

# Monthly dashboard – Dairy

HS code 040590

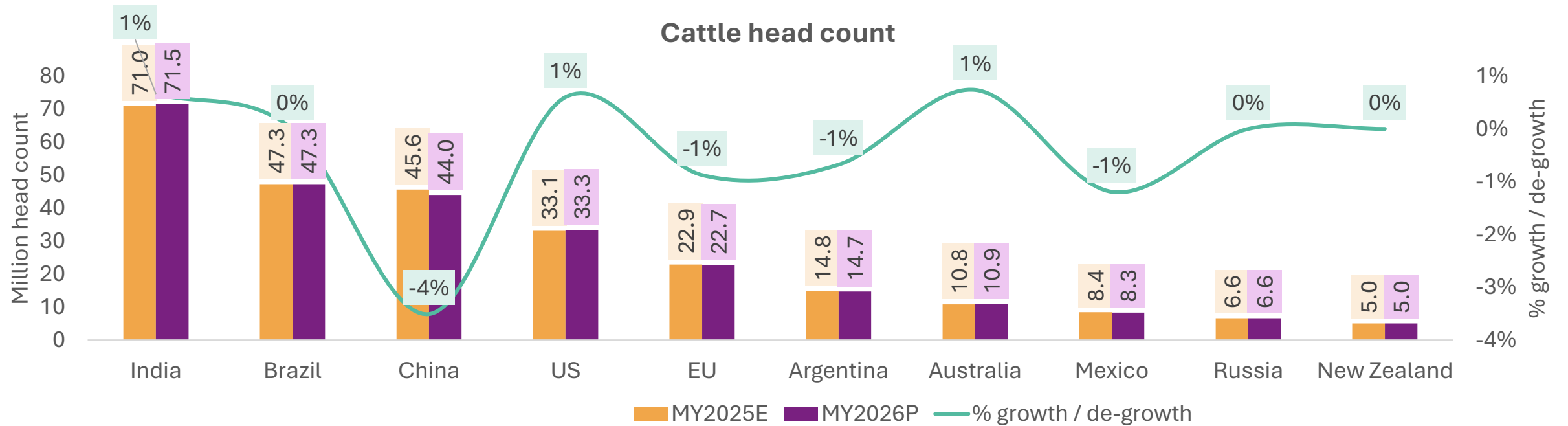
**February 2026**



# Cattle population and milk production trends



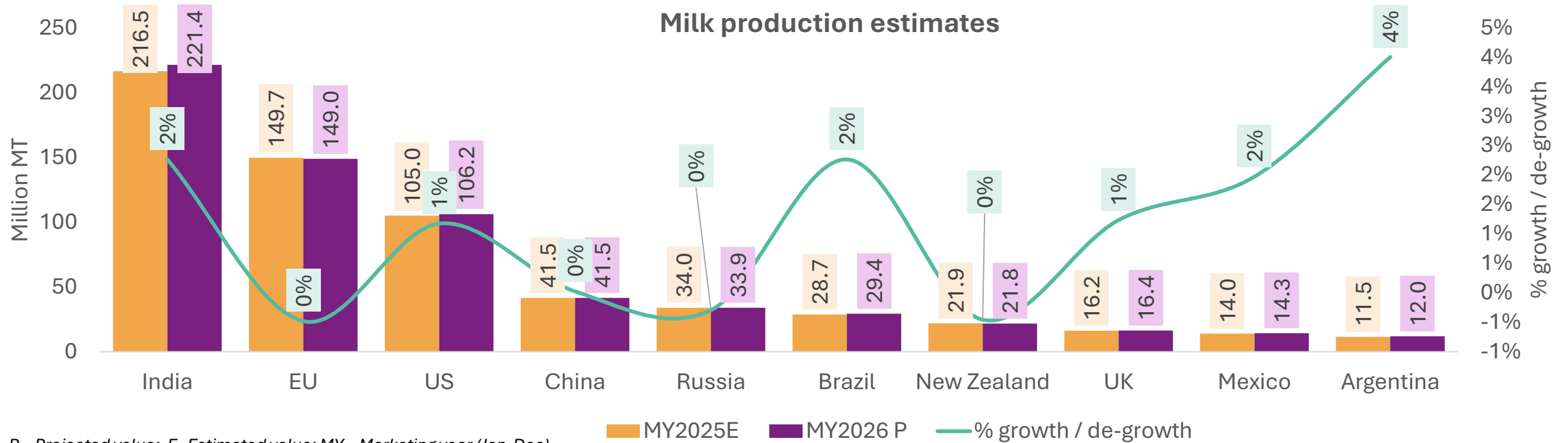
# Cattle productions across countries



*P – Projected value; E – Estimated value; MY – Marketing year (Jan-Dec)*

- Cattle population trends across major producing countries remain mixed in MY2026, with modest increases in India, the US, and Australia offset by declines in China, the EU, Argentina, and Mexico.
- India continues to lead with ~1% growth, supported by sustained dairy sector expansion, improving productivity, and stable domestic demand, reinforcing its position as the largest cattle holder.
- The US and Australia are witnessing herd rebuilding (~1% growth), driven by improved pasture conditions, easing feed costs, and favorable price cycles following earlier liquidation phases.
- China records the sharpest decline (~-4%), indicating structural adjustments in livestock production amid weaker consumption trends and rising production costs.
