



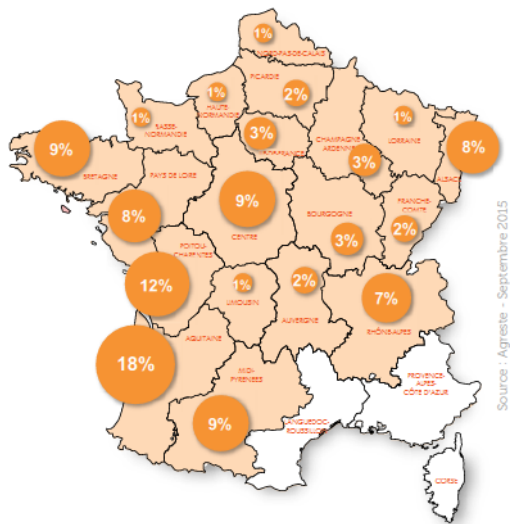
# NEWS LETTER

**ISSUE #13 – Nov. – Dec. 2015**

## FRENCH MAIZE PRODUCTION

### FRENCH PRODUCTION

**Map 1: French Grain Maize area (Ha) in 2014/15**

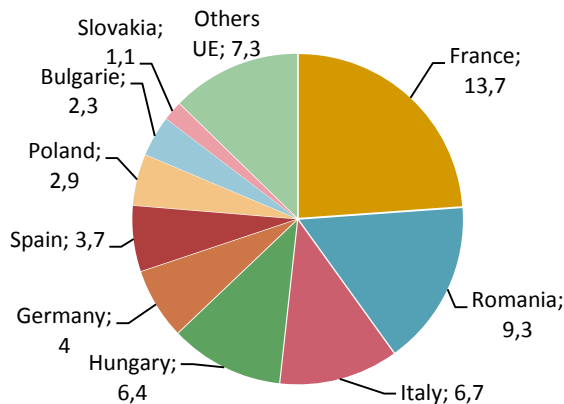


Source: Agreste

**Second arable crop after wheat**, French maize is grown by about 100 000 farms, mostly specialized in maize. Out of the 3,2 Mha under cultivation (1,4 Mha for silage maize, directly used by cattle breeders / 1,55 Mha for grain maize / 70 000 ha for seed maize / 25 000 ha of sweet corn), more than 40% of the maize production is located in the Atlantic coast, where the climate conditions are particularly suited (**Map 1**).

Grain maize is grown as a rain-fed crop (1,1 Mha) or as an irrigated crop (600 000 ha). Thanks to a rather steady maize-growing acreage, to irrigation, and to a temperate climate (average T° of 12,5°C / average rainfall of 750 mm) which contribute to regular yields, production levels and quality criteria are very stable every year.

**Chart 1: Grain Maize production in the EU (Mt) in 2015/16**



Source: AGPM November 2015

With 1,55 Mha and 13.7 Mt of production in 2015-16, France is the leading **grain maize** producer in Europe (**Chart 1**). It provides a **quarter of the total European production, with only 17.2% of the European land** dedicated to maize production. Yields are good (around 8.8 T/ha already for this 2015-16 campaign): they reach the highest level in the EU (average 6.3 Mt/ha) and rank amongst the best in the World (average 5,5 T/ha).

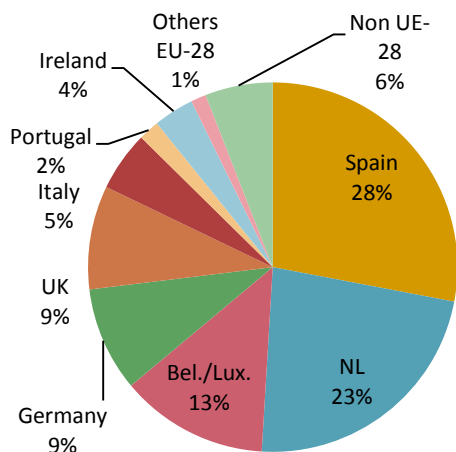
## USES OF FRENCH MAIZE

French grain maize is used for a wide range of purposes:

1. **Animal feed** (nearly three quarters of grain maize produced is eaten by animals (both domestic and exports markets), mainly poultry and pigs, since it is a reliable raw ingredient with a high energy value).
2. **Starch industry and green chemistry** (thanks to a high starch content and the efficient separation of starch and protein, grain maize is used in the pulp and paper industry and for making biodegradable plastics, while starch derivatives are used in the food industry to make pharmaceuticals: antibiotics, vitamins and vaccines)
3. **Milling industry** (with a proportion of the milled grain exported to northern market)
4. **Bioethanol** (fuel substitute for gasoline, encouraged by the EU regulation as an alternative to fossil fuel)

## FRENCH MAIZE EXPORTS

**Chart 2 : French Grain Maize exports  
(average 2010/11-2014/15)**

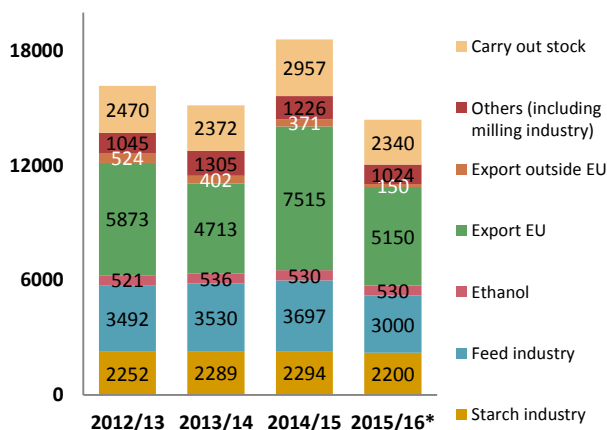


Source: Tallage Stratégie Grain – Dec.2015

France exports **45% of its production (6,3 Mt average 2010/11-2014/15)**, mainly to other EU-member States (**Chart 2**) with Spain and the Netherlands absorbing 51% of the total French grain maize exports. Amongst non-EU countries, Northern African countries used to be regular buyers of French grain maize in 2014/15.

Grain maize production in 2015 amounts to a little less than 13 Mt. Considering domestic uses at 6.8 Mt (-1 Mt compared to 2014/15) (**Chart 3**), the total volume available for export could reach 5,6 Mt for the 2015-16 MY. If France will probably export a high part of its surplus to the surrounding EU countries that have maize production deficit, non-EU countries offer new market opportunities for French grain maize. The development of the poultry sector in Northern Africa and the Middle East, will generate strong needs for grain maize imports. Considering exports, France guarantees **stable volumes with good quality standards**, a solid and well organized network of producers, and a combination of freight that can adapt to different volumes and qualities. Last but not least, French exports are reliable since they are **totally free** (no export restrictions).

**Chart 3: Results for French GRAIN Maize  
(+ Forecast 2015/16)**



**"France Export Céréales" (FEC)**, is a non profit organization, founded in 1997 as an initiative of grain producers (wheat, other cereals & maize). It promotes French cereals and the French cereal sector on export markets and provides information to their members on current and future needs of France's export customers, so that they can adjust French offer to specific requirements, and capture new markets.