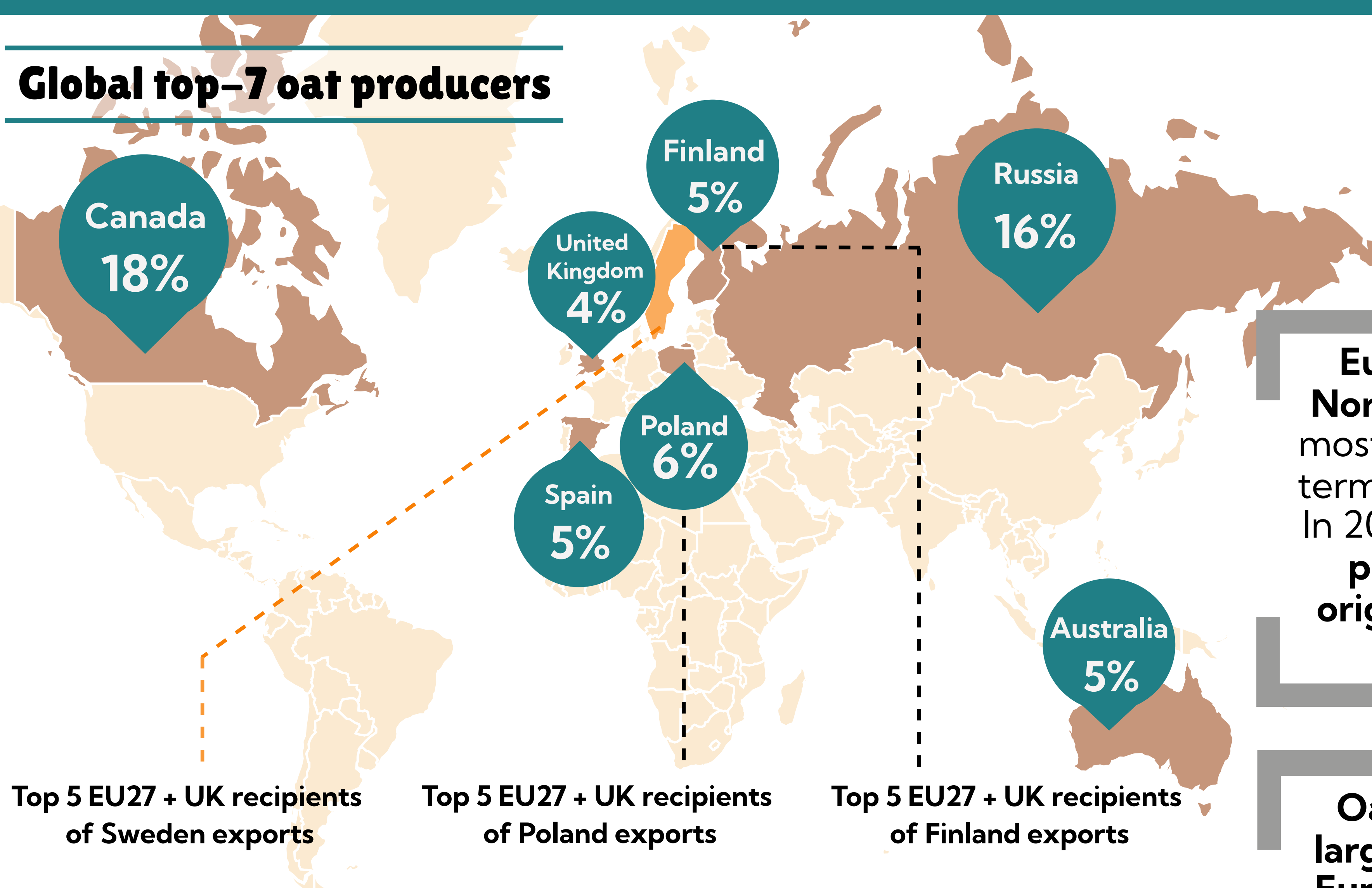


# Oats

## Production & Trade