- EU, Argentina, and Mexico show mild contractions (-1%), largely due to environmental regulations, input cost pressures, and gradual shifts in consumption patterns.

# Milk production estimates of major producing countries



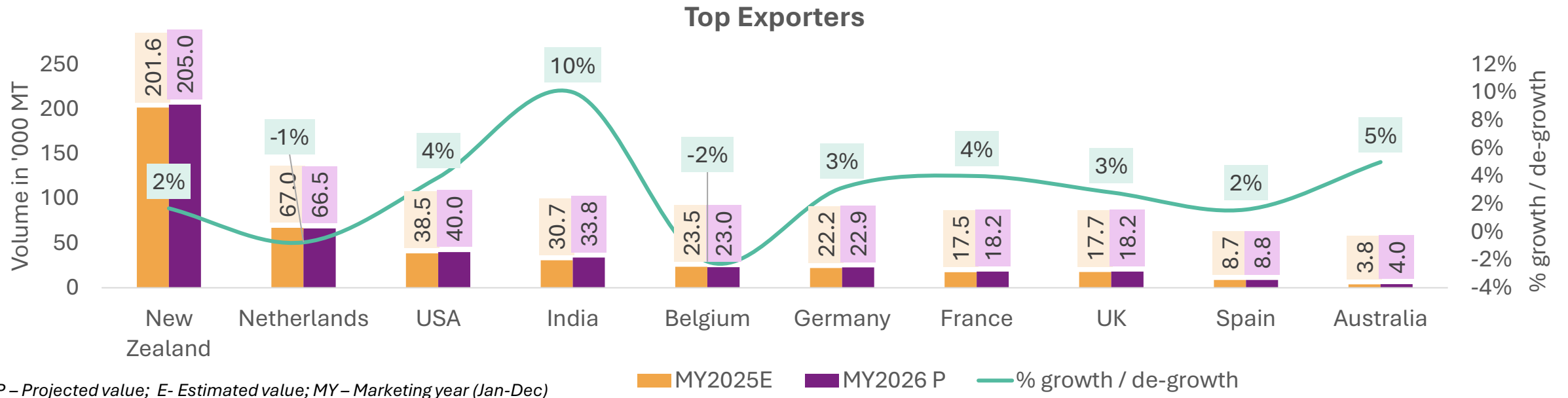
P – Projected value; E – Estimated value; MY – Marketing year (Jan-Dec)

- The countries shown account for ~94% of global milk production, with overall growth remaining moderate and concentrated among a few key producers.
- India continues to anchor global supply growth, expanding ~2% (216.5 → 221.4 MMT), maintaining its lead as the largest producer.
- Developed markets (EU, US, New Zealand, UK) remain largely stagnant (~0–1% growth), reflecting market maturity, productivity saturation, and structural constraints.
- Emerging producers (Brazil, Mexico, Argentina) are driving incremental growth (~2–4%), with Argentina showing the fastest expansion, supported by improving farm efficiencies and demand recovery.
- China and Russia show flat to marginal decline (~0%), indicating stabilization following prior capacity expansion and demand adjustments.



