

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## DOCUMENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GRAINS

### Addendum

#### TURKEY

The following additional information on international trade in grains has been submitted by the Permanent Mission of Turkey. This information supplements information already included in Chapter C of document MTN/GR/W/8/Rev.1.

The population of Turkey was 40 million in 1975. About 63 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture.

The total area of Turkey is just about 78 million ha.

Twenty-five million ha. of land is under cultivation. We have various climatic conditions. We grow various kinds of crops. But the main crop in Turkey is cereals.

About 66 per cent of the cultivated land is used for cereal production. Regarding the wheat-growing area, it covers about 9 million ha. of land; barley 2.5 million ha., maize 650,000 ha., rye 600,000 ha., oats 300,000 ha., rice 60,000 ha. The size of grain production can vary considerably from year to year and from region to region.

The central plateau and the south-eastern regions of Turkey have average rain-falls lower than 400 millimetres which play a big rôle in the yield of yearly cereal production, as these two regions cover about half of the total cereal producing area.

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The total cereal production of Turkey is just about 20 million tons. In the case of wheat, production for the last five years averages 12,300,000 tons: maximum in 1973, 10 million tons; maximum in 1975, 14,750,000 tons.

(a) Export and import régimes

Surplus grains are exported by the Soil Production Office. As far as imports are concerned, the same organization imports the grains from any source which could supply the required kinds of grains at the best available prices. Importation is made at zero rate. No variable charges on imports and exports are applied.

(b) Functioning of Soil Production Office

In terms of the grain marketing act scheme, the Soil Production Office was established just before the Second World War in 1938. The Soil Production Office has 1.8 million tons of silo capacity, to receive the grains directly from the producer and to distribute the grains to millers and other commercial users.

(c) Basis on which prices are determined

Wheat, barley, oats, maize, rye and rice prices are fixed by the Government once a year in the second half of May.

The prices are based on a combination of factors such as trend of production and consumption, changes in production costs, general economic situation of the country, world prices and financial position of growers. As mentioned earlier, mainly in wheat-growing areas, where the rainfall is uncertain, the price stabilization is necessary for the economy of the producer.