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EU-Team France-FEBI Sectoral Round Table

Agrifood and Beverages

Mumbai, 2026

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EU India FTA - a long awaited agreement

Negotiations launched in 2007 and resumed in 2022 after several years on hold.

Growing economic and strategic importance of EU-India relations.

Tariffs fully or partially liberalised, over up to 10 years, on 96.6% of EU exports to India and 99.3% of Indian exports to the EU, by value.

Source: EU India FTA: text of the agreement



Shaping the Agri-food Trade

What the FTA offers.

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Indian liberalisation of agricultural products

Ten years after entry into force, average Indian tariffs on agricultural products will fall from **40% to 18%**

56% of tariff lines are fully liberalised, while 34% are excluded from liberalisation.

Fully or largely liberalised

Processed food, bakery & pasta

Chocolate & cocoa products

Pet food and selected animal feed

Selected seeds & plants



Partially liberalised

Wine & spirits

Beer

Olive oil

Selected fruit & vegetables

Selected feed & agricultural products



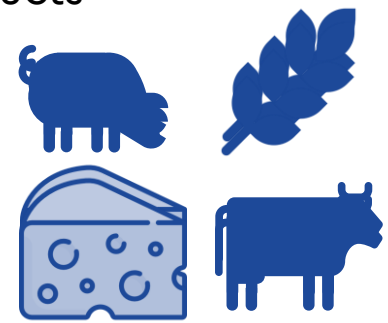
Excluded or largely protected

Dairy products

Beef and other sensitive meats

Several cereals & vegetables

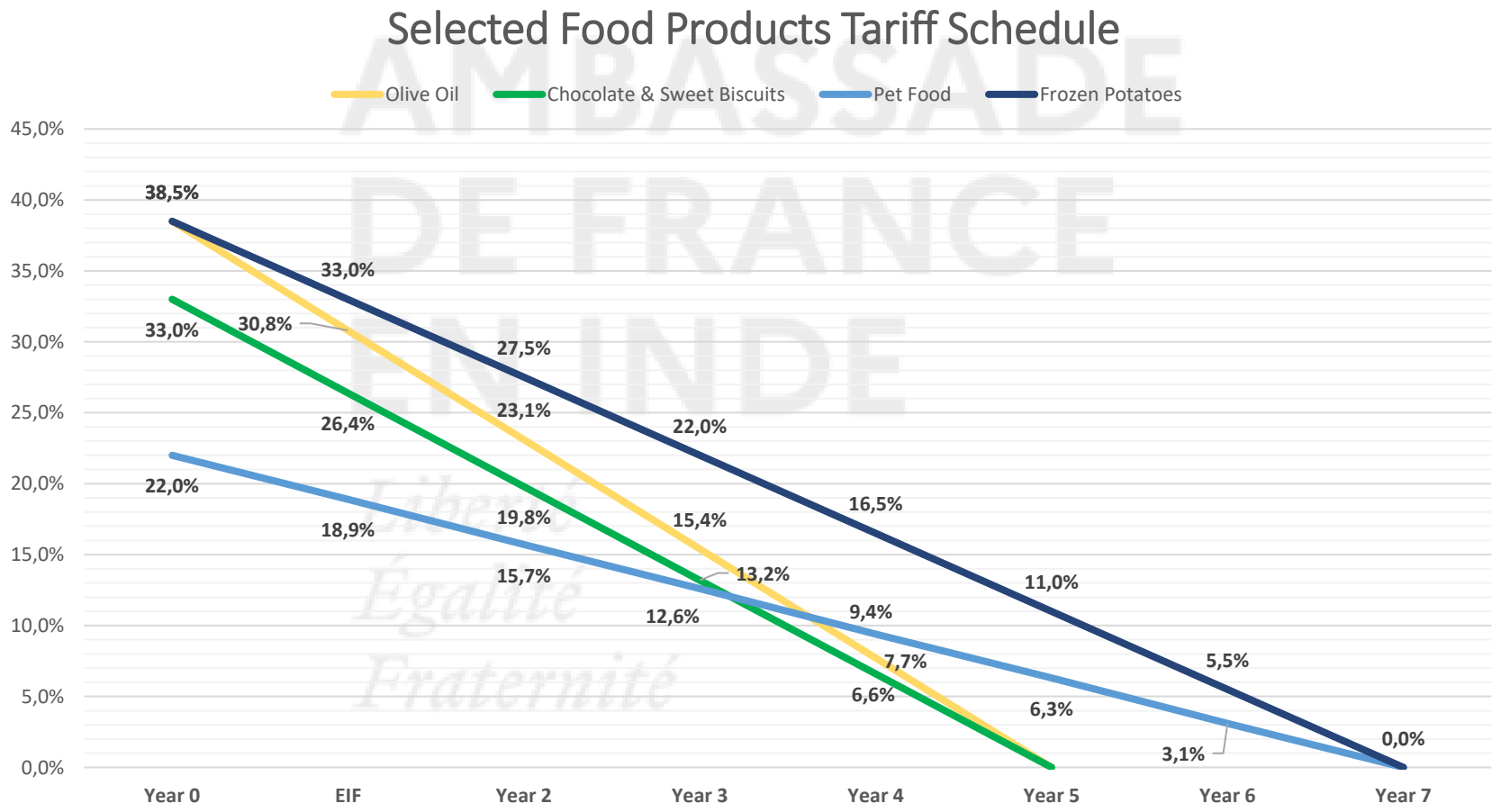
Other sensitive agricultural products



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Food products: a broad range of tariff opportunities

Several processed foods and pet food benefit from full or progressive tariff liberalisation.