# **Export trends and price outlook**

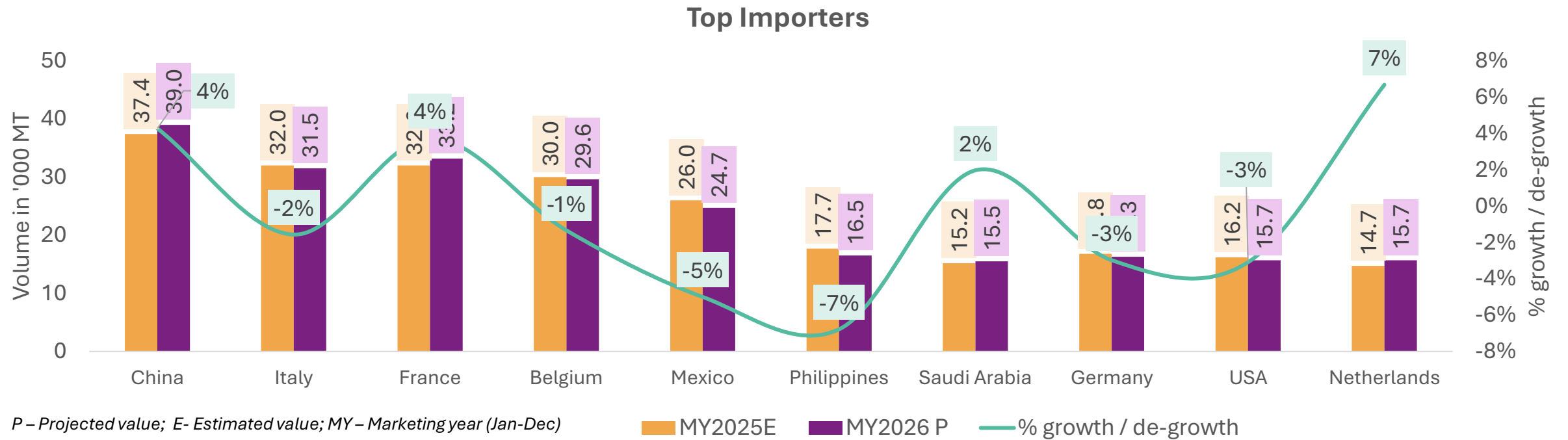
# Major exporters of Ghee



P – Projected value; E – Estimated value; MY – Marketing year (Jan-Dec)

