

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: March 03, 2025

Report Number: IV2025-0002

Report Name: Cote d'Ivoire - Halal Overview - 2025

Country: Cote d'Ivoire

Post: Abidjan, Accra

Report Category: Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

The African halal market is estimated at over \$150 billion. In the Coastal West Africa Region, Côte d'Ivoire's halal food and agricultural products market is similarly growing. It shows promise thanks to the increasing number of halal product consumers in the country and in the region. Even though halal certification is not currently required by the national government and its regulatory agencies, Ivorian Muslim organizations and third-country certifiers are actively strengthening capabilities and promoting certification. With a large, growing Muslim community already present, the Ivorian halal marketplace is set to further expand over the next couple of years. It offers U.S. exporters of halal certified food and agricultural products willing to service this market good potential, as well as serves as the commercial and trade gateway to francophone West Africa (i.e., largely Muslim).

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GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF CÔTE D’IVOIRE’S HALAL MARKET

Under Islamic law, halal (an Arabic word that translates to “permissible” in English) is a term that designates an object the use of which is permitted or an action that is sanctioned. In the Koran, the word halal is contrasted with the word haram (meaning “forbidden” or proscribed by Islamic law). Certain products must be certified by an approved authority to be considered halal, based upon the content and/or process-based requirements.

Côte d’Ivoire’s total population is estimated at 29.9 million, growing at roughly 2.13 percent per annum (Central Intelligence Agency, 2024 estimate). According to the Ivorian national census of 2021, the country’s population already exceeds 29.4 million, of which 42.5 percent are Muslims, followed by 39.8 percent which are Christians of various denominations.¹

FAS Abidjan, Accra (Post) finds that Côte d’Ivoire offers potential opportunities for U.S.-origin halal food manufacturers and exporters of halal-certified food and agricultural products. While the concept of halal is often associated with food products, it is also applicable to all kinds of consumer goods and services. Africa’s halal market is large, estimated at over \$150 billion. In the Coastal West Africa region, Côte d’Ivoire’s halal food and agricultural products market coming in at \$214.5 million shows promise, thanks to the growing number of halal consumers in the country and in the surrounding region.

Côte d’Ivoire offers U.S. exporters of halal certified food and agricultural products willing to service this market good potential, as well as serves as the commercial and trade gateway to francophone West Africa (i.e., largely Muslim). U.S.-origin food products’ presence in the Ivorian market is still low compared to that of European suppliers, however, inroads are being made (see, [GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV2024-0014 | Côte d’Ivoire, Food Service – Hotel Restaurant Institutional Annual – 2024](#)).²

This Coastal West African market offers American food exporters good potential opportunities. Côte d’Ivoire witnessed gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2024 of approximately 7 percent. Its GDP growth is foreseen to remain strong, that is, averaging 6.9 percent a year in 2025-29, making this

¹ See, U.S. Department of State, “[2022 Report on International Religious Freedom: Côte d’Ivoire](#),” located at <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/cote-divoire/>. As per the Department of State’s report the Ivorian population’s religious demography is broken out by Muslims, 42.5 percent Muslims; Christians, 39.8 percent; traditional faiths, 2.2 percent; no-religion, 12.6 percent; others, 0.7 percent. Muslims are a majority in the north and Christians in the south. Members of both groups, as well as other religious groups, reside throughout the country.

² See, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service/Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN), located at: https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Service%20-%20Hotel%20Restaurant%20Institutional%20Annual_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0014.

country one of the fastest growing on the African continent and in the world. Côte d'Ivoire, at the same time benefits from a youthful, growing middle-class of aspiring urban consumers.³

CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S MARKET DYNAMICS AND SCOPE OF THE HALAL TRADE

Côte d'Ivoire's cuisine is characterized by the combination of fresh ingredients, along with bold spices and variety of meats and vegetable combinations. Ivorian consumers are free to select their product choices according to their specific tastes, beliefs, and life-style principles and preferences. However, while availability of halal foods is limited, they do exist in the marketplace; and the number of these halal-labeled foods is growing. Food products in Côte d'Ivoire may not necessarily be labeled halal, since these may at times contain non-halal ingredients such as pork or alcohol or suspect ingredients.

