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MATS



PRESS RELEASE

Agri-food Trade Promotion between Ukraine and Africa

The World Trade Institute (WTI) at Berne University is pleased to announce that it has hired Mr. Bogdan Kostetsky as a consultant to help re-starting agri-food trade between Ukraine and Africa. Mr. Kostetsky is Operating Partner at Barva Invest in Kyiv, with a long experience as a trading executive in Ukrainian grains and oilseeds origination. He will operate within the "*Repairing Broken Food Trade Routes Ukraine – Africa*" project initiated under the auspices of the EU-funded Horizon 2020 "Making Agricultural Trade Sustainable" (MATS) program (<https://sustainable-agri-trade.eu/>). This project will be successful if it contributes to a resumption of agricultural trade interrupted because of the war on Ukraine.

For further information and/or offer to assist in project implementation, please write to Christian Häberli (Christian.Haeberli@wti.org) or to Bogdan Kostetsky (bogdan.kostetsky@gmail.com).





BACKGROUND

[The World Trade Institute \(WTI\)](#) is a leading academic institution dedicated to studies, teaching and research in international trade and investment regulation, economic globalisation and sustainability. As a centre of excellence at the University of Bern, with an international, interdisciplinary focus, we explore the interconnections between the fields of law, economics and political science – including for specific trade and investment promotion programs.

The WTI is one of the 14 partners to the EU funded Horizon 2020 programme, i.e., [“Making Agricultural Trade Sustainable” \(MATS\)](#). MATS is a 3.5-year duration programme ending in December 2024. It comprises partners with a wide spectrum of expertise and competences, substantial and longstanding experiences, and wide geographical spread in Europe and Africa. The programme aims to identify key leverage points for changes in agricultural trade policy that foster positive and reduce negative impacts of trade on sustainable development and human rights.

The role of MATS/WTI in this programme is to identify and explore “broken” Ukrainian - African food trade routes due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Starting with a food trade flow chart pre- and post-24 February 2022, it will assess, first, whether and which Ukrainian (or African) traders can again supply these products (Output 1). Failing that, whether the new EU-financed “Crisis Management” (or another) programme can possibly make up for lost Ukrainian agri-food exports (Output 2). It will also identify alternative exporters which might already have supplied new agri-food to Africa under war conditions (Output 3). Importantly, the Project also looks at the potential effect of these developments on competing farm production in Africa (Output 4).

