

The agricultural traders follow

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In Cargill's wake, the other large agricultural traders settled in the Lake Geneva region, following trajectories that *Le Temps* has retraced. Continental Grain moved its subsidiary Finagrain from Paris to Geneva in the 1970s. Louis Dreyfus and Bunge operated from Zurich in the 1980s, through Zurfin and Socef, before establishing themselves in Geneva, where Louis Dreyfus has had its European headquarters since 2006. Archer Daniels Midland, the fourth global giant of agricultural trading, chose Rolle, in the canton of Vaud, in 2007.¹

The concentration of the large agricultural traders in the Lake Geneva region — Geneva, Rolle, Lausanne — makes the region one of the world's principal centres for the trade in grains, oilseeds, sugar, coffee and cocoa. It attracts medium-sized traders, brokers, transport companies and specialised banks. It also trains generations of traders: *Le Temps* describes Cargill as the “Geneva university of trading”, on account of the number of professionals who learned the business there before joining or founding other houses.²

Agricultural trading retains a particular importance in Geneva. It concerns products essential to global food security, whose prices affect hundreds of millions of people. It involves relationships with the producing countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia, and with the importing countries of the Middle East and North Africa. It requires complex logistics, from silo to ship and from port to consumer. It is the subject of debates on speculation, price volatility and the responsibility of traders, which Part H will address.

1 Notes

1. “Cargill, l'université genevoise du trading”, *Le Temps*, 10 June 2023.
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2. Le Temps, 10 June 2023, cited above. ↩

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