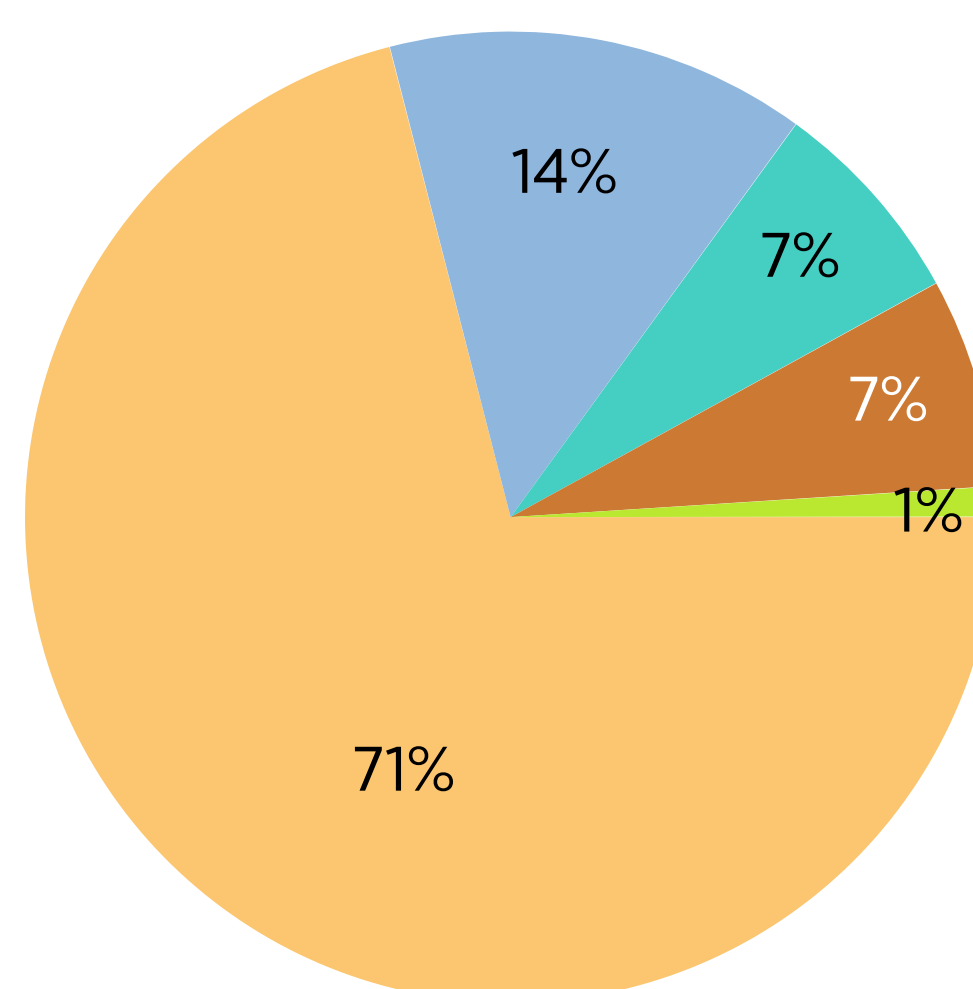
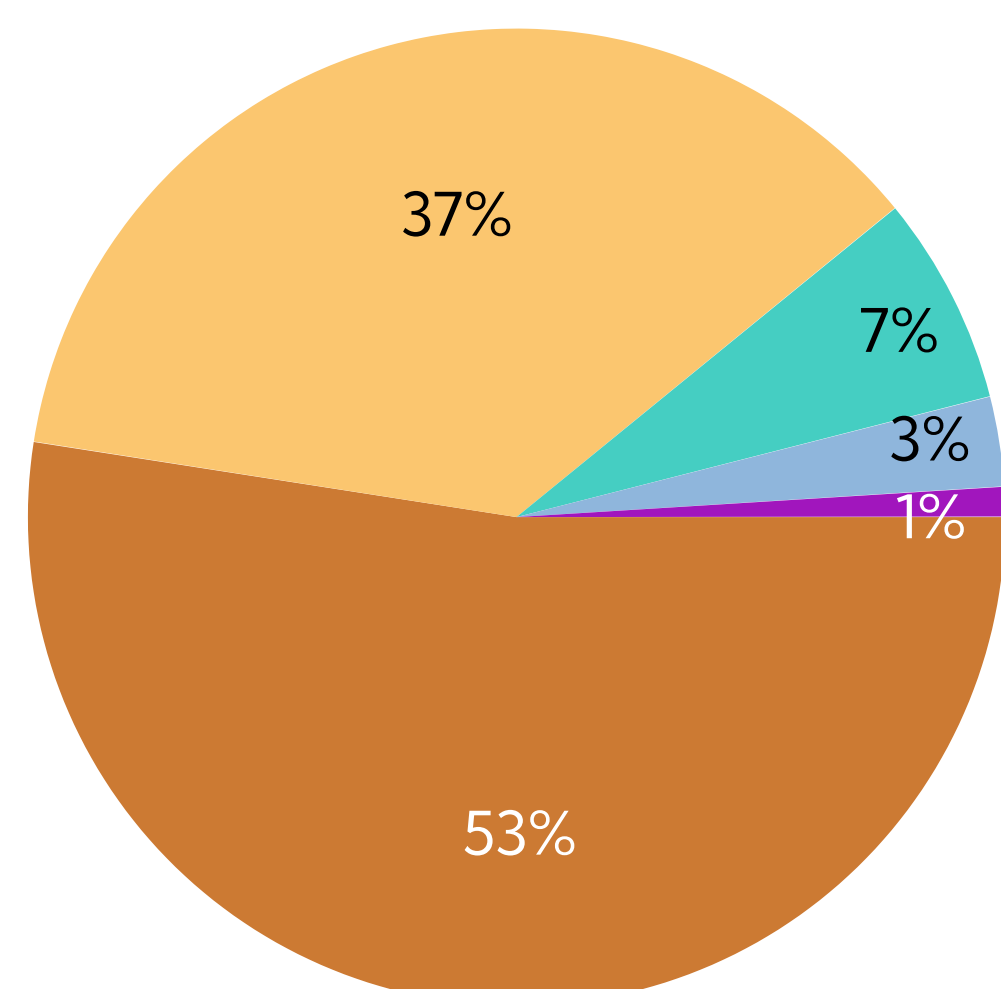
