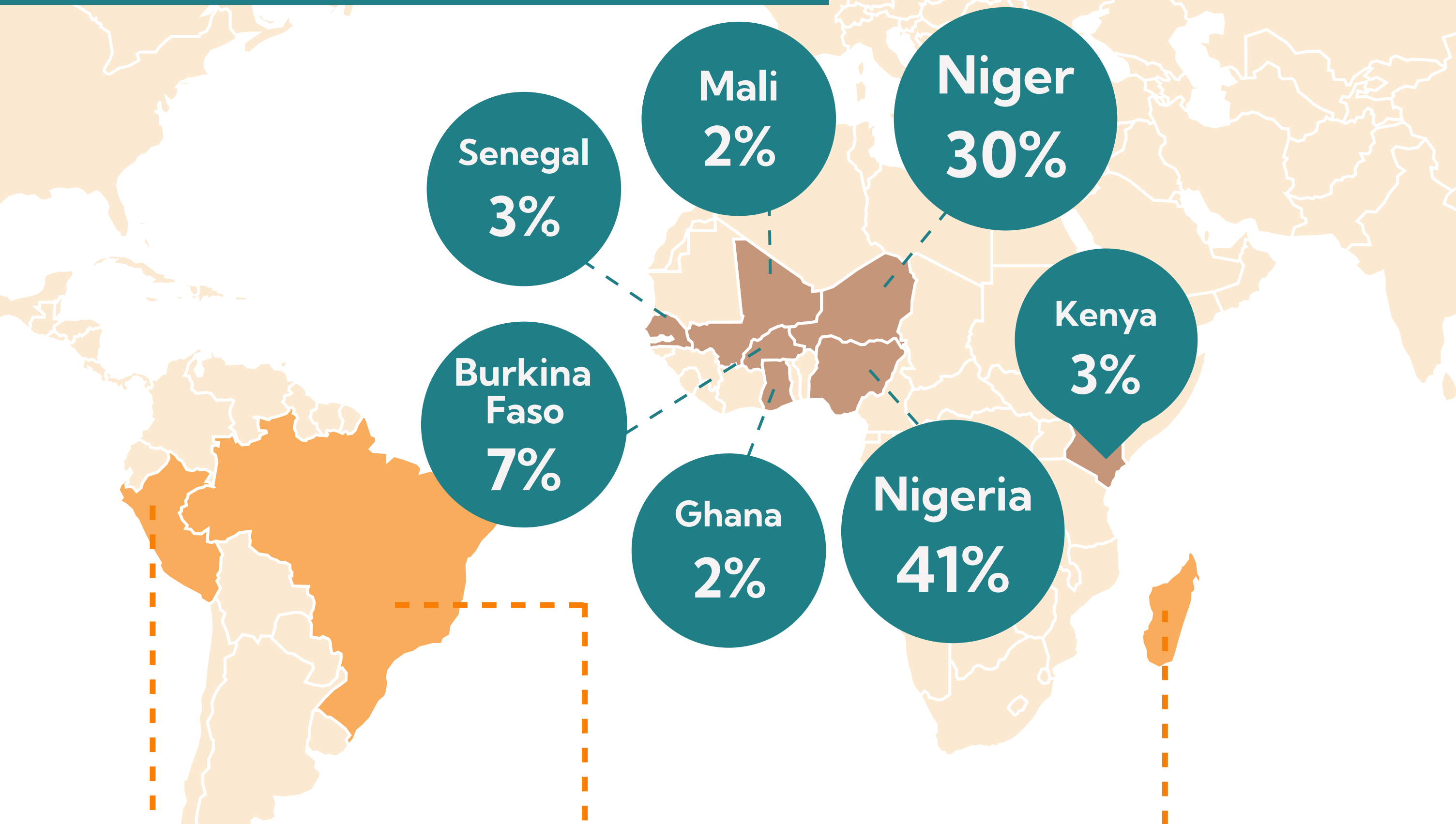


Cowpeas

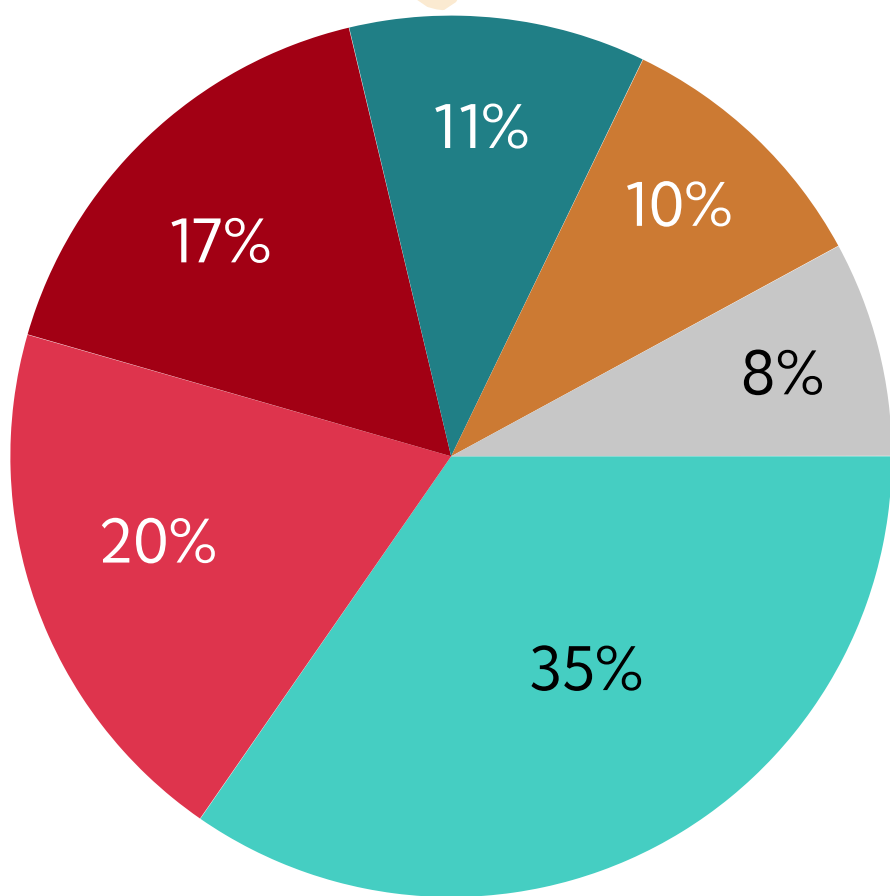
Production & Trade

Global top-7 cowpeas producers

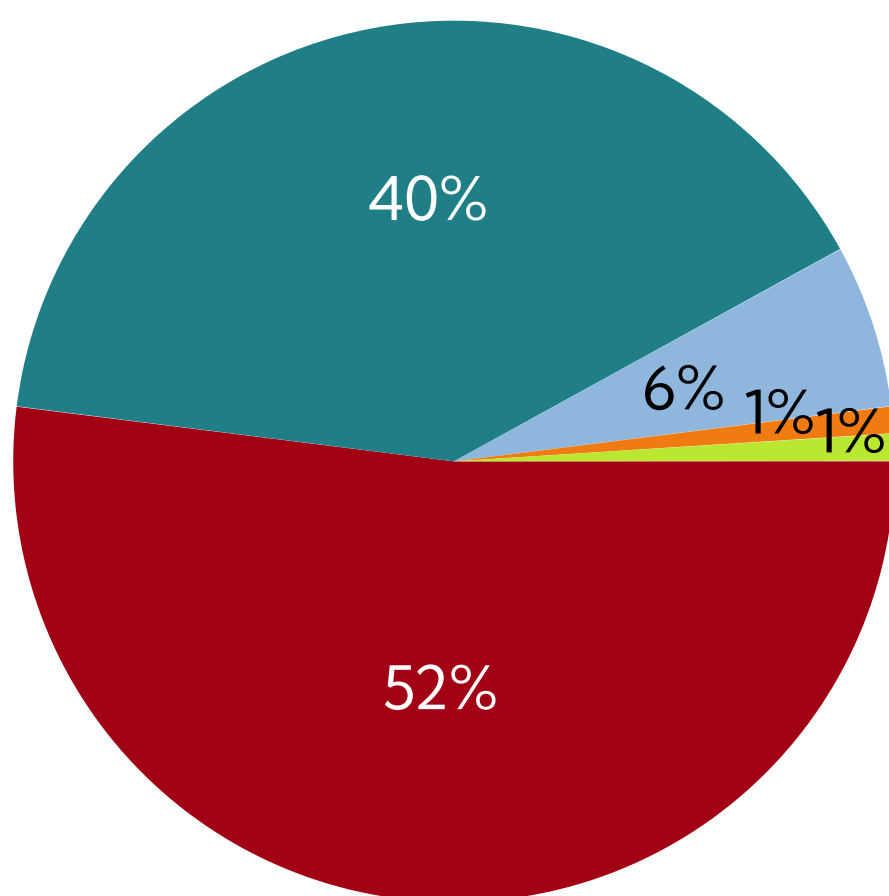


Despite of being the largest producing continent, **the EU barely imports cowpeas from Africa, likely because GM cowpea varieties are used in the largest producing countries** (e.g. Nigeria) and domestic consumption is high

