



BCPC Seminar

Thursday 12 May 2022



What does the future hold for UK food production?

Does food security and continuity of supply driven by a profitable UK farming industry remain a priority in government, or is it just seen most politicians as a nice to have, if Treasury can afford it?

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Agenda

- **The Market of British Produce**
 - Desire to consume local product
- **Are we self-sufficient?**
 - Wheat, maize and sunflower oil – where they are coming from?
 - Importation of feed and fertilisers
- **The Ukraine Crisis**
- **Thoughts on current food security and supply**



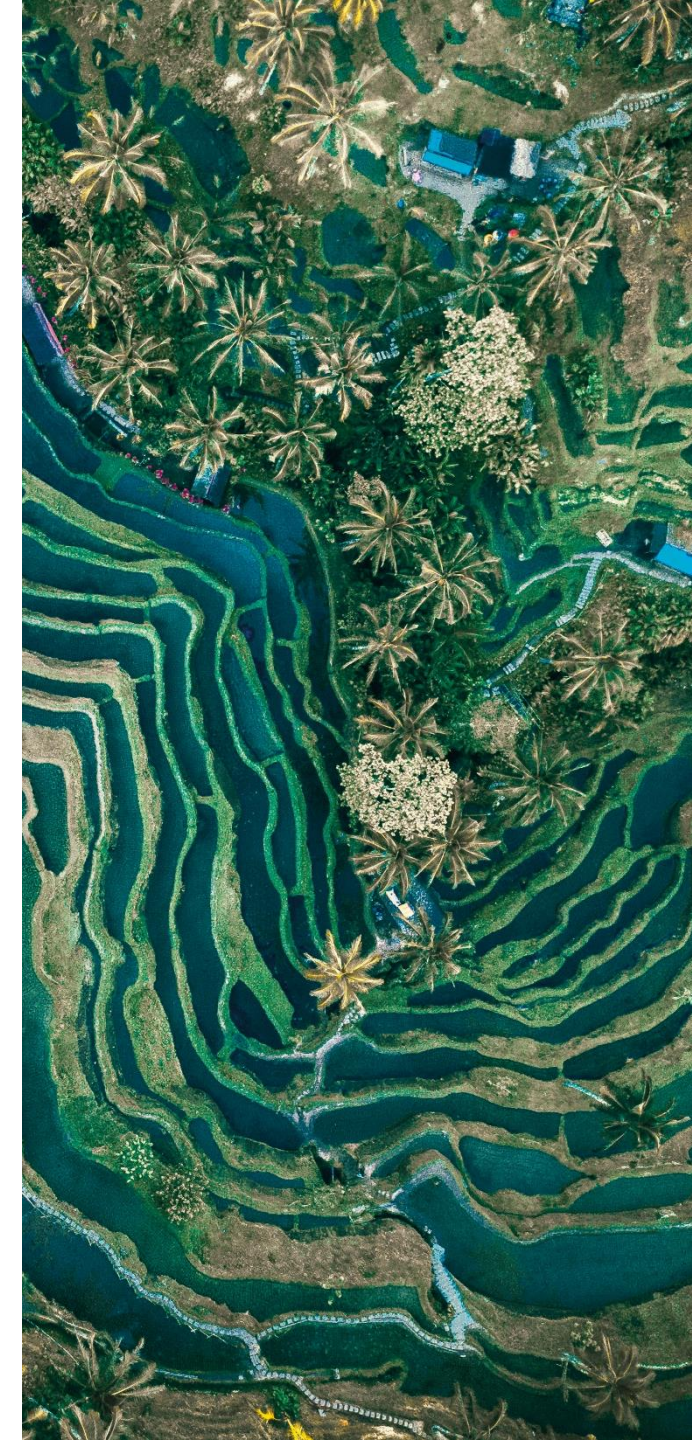
The Market of British Produce: From crop growing to unlabelled branding

- Growing consumer interest in food provenance:
 - Enhanced quality with high environmental, animal welfare, traceability and food safety standards.
- Farming businesses are improving local access:
 - First Milk just rolled out its on-farm vending machine in Derbyshire – this is just one example of many...
- Retailers are increasingly keen to back British suppliers:
 - Alongside Co-op, Lidl and Tesco, Aldi's 5-year commitment in boosting British food and drink by £3.5bn annually.
 - Morrison also urged suppliers to source more food domestically.



