

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

ROUND TABLE: THE ECONOMICS OF GUM ARABIC IN AFRICA

27 April 2018, Geneva

Commodities at a Glance: Special Issue on Gum Arabic

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect
the views of UNCTAD.

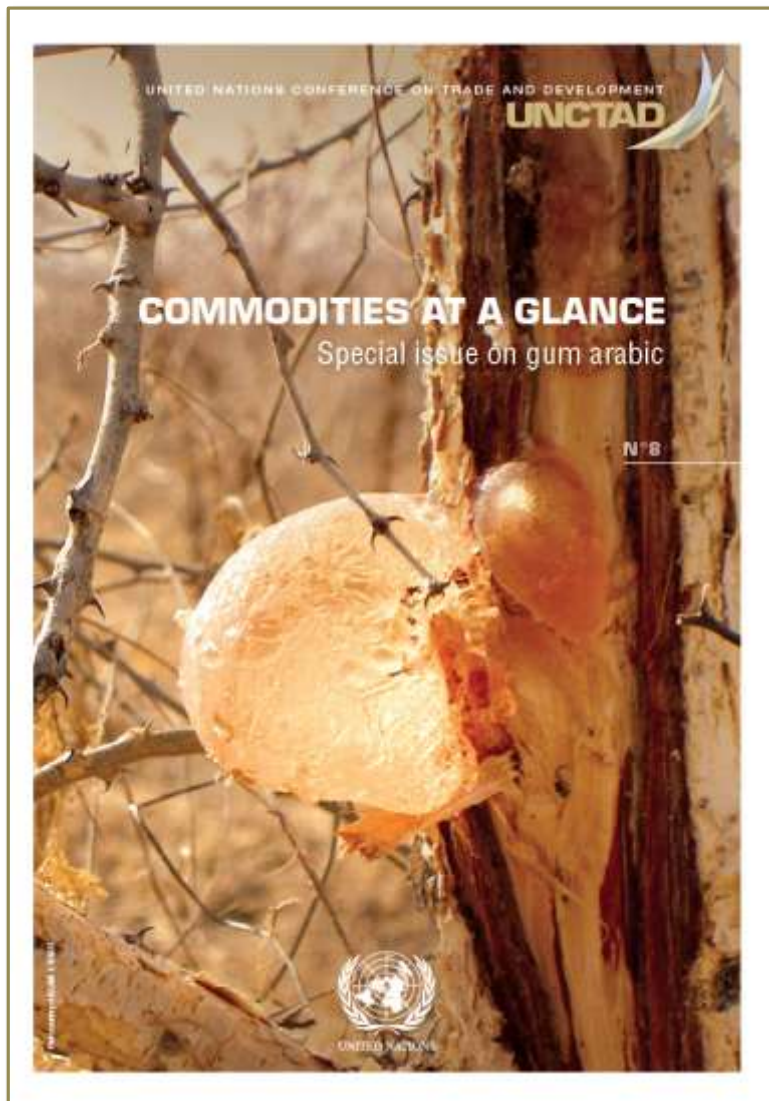


COMMODITIES AT A GLANCE: SPECIAL ISSUE ON GUM ARABIC

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Round Table: The Economics of Gum Arabic in Africa
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Commodities at a Glance: Special Issue on Gum Arabic

- ✓ Part of a publication series
- ✓ **Produced by UNCTAD's** Commodities Branch
- ✓ Statistical information
- ✓ Analysis

Outline of presentation

1. What is gum arabic?
2. Why is gum arabic important?
3. Statistics
4. Ten key policy issues
5. Conclusion



What is gum arabic?

- ❖ A dried **exudation** produced by two types of acacia trees:
 - *Acacia senegal*
 - *Acacia seyal*
- Joint FAO-WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- ❖ Oozes from trees as a **sticky liquid**
- ❖ After drying in the sun, forms **glassy nodules**
- ❖ Ultimately processed into **powder**



Why is gum arabic important?