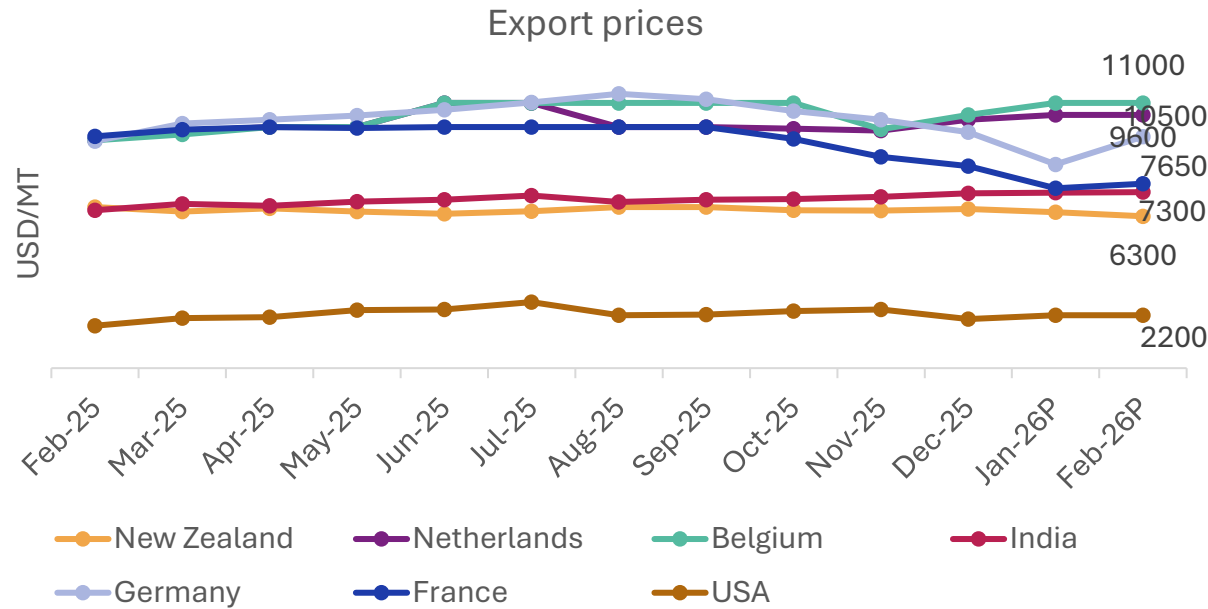
- The countries shown are expected to collectively account for ~93% of global ghee exports, with overall exports for MY2026 projected to grow (~3-4%), indicating steady but not uniform expansion.
- New Zealand is projected to remain the dominant exporter, with exports expected to grow by ~2%, continuing to anchor global supply growth.
- European exporters (France, Germany, UK, Spain) are anticipated to witness moderate and varied growth (~2–4%), reflecting stable demand and strong regional trade linkages rather than aggressive expansion.
- India is projected to record the highest growth (~10%) among major exporters, increasing its share in global trade driven by rising demand and export competitiveness.
- Other exporters (USA, Australia) are expected to grow around ~4–5%, indicating steady but relatively moderate expansion.

# Major importers of Ghee



- The countries shown are expected to account for ~60% of global ghee imports, with overall imports projected to remain mixed in MY2026, showing both growth and contraction across markets.
- China is projected to remain the largest importer, with imports expected to grow ~4%, indicating steady demand expansion.
- European markets (Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands) show divergent trends, with France and the Netherlands projected to grow (4% and 7%), while Italy (-2%), Belgium (-1%), and Germany (-3%) are expected to decline, reflecting shifting demand dynamics within the region.
- Emerging and price-sensitive markets (Mexico, Philippines) are projected to witness notable declines (~-5% to -7%), indicating demand softness.
- Middle East (Saudi Arabia) is expected to see moderate growth (~2%), reflecting stable consumption demand.

