

19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Australia-UAE CEPA Coordinator  
Middle East FTAs Branch  
Regional Trade Agreements Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
[UAECEPA@dfat.gov.au](mailto:UAECEPA@dfat.gov.au)

**Submission Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with United Arab Emirates**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australian nut industry welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on a potential Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with United Arab Emirates

The Australian Nut Industry Council (ANIC) is the federation of the seven Australian tree nut growing industries, almonds, chestnuts, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts.

**ANIC fully supports achieving a CEPA with the UAE. This would provide further opportunities for the expanding Australian tree nut production.**

Tree nut orchards in Australia continue to rapidly expand.

- Farm gate value (FGV) in FY2023 was \$A1.4 billion.
- Tree already planted but not yet bearing will increase FGV to \$A2.2 billion by FY2030.
- Nut exports in FY2023 were \$A1.2 billion.
- Nut exports are projected to rise to about \$A2billion per annum by FY2030.

This expanding production needs the improved market opportunities from the free trade agreements that the government has successfully negotiated over the last decade or so, most recently with India.

The UAE has a small population and is presently small markets for Australian nuts, typically about \$25 million per annum. However, it is an extremely valuable market as the UEA purchases the high-grade, high value, tree nuts which Australia produces. Also, the UAE is an important trading port for other GCC members but other middle east countries as well.

There is zero local production of tree nuts in the UAE or other GCC countries. The tropical climate conditions are not suitable for the temperate climate nuts grown in Australia. Hence none of the Australian tree nuts can be regarded as “sensitive” for nut production in the UAE or any of the GCC countries.

There is a 5% import tariff on all Australian nuts. The removal of this would improve the prospects for Australian exports into the UAE.

The UAE has some import requirements particularly with labelling. None of these are particularly onerous and are not unusual in the world trade. None would be regarded as a significant hinderance to trade.

Below are details of recent Australian tree nut exports to the UAE.

Most nuts are exported under the Chapter 8 of the HS Code. However, some nuts are classified as processed (Chapter 20) or meals (Chapter 11, item 110630). It is important that these HS codes are also covered by any Agreement. There are no processing industries in the GCC that do this value adding. A full list of the relevant HS codes is appended.

ANIC will be pleased to provide any further information and support for the negotiations ahead with the UAE.

Yours sincerely  
Brendan Sidhu



Chair  
Australian Nut Industry Council

## Australian exports of tree nuts to United Arab Emirates

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	AUD	AUD	AUD	AUD	AUD
United Arab Emirates	5,780,835	3,717,237	22,894,096	22,748,480	27,417,948

**Table 1. Recent exports of Australian tree nuts to United Arab Emirates in Australian dollars**

The major Australian nuts exported to UAE are almonds and macadamias, but recently small quantities of fresh pistachios have commenced. There are very small quantities of chestnuts. There is potential for walnuts and further pistachios as production of these nuts expand in Australia.

### HS Codes for Australian Nut Exports

Commodity	HS Code
Almonds in shell	8021100
Almond Shelled	8021200
Almonds P/P	20081993
Hazel in shell	8022100
Hazel shelled	8022200
Macadamia in shell	8026100
Macadamia shelled	8026200
Macadamia P/P	20081909
Pecan inshell & shelled	8029090
Pecan P/P	20081909
Pistachio in shell	8025100
Pistachio shelled	8025200
Pistachio P/P	20081909
Walnut in shell	8023100
Walnut shelled	8023200
Nut meals & flour	110630