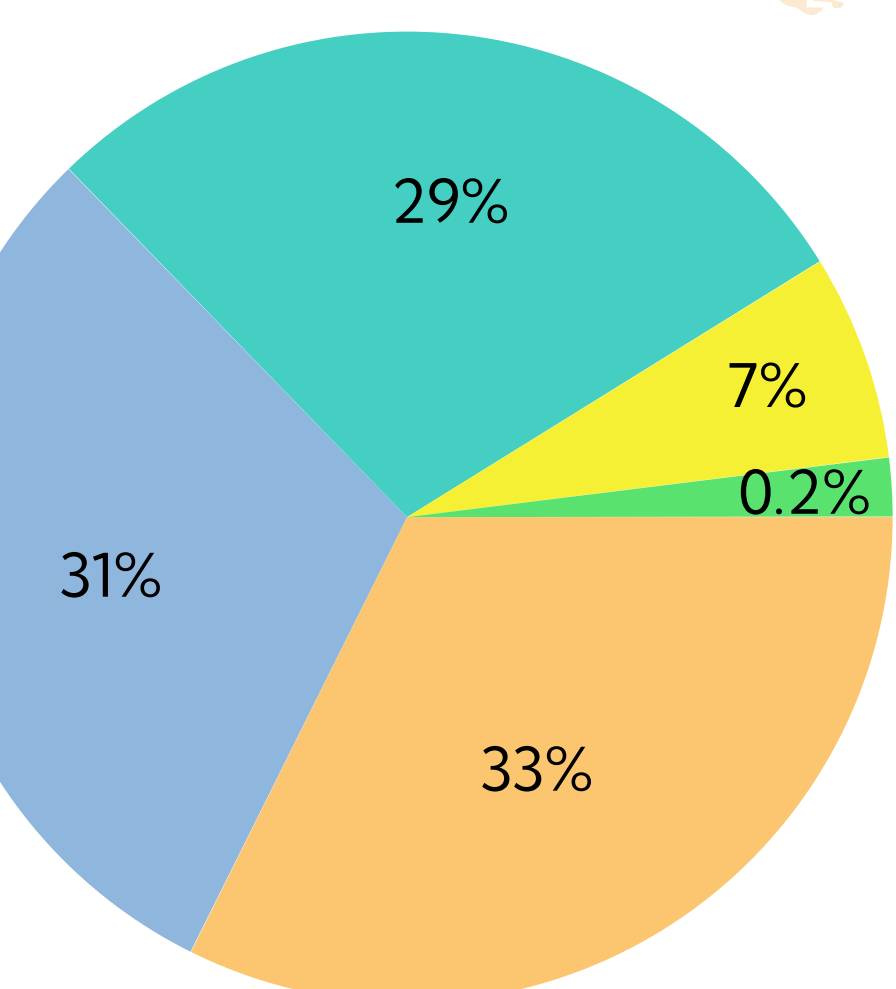
### Global top-7 oat producers



