

Rapeseed meal imports to the EU increased

UFOP: urgent need for comprehensive EU protein strategy

Berlin, 11 April 2024. In view of the attractive price level, imports of rapeseed meal to the European Union rose around 16 per cent in the first eight months of the running marketing year. Imports from Russia increased especially sharply.

EU-27 processing of rapeseed into rapeseed meal cannot fully cover intra-Community demand. The Union has always closed this gap with imports from non-EU countries. In the first eight months of the running marketing year, the EU-27 received around 681,500 tonnes of rapeseed meal, which was 95,600 tonnes more than in the same period a year earlier.

At 281,830 tonnes – which is just over 41 per cent of total imports – imports from Russia accounted for the largest share. In other words, imports increased around 11 per cent from the year-earlier period. This is due to the attractive price level of Russian batches. Belarus also contributed 208,200 tonnes, ranking second most important country of origin of EU rapeseed meal imports. This has also had a significant impact on prices in Germany in the past weeks, after the EU Commission considered increasing import duties on oilseeds and their by-products originating from Russia and Belarus. The proposed increase is intended to prevent the EU market from destabilising, for example due to a rapid increase in low-priced Russian imports.

At the same time, there was a remarkable increase in EU imports from Ukraine. At 143,500 tonnes, the country contributed more than double the previous year's volume in the first eight months of the running season, moving up to third most important country of origin, followed by the United Kingdom and Serbia.

Investigations conducted by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH) suggest that most EU rapeseed meal imports go to Lithuania and Spain, with France also receiving substantial supplies.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) considers the reason for the increased demand for imports to be that rapeseed meal has replaced soya meal in feeding rations in Germany and other member states, particularly in dairy farming. Rapeseed protein, which is lower priced than soybean meal, replaces soybean imports from overseas without compromising performance.

With approximately 6 million hectares of land under rapeseed cultivation in the EU-27, the potential for growing rapeseed is not fully exploited. Referring to UFOP's "10 + 10" strategy, the association has emphasised that large-grained pulses could also



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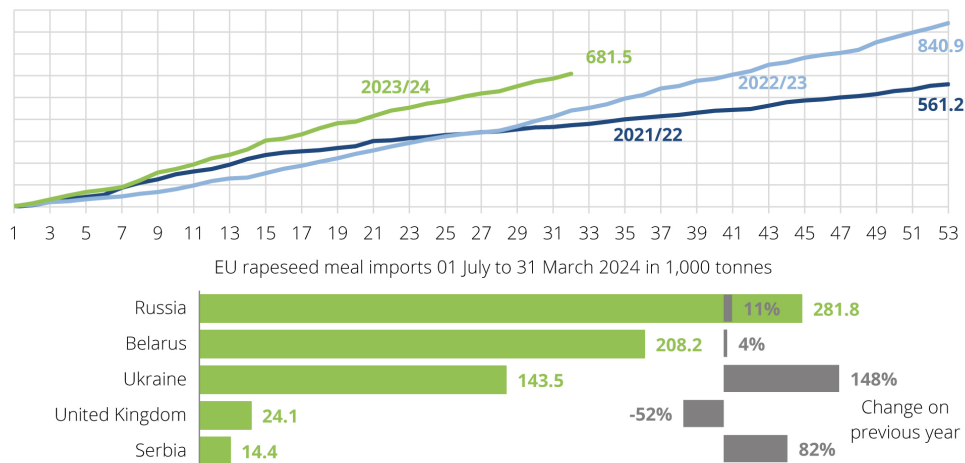
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go a long way towards significantly reducing the necessity to import feed protein. UFOP has therefore highlighted the need for action to present a holistic, comprehensive EU protein strategy that also acknowledges the contribution these crops can make to the expansion of crop rotations and climate change mitigation.

Weekly rapeseed meal imports to the EU-27
by marketing-year weeks, in 1,000 tonnes



Source: EU Commission

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Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants e. V. (UFOP) represents the political interests of companies, associations and institutions involved in the production, processing and marketing of domestic oil and protein plants in national and international bodies. UFOP supports research to optimise agricultural production and for the development of new recycling opportunities in the food, non-food and feed sectors. UFOP public relations aim to promote the marketing of domestic oil and protein plant end products.