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Pulse Crops Market Update

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Competitor

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Report Highlights:

Pulses play an important role in Ethiopia's food security and economy. Production is estimated at 2.5 million metric tons in 16/17 (Jun-Jul). Exports during this period reached 340,000 metric tons, generating \$255 million in forex. In addition, pulses, mostly U.S.-origin, are imported for humanitarian relief.

Background:

Pulses play an important role in Ethiopia's food security and economy. Most Ethiopians eat protein-rich pulses every day in a variety of traditional dishes. Production has expanded over the last decade to 2.5 million metric tons in 16/17 (Jun-Jul). Almost 14 percent of pulse production or 340,000 metric tons was exported, generating \$255 million in foreign exchange earnings. Pulse exports are the third largest forex earner after coffee and oilseeds. Pulses are imported for humanitarian food relief. See table 1.

According to FAO data, Ethiopia is one of the world's biggest producers and exporters of pulses. For instance, it is the second largest producer of faba beans (after China) and the sixth largest producer of chickpeas. Ethiopia is also among the top five exporters of faba beans and one of the top ten exporters of chickpeas, dry beans and peas.

Table 1: Ethiopia's Production, Import and Export of Pulses (HS Code 0713): '000 metric tons				
Items	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Production	2,800	2,600	2,700	2,500
Imports	16	31	106	65
Imports from US	13	20	75	55
Exports	318	315	308	340
Net Exports	302	284	202	275
Percent of Production Exported	11%	12%	11%	14%

Source: Central Statistics Authority (CSA) and Ethiopian Revenue & Customs Authority (ERCA)

Note: Data covers July to June.

Production:

The annual production of pulses is estimated at 2.5 million metric tons, according to official government figures reported by the Central Statistics Agency (CSA). While year-to-year production levels fluctuate mostly because of weather conditions, overall pulse production during the last decade has increased about 700,000 metric tons. This growth is mostly attributed increased plantings due to strong prices resulting from steady local and international demand. Pulse crops cover an estimated 1.5 million hectares, accounting for 12 percent of total grain crop area, and have relatively low average yields, ranging from 1.2-2.0 metric tons per hectare.

Faba beans accounted for nearly one-third of pulse production, at 855,000 metric tons in 2016/17. The next most widely-produced pulses were red kidney beans, field peas, and chickpeas, each with similar production levels, ranging from about 340,000-355,000 metric tons. Other major pulses being produced are grass peas, lentils, and white pea beans. Table 2 below summarizes annual production by pulse type.

Ethiopia's diverse agro-ecological zones are suitable for a wide variety of pulse crops. More than three-quarters of production is concentrated in the Amhara and Oromia regions. Like other staple crops, production is dominated by smallholder farmers using rain-fed and low input farming systems.

Table 2: Ethiopia's Production of Major Pulse Crops ¹ ('000 Metric Tons)				
Crop/Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Faba Beans	992	839	849	855
Red Kidney Beans	259	312	380	355
Field Peas	380	343	323	347
Chick Peas	424	459	473	343
Grass Peas	317	251	288	239
Lentils	159	137	134	172
White Pea Beans	199	202	160	123
Other Pulses	69	57	82	109
Total	2,798	2,600	2,688	2,542

Source: CSA

Consumption:

According to CSA statistics, close to three-quarters of production is consumed on the farm as food, feed, or seed, with nearly 10 percent being sold into the local market and about 14 percent going for export.

Pulses play an important part in most Ethiopian's daily diets. Many traditional dishes are made from chickpeas, lentils, and faba beans. For example, *shiro* is a popular chickpea sauce that is eaten daily in most homes for lunch or dinner. Pulse consumption tends to increase during the 250+ fasting days when millions of Ethiopian Orthodox church members abstain from livestock-based products and only eat plant-based foods. Pulses are also an important component of humanitarian assistance programs in the country.

Trade:

In 2016/17, Ethiopia exported 340,000 metric ton of pulses, earning \$255 million. Dried kidney beans were the top-exported pulse, accounting for about half of all export volumes. Chickpea exports were about 25 percent of all exports.

Pakistan has historically been one of the top destinations for Ethiopian pulses. However, last year, the Pakistani government [banned](#) imports of haricot beans, which includes red kidney beans, speckled beans, and pinto beans due to plant health concerns. Traders are now looking for alternative markets for

¹ Ethiopia considers soybeans as a pulse crop, but Post classifies it as an oilseed.

these beans. Aside for Pakistan, other major markets for Ethiopian pulses include Kenya, Vietnam, Indonesia, UAE, Vietnam, and Belgium, among others. See table 3-5 for export data.

In addition to exporting pulses, Ethiopia is also one of the largest recipients of dried peas and lentils for humanitarian assistance purposes. In 2016/17, pulse imports according to Ethiopian customs data reached nearly 65,000 metric tons, most of which were dried peas from the United States.

Table 3: Ethiopia's Major Export Markets for Pulses in 16/17 (Value in millions USD)											
Dried kidney beans, incl. white pea beans, shelled (07133300)			Dried chickpeas, shelled (07132000)			Dried leguminous vegetables, shelled, nes (07139000)			Dried beans, shelled (07133100)		
Import er	Val ue	% Shar e	Impo rter	Val ue	% Shar e	Importer	Value	% Share	Impo rter	Va lu e	% Sha re
Pakist an	24	23%	Paki stan	23	31%	Viet Nam	27	58%	Belgi um	12	60 %
Kenya	16	15%	UAE	16	21%	Indonesi a	15	33%	Djib outi	6	30 %
India	11	11%	Iran	13	18%	Malaysia	2	3%	Ger man y	1	7%
Yeme n	8	8%	India	10	14%	Egypt	1	2%	Guat emal a	0. 4	2%
Russia	7	7%	Turk ey	4	5%	Turkey	1	1%	India	0. 1	1%
Sub- Total	66	63%		67	89%		45	98%		20	99 %

Source: ERCA

Table 4: Ethiopia's Exports of Major Pulse Crops ('000 Metric Tons)								
HS Code	Product	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17
07133 300	Dried kidney beans, incl. white pea beans, shelled	100	110	182	189	193	185	178
07132 000	Dried chickpeas, shelled	61	60	74	47	47	49	78
07139 000	Dried leguminous vegetables, shelled, nes	13	15	27	30	30	26	49
07133 100	Dried beans, shelled	1	1	2	5	1	2	21
07135 000	Dried broad beans and horse beans, shelled	42	36	32	38	39	38	9
07133 900	Dried beans, shelled, nes	1	1	4	10	3	7	4
	Sub-Total	218	224	320	318	314	306	338
	Others	6	1	0	0	1	2	2
	Total	224	225	320	318	315	308	340

Source: ERCA

Table 5: Ethiopia's Exports of Major Pulse Crops (Millions USD)								
HS Code	Product	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17
071333 00	Dried kidney beans, incl. white pea beans, shelled	58	72	109	147	132	100	104
071320 00	Dried chickpeas, shelled	40	45	44	25	23	40	75
071390 00	Dried leguminous vegetables, shelled, nes	11	14	18	25	29	28	46
071331	Dried beans, shelled	0	0	1	3	1	2	20

00								
071350	Dried broad beans and							
00	horse beans, shelled	26	26	19	20	19	27	5
071339	Dried beans, shelled,	1	1	3	7	3	6	3
00	nes							
	Sub-Total	136	157	194	226	207	202	253
	Others	5	1	1	0	0	2	2
	Total	141	158	195	226	207	204	255

Source: ERCA