

# IOPD 2024: International Oilseed Producers Discuss Economic Perspectives and Criticise Restrictions on International Trade Routes

**Berlin, 25 June 2024 – At the invitation of the Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Crops (UFOP), oilseed experts from around the world gathered from 17-20 June 2024 for the 26th International Oilseed Producers' Dialogue (IOPD) in Wismar on the Baltic Sea.**

After 2008 and 2016, UFOP hosted an IOPD meeting for the third time. For the 26th time, representatives of various oilseed associations met to discuss current issues in oilseed production and future challenges for the industry. In addition to a comprehensive conference program, guests from the USA, Canada, Brazil, Paraguay, Australia, France and Germany received valuable insights into our local agriculture through visits to Norddeutsche Pflanzenzucht Hans-Georg Lembke KG (NPZ) and Wariner Pflanzenbau eG.

Key topics of this year's IOPD included the future of the Common Agricultural Policy for European farmers, potential trade barriers for exports to the EU, approaches to achieving renewable energy targets in transportation and the challenges of plant breeding in Europe. Additionally, reports and presentations on the short- and medium-term prospects of oilseed production and trade, focusing on soybeans, were given a large room. In addition, the reports from the individual production regions are an integral part of the agenda.

Since 1998, the annual IOPD meetings have been an important institution in the global exchange and strengthen the dialogue among producers from different regions of the world. The meeting not only presents the current supply situation, which is significantly shaped by the results of soybean harvests in North and South America. Increasingly, discussions at the IOPD are also focused on current developments in agricultural and biofuel policies, which have significant impacts on future production and trade routes.

An important aspect is addressing the growing global demand for food, feed, and fuels and how this can be ensured in the future. The challenges of food security, sustainability, and the reliability of supply in a world of increasing uncertainty are ever-growing. Thus, it is all the more important to develop and discuss common solutions in such an exchange.



Union zur Förderung  
von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.

Herausgeber:

UFOP e. V.  
Claire-Waldoff-Straße 7  
10117 Berlin  
Telefon +49 30 235 97 99 - 0  
Telefax +49 30 235 97 99 - 99  
E-Mail [info@ufop.de](mailto:info@ufop.de)  
[www.ufop.de](http://www.ufop.de)

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Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.

Significant criticism was voiced by soy producers both outside and within the EU regarding the planned implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which is set to come into force at the end of 2024. And this, where key elements such as the application guidelines or the country benchmarking are not yet available.

During discussions on the pathways to defossilise the transport sector, it became clear that biofuels based on biomass will play a key role globally today and in the coming years. This sector is also a very important market for oilseed producers worldwide and a central element of emission reduction strategies in many countries. Political interventions to reduce the potential use are therefore clearly rejected by IOPD participants. The sustainably available biomass potential must also be used for energetic purposes in the future, according to the international representatives.



Photo: Participants of the IOPD 2024 in front of the Zeughaus Wismar.

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Editorial contact:

Stephan Arens

Tel. +49 30 235 97 99 – 10

E-Mail: [s.arens@ufop.de](mailto:s.arens@ufop.de)

Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Crops 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.