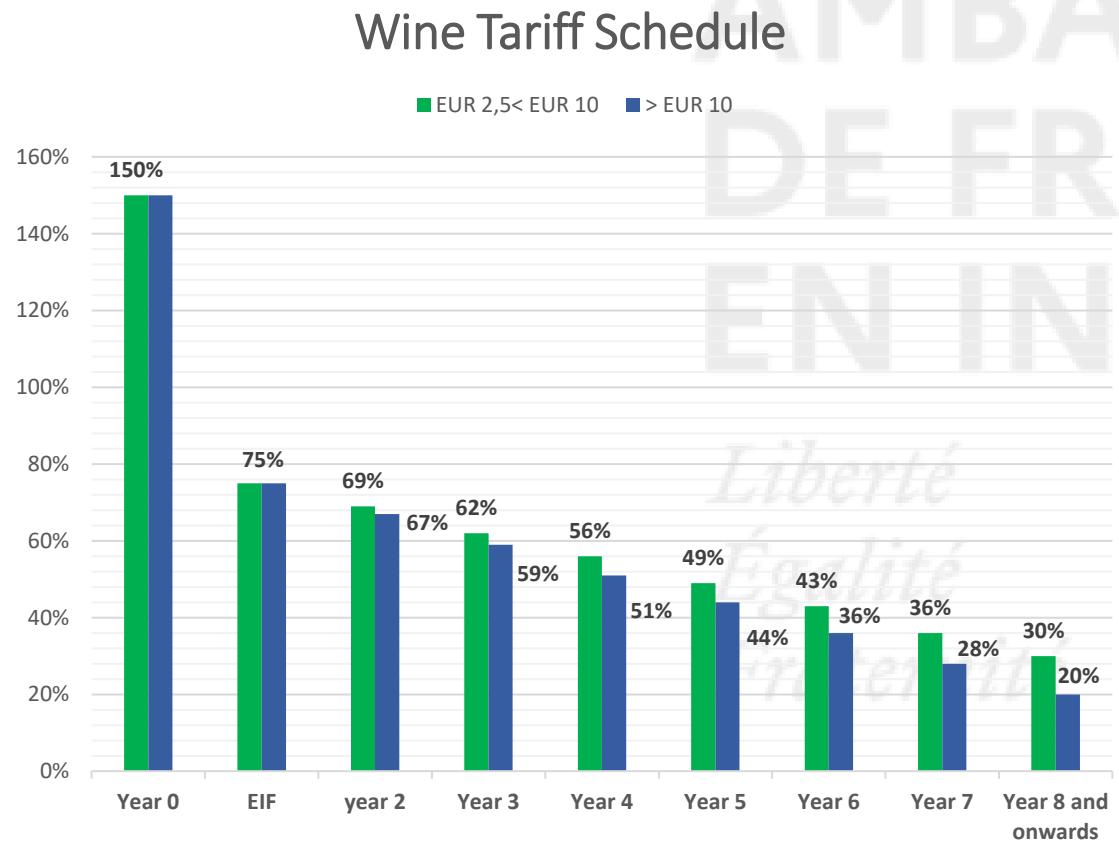


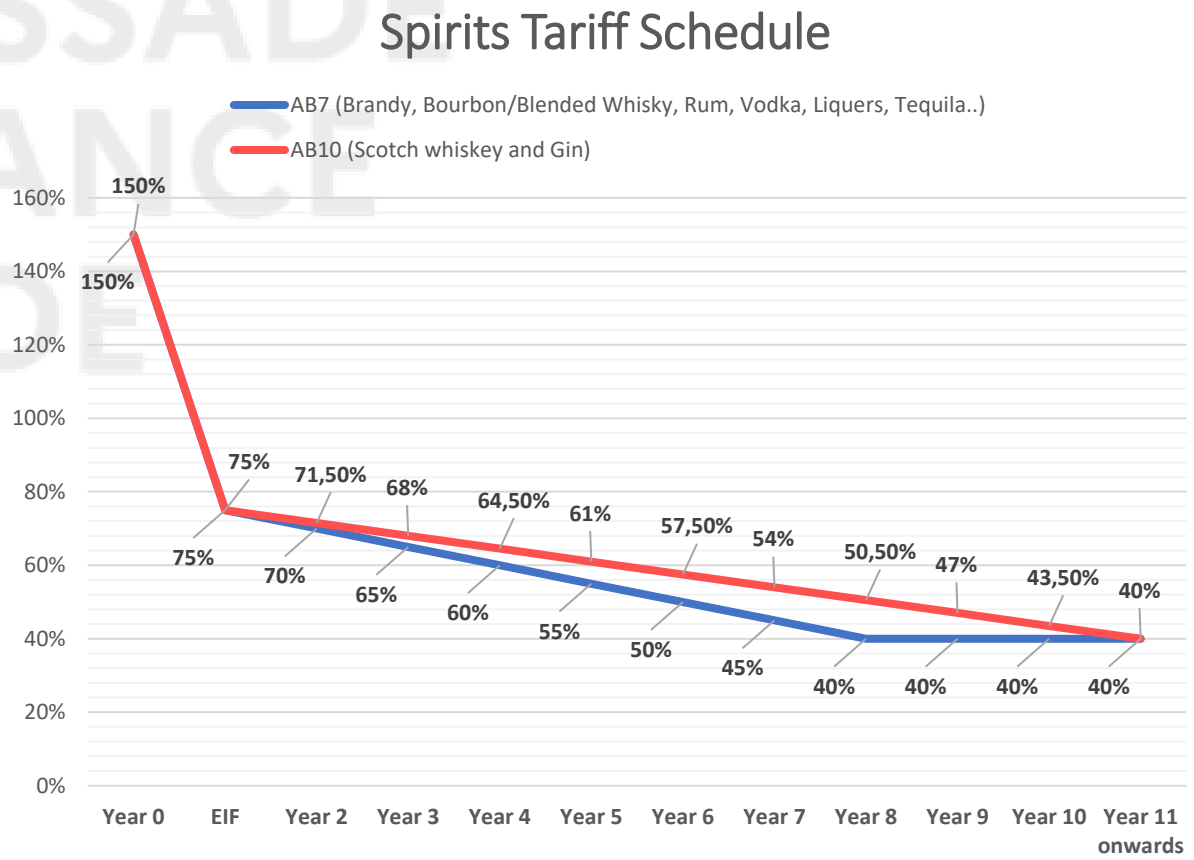
Source: [EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India]

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Beverages: a differentiated tariff offer

Wine, spirits and beer are not treated in the same way under India's tariff schedule