1

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2

NUMEROUS INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS





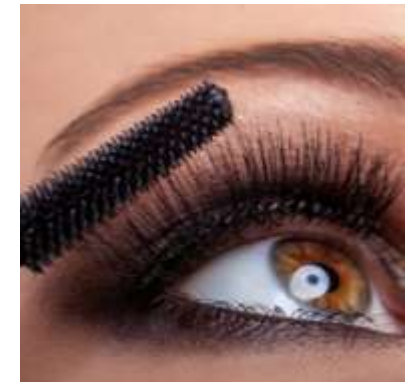
**GUM ARABIC IS A PROMISING COMMODITY FOR
PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA**



Sustainable Development Goals



Numerous industrial applications



Desirable properties and functions

NATURAL

ORGANIC

NON-GMO

PESTICIDE-FREE

HALAL

KOSHER

LOW CALORIE

HIGH FIBER

**ODOURLESS,
TASTELESS,
TRANSLUCENT**

EMULSIFIER

**FLAVOR
ENCAPSULATOR**

THICKENER



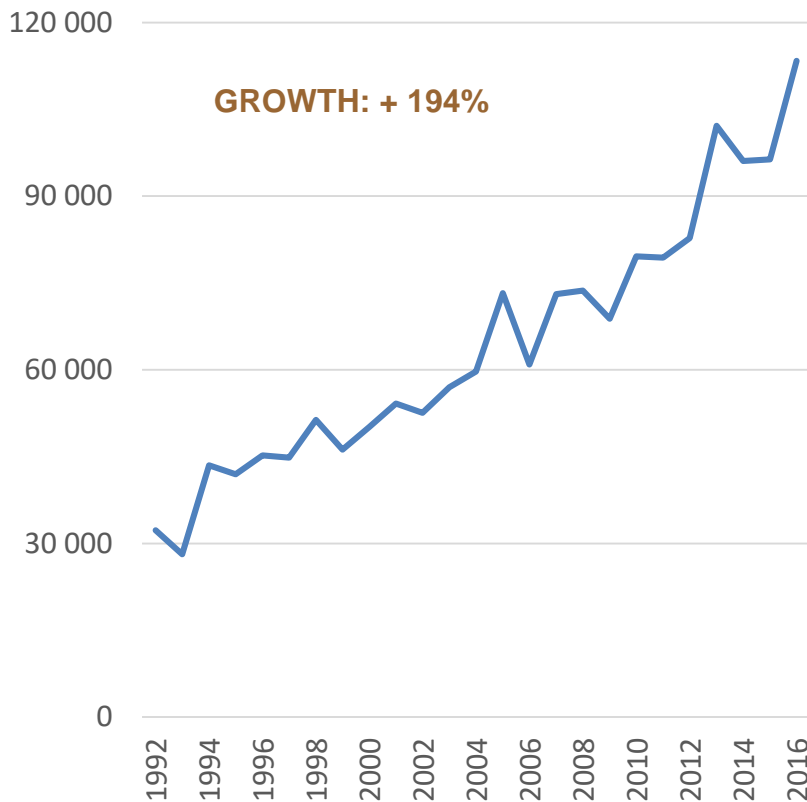


S T A T I S T I C S

Crude gum arabic

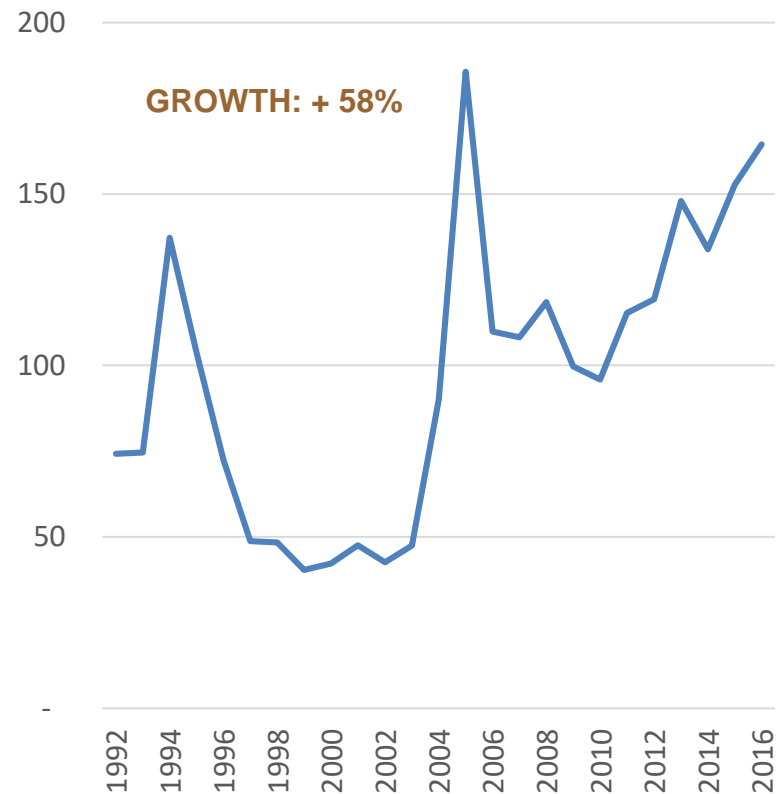
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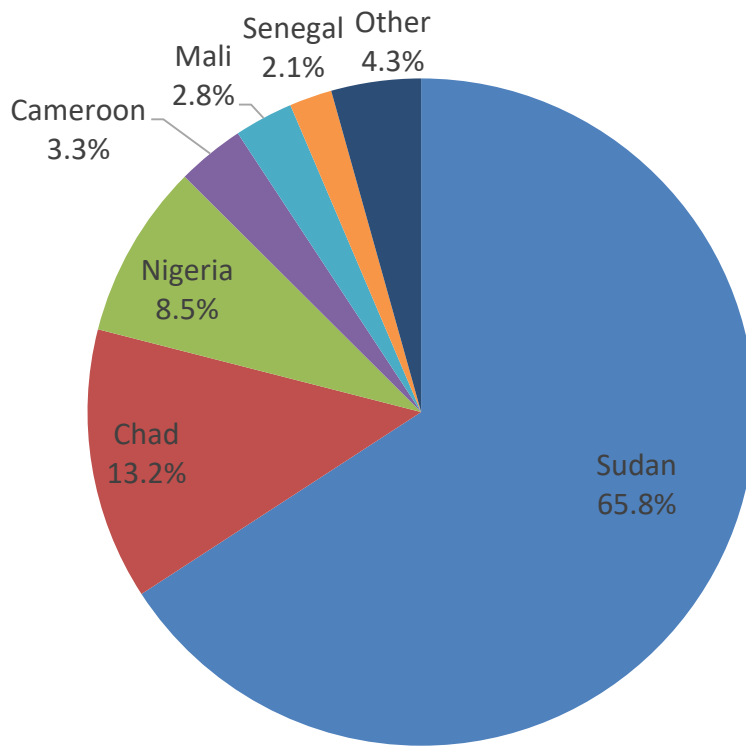
(Millions of US\$)