Europe, Russia, and North America are the most important areas in terms of oat production. In 2020, **79% of the oats produced globally originated from these regions.**

Oats are one of the largest cereal crops in Europe, together with wheat, barley, and maize. About **50% of the oats produced are used as feed for livestock** while less than 10% is used for food products.

In 2021, the EU imported more than 9 thousand tons of raw oats from non-EU countries, the top 3 being Ukraine (35%), Uruguay (28%), and Russia (16%).



- Italy
- France
- Netherlands
- Finland
- Belgium
- Germany
- Spain
- Denmark
- Hungary
- Other EU27+UK countries

In 2020, the top 7 producing countries **comprised 60% of oat production worldwide**. Other countries with **3% share or more** in global oats production are the **United States, Brazil, Sweden, and Germany**.



**The EU is a large producer of oats.** Imports of raw oats (HS 1004) originate mainly internally, from **northern European countries such as Finland, Poland, and Sweden**. Germany, however, is also among the top-10 EU suppliers of oats.







# Oats

## Environmental Risks

Oats have a relatively low demand for nitrogen and low susceptibility to diseases. Because of this, oats have a relatively low need for additional inputs (e.g., fertilisers and pesticides). Nonetheless, **oats that are not certified organic, may contain, among others, glyphosate**, which is often used as a desiccant to dry the crops before harvesting.

### Glyphosate

may be found on non-certified organic oats.

#### Contamination



**0.70  
kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq**

is the carbon footprint per kg of oats

The carbon footprint of raw oats is **low**. For oatmeal, this average increases to around 1.13 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq per kg of oatmeal.

In the EU, the carbon footprint has been found to be **slightly lower than this estimation - 0.55 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq per kg of oats produced**. The biggest contribution to the carbon footprint of oats produced in the EU come from **nitrogen fertiliser production and use**, and from the **energy consumed in field work**.

#### Emissions



As for oat protein concentrate, the largest contribution to the carbon footprint comes from the energy consumed in the processing stage.

The EU average in terms of land use for oat cultivation is **2.8 m<sup>2</sup>/kg**. However, this estimate varies depending on the country of production and it can range from 2.0 m<sup>2</sup> to 5.5 m<sup>2</sup> per kg of oats. In the case of oat protein concentrate, this average also increases to 3.2 m<sup>2</sup> per kg of concentrate. The land use requirement of both raw oats and oat protein concentrate are very low, placing below pulses and any animal protein product.

**3.2  
m<sup>2</sup>**

is the average amount of land necessary to produce 1 kg of oat protein concentrate in the EU.

#### Land Use & Deforestation





# Oats

## Social Risks

### Labour Conditions

**No specific labour issues have been systematically reported in oat farms and industry.** However, there is still a risk because in the agriculture sector workers often face exploitation and tough working conditions.

### Reputational Risks

A significant share of the raw oats supplied to the EU are produced in countries linked to the 2022 Russia-Ukraine crisis. Like in the case of other similar commodities and products, **sourcing from these countries may involve reputation risks for vega(n) producers.**

### Land Appropriation

Saskatchewan, in Canada, is one of the country's leading provinces in terms of agri-food production and exports. Oats were the 4th main 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.