

WEST AFRICA

In this report, West Africa refers to Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Chad. These countries have implemented structural change policies. Under these programs, all forms of government intervention, including commodity subsidies in different sectors, were eliminated. As members of the WTO and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Benin, Mali, and Burkina Faso adopted protection policies that satisfy their commitments to both entities. The duty on agricultural products entering these countries has risen under the common external tariff, thus resulting in higher average applied MFN tariffs.

CORN AND SORGHUM

- Corn and sorghum in these four countries are subsistence crops and there is technical support available to producers through the development and dissemination of improved seed varieties.
- There is no official government policy regarding marketing or price fixation, but the governments maintain buffer stocks for cereals that are released in food shortages.

COTTON

- In Benin, the producer price is fixed at the beginning of each marketing year, now set at 200 FCFA/kg for first grade seed cotton (\$0.55/lb of lint equivalent) and 150 FCFA/kg for second grade seed cotton (\$0.42/lb lint equivalent).
- In Burkina Faso, the producer price is set at 170 FCFA/kg for first quality grade (\$0.48/lb lint equivalent), 140 FCFA/kg for second grade (\$0.39/lb lint equivalent), and 120 FCFA/kg for third grade (\$0.33/lb lint equivalent). Cotton producers may receive bonuses or deductions accounted for in the following year pre-season set price.
- In Mali, the base price is established at 160 FCFA/kg for first grade seed cotton (\$0.45/lb lint equivalent).
- Chad's procurement prices are the lowest among the African countries.
- There are no specific border policies to limit cotton imports, mainly because of weak domestic textile industries that exclusively use locally produced cotton.
- Exports of cotton are subject to a tax, which vary from one country to another. Mali applies a 3% tax on exports.

RICE

- Rice producers in Burkina Faso and Mali are guaranteed a floor price
- In May 2008, Benin suspended the import duty on milled rice.
- Rice imports require a national conformity certificate to be allowed to enter Burkina Faso. On October 14, 2008, authorities in Burkina Faso agreed to extend for another 6 months the suspension of tariffs and VAT on rice imports.

SOYBEANS

- Under the ECOWAS common external tariff, bulk soybean imports are assessed a 5% import duty. Additional surtaxes may be applied depending on the country.

SUGAR

- Sugar imports are subject to tariffs. For Mali, a 20% tariff is applied under the CET while a 55% special tariff is applied for sugar imported from outside the ECOWAS countries. Burkina Faso also applies a 20% tariff under the CET and an additional tax based on the reference value of imported sugar.

WHEAT

- Among the four countries, only Chad produces wheat on a limited basis. Almost all the wheat consumed is imported. Wheat falls into the category of non-sensitive good and is subject to import duty ranging between 5 and 10%, depending on the country. Additional taxes such as statistical tax (1%), community charge tax (1%), and other port charges may also apply.