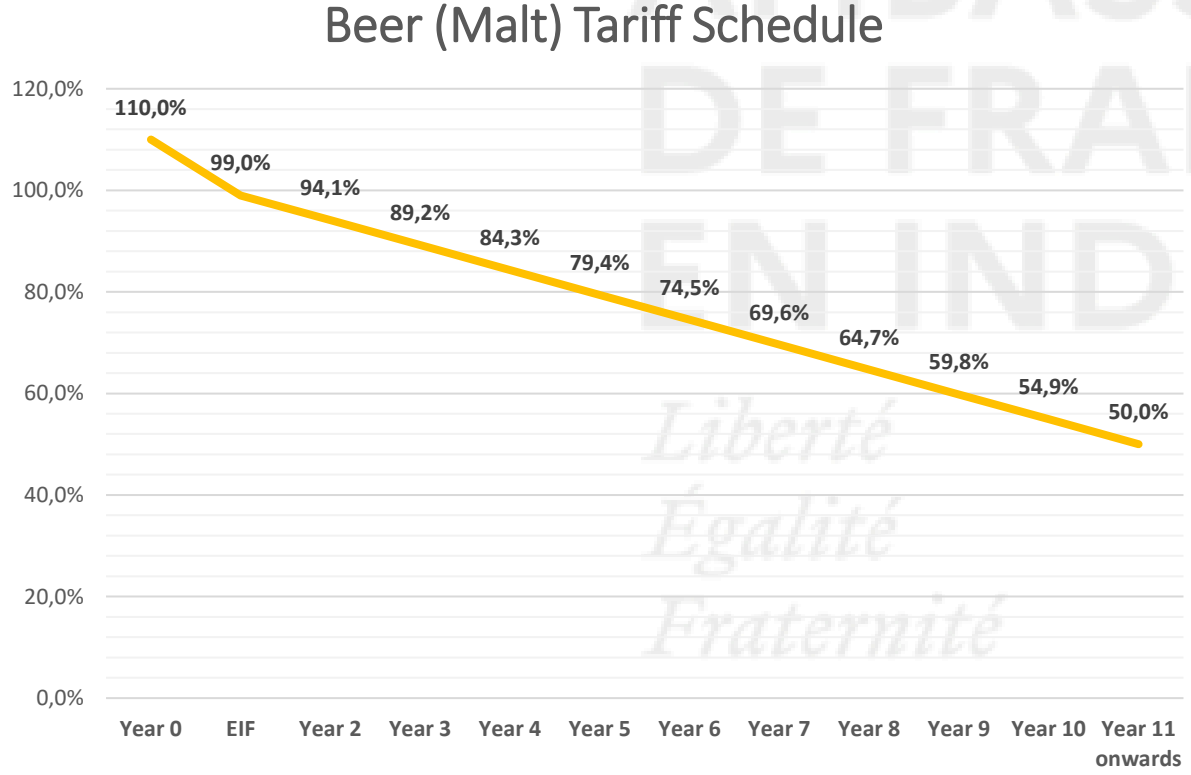


Source: *EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India*

