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Luxembourg's agriculture

Introduction

Luxembourg is a small country in western Europe. It's a developed country and it has one of the world's highest GDP. This country is a representative democracy headed by a constitutional monarch making it the world's only remaining sovereign grand duchy.

With a total surface area of 2 .586 square kilometers Luxembourg is one of the smallest countries in Europe. The territory is divided in two different regions, "Oesling" in the northern side and "Guttland" that occupies the middle and south side

Primary sector

Although the primary sector occupies more than half of the country's territory it only contributes 0.2% of the total economy. Luxembourg's agriculture's small scale is due to the fact that most farms are family-owned businesses. Many farmers focus on producing high-quality, locally grown products. This scale has led to a strong emphasis on quality over quantity.

The territory is divided into two different regions, "Oesling" on the northern side and "Guttland" on the south side. Guttland has a flatter ground and that is where most cereal crops and pasturelands are located. Oesling in the hilly north, has agriculture mainly focused on plateaus and deep valleys.

Luxembourg's agricultural sector is diverse, with a focus on dairy farming, crop production, and viticulture, meaning that their most produced products are milk, wine and cereals.

The country produces meat in abundant amounts. In fact, in 2012 the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was ranked number one in the world in terms of meat consumption. Much of the country's fondness for meat comes from its reputable and healthy livestock industry, which has exceeded European quality standards for over 20 years.

The country's farmers focus mainly on dairy production, with a significant portion of their output being exported to neighboring countries.

Imports and exports

Luxembourg is a country with limited agricultural production therefore it relies heavily on import to fulfil its food needs. The products imported originate from other Eu countries, in particular France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Regarding the agriculture export, Luxembourg's agricultural sector is not significant enough to be a major exporter of products. However the country does export wine and meat. Luxembourgers are very proud of the sector, and the demand for Luxembourgish meat is a testament to its high quality.

Crisis

During moments of crisis such as covid 19, individuals and collecting food supplies becomes primary concerns.

Food sovereignty is characterized by the largest possible diversity of produced food and by the highest degree of autonomy possible from international imports and transportation through local options. Luxembourg is predominantly a grassland region, lending itself to cattle grazing.

As a small country, Luxembourg would be suitable for shorter supply chains and could adapt to changing circumstances, but only if the food supply is steady and diverse. On one hand, small producers experience fluctuation and cannot consistently guarantee supply to corporate clients. But cooperative-run platforms or food hubs grouping several small producers could function as a one-stop-shop for wholesalers. On the other hand, larger companies in Luxembourg offer commercial partnerships to producers who agree to invest in missing products or production lines.

How Luxembourg contributes to the EU's agriculture

Being a member state of the European Union, the country contributes to the EU's common agricultural policy. Due to its territory the country's contribution can not be compared to larger EU member states. However, Luxembourg receives funding from the CAP to support its own agricultural sector, including measures to promote sustainable farming practices and support for rural development.

projects. Luxembourg is also involved in EU-wide discussions and decision-making processes related to agriculture, including negotiations over the EU's annual budget and the development of new agricultural policies and initiatives.

New project

In recent years, there has been a launch of a new strategy called “Luxembourg CAP strategic plan” to support the transition towards smart, sustainable and organic agriculture while ensuring long-term food security. This project also contributes to the climate action, the protection of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity, with more and more farmers adopting environmentally friendly practices and seeking certification for their products. Other goals of this project are to reduce the use of greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions, pesticides and to promote carbon sequestration. The government has also implemented a range of policies aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and preserving the country's natural resources, including support for agroforestry and incentives for farmers to implement environmentally friendly practices. Luxembourg submitted its first proposal for a CAP Strategic Plan on 21 January 2022. On 30 August 2022, Luxembourg submitted a revised proposal, addressing the Commission’s observations on the first draft. The Commission approved this proposal on 13 September 2022. This document presents

Luxembourg's primary sector is highly productive and efficient, thanks in part to government support and investments in modern technologies and practices.

Conclusion

Overall, while agriculture remains a relatively small part of Luxembourg's economy, the country's farmers are highly productive and have a strong focus on sustainability and environmental responsibility.