Halal certification is organized and managed by various Ivorian Muslim associations, organizations, and communities. These often share linkages to other Islamic entities and bodies overseas, as well as third-country certifiers. Côte d'Ivoire's halal at first blush appears limited in scope, but it is nonetheless slowly expanding thanks to the efforts of local Muslim businessmen and the activities of Islamic organizations. Besides the presence of Ivorian Muslims, the Lebanese diaspora resident in Côte d'Ivoire is one of the largest, and oldest, on the African continent; reportedly numbering between 80,000 to 100,000 (upper estimate 300,000), of which a large proportion is primarily Muslim-Shia and concentrated in Abidjan (over 75 percent), Bouaké, Yamoussoukro, and San Pédro.⁴

HALAL OR PERMISSIBLE FOODS FOR MUSLIMS

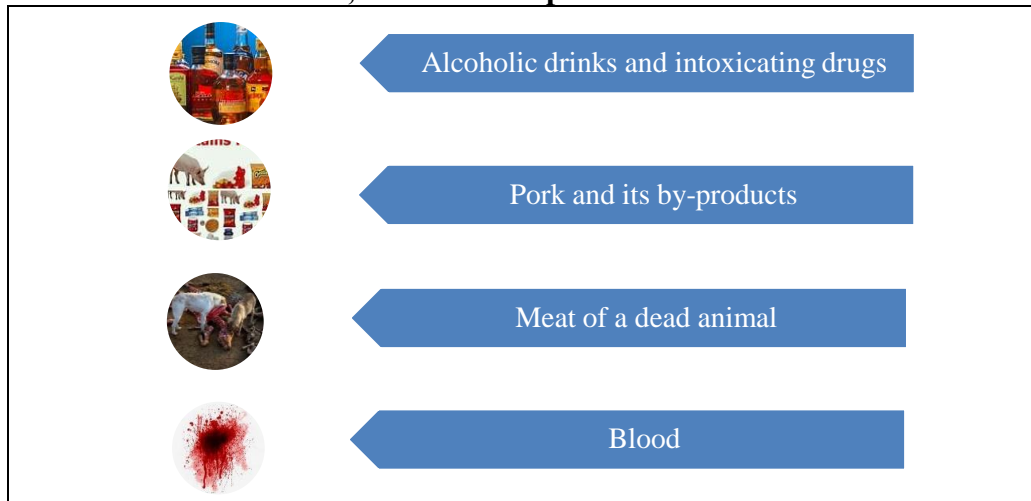
While there is no internationally harmonized standard for halal foods, the *Codex Alimentarius* (Codex) Guidelines for Labeling ([CAC/GL 24-1997 \[27\]](#)) provide a general overview of what is considered halal:

- Not consisting of, or containing, any ingredients which are considered unlawful according to Islamic law (e.g., porcine-derived products or alcohol).
- If halal and non-halal goods are prepared, processed, or store using the same facilities and equipment, it is necessary to follow the proper cleaning procedures to prevent comingling.

³ Côte d'Ivoire's urban population is estimated making up 53.1 percent of the national population, with urbanization growing at 3.38 percent per annum (Central Intelligence Agency, 2023 estimate).

⁴ Over time, there have been two major waves of migration from Lebanon to Coastal West Africa's Côte d'Ivoire. An initial wave commencing in the 1920s and a subsequent major new wave of migrants fleeing the Lebanese Civil War of the mid-1970s.

CHART 1: Côte d'Ivoire, Haram or Impermissible



Halal Animal Slaughter: Under the Islamic law *dhabīḥah* (also pronounced *zabiha*), there is a prescribed method for ritual halal slaughter. The method for the lawful slaughter of halal animals entails specific requirements.⁵ The *zabiha* prescribes a set of rules to ensure the health and wellbeing of the animal being slaughtered. It is in conformance with Islamic (religious) law, which is derived from the Koran and the hadiths.

Doubtful/Suspect (*Mushbooh*) Ingredients and Products: For all Muslims, there are certain ingredients that are considered doubtful or suspect. The following fall into this category: animal fat or proteins; antioxidants; dairy products, emulsifiers, flavorings, gelatin, glycerin, and vitamins. All these items are derived either from animal, plant, microbial or synthetic sources. Should the product be of animal origin, it is necessary to know if the animal is halal (permissible) and, if so, was it slaughtered properly or not. If yes, or if the source is from a plant or a certified microbial, then the product can be consumed as halal. Islamic laws recommend that Muslims not consume *Mushbooh* foods.

