

# Benefits and impacts of Dutch international trade

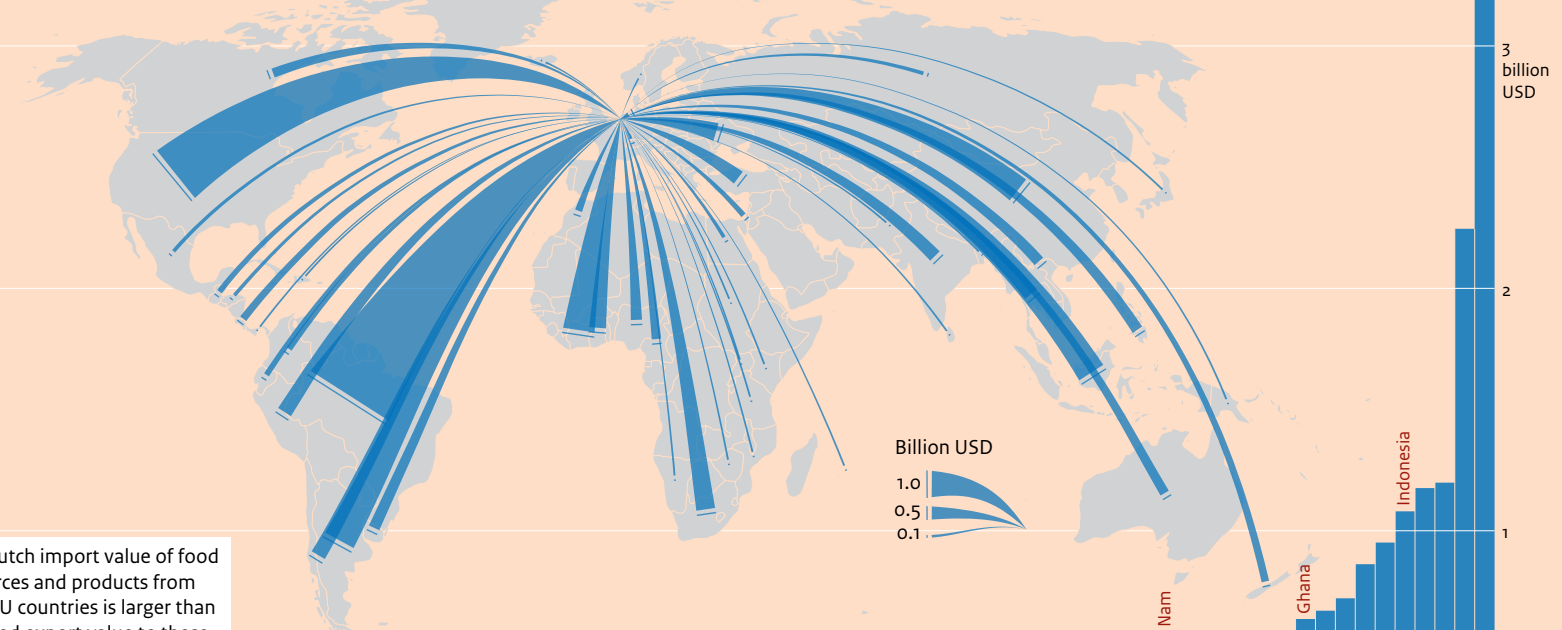
Remote impacts of our economy and taking shared responsibility

Due to globalisation, international trade flows have increased significantly over recent decades. Between 1996 and 2007, imports of goods into the Netherlands increased 7% by monetary value (constant prices). Forests and agricultural ecosystems in remote economies provide the Dutch economy with a range of natural resources. Imported resources are processed into final products that are sold in the Netherlands or to other countries. Our economy is therefore strongly interrelated with economies around the world.

The trade in biotic resources and derived products accounts for nearly 15% of all imports in monetary terms. The Dutch food and feed industry strongly depends on these imports. Non-EU countries provide 40% of the imports in agricultural resource and food products, and after processing, most products are sold on the European market. Cacao, soya and palm oil are the three most important agricultural commodities of tropical origin: cacao mainly comes from Africa, palm oil from Southeast Asia and soya from South

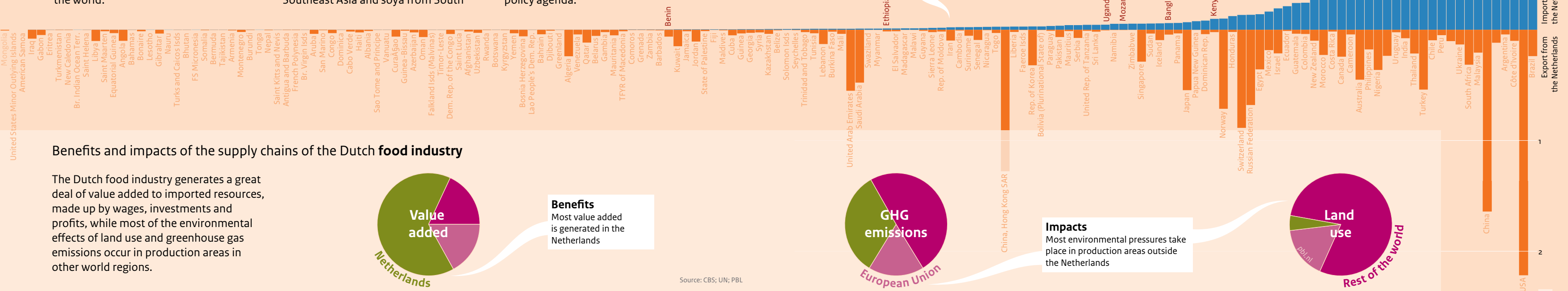
American countries and the United States. As part of their corporate strategies, companies in the Netherlands take shared responsibility for mitigating the impacts elsewhere in the world, caused within their supply chains. This applies especially to the impacts from production processes in countries that have less well-developed environmental legislation and governance. Shaping this shared responsibility is an important part of the Dutch Aid and Trade policy agenda.

Import of resources for the food industry into the Netherlands, from non-EU countries, 2015



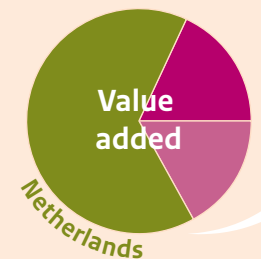
Billion USD  
1.0  
0.5  
0.1

The Dutch import value of food resources and products from non-EU countries is larger than the food export value to these countries.



## Benefits and impacts of the supply chains of the Dutch food industry

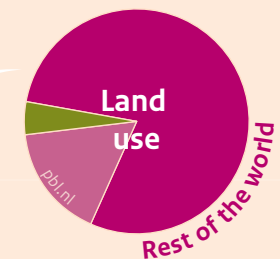
The Dutch food industry generates a great deal of value added to imported resources, made up by wages, investments and profits, while most of the environmental effects of land use and greenhouse gas emissions occur in production areas in other world regions.



**Benefits**  
Most value added is generated in the Netherlands



**Impacts**  
Most environmental pressures take place in production areas outside the Netherlands



Source: CBS; UN; PBL