Ethanol trade totaled more than 8 billion liters in 2017 as countries increasingly recognize the role for trade in meeting policy mandates.

More than 60 countries currently have ethanol policies – a number that is growing as countries seek to capture the environmental, human health and economic benefits of ethanol.

The U.S. Grains Council (USGC) is developing partnerships around the globe to develop and expand the worldwide ethanol market.
Global Demand for Ethanol Is On the Rise

The global ethanol market has grown from more than 17 billion liters (4.5 billion gallons) in 2000 to more than 100 billion liters (26 billion gallons) in 2017. Concerns about the environment, air quality, and human health have led governments to find renewable contributions to transportation fuel. Ethanol has become a preferred fuel component as countries implement policies that address these and other key issues.

Global Fuel Ethanol Imports by Country (2016-17 Average Est.)

While most ethanol is used within the countries in which it is produced, nearly 10% of production is traded on the international market. That number is growing as ethanol production becomes more efficient and new capacity comes on line.

- **South Korea**: 4%
- **India**: 5%
- **China**: 6%
- **EU-28**: 7%
- **Japan**: 9%
- **U.S.**: 12%
- **Canada**: 15%
- **Brazil**: 16%
- **Other**: 27%

2017 Global Ethanol Imports est. 8.3 billion liters (2.19 billion gallons)
Environmental Benefits As countries seek to meet their COP 21 Paris Agreement commitments, they are turning to ethanol to reduce the carbon intensity of their transportation fuels. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), by 2022 corn ethanol is expected to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50 percent compared to conventional gasoline.

Human Health In addition to reducing the carbon intensity of fuels, ethanol replaces harmful aromatics and MTBE in the fuel mix. Using ethanol reduces particulate matter and toxic emissions, which are harmful to human health, and replaces MTBE which can negatively impact groundwater.

Economic Benefits Ethanol provides economic benefits to countries with or without the ability to produce biofuels feedstocks such as corn, sugarcane and cassava. For countries with feedstock available, ethanol policies economically support feedstock producers and other complementary industries, offering rural development and other benefits. Countries that lack the ability to produce their own feedstock still benefit by blending ethanol by replacing costly aromatics and MTBE—which creates savings for refiners, blenders and consumers at the fuel pump.

E10, a 10 percent ethanol blend, is a starting point for countries developing ethanol policies.
The U.S. Grains Council develops export markets for U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including distiller’s dried grains with solubles (DDGS) and ethanol. The Council operates programs in more than 50 countries and the European Union.

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