# Food and Agroindustry in El Salvador

El Salvador’s agriculture contributes approximately 5% to the nation's GDP, according to data from the World Bank[[1]](#footnote-2). This sector offers a wide variety of natural products and specializes in the production of maize, beans, meat, honey, cacao, coffee, and others that play a significant role in the country's food industry and export’s economy.

El Salvador's honey industry exports more than 1,000 metric tons of honey annually. This honey is renowned for its light color and mild flavor, attributable to the diverse flora found across El Salvador. The main destinations for Salvadoran honey are Germany, France, Austria, Portugal, Honduras, and Costa Rica.[[2]](#footnote-3)

The cacao industry in El Salvador mainly focuses on the Criollo and Trinitario varieties, which are highly sought after for premium chocolate production. In the case of Coffee, it remains a flagship crop in the country. Salvadoran coffee, particularly the Bourbon, Pacas, and Pacamara varieties, is recognized for its rich flavours and high quality. Also, it had a production of about 922 thousand quintals in 2021-2022, according to information from the Salvadoran Council of Coffee. From these, 724 thousand quintals were exported, with its main destinations being the U.S. (49%), Germany (10%), Japan (9.6%), and Belgium (4.5%).

In addition to these products, El Salvador is known for the production of various grains, fruits, and vegetables. Maize, rice, and beans form a staple part of the local diet and contribute significantly to the country's agricultural output. Meanwhile, tropical fruits like mangoes, pineapples, and bananas, as well as vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, and squashes, are produced in the country too.

The food sector also extends to the production of alcoholic beverages. Salvadoran rum, represented by brands like Cihuatan and Guazapa, have a growing influence in the economy of the Country. Rums, made from locally grown sugarcane, have seen exports surpass $3 million annually, with the Netherlands, United States, France, and Costa Rica being the primary export destinations, according to Trade Map.

Further, the geographical positioning of El Salvador, in a region with a Free Trade Agreement with the EU (Association Agreement between Central America and the European Union), makes the country a strategic partner for Finnish food importers, allowing for preferential access and potential cost advantages.

In summary, El Salvador's agricultural sector presents a diversified portfolio, marked by the unique quality of its products, robust export capabilities, and a commitment to sustainable practices. By capitalizing on the distinctive characteristics of its produce, El Salvador promises to enhance its global standing in the agricultural and food production industries. In conclusion, the Scandinavian market can benefit from all these characteristics and the production cycle of the Country due to its geographical position.

1. https://datos.bancomundial.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=SV [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://elsalvadorinenglish.com/2022/05/11/el-salvador-exported-1000-tons-of-honey-in-2021/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)