

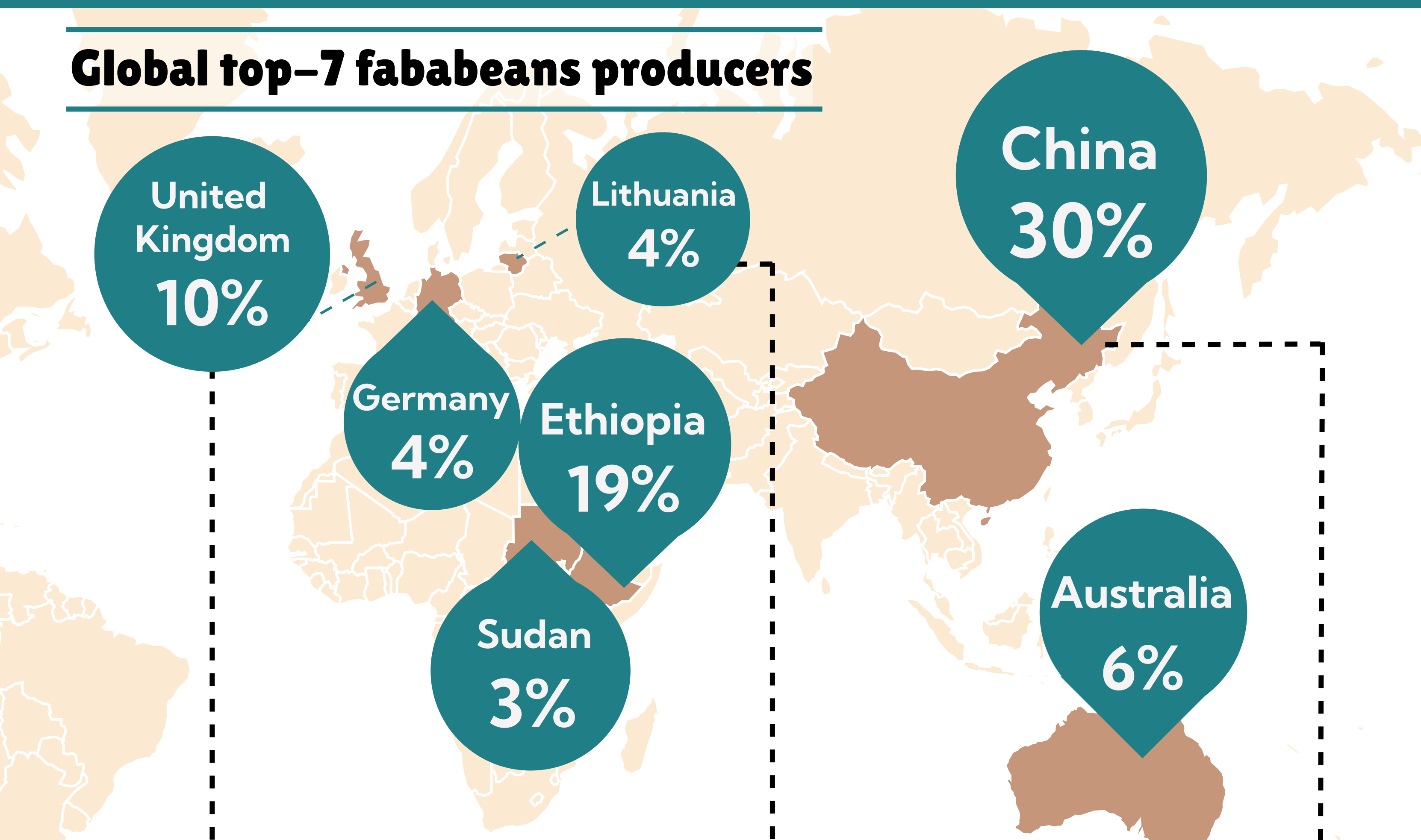
Fababeans

Fava beans, broad beans, horse beans, field beans



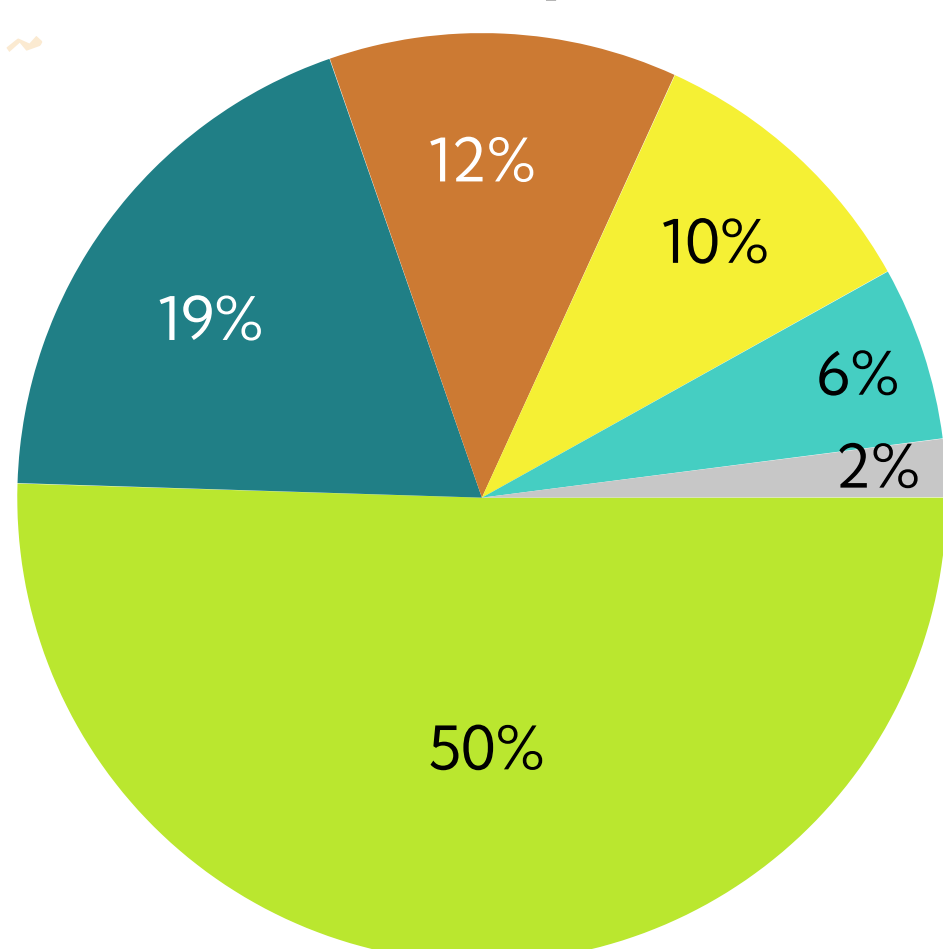
Production & Trade

Global top-7 fababeans producers