Self-sufficiency factsheet

- About **60%** of food on plates is produced in the UK, including the majority of grains, meat, dairy, and eggs. Major deficit in fruit and vegetables.
- **Trade deficit:** in 2020, £48 billion of food, feed and drink was imported and £21.4 billion was exported. Thank goodness for Scottish whisky.
- **Decline in self-sufficiency:** the self-sufficiency was 78% in mid-1980s, in the 1930s it was below 40%.
 - '...food security means strong and consistent domestic production of food combined with a diversity of supply sources that avoids overreliance on any one source.'
– UK Food Security Report 2021'



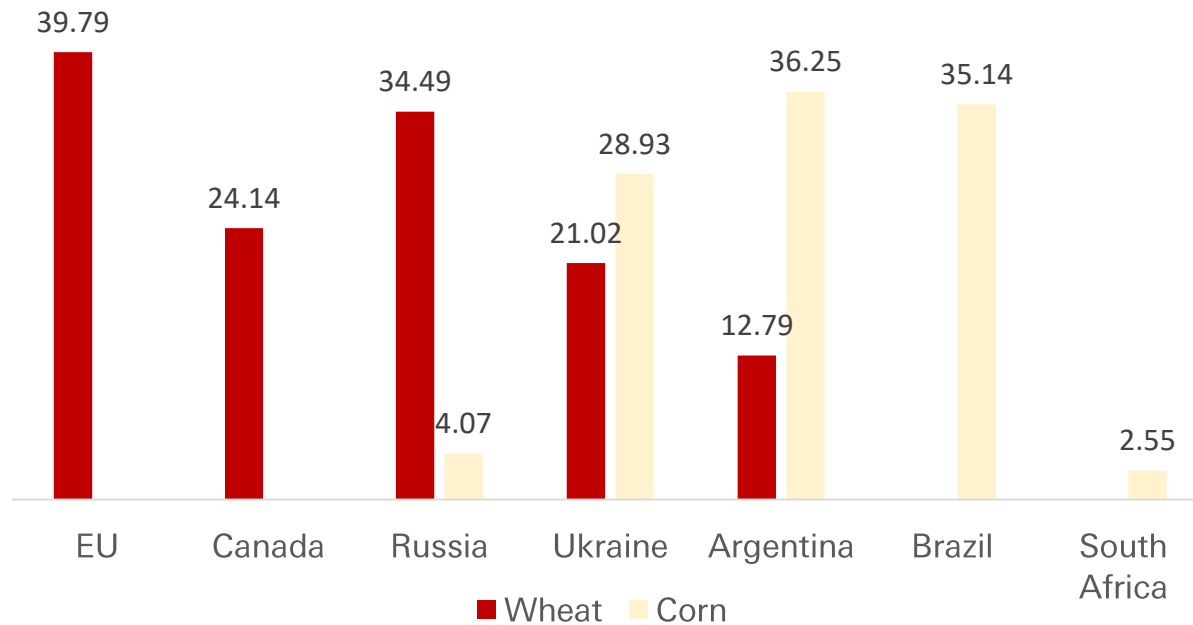
Are we self-sufficient?

- Factors to consider across farming:
 - Land usage – food production, recreation, environment and urbanisation
 - Seasonality of growing – society's desire for 365 days a year in supply
 - Carcass balance – consumer preference, changing attitudes to animal protein in diet
 - Government strategy and support for the industry including agriculture
 - What do consumers think about all of this? How much do they really care?
 - What is the cost of food and what is the value of food? And in the future?