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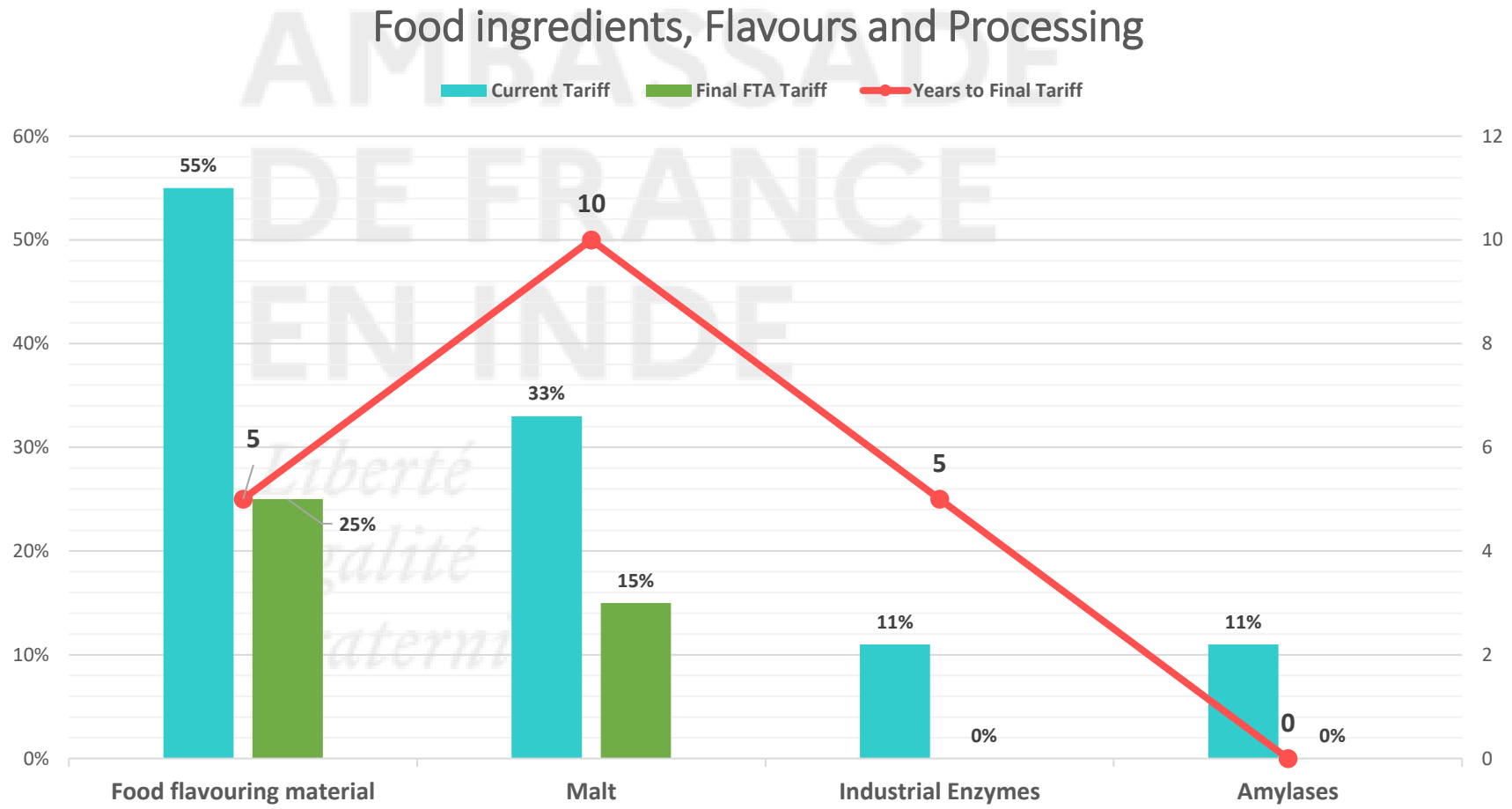
Other beverages