Crude gum arabic: Market shares

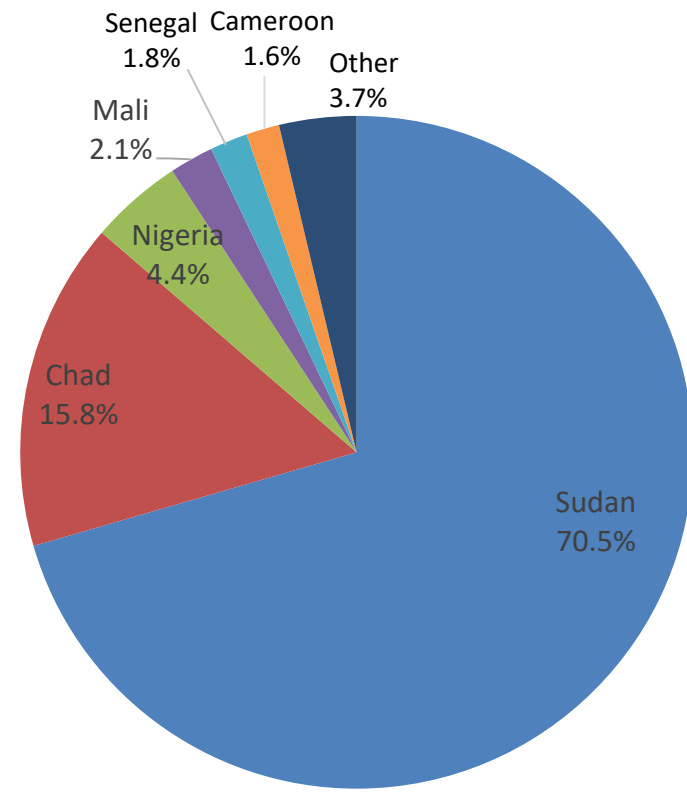
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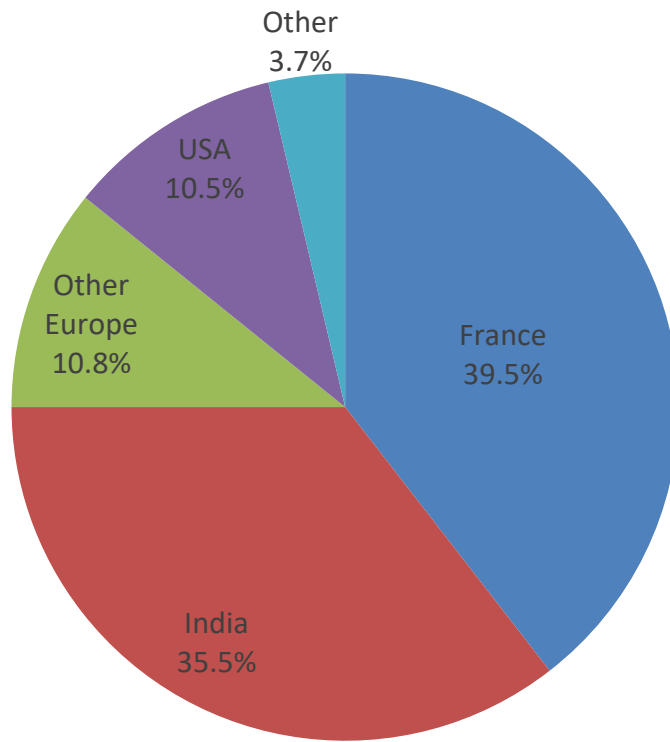
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Crude gum arabic: Market shares