# Export prices forecast for Ghee



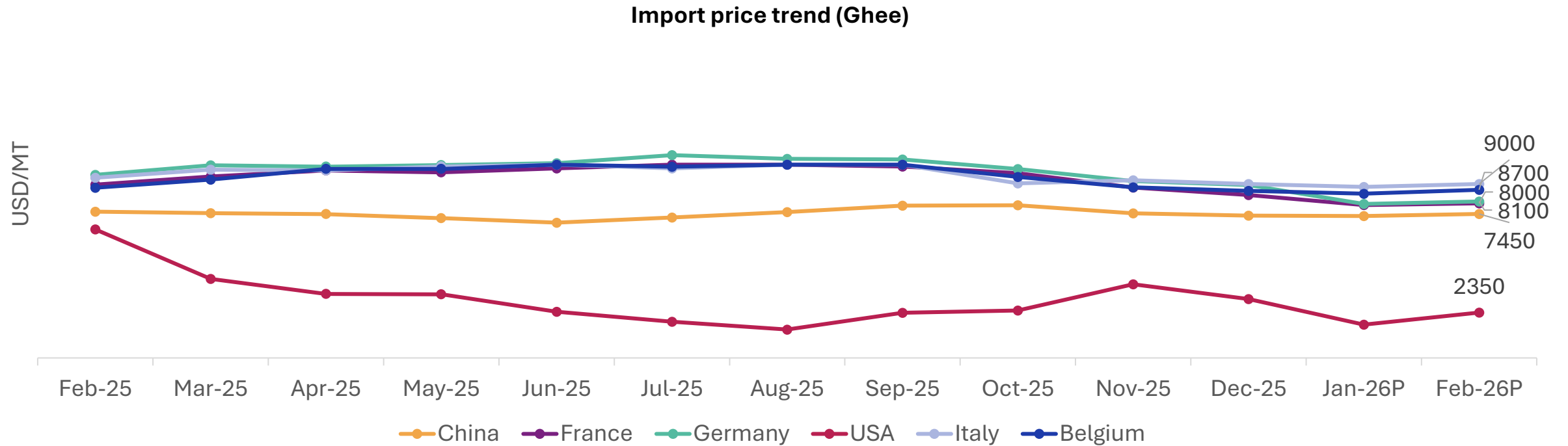
Price outlook for next quarter (MAM) 2026					
Countries	Feb'26 P Price (USD/MT)	Feb'25 Price (USD/MT)	%age change	Price direction	Average price range for MAM (USD/MT)
New Zealand	6300	6680	-6%	Bullish	6400-6500
Netherlands	10500	9460	11%	Bullish	10500-11000
Belgium	11000	9450	16%	Sideways	11050-11400
India	7300	6550	11%	Bullish	7300-7450
Germany	9600	9411	2%	Bullish	10000-10500
France	7650	9610	-20%	Bullish	8000-9000
USA	2200	1760	-25%	Bullish	2300-2400

- The countries shown account for ~86% of global ghee exports, with prices expected to remain volatile but broadly range-bound to moderately firm in the near term (MAM 2026).
- New Zealand prices are projected to remain firm in the near-term-MAM (\$6400-6500/MT), supported by tightening milk supply and strong global demand for dairy fats.
- European exporters (Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France) are expected to see mixed price movements, with Netherlands and Belgium showing strong YoY increases (+11–16% in Feb'26) due to premium positioning, while France shows a sharp correction (-20% in Feb'26) reflecting normalization after earlier highs and increased milk availability in Europe.
- India prices are projected to increase (~+11% YoY to ~\$7,300/MT in Feb'26) but are expected to remain firm (7300–7450 USD/MT for MAM), as rising milk procurement costs and supply tightness support prices while strong domestic consumption limits downside.

Source: Prices are from ITC Trade Map (till Dec 2025); Jan & Feb 2026 figures are seasonality and trend-based estimates (HSN Code: 040590)

Note: Price forecasting is based on the fundamental analysis. **MAM stand for March, April & May**

# Import prices forecast for Ghee



- Import prices across key markets have remained largely stable with a firming trend till Feb'26, reflecting tightening global supplies and resilient demand across major importing regions.
- Premium import markets (France, Germany, Belgium, Italy) are projected to operate within a narrow range in Feb'26 (~\$8,000–9,000/MT), with prices stabilizing after minor corrections and showing early signs of firming.
- China is expected to see stable-to-firm prices in Feb'26 (~\$7,400–7,500/MT), supported by consistent demand for premium dairy fats and steady import flows.
- USA, as a low-price market, is projected to remain significantly below other importers in Feb'26 (~\$2,300-2,350/MT), with gradual firming expected following recent volatility.

**Thank You**

# Methodology for Price Forecasting

Our methodology combines comprehensive secondary research, targeted stakeholder consultations, and rigorous analytical techniques to ensure accuracy and actionable insights. The methodology comprises three key stages: Data Collection, Data Analysis & Interpretation, and Price Forecasting.

