

## Extended Abstract

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<b>Paper/Poster Title</b>	<b>Assessing Ukrainian agriculture in wartime: consequences, policy responses and prospects</b>
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**Abstract prepared for presentation at the 98th Annual Conference of The Agricultural Economics Society will be held at The University of Edinburgh, UK, 18th - 20th March 2024.**

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>200 words max</b>
<p>The war in Ukraine has caused significant damage to the country's agricultural sector and poses a threat to global food security. However, the impact of the war on agricultural policy remains uncertain. To provide a thorough understanding of the challenges facing Ukraine's agricultural sector, we systematically review statistical data, legislative and regulatory measures, and relevant literature. Our analysis focuses on the period of war from 24 February 2022 to the end of 2023. We identify the main issues arising from the conflict and the agricultural policy responses. In addition, we outline potential trajectories for the development of Ukraine's agricultural sector in the post-war period. This study represents the first attempt to analyse Ukraine's agricultural policy during the war and envisages future post-war development through a comprehensive assessment of the agricultural challenges and policy frameworks during the war.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Ukrainian Agriculture, Agricultural Policy, Wartime
<b>JEL Code</b>	Q18 - Agricultural Policy
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>The Russian invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February 2022, triggering a rapid deterioration in the country's economy. The war disrupted Ukraine's agricultural and food production, leading to disruptions in trade with other nations. Its global impact was felt through increased fuel and food prices, which affected the entire global economy.</p> <p>Previous literature has analysed the impact of the war on global agriculture and food security, e.g. by (Carriquiry et al., 2023), (Walter et al., 2023). Some earlier studies have focused on Ukraine's agricultural sector, highlighting its role as an agricultural exporter (Banse, 2022), (Rexhaj et al., 2023), (Shubravska &amp; Prokopenko, 2022). Several comprehensive studies provide insights into wartime agriculture (KSE Agrocentre, 2022a, 2022b), (Dibrova et al., 2023). However, there remains a lack of analysis of the Ukrainian agricultural sector and its challenges, as well as a lack of studies on policy adjustments during the war and the sector's post-war prospects. Our study aims to fill these gaps by providing a comprehensive assessment of the multiple impacts of the Russian invasion on Ukraine's agricultural sector. Focusing on the first two years of the war, we examine the scale, scope and dynamics of the invasion, while assessing the government's responses to mitigate its effects. The</p>	

structure of the paper includes an overview of pre-war Ukrainian agriculture, a detailed examination of the agricultural impact of the war on global markets and food security, an assessment of wartime agricultural policies, and a comprehensive discussion of the findings with implications for policy and research.

### **Methodology**

*100 – 250 words*

Our aim is to provide an in-depth assessment of Ukrainian agriculture in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and to examine Ukraine's agricultural policy responses. Focusing on the war timeframe from 24 February 2022 to the end of 2023, our analysis aims to delve into the first two years, potentially setting the stage for future studies covering subsequent war phases and the post-war period. Our methodology consists of three key steps. First, we conducted a comprehensive review of statistical data from the Ukrainian State Statistical Service, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other relevant agencies. Second, we reviewed Ukrainian agricultural policy, examining legislative and regulatory acts of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine. Third, an extensive literature review was carried out by systematically reviewing research papers, Ukrainian government reports and publications by the FAO, the World Bank and the United Nations. These methodological steps enabled a comprehensive understanding of Ukrainian agriculture from 24 February 2022 to December 2023. This included an analysis of the sector's challenges, the responses of farmers and the government, and an assessment of the sector's potential. Such a comprehensive assessment serves as a basis for deriving key insights for agricultural policy formulation and potential growth trajectories within the sector for the post-war period.

### **Results**

*100 – 250 words*

The war in Ukraine has caused significant losses in the Ukrainian agricultural sector, posing a threat to global food security. Our analysis has identified several key challenges resulting from the war, including: i) limited resources for agricultural production, ii) logistical problems, including the blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports and the blockade of Ukraine's land borders, iii) destruction of grain storage capacity, iv) contamination of agricultural land, v) lower prices and reduced demand for agricultural products on the local market.

Between 2022 and 2023, a significant portion of the government's agricultural support budget was reallocated to security and defence needs. At the beginning of the war, most conventional support programmes were suspended. However, in response to the challenges facing the agricultural sector, the Ukrainian government introduced specific measures to support agricultural production. These new initiatives included tax relief, simplified regulatory procedures and temporary financial support in the form of subsidies. The international community has played an important role in supporting Ukraine: The European Union funded small farmers, the FAO developed a rapid response plan, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Ukrainian agricultural exports.

Looking ahead to post-war development, critical areas of focus include the return and capacity-building of displaced persons, the promotion of small and medium-sized farms, integration into global markets, an emphasis on ecology and sustainable practices, and technological advances. Policies must be designed to facilitate and support these efforts.

**Discussion and Conclusion**

*100 – 250 words*

The war in Ukraine has caused significant agricultural losses, posing a threat to global food security. Our study, covering the period from 24 February 2022 to the end of 2023, examines these losses as a result of the Russian invasion. Key challenges resulting from the war include resource shortages, logistical disruptions due to blockades, destruction of grain reserves, land contamination and local market downturns. The government's response included tax exemptions, streamlined regulations and short-term financial assistance. Initial policy adjustments were aimed at financing the sector, supporting farmers, improving logistics and introducing digital tools. External assistance from the EU, FAO and USAID supported Ukraine - EU funding targeted smallholder farmers, FAO implemented a rapid response plan, and USAID supported export initiatives.

Post-war government priorities should shift towards human capital, smallholder empowerment, global market integration, sustainable practices and technological advancement, which will require supportive policies. Our study provides a basic understanding of the impact of the war on Ukrainian agriculture, response strategies and post-conflict development. Further research should track subsequent phases of the war, new challenges and policy changes for a comprehensive understanding and effective policy formulation. Rebuilding Ukraine's agricultural sector in the context of economic change and potential EU integration requires sound policies based on evidence of technical capacity, human and financial resources and technological progress.