Aerated waters, lemonade, non-alcoholic beer	**E5:** Tariff eliminated over 5 years
Fruit pulp / juice based drinks	**R5 ->16,5% :** Tariff progressively reduced to 16,5%
Other beverages	**E10:** Tariff eliminated over 10 years
Soya milk, milk containing beverages	**EL:** Excluded from tariff liberalisation

Source: EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India

Food ingredients, flavours & processing: a differentiated tariff opening

The FTA reduces tariffs on a range of ingredients, flavours and enzymes, but treatment varies from immediate liberalisation to partial reductions.

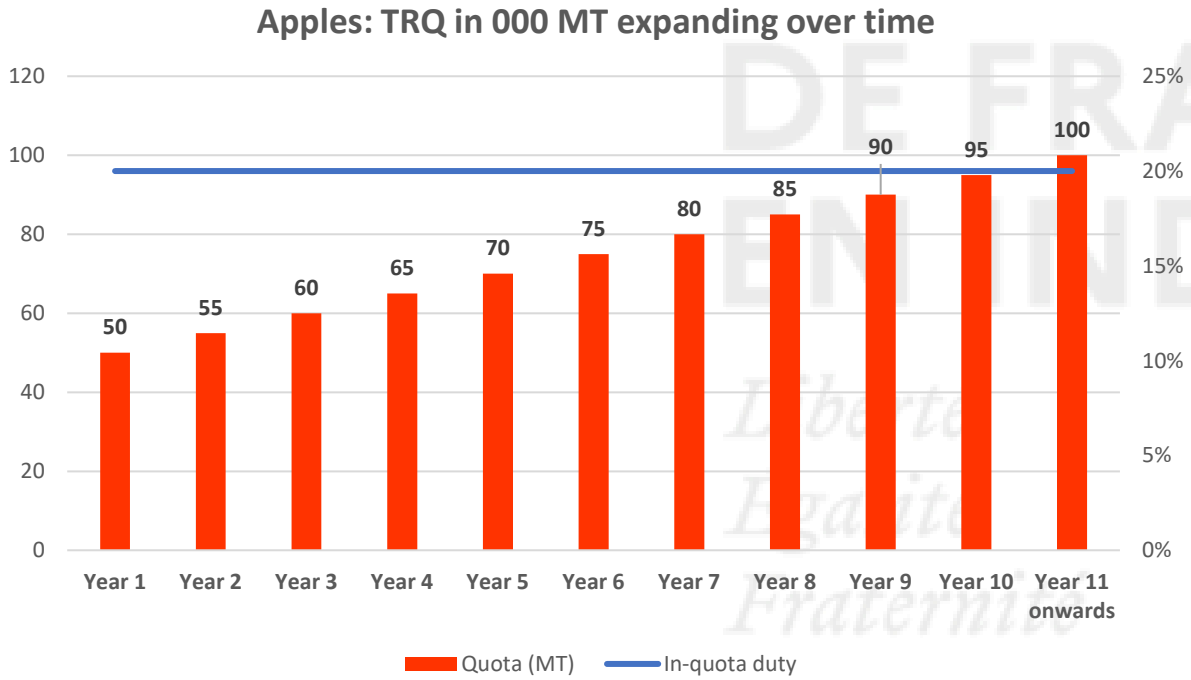


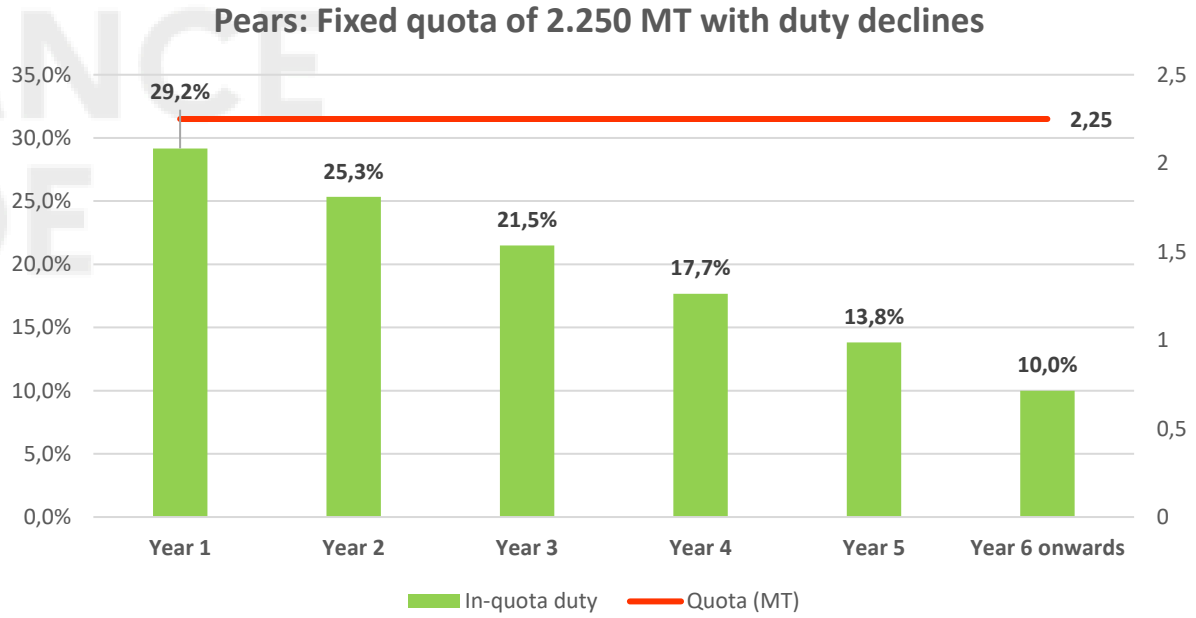
Source: [EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India]

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Agriculture & inputs: market access opens through different channels

Agriculture, animal nutrition and inputs benefit from a mix of tariff reductions, quota-based access and immediate liberalisation.