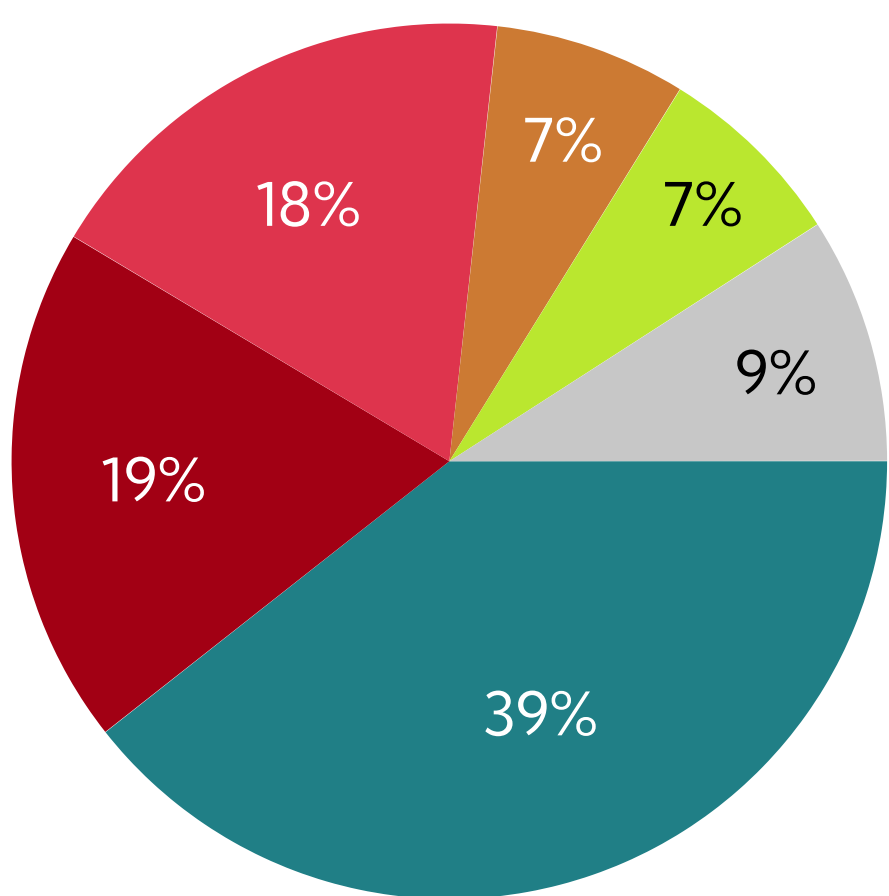
Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Peru exports



Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Brazil exports



Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Madagascar exports



EU 2021 imports of cowpeas largely originate from Peru (48%), Madagascar (37%), and Brazil (8%). Other suppliers to the EU include Argentina (4%) and Uzbekistan (3%).

In 2021, Portugal and Italy were the largest EU recipients of cowpeas originating from Peru, Madagascar, and Brazil. In 2020, the UK ranked fourth as a recipient of Peruvian cowpeas.

In **2020**, the top 7 producing countries **comprised 88 % of cowpeas production worldwide.** Other countries with **more than 2% share** in global cowpeas production are Cameroon, Sudan, and Tanzania.



Cowpeas are largely **produced on the African continent**, where the top 7 producing countries can be found. Major global producers are Nigeria (41%) and Niger (30%).





Cowpeas

Environmental Risks

**6,906
m³/ton**

is the water
footprint linked
to cowpeas
production

There is **little reported on environmental risks linked to cowpea production.**

However, one negative impact is that cowpeas production has a **relatively high water footprint** compared to other peas and beans, which may be extra relevant in dry environments of some of the major producing countries.

Water Use



Cowpeas can provide **biodiversity benefits** when grown in mixed crops systems, especially those that are cross-pollinated. Although cowpea flowers do not need insects for pollination, **they produce large amounts of nectar**, attracting and supporting pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Biodiversity Loss



Cowpeas in Africa are often GM crops. There are indications that when improved GM varieties of cowpea are grown in a community, traditional landrace varieties are not being displaced. This would imply having little effect on agro-biodiversity.

**0.48
kg CO₂eq**

is the carbon
footprint per kg
of cowpeas

Cowpea production related **GHG emissions are low.**

Emissions



When integrated into crop rotation systems, **cowpea has the potential to promote the buildup of soil organic matter and carbon, and nitrogen fixation.** This may also support a reduction in fertiliser use.

Cowpeas
can contribute
to nitrogen
fixation

Contamination





Cowpeas

Social Risks



There is **little to nothing** reported on social risks linked to cowpea production.

No social risks reported

While the majority of cowpeas are grown in Africa, with potential risks of being linked to (post-) conflict affected countries such as Nigeria, the EU hardly imports cowpeas from the continent, therefore **these challenges do not constitute a risk embodied by the cowpea imports that enter the EU market.**



Cowpea

is seen as a crop for the poor and of women

Women are the **primary cultivators of cowpea** in many parts of Africa, reportedly both for the nutrition it offers to their families as well as for the income it generates when they sell it in the local markets or traders.

Nevertheless, the cowpea crop has to deal with a negative image of being seen as a crop for the poor and for women, and therefore lacks sufficient investment.