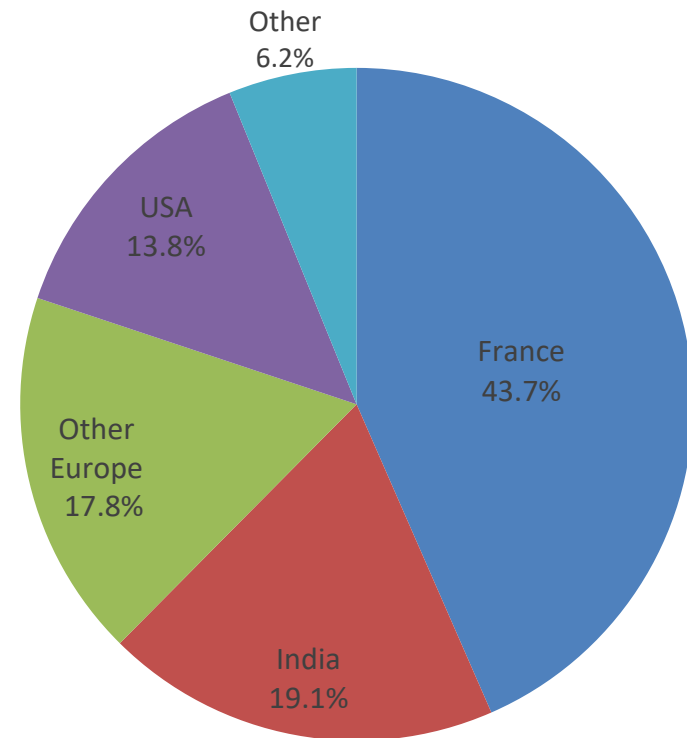
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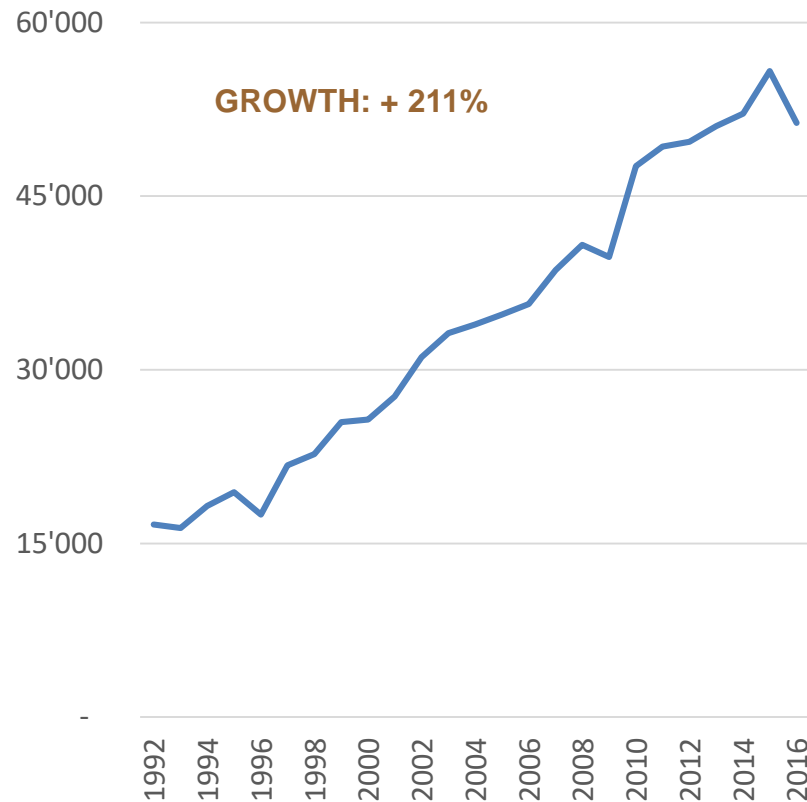
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Processed gum arabic