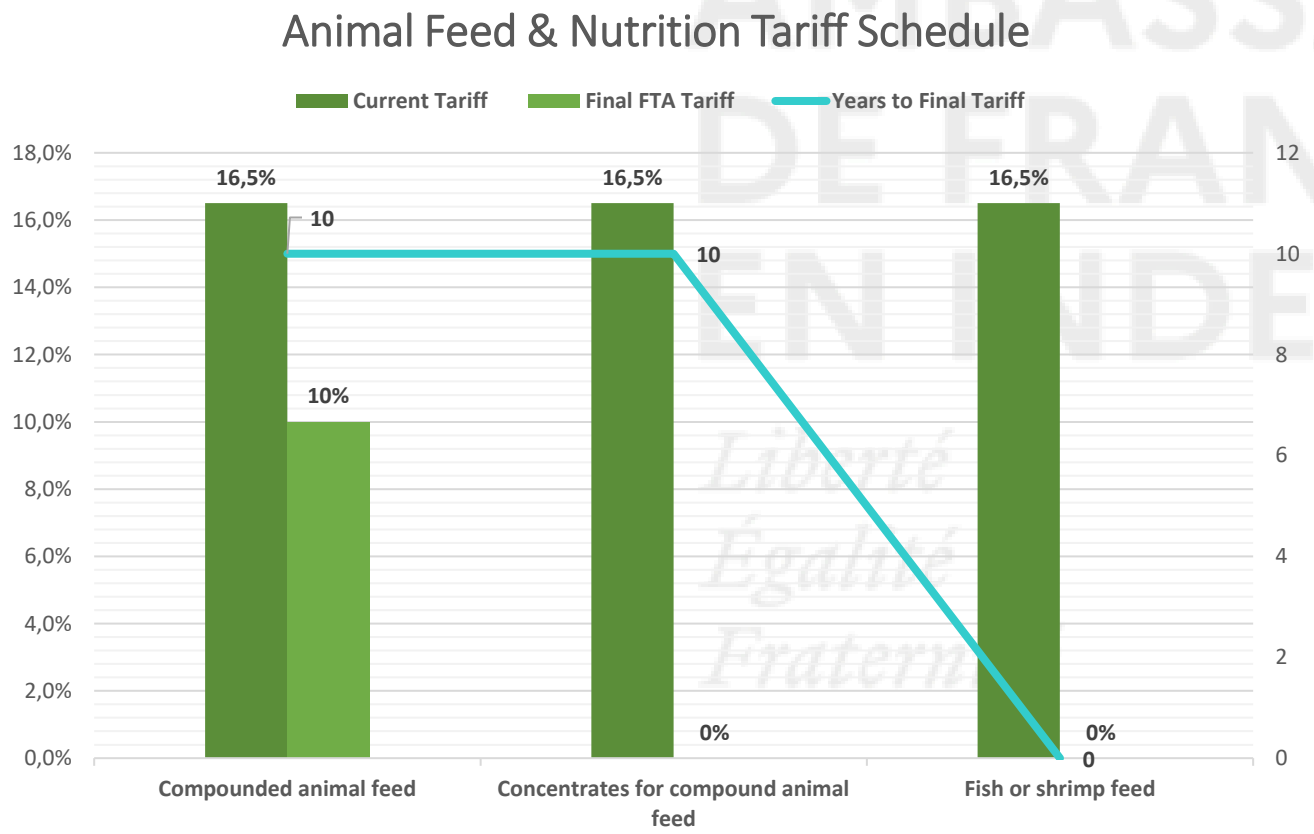




Source: [EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India]

Agriculture & inputs: market access opens through different channels

Agriculture, animal nutrition and inputs benefit from a mix of tariff reductions, quota-based access and immediate liberalisation.



Seeds	Selected seed varieties face a 16.5% base tariff, with progressive liberalisation to zero over five years for several lines, while some are liberalised immediately at EIF.
Fertilisers	Selected mineral and chemical fertilisers benefit from immediate duty-free access at EIF, from a 5% base tariff, although treatment varies by product and some lines such as DAP remain excluded.

Source: EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India

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Agricultural and food-processing machinery

The FTA opens new opportunities for European agricultural and food-processing machinery, with broad tariff liberalisation across both segments.

