rice exports to Ivory Coast in 2020–2024, although volumes fluctuated markedly by year. Vietnam showed an increase of \$75.8 mn (+28.1 %) by 2024 over 2020, while India showed an increase of \$70.6 mn (+39.5 %). Thailand and Pakistan showed a sharp increase in exports by 2024, with Thailand increasing exports by \$152.4 mn (almost 4.5 times relative to 2020) and Pakistan by \$110.8 mn (more than 5 times). Although India and Vietnam have maintained their leading positions, but increasing competition from Thailand and Pakistan may change the market in the future. China declined in export volumes compared to 2021, but remained a significant supplier. The US, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, and Cambodia exported minimal volumes.

Table 8 – Top 10 countries exporting frozen fish to Ivory Coast, 2020–2024 (USD million)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
Chile	36,5	73,5	97,6	151,1	145,5	109,1
China	61,3	99,4	91,3	86,4	119,6	58,3
Peru	5,6	9,5	26,3	52,3	100,3	94,8
Senegal	150,6	159,6	125,7	115,5	99,7	-50,9
Mauritania	129,6	109,1	96,7	90,4	87,1	-42,5
Morocco	39,7	57,3	57,1	78,7	57,5	17,9
Republic of Korea	1,4	6,3	14,1	30,6	25,1	23,7
Belize	—	—	7,6	13,6	24,3	24,3
France	0,2	1,6	2,3	3,4	24,2	24,0
Russian Federation	35,1	52,1	22,7	42,3	23,4	-11,6
Other countries	112,9	175,2	194,9	171,7	179,5	66,7

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

Peru, the Republic of Korea and France showed an impressive increase in frozen fish exports to Ivory Coast in 2020–2024 (more than 16 times). Senegal, Mauritania and Russia reduced supplies by about 30–34 %. Chile remained a major exporter, increasing supplies almost fourfold. The entry of new players (Belize, France, etc.) indicates a change in logistics flows.

Table 9 – Top 10 countries exporting wheat and meslin to Ivory Coast, 2020–2024 (USD million)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
France	168,8	139,3	169,8	120,5	122,5	-46,3
Germany	–	–	–	29,0	20,1	20,1
Poland	–	–	23,0	18,6	16,4	16,4
Latvia	–	–	0,0	17,4	15,7	15,7
Lithuania	–	–	24,2	16,6	14,2	14,2
Estonia	–	–	–	–	10,4	10,4
Czechia	–	–	–	–	9,9	9,9
Romania	–	–	–	8,2	9,7	9,7
Canada	7,2	4,2	4,2	6,8	3,7	-3,5
Argentina	–	49,6	74,9	0,0	–	–
Other countries	24,9	56,2	40,3	50,1	–	-24,9

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

For the period 2020–2024, there was a decrease in the value of wheat and meslin exports to Ivory Coast by France by 27.4 %, but the country still remained the main supplier. Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and other Eastern European countries have started exporting in recent years. If Canada significantly reduced the volume of supplies (almost halved), then Argentina completely stopped exporting to Ivory Coast, and supplies from other countries also disappeared. The emergence of Eastern European exporters is associated with trade agreements and changes in the domestic demand of exporting countries.

Table 10 – Top 10 countries exporting edible pig offal (frozen) to Ivory Coast, 2020–2024 (USD million)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
Brazil	4,4	5,6	6,4	15,0	18,4	14,0
Poland	7,9	13,8	15,3	17,5	17,4	9,5
Germany	5,8	22,1	17,3	12,6	14,8	9,1
Netherlands	4,1	5,0	8,9	9,6	8,0	4,0
France	4,5	4,3	4,9	8,6	7,9	3,4
Italy	2,0	2,1	5,8	6,5	6,2	4,2
Argentina	1,1	0,7	1,0	3,0	4,6	3,4
Spain	3,9	3,6	4,2	3,0	4,0	0,1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,4	2,5	1,9	2,0	2,3	0,8
Belgium	1,6	1,6	1,9	1,2	1,5	-0,1
Other countries	5,9	8,8	11,1	13,3	9,2	3,3