HALAL CERTIFIED LABELED PRODUCTS AVAILABILITY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In Côte d'Ivoire, halal food is generally available in Muslim-majority areas and restaurants. Halal labeled products can be found in all distribution channels in varying quantities. Retail outlets do not normally have specialized halal departments or dedicated space. Ivorian Muslims tend oftentimes to be more price sensitive than necessarily strictly observant when it comes to their product buying/consumption choices.

Finding halal labeled food in Côte d'Ivoire can have its challenges, especially outside of the major cities and towns. However, restaurants and markets in Abidjan and in the other major urban areas do offer halal options. It is easy enough to inquire from the locals about halal stores and restaurants or even engage in internet-based searches.

⁵ The slaughtering butcher is required to call out the “the name of Allah” or in the name of Allah” (*bismillah*) upon slaughter of each animal individually. The cut must be a swift, deep incision with a very sharp (non-serrated) knife on the throat, cutting the windpipe, jugular veins, and the carotid arteries on both sides while leaving the spinal cord intact.

Post recommends trying the following:

- Use online resources such as halal food directories, blogs, and forums.
- Ask Ivorians for recommendations on where to find halal food.
- Check food labels to ensure that the products are halal certified.
- Attend halal food events.

HALAL CERTIFICATION IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE

In Côte d’Ivoire, there is no specific official or government regulatory authority for halal products; it is left to Islamic organizations to coordinate, organize, and control halal certification. FAS Abidjan, Accra understands that Côte d’Ivoire’s food import procedures currently make no distinction between halal and non-halal food and agricultural products.

Halal Certification: Halal certification and or certified means that a product is manufactured in compliance with Islamic law and does not contain any “forbidden” components or ingredients. Halal-certified products are also processed in facilities that maintain the integrity of their halal status.

In Côte d’Ivoire, there are several halal certifiers operating in the market, but there is no officially recognized or state-led halal certification body. In addition to local entities, some international Islamic organizations undertake halal certification activities. Imported halal-labeled products are well received and accessible in the Ivorian market. Certification agencies (non-governmental) have an established digital presence across various platforms, such as through LinkedIn, websites, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) handles, and YouTube channels.

Halal Certifiers: Halal Côte d’Ivoire; Halal Ivoire; and COTECNA Côte d’Ivoire. Besides these certifiers, there are halal food products available on the market that carry an in-house halal-stamp or have the word “halal” or “*charia*” (i.e., as written out in French in lieu of the anglicized *sharia*) affixed on the packaging. Most of Côte d’Ivoire’s halal-labeled imported products that are found in distribution channels come from Türkiye, India, and several Muslim food manufacturing and processing countries including Lebanon and those out of the Persian Gulf region.⁶

Ivorian halal labeling and processing focuses primarily on meat and poultry products. Numerous local butchers oftentimes claim to distribute halal meats under their own label. However, relatively few of these come with halal certification from an authorized certification body. It is frequently up to the individual consumer to determine whether the product being marketed is halal.

⁶ Note that in India, with some 209 million followers, Islam with its 14.2 percent share of the national population, makes it India’s second-largest religion after Hinduism (79.8 percent). India’s total population currently surpasses the 1.4 billion inhabitants’ mark. India is also home to the third-largest Muslim population in the world, trailing only that of Indonesia (231 million) and Pakistan (212.3 million).

CHART 2: Côte d’Ivoire, Halal Certifier, Logos

Certifier	Contacts Details	Logo
<p>Cotecna Côte d’Ivoire SARL</p>	<p>Abidjan-Plateau, Immeubles front lagunaire Tel: +225 2720 001 383 Email: infovoc@cotecna.ci Website: www.cotecna.ci</p>	
<p>Halal Côte d’Ivoire (Affiliated with Halal India)</p>	<p>Abidjan, Anyama Ebimpé résidentiel Tel: +225 2721 207 150 Tel: +225 0707 452 606 Email: commercial@halalci.org Website: www.halalci.org Website: https://halalindia.co.in/</p>	 
<p>Halal Ivoire</p>	<p>Abidjan, Koumassi Boulevard du Caire, Quartier Grande Mosquée 16 BP 335 Abidjan 16 Tel: +225 0707 484 012 Website: halal.ivoire1@gmail.com</p>	 

Source: FAS Abidjan office research.



HALAL MARKET TRENDS IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE

Côte d’Ivoire’s organized halal food market is relatively of recent origin, but growing due to increased consumer-awareness, the presence of Muslim organizations; and consumers perceiving deriving health benefits from the consumption of halal meat and meat products over non-halal meat. The halal market is

set to grow as there is a trend among even some non-Muslims becoming halal product consumers. Halal certification is available for a wide range of products in Côte d'Ivoire, including food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.