Agricultural Machinery

Base tariff: 8.3% → 0% at EIF for many core machinery lines, including:

- Ploughs, harrows and cultivators
- Seeders and planters
- Manure spreaders and fertiliser distributors
- Rotary tillers
- Combine harvesters and other harvesting machinery
- Cleaning, sorting and grading equipment

Food Processing Machinery

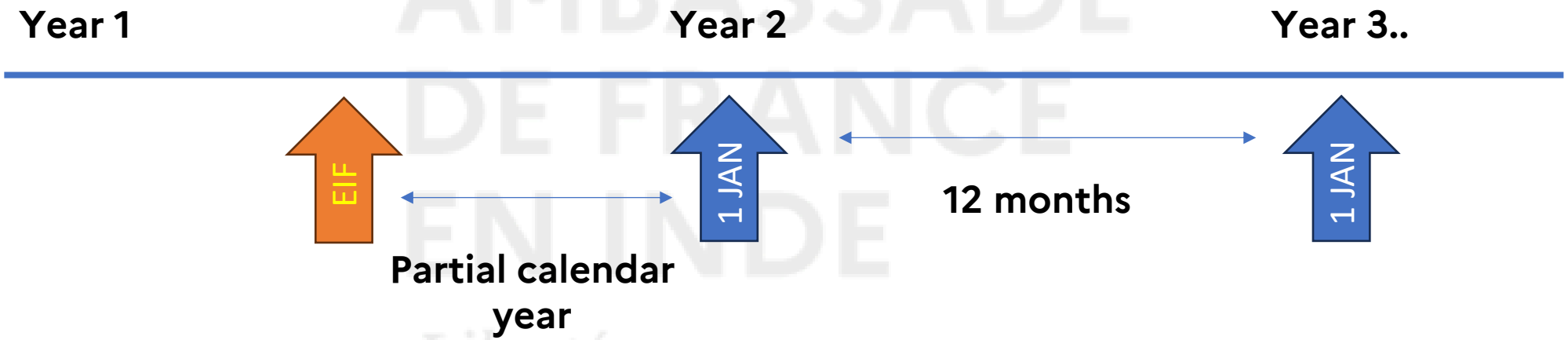
Base tariff: 5.5% → 0%, with liberalisation ranging from EIF to 7 years depending on the machine. These include:

- Bakery, pasta and chocolate machinery
- Brewery machinery
- Meat and poultry processing
- Fruit and vegetable processing
- Tea and soya processing and
- Grain, flour and rice milling equipment

Source: EU India FTA Text of agreement: Appendix 2A2- Tariff Schedule of India

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Tariff Implementation: when does the clock start?



