

4. Import Mechanism

Trade with other countries is limited to persons holding an import permit, issued by the bureau of foreign trade. Permits are issued subject to presentation of (a) a certificate from the Registry of Commerce (issued by the tribunal of commerce); and (b) an affidavit from the Import Bureau confirming payment for the imports corresponding to the fiscal year in question.

5. Grain Industry Infrastructure

There are two flour mills in the Ivory Coast, Les Grands Moulins d'Abidjan (GMA) with a capacity of 165,000 tonnes of flour, and Les Moulins du Sud-Ouest with a capacity of 40,000 tonnes. The current trend to substitute flours based on manioc and corn in place of wheat flour could increase in the future.

6. Government Policies Affecting Grain and Agriculture

The policy of self-sufficiency in food decided in 1981 could in the medium term, effect imports of grains (rice and corn) and meats and favour an increase in local production of wheat, now being grown on an experimental basis. Under this policy the country would continue to import commodities which cannot be produced in quantity locally.

The only handicaps involved in the importation of Canadian grains are the distance between Canada and the Ivory Coast and the rather high exchange rate of the dollar compared to the franc.

7. Canadian Grain Marketing Prospects

Import Projections to 1985 - 1990: 1) rice 569,000 tonnes in 1985 - 861,000 tonnes in 1990; 2) corn 101,000 tonnes in 1985 - 230,000 tonnes in 1990.

Marketing initiatives to increase Canadian sales: 1) establish direct supply links, if possible, between Canada and the Ivory Coast; 2) establish a Canadian bank in the Ivory Coast to facilitate trade; and 3) promote Canadian soft wheat in the Ivory Coast through meetings and periodic missions of businessmen of both countries.

Marketing possibilities for Canadian special crops: These products are not yet familiar to the local general public, therefore they are not part of their eating habits. Their introduction to the market would require a strong marketing effort.