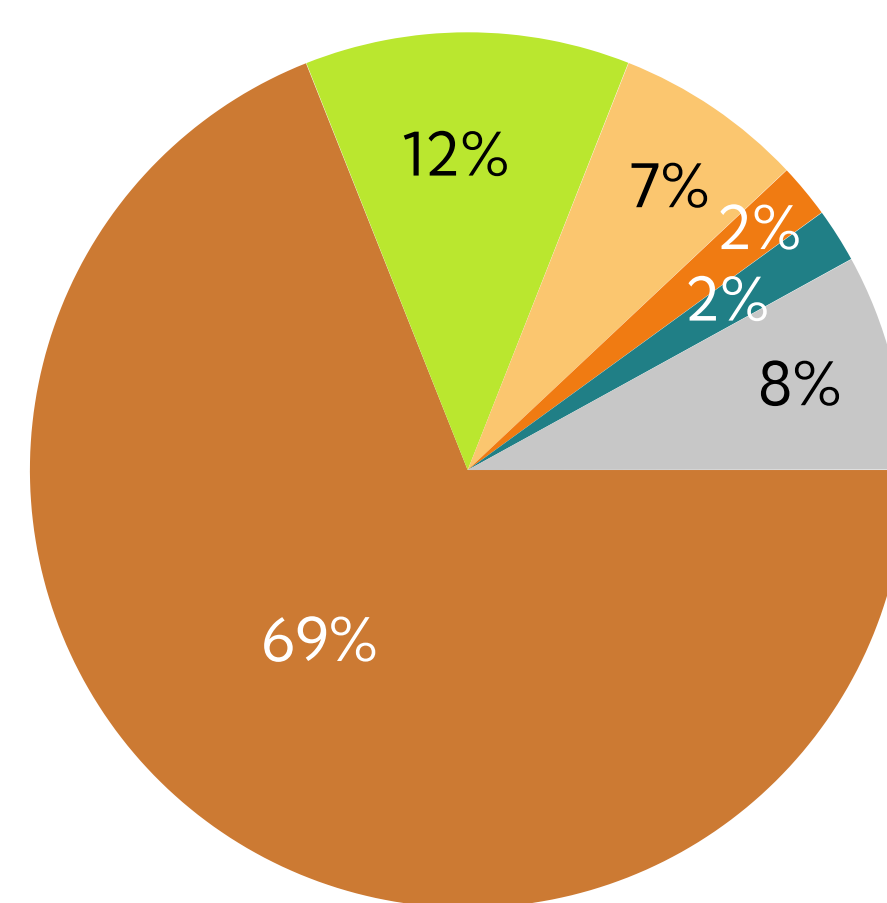
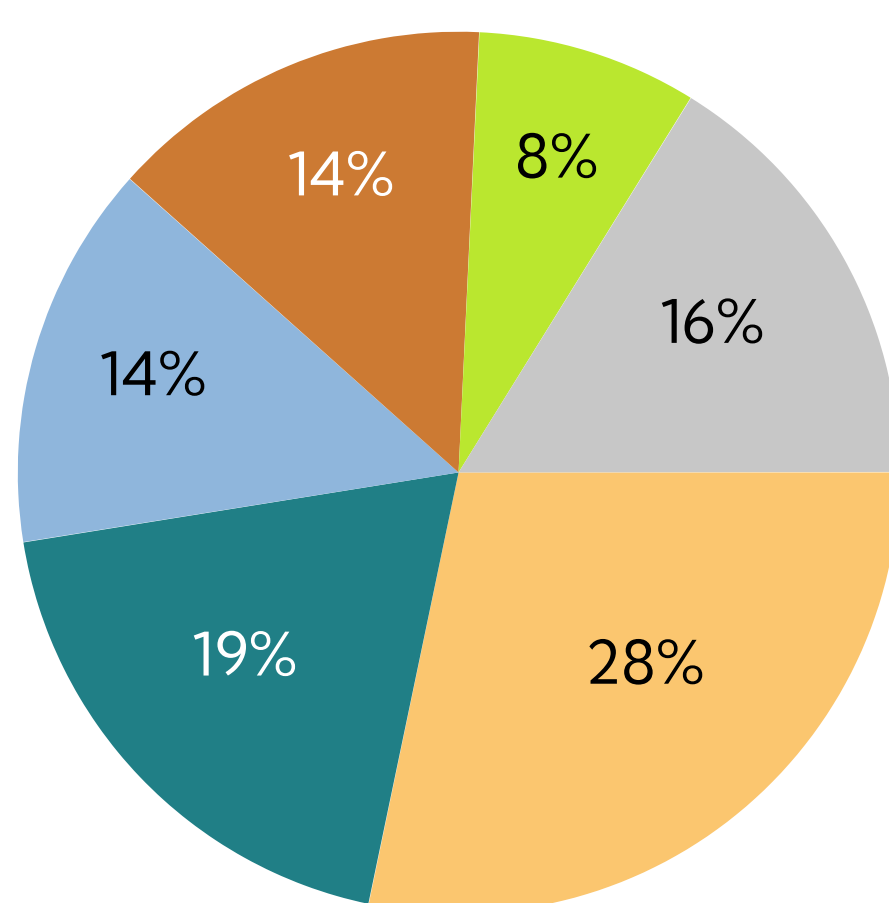
