



Imported food from Africa – additional information

Over **90%** of the fruit and vegetables imported from African countries is not air-freighted. **Bananas** are by far the single largest export to the UK from Cameroon and the Ivory Coast, while **oranges** make up the largest proportion of produce from Morocco and Egypt. Since they are storable and not so easily damaged, such fruits tend to be **transported by sea**.

Leguminous vegetables (peas, beans, mange tout) constitute the largest proportion of Kenyan imports to the UK and this sector has shown strong growth. In 1988, the UK imported around 3,800 tonnes of legumes from Kenya. By 2005, this had increased to around 25,000 tonnes. Due to their high perishability and value, leguminous vegetables tend to be imported by **air freight**. Some people are concerned about the **high carbon footprint** of these vegetables

In 2005, the UK also imported 18,650 tonnes of **cut flowers** from Kenya. These had a declared value of around £52m. Due to the high unit value and highly perishable nature of the products, virtually all of the African trade in cut flowers are imported by **air freight** – they need to be in UK supermarkets within **24-48 hours** of picking in Kenya.

Kenya sends out about 350 tonnes of vegetables and cut flowers each night ready to be sold next day in UK supermarkets.

Horticulture (growing fruit, flowers and vegetables) employs about 70,000 Kenyans directly, and another 20,000 in ancillary industries e.g. transport. Add in their dependents and it may support as many as 500,000 people. Horticulture is Kenya's second biggest earner of **foreign exchange** after tea, having leapt up from fourth place since 2001.



Where does the money go when one tonne of mange tout (peas) are exported to the UK?

One tonne export of mange tout from Kenya to the UK		
Stage	Price per tonne (£)	% of final price
Producer	630	12
Exporter	290	6
Packaging	280	5
Air freight and handling	1,040	20
Importer	620	12
Supermarket	2,500	45
Total price	5,360	100

*Table adapted from website article <http://www.nri.org/projects/NRET/SPCDR/Chapter1/elements-1-6-5-1.htm>