The first reduction applies at Entry Into Force (EIF). Subsequent reductions take effect on 1 January of each calendar year.

Source: EU India FTA Text of agreement: Annexe 2-A Schedules of Tariff Commitments

From FTA Commitments to effective implementation.

How can we make the FTA work in practice?

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Rules of Origin- accessing preferential treatment

Can your existing sourcing and production structure meet the product-specific origin rule?

Wholly obtained (WO)

Entirely obtained or produced in the EU.

Sufficient Processing

Change in Tariff Heading (CTH): Non-originating inputs transformed into a product under a different 4-digit HS heading.

Change in Tariff Subheading (CTSH): Non-originating inputs transformed into a product under a different 6-digit HS subheading.

Input Specific Requirement

The rule limits or requires the use of particular inputs, regardless of the general processing rule.

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Rules of Origin- accessing preferential treatment

Product	Product-specific rule	What this means for the business
Olive oil	**Wholly obtained** – all vegetable materials used must be wholly obtained	The origin of the agricultural inputs is critical
Chocolate	**CTH** + limit on certain non-originating sugar inputs	Processing must change the HS heading, while certain imported sugar inputs are limited
Biscuits & bakery	**CTH** + restrictions on certain non-originating cereals, dairy and sugar	The recipe and sourcing of key ingredients matter
Wine	**CTH** + specific restrictions on certain non-originating inputs	Grape and grape-juice sourcing, as well as other inputs, matter
Spirits	**CTH** + restrictions on certain non-originating alcoholic inputs	The production process and sourcing of alcoholic inputs matter
Pet food / animal feed	**CTH** + limits on specified non-originating agricultural inputs	The origin of key ingredients can determine eligibility

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Rules of Origin- making preferential access work

How can we make origin requirements clear and easy to use?

1. QUALIFY

- Product specific RoO
- WO/CTH/CTSH/ specific input requirement

2. DECLARE

- **Statement on Origin** (Annex 3C standard template) **OR**
- **Certificate of Origin** (Annex 3E issuance procedure. Specimens in Appendices 3-E-1 & 3-E-2)

3. VERIFY

- Procedure for authenticating and verifying Statement on Origin (Annex 3D)

4. CLAIM PREFERENTIAL TARIFF

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Customs & Trade Facilitation- making preferential access seamless

How can we make preferential access simple and predictable?

EU Exporter

- Proof of origin

Customs and digital systems

- Customs declaration
- Verification of origin
- Data exchange

Indian Importer

- Preferential tariff claimed
- Customs clearance
- Preferential tariffs applied

Source: EU India FTA Text of agreement: Chapter 4 Customs and Trade Facilitation

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SPS & Food Safety: making regulatory cooperation work

SPS requirements determine the conditions under which agri-food products can enter the market; predictability in their application is critical for businesses.

Before exporting- product requirements

- Product approvals/registrations
- SPS requirements
- Required documentation

At the border- testing and inspection

- Documentation checks
- Physical inspection
- Sampling / testing
- Border clearance

After entry- ongoingcompliance

- Ongoing food safety requirements
- Changes in requirements
- Interpretation and application by authorities

Source: EU India FTA Text of agreement: Chapter 5 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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Standards, Labelling & Conformity Assessment: facilitating market entry.

Can the product meet the requirements for sale in India?

Standards and conformity assessment

- Applicable Indian standards/ technical requirements
- Testing and certification
- Conformity assessment and inspection
- Recognition /acceptance of EU testing or certification where relevant

Labelling & legal metrology

- Product and food labelling requirements
- Packaging and quantity declarations
- MRP and other prescribed declarations
- Fruit and vegetable product specific labelling requirements

Source: EU–India FTA, Chapter 6 (Technical Barriers to Trade); Indian regulatory requirements

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Beyond market access: implementation and cooperation

The FTA also creates mechanisms to support businesses, deepen cooperation and address implementation issues.

Chapter 12 SMEs

Information

Market Access Tools

SME contact points

How can we use these mechanisms to maximise the benefits of the FTA?

Chapter 15 Sustainable food systems

Cooperation on:

- sustainable production and supply chains,
- Processing and food waste,
- animal welfare and AMR

Implementation:

dedicated committee + potential technical working groups

Chapter 18 Institutional Provisions

Implementation dialogues through:

Specialised committees +

stakeholder participation +

Rapid Reaction Mechanism


Thank you

Inputs by EU Businesses: What opportunities do companies see?

Let’s hear from you!

Scan the QR Code

From Vision to Action: Implementation support and policy advocacy priorities beyond the FTA

Let’s hear from you!

Scan the QR Code