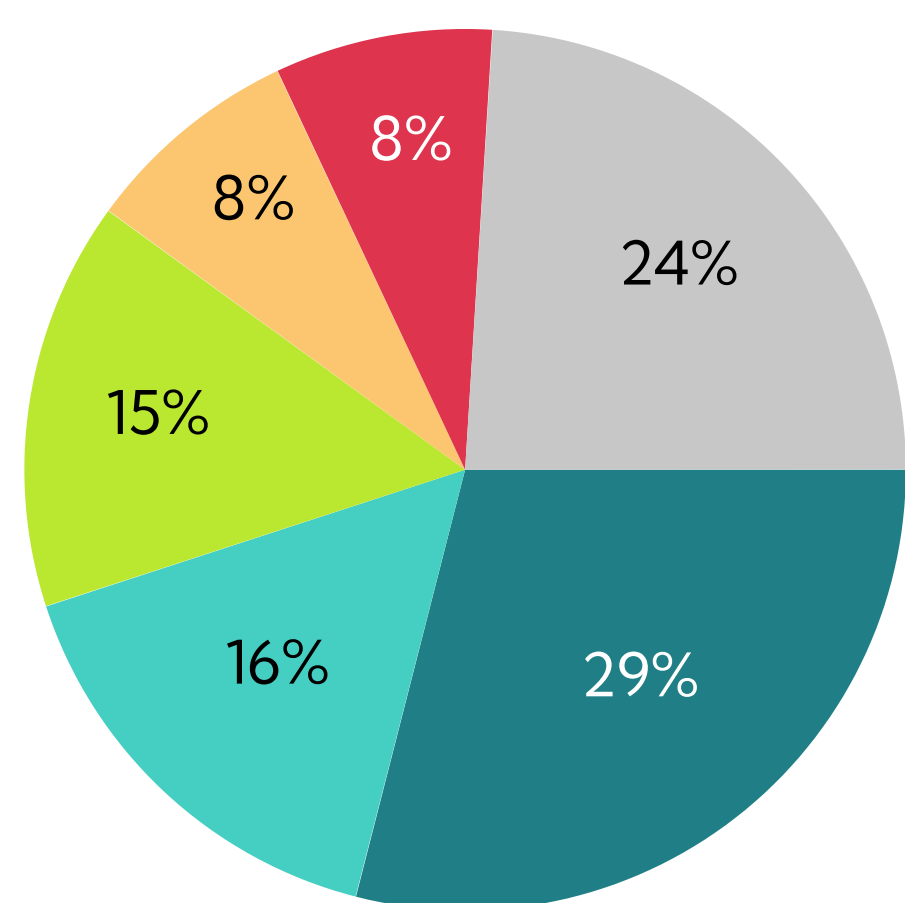
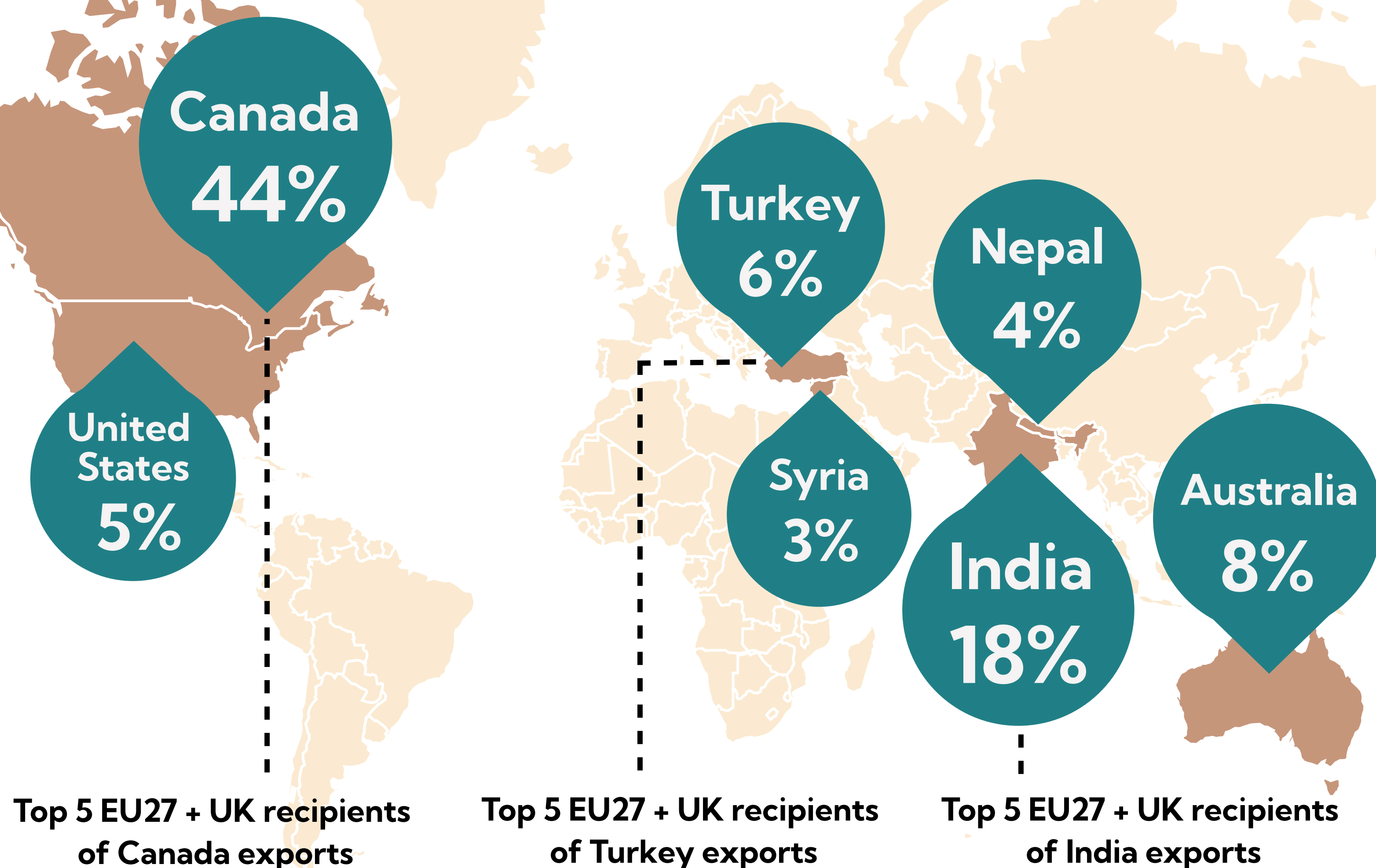


