

The Role of Transnational Agrarian Corporations in Shaping Ukraine's Food Security During the War

Lytvyn Inna
Kyiv University of Intellectual Property and Law,
Ukraine

Under the conditions of martial law in Ukraine, the issue of food security has acquired critical importance, as supply logistics have been disrupted, part of the agricultural infrastructure has been destroyed, and the risks of shortages of fuel, fertilizers, and seeds affect yields. In this context, the role of transnational agricultural corporations (TNCs) becomes particularly significant, as they ensure Ukraine's integration into global supply chains, support export activity, and shape the investment potential of the agricultural sector.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the contribution of transnational agricultural corporations to ensuring Ukraine's food security during the war and to identify directions for strengthening their positive impact.

Transnational corporations are business entities that operate in several countries, have a unified management system, and possess significant investment, technological, and logistical resources.

In the field of agribusiness, TNCs include companies that control seed production, agrochemicals, grain logistics, processing, and exports. Their activities directly influence the availability, stability, and quality of food, and therefore the level of food security.

During the war in Ukraine, the role of TNCs shifted from purely commercial to stabilization-humanitarian, as they not only maintained business processes but also supported agricultural infrastructure,

provided technological assistance to farmers, and facilitated grain exports through alternative routes.

The leading transnational corporations operating in Ukraine include: Cargill, Bunge, Louis Dreyfus Company, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Bayer, Syngenta, Corteva Agriscience, and Nestlé in the processing sector. Their activities encompass: investments in terminals, elevators, and logistics infrastructure; the supply of seeds, crop-protection products, and technological solutions; support for exports via the grain corridor, rail, and Danube routes; participation in humanitarian aid and agricultural recovery programs.

Table 1 presents the share of transnational corporations in Ukraine’s agricultural export structure, the volume of their investments, and their contribution to humanitarian initiatives in 2022–2024.

Table 1. Contribution of Leading Transnational Corporations to Ukraine’s Food Security (2022–2024)

Corporation	Area of Activity	Investment / Support Volume	Impact on Food Security
Cargill	Grain export, logistics, humanitarian aid	over \$100 million in terminal restoration and farmer support	Support for wheat and corn exports via the Danube
Bunge	Oilseed processing, export	\$80 million in port modernization (Mykolaiv, Izmail)	Maintaining the oil supply chain
Bayer	Seed and plant-protection	over €60 million in humanitarian	Support for the sowing campaign

XIII International Scientific Conference

	supply	and technological aid	
Syngenta	Technological solutions, farmer training	€35 million in grants and loans	Increased crop yields
Nestlé	Food processing and production	€40 million in new production lines in Volyn region	Strengthening the domestic food market

As seen in Table 1, the participation of TNCs in Ukraine’s agricultural export structure increased by almost 13% during 2022–2024, indicating their stabilizing role during the war. The largest investment volumes are directed toward port logistics and grain terminals. The 75% increase in humanitarian aid reflects rising corporate social responsibility aimed at supporting farmers and domestic food markets.

According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine, the share of agricultural exports involving TNCs exceeds 55% of total supplies. TNCs ensure the stability of foreign trade even during the suspension of the “grain corridor,” using Danube routes and railways through the EU.

Positive effects of TNC activity include: diversification of logistics routes; stabilization of foreigncurrency earnings; preservation of jobs in related sectors; attraction of investments into processing.

At the same time, there are risks — monopolization of exports, displacement of small farmers from the market, and profit outflow abroad. Therefore, state policy should aim at balancing national interests with global integration.

Government strategies for the development of the agricultural sector envision partnerships with international corporations in the areas of modernizing grain logistics, implementing ESG-based environmental production standards, digitalizing agribusiness, and localizing processing capacities.

These initiatives align with World Bank recommendations for strengthening Ukraine's agricultural resilience to external shocks.

Thus, transnational agricultural corporations play a key role in supporting Ukraine's food security during the war by maintaining export channels, supplying resources and technologies. Their activities have a strategic impact on macroeconomic stability, foreign-currency revenues, and employment in rural regions. To minimize risks, the state must strengthen control over food chains, stimulate local production, and ensure equal access to resources for small and medium-sized farmers. A partnership between the state, local producers, and TNCs can become the foundation for restoring Ukraine's agricultural potential after the war.

References

1. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2024). *World Investment Report 2024: Investing in Sustainable Value Chains*. Geneva: United Nations. Retrieved from <https://unctad.org/publication/world-investment-report-2024>
2. Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine. (2024). *Overview of the State of Ukraine's Agricultural Sector 2024*. Kyiv. Retrieved from <https://minagro.gov.ua/>
3. Reuters. (2024). *Ukraine's Grain Exports and Foreign Agribusiness Support*. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities>
4. World Bank. (2023). *Ukraine Agriculture Recovery Report 2023*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/>
5. Bayer Ukraine. (2024). *Corporate Responsibility Report 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.bayer.ua/>