Who are the world suppliers? Wheat and maize

2020 Top world exporters

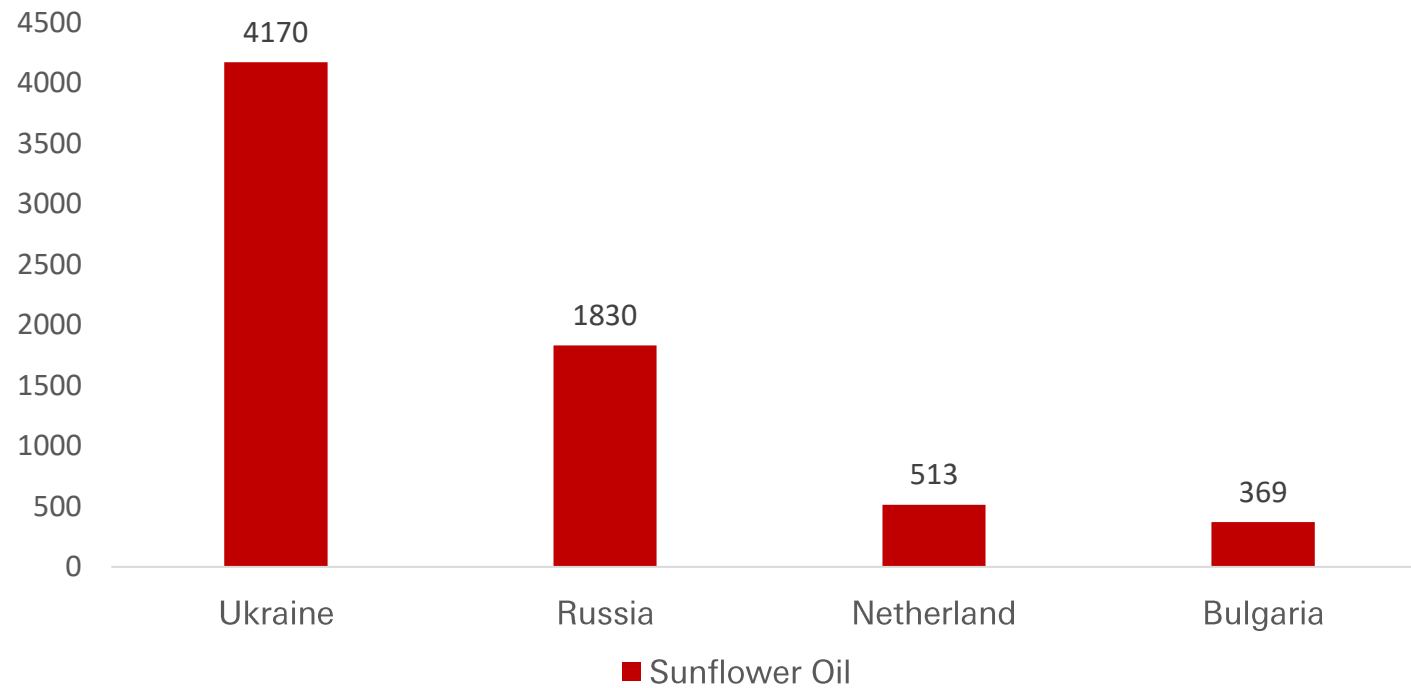


Source: USDA 2022



Who are the world suppliers? Sunflower oil

2020 Top world exporters (\$miliion)



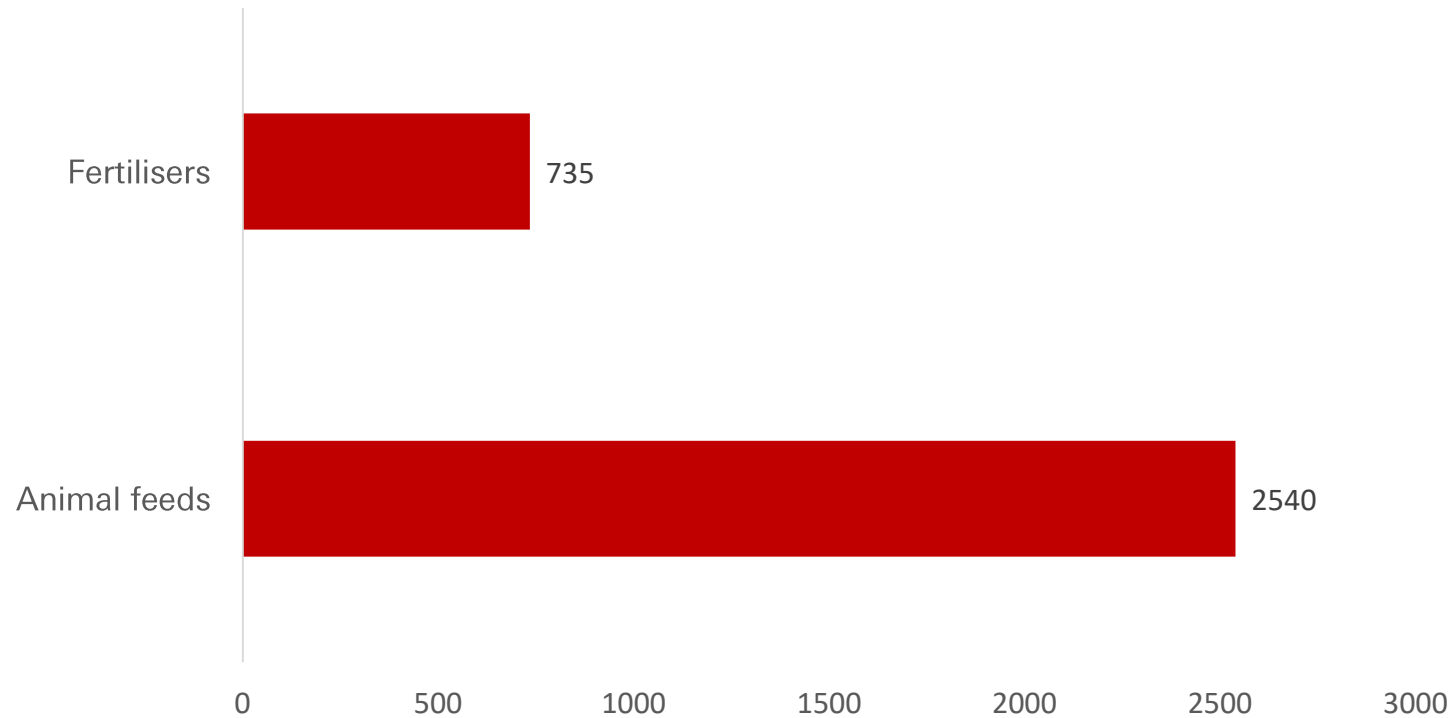
Source: OEC 2021



Importation of inputs to the UK

Feeds and fertilisers

2020 UK Imports (£million)



Source: Defra 2021, ONS 2021



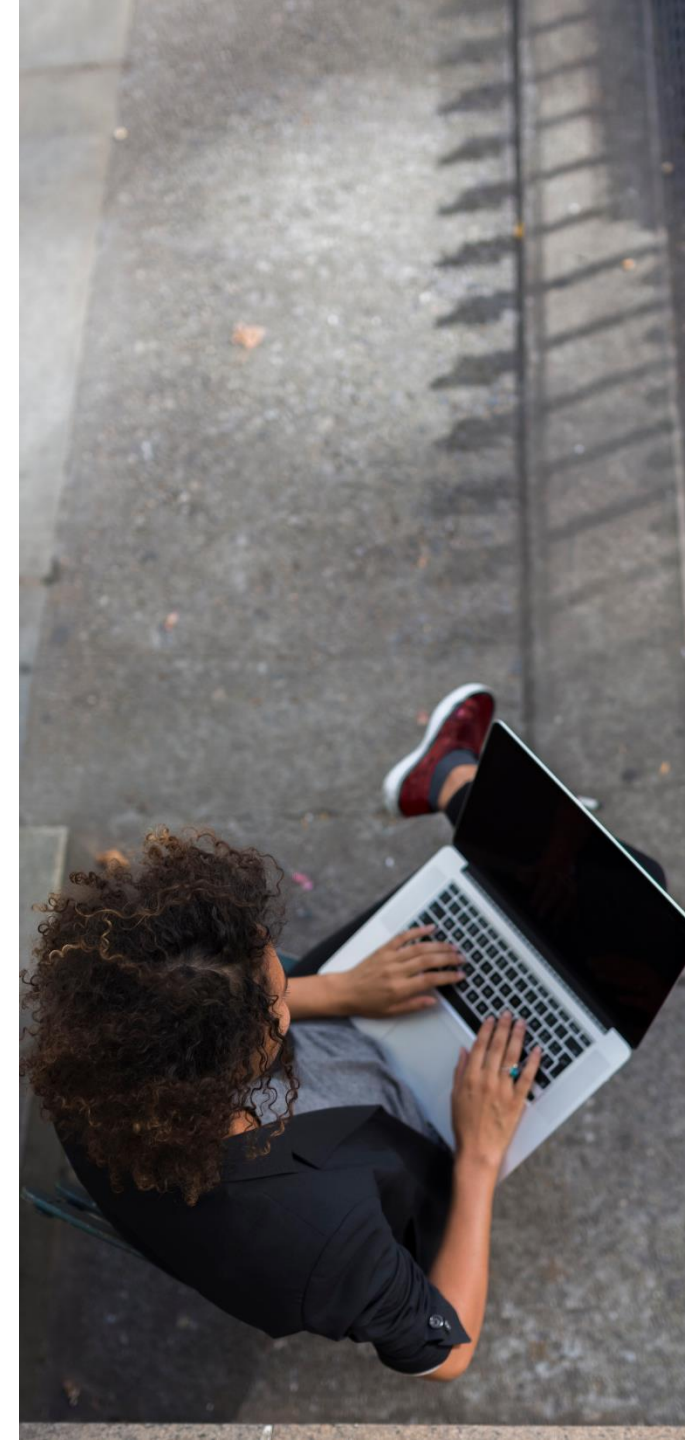
Assessing **V**olatility, **U**ncertainty, **C**omplexity, and **A**mbiguity (Bennis & Nanus, 1985)

- Climate change
- Change in demographics
- New technology
- Social media and channel proliferation
- Health and wellbeing
- Regulation and legislation

Pace – concept to application (internal combustion engine vs. electric battery in car)

Inflation – ‘normal inflation’, ‘extreme inflation’...

Availability of food products





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