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

Brazil and Argentina, the largest growth countries, increased the value of exports of edible pig offal (frozen) to Ivory Coast in 2020–2024 by more than 4 times. Poland and Germany also significantly increased their supply volumes (120-155 %). Italy showed an impressive increase of 3 times. Spain was almost unchanged in its export volume, and Belgium was the only country with a slight decrease (-6.3 %). The strengthening of supplies from several countries in recent years indicates the growth of Ivory Coast's demand for the product.

Table 11 – Top 10 countries exporting grape wines to Ivory Coast, 2020–2024 (USD million)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
Spain	19,2	29,5	29,2	41,0	34,9	15,7
France	12,9	18,5	14,5	14,2	12,2	-0,7
Territories not included elsewhere	–	–	6,6	7,2	4,7	4,6
Italy	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,5	0,5	0,3
Portugal	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,4	0,4	-0,2
Poland	–	–	–	0,0	0,3	0,3
Republic of Moldova	–	–	–	0,1	0,1	0,1
Australia	–	–	–	–	0,1	0,1
South Africa	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,0
Argentina	0,4	1,3	1,1	0,3	0,1	-0,3
Other countries	3,1	4,1	0,0	0,2	0,2	-2,9

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

For the period 2020-2024, Spain significantly increased the export of grape wines to Ivory Coast (+81.8 %), strengthening its position as a leader. France showed a moderate decline (-5.4 %), remaining the key supplier. Australia, Poland and Moldova have started deliveries only in recent years. Argentina (-75 %) and other countries (-93.5 %) lost almost the entire market.

Table 12 – Top 10 corn exporting countries to Ivory Coast, 2020–2024 (USD million)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 2020, (+/-)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Argentina	–	27,6	21,2	0,3	20,9	20,9
South Africa	2,8	3,8	2,7	2,5	6,2	3,4
India	0,1	0,4	0,3	1,8	2,4	2,3
Zambia	–	–	0,4	0,7	1,8	1,8
Mexico	0,9	0,4	0,8	2,1	1,5	0,6
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	–	0,2	0,2
Thailand	0,1	–	0,1	–	0,1	0,1

Continuation of the table 12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Saudi Arabia	—	—	—	—	0,1	0,1
France	—	—	—	—	0,1	—
Turkey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other countries	—	2,1	0,2	0,1	—	—

Note – Own development based on international trade data ITC Trade Map

For the period 2020-2024, Argentina became the largest exporter of corn to Ivory Coast, starting deliveries in 2021 and reaching \$20.9 mn by 2024. India showed a sharp increase (+2300 %), actively increasing export volumes. South Africa steadily increased exports by 121.4 %, strengthening its position. Zambia, Burkina Faso, Saudi Arabia and France have just begun to develop the domestic corn market of Ivory Coast [4].

Conclusion. Thus, Ivory Coast's foreign trade turnover has almost tripled, but in recent years there has been a trade deficit, especially in services. The share of agricultural imports has increased, indicating a growing dependence on external food supplies. Traditional partners (France, Vietnam, India) retain leadership, but competition from Thailand, Peru and Eastern European countries is increasing. The sharp increase in food imports requires measures to develop local production and diversify trade relations.

Promising areas of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Ivory Coast include the supply of food products (meat, dairy products, grains, and processed goods) and the export of fertilizers, which is particularly relevant for Ivory Coast's agricultural sector as it seeks to improve crop yields and food security. Belarus can offer tractors, harvesters, and equipment for processing and storing agricultural products, which would contribute to the modernization of Ivory Coast's agricultural infrastructure. The localization of service centers and on-site training of technical personnel is also possible. Belarus may import tropical agricultural goods from Ivory Coast (cocoa, bananas, and palm oil) which would support import diversification and the development of domestic processing industries.

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