

EU Commission expects seven-year high for legumes in Europe

UFOP: for crop rotation planning, production must pay off in the long run

Berlin, 11 September 2024. According to the EU Commission, EU output of legumes from the 2024 