In November 2024, Côte d'Ivoire held its first halal-themed trade show, the Halal Expo West Africa.⁷ The trade show dealt with halal certification issues in West Africa, including training sessions for students to encourage them to pursue halal entrepreneurship.

CHART 3: Côte d'Ivoire, Local Production, In-House Halal Labeling

Product	Description
	<p>Chicken sausage seen in a local supermarket in Abidjan.</p>
	<p>Beef sausage seen in local supermarket in Abidjan.</p>

Source: FAS Abidjan office research.

Pricing for locally halal certified products do not factory in halal certification costs. Fresh beef halal certified, or not, sells at the same price, there is no pricing distinction being made between the two. However, imported halal certified beef and beef products do factor in the cost of certification into product pricing.

⁷ Held in Abidjan from November 14-16, 2024, this was Côte d'Ivoire's first halal-themed trade show. More than 2,500 visitors attended the show along with several African countries exhibiting. The Halal Expo 2024 aims to be a place for exchange and information on the certification of halal products, allowing the Muslim community to discover and consume products that comply with the recommendations of Islam. Through panels, conferences, exhibitions, the Muslim community was made aware of the virtues of halal products. The trade show organizers worked in connection with regional and international Muslim organizations, such as the [Halal Research Council](https://www.halalrc.org/events.php), located at: <https://www.halalrc.org/events.php>. The next iteration of The Halal Expo 2025 will be held again in Abidjan towards the last half of 2025.

CHART 4: Côte d'Ivoire, Imported Product with Foreign or International Labeling

Product	Description
	<p>Can of beef meat imported from India, as seen in a local supermarket in Abidjan.</p>
	<p>Corned beef imported from Belgium, as seen in a local convenience store in Abidjan.</p>
	<p>From Türkiye fruits gels/gum sold online and in local supermarkets.</p>
	<p>Seasoning sauce from Algeria, halal certified by the SFCVH organization (France).</p>

Source: FAS Abidjan office research.

Key Contacts and Further Information

USDA/FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA)	Websites
<p>U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Abidjan Abidjan, Cocody Riviera Golf 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire Tel: +225 2722 494 000 Email: AgAbidjan@usda.gov</p> <p>U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Accra No. 24 Fourth Circular Road Cantonments Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 274-1590 Email: AgAccra@usda.gov</p>	<p>USDA/FAS located at: http://www.fas.usda.gov</p> <p>USDA/FAS Regions/Côte d'Ivoire located at: https://fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire</p> <p>USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) located at: https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS</p> <p>USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) located at: https://gain.fas.usda.gov/</p>

Côte d'Ivoire, Government Regulatory Agencies

Ivorian Ministries and Authorities	Role
<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Développement - Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural Address: Plateau, Immeuble Caistab, 24th & 25th Floor Tel: (+225) 27-20214238/ 27-20214615 Website: https://agriculture.gouv.ci/</p>	National Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
<p>Ministry of Animal Husbandry – Ministère de l'Élevage Côte d'Ivoire Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD) - Direction des Services Vétérinaires Address: Plateau, Immeuble N'SIA, 17th Floor Tel: (+225) 27-20218972</p>	National Animal Health Authority
<p>Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries - Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques Address Secrétariat du Ministre Immeuble CAISTAB, 11ème Tel: (+225) 20-229930 and (+225) 20-213423 Website: https://www.ressourcesanimales.gouv.ci/accueil/</p>	National Livestock and Fisheries Authority
<p>Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie Website: www.commerce.gouv.ci</p>	National Commerce and Industrial Authority
<p>Côte d'Ivoire Customs (Head Office) - Les Douanes Ivoiriennes Address: Plateau, Face Place de la République Tel: 800-800-70 (Toll free) Website: https://www.douanes.ci/</p>	National Customs Authority
<p>CODINORM (Standards Authority) - Côte d'Ivoire Normes Cocody 2 Plateau/Sideci / Angle Boulevard Latrille-Rue K 115 Villa 195 (SOCOCE 2 Plateau) Tel: (225) 27-22411791/ (225) 27-22590010 Email: info@codinorm.ci</p>	National Standards Authority
<p>National Statistics Institute - Institut National de Statistiques (INS) Website: www.ins.ci</p>	National Statistical Authority

Attachments:

No Attachments.