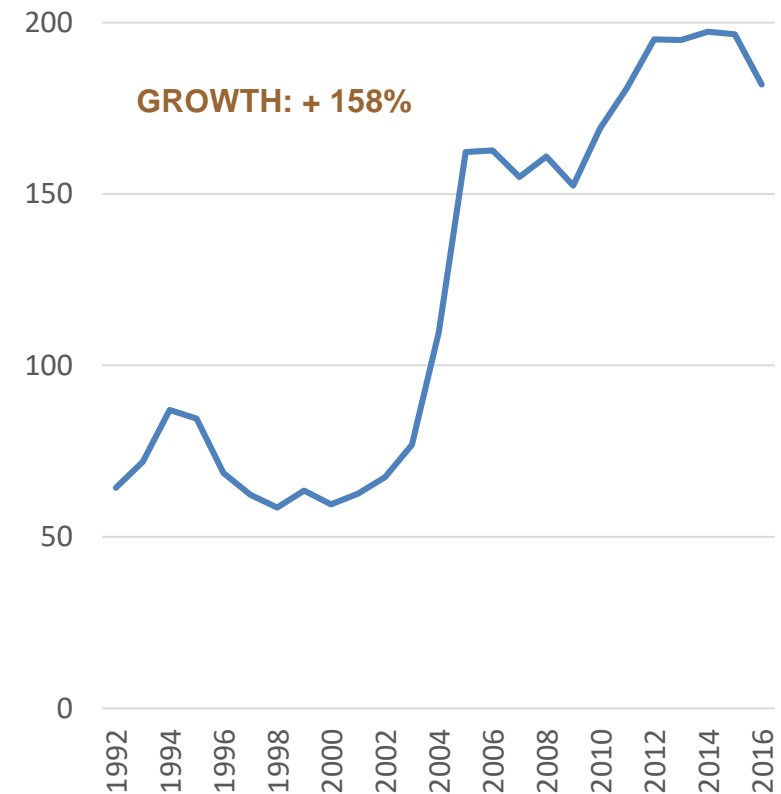
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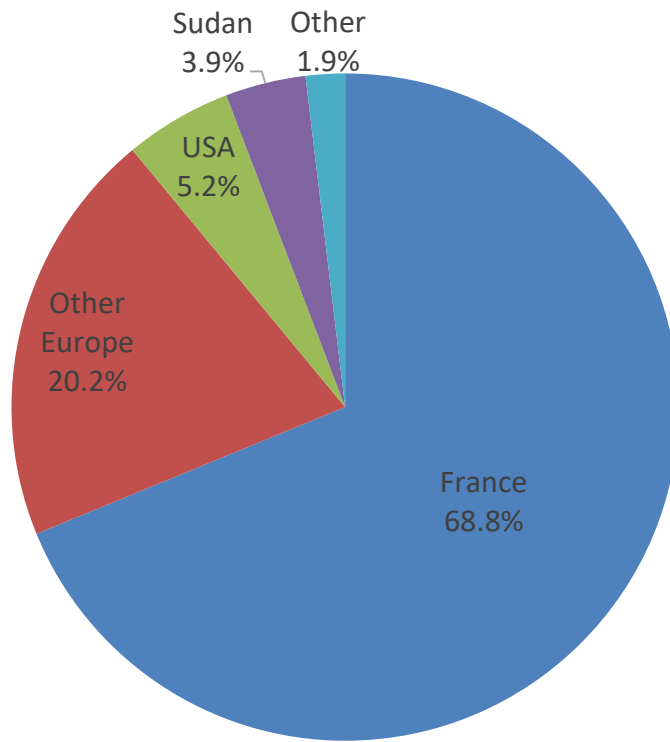
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Processed gum arabic: Market shares