## Data Collection



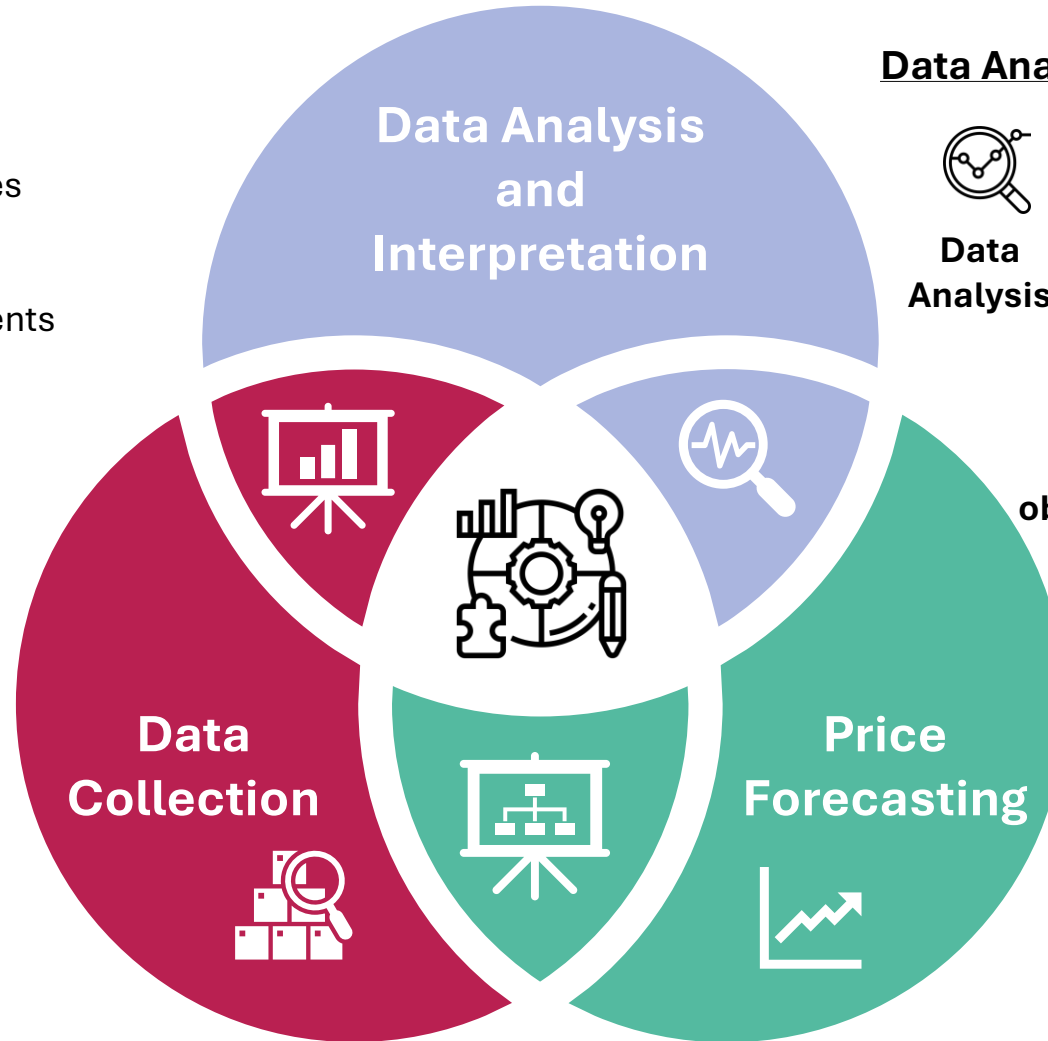
### Sources

- Global agricultural databases (USDA, FAO, etc.)
- Country-wise statistics from official agriculture departments
- Industry publications and research reports



### Policy Updates

- Detailed review of Production policies & trade barriers for each country
- Data from government websites & official publications



## Data Analysis and Interpretation



### Data Analysis

- Supply-demand assessment
- Policy impact analysis
- Stakeholder consultations



### Key objectives

- Production trends
- Trade dynamics
- Policy implications

## Price Forecasting

- Historical Trend & Seasonality
  - Macro-Economic & Trade Variables
- Integration of commodity fundamentals to forecast future price ranges.

*Structured consultations with Indian exporters and industry associations, cross-verifying secondary data and validating price forecasts to refine production, trade, and policy assessments.*