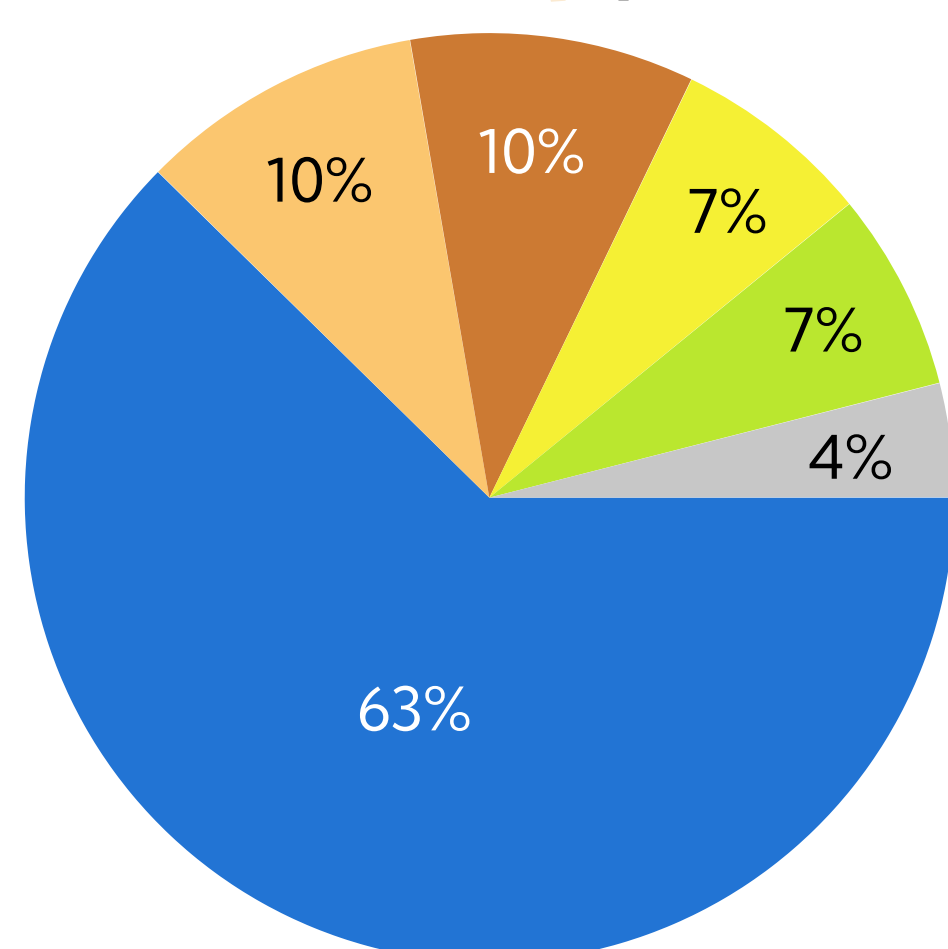


The majority of 2021 fababeans EU imports **originate from within the EU, mainly from the UK** (#3rd largest global producer; 29% of total EU imports), Lithuania (#6; 22%), Latvia (#10; 14%) and Germany (#7; 12%).

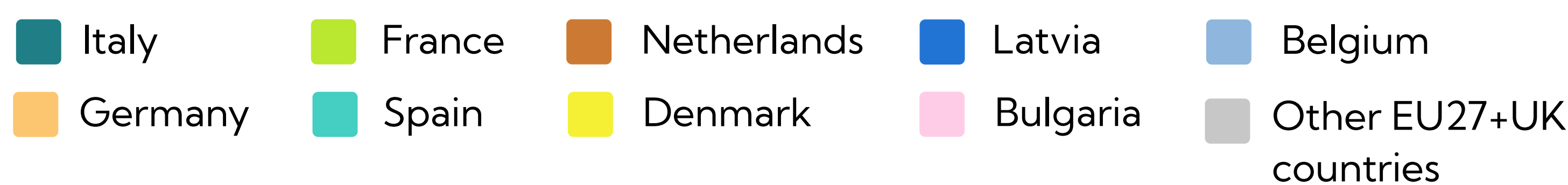
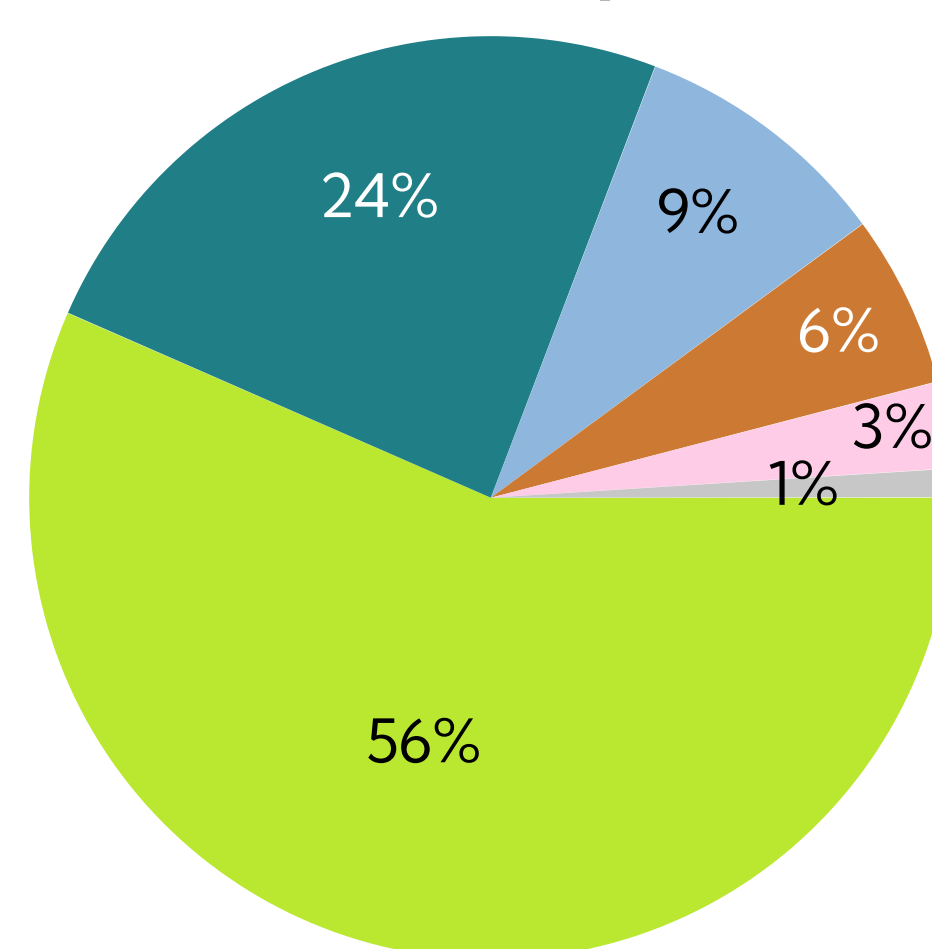
Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of UK exports



Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Lithuania exports



Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of China exports

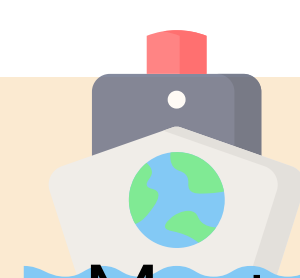


Note: EU import code HS 071350 includes broad beans (*Vicia faba* var. major) and horse beans (*Vicia faba* var. equine and *Vicia faba* var. minor). Field beans also fall under the *Vicia faba* group.

From non-EU countries, the majority of EU 2021 faba beans imports **originate from Egypt** (38% of total non-EU imports), Australia (18%), and Ukraine (11%). But in terms of volumes, the EU imports limited volumes from non-EU countries.

Apart from being an important European producer of fababeans, **Latvia is also a major recipient of fababeans from Lithuania, which is the second largest supplier to the EU** (22% of total EU imports from EU27 + UK).

In **2020**, the top 7 producing countries **comprised 76 % of fababeans production worldwide**. Other countries with **more than 2% share** in global fababeans production are France, Italy, Latvia, and Egypt.



Most EU imports of fababeans come from within the EU. While **China** is the largest global producer of fababeans (30%), it only ranks 10th place as a supplying country to the EU. **Ethiopia** is the second largest worldwide producer of fababeans (19%), but EU import data does not show Ethiopia as a supplying country.





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Environmental Risks

There are **little to no reports on negative environmental impacts** linked to fababeans production. On the contrary, mainly positive impacts are described.

**2,018
m³/ton**
is the water
footprint of
fababeans
production

Data on the global average water footprint of several plant-based crops, points to fababeans production as a **relatively low water footprint**.

Water Use

GHG emissions linked to fababeans production are low. A 2022 study on the environmental impact of fababeans grown in Norway, found a **low climate impact linked to fababeans production**.

**0.55–0.57
kg CO₂eq**
is the carbon
footprint per kg of
dried grain legumes
(incl fababeans)

Emissions

Fababean
can fix
atmospheric
nitrogen

The fababean is recognised as a pulse with a high ability to **fix atmospheric nitrogen**, which allows for a reduction in the application of fertilisers.

Contamination

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Social Risks

Labor conditions

While not specifically linked to fababeans production, there are reports on **general adverse labour conditions in the major EU fababeans producer countries**. For instance, in **Lithuania**, national minorities experience difficulties to access labour markets and salary discrimination.

44%

of national minorities in Lithuania experienced discrimination in the labour market or workplace

In the **UK**, the agricultural sector relies heavily on **seasonal migrant workers**, for which working conditions can be poor (e.g. long working hours, wages can be withheld, denied contracts, violence threats). Migrant workers on fruit and vegetable farms in the United Kingdom often have to **pay illegal fees** to work on these farms.

Health & Safety

5%

of the world population has a genetic disease (favism) that can be triggered by the intake of large quantities of fresh fababeans

Consuming large amounts of faba beans can be **dangerous for about 400 million people** – mainly in Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean Basin– due to a compound called vicine, which accumulates in the beans, linked to a genetic disease called favism. The disease is caused by a **lack of a particular enzyme and can result in acute anaemia and liver disorders**. Scientists are in the process of finding a way to make faba beans safe for all to eat.

Gender Issues

More than men, women face discrimination on the labour market or workplace in, for instance, Lithuania.