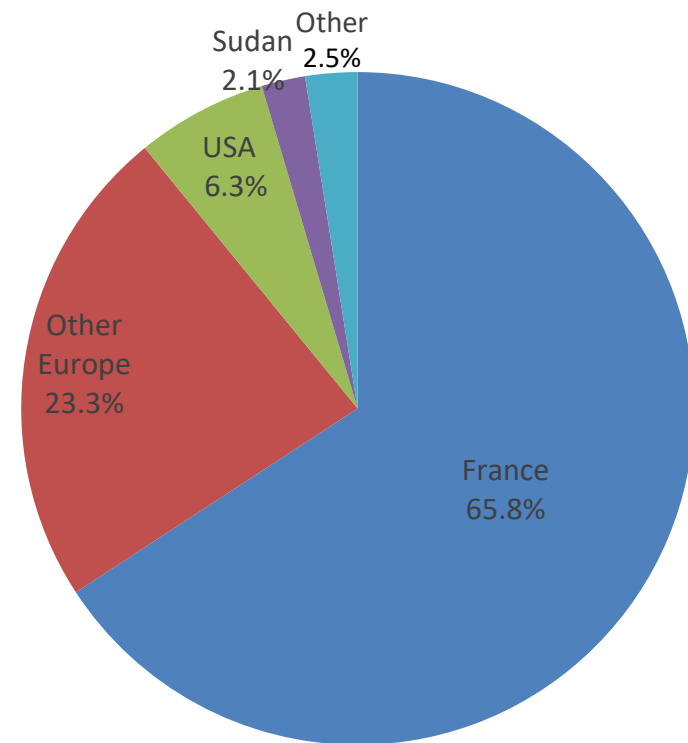
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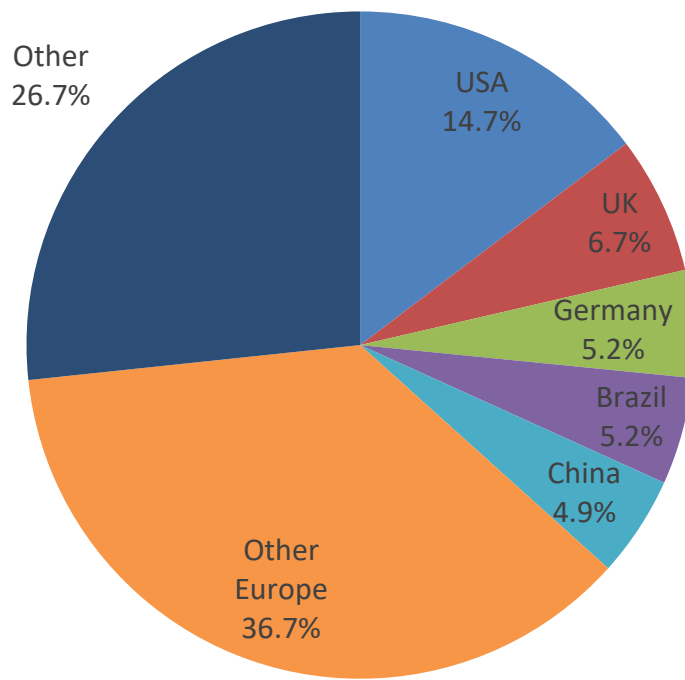
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Processed gum arabic: Market shares

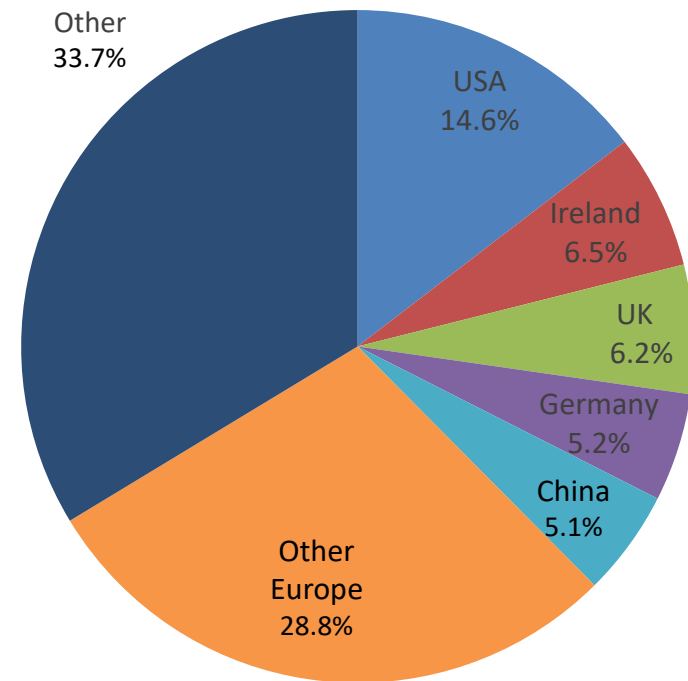
IMPORT QUANTITY

(2014-2016)



IMPORT VALUE

(2014-2016)





P O L I C Y I S S U E S

Ten key policy issues

- 1) Data
- 2) **Producers' skills**
- 3) Land tenure
- 4) Product differentiation
- 5) Market power
- 6) Profitability
- 7) Local processing
- 8) Gender
- 9) Climate change
- 10) Stability



Conclusion

Gum arabic has enormous potential to:

- ❖ Promote economic growth
- ❖ Secure rural livelihoods
- ❖ Empower vulnerable groups
- ❖ Promote synergies with natural resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation



Thank you.

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