Lentils

Production & Trade

Global top-7 lentils producers



Italy France Netherlands Greece Belgium
Germany Spain Sweden Other EU27+UK countries



The EU imports the majority of its lentils from **Canada (50%)**, **Turkey (20%)**, and the **United States (20%)**. The EU also imports from **Russia (3%)** and **China (3%)**.

According to global production data, **there is no substantial production of lentils within the EU.**

Germany, France, Italy, and the Netherlands are the largest recipients of lentils produced in Canada, India, and Turkey.

In **2020**, the top 7 producing countries **comprised 88% of lentils production worldwide**. Other countries with **more than 2% share** in global lentils production are **Bangladesh, China, Russia, and Ethiopia**.

Canada is the largest global producer (44%) and exporter of lentils. **The province Saskatchewan produces 95% of Canada's lentils.** Despite being the second global producer (18%), India is not present in the top-5 of largest suppliers to the EU, likely due its large domestic market.





Lentils

Environmental Risks

The global average water footprint of lentils production is **moderate to relatively high (compared to other beans and legumes)**. Sources on the crop's water footprint vary considerably, also depending on whether the crop is rain-fed or irrigated, for instance from 1,650 litres for the production of 1 kilogram of dry lentils grown in Saskatchewan (Canada), to 5,874 L per 1 kilogram.

5,874
m3/ton

is the water footprint of the lentils production

Water Footprint



However, lentil production in India is largely rain-fed.

985
ha

of deforestation risk in 2018 linked to the production of lentils

There is limited **deforestation risk** associated with lentils production in India. To put this in perspective, the deforestation risk was 985 ha for lentils production in India in 2018, compared to 223,364 ha for soy production in Brazil in that same year.

Land use & Deforestation



Lentils production has a **low impact** in terms of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and energy use.

There is a **relatively low environmental impact of Canadian pulses**.

Lentils are reportedly **improving the physical property of soils** trough a process called **nitrogen fixation**, allowing for crop rotation and limited use of fertilisers.

1.03
kg CO2eq

is the carbon footprint per kg of lentils

Emissions



Lentils

Social Risks

Labour conditions

Overall, **labour conditions and the possible existence of child labour** in lentil production **require due diligence to be carried**. Seasonal agricultural workers in Turkey work under inadequate conditions (overtime, no formal contracts, no job and social security). Seasonal workers are incorrectly compensated for their work.

Pulses (legumes) production in Turkey have been associated with child labour in 2020.

Land Appropriation

Saskatchewan, in Canada, is one of the country's leading provinces in terms of agri-food production and exports. Lentils were the 2nd most exported output of the region in 2020. However, **agricultural production in Saskatchewan has been linked to the sell out of public land** and the transformation of native grasslands into farmland. This has **directly affected the First Nations and created hurdles to the exercise of the Treaty and inherent Indigenous Rights**.

To date, **over one million acres of grassland have been sold**, much of which were First Nations' farmlands or hunting areas. These have often been leased to non-aboriginal farming operations that turn them into cultivated croplands with detrimental environmental and social impacts.

Gender Issues

Due diligence is required on gender aspects. While no specific gender risks related to lentils production have been identified, the risk is that, especially in lentil producing countries such as India, female agricultural workers work under harsh, unequal, and discriminating conditions. For instance, women are not allowed to own land, receive lower remuneration, work often long hours without formal contracts or any social or job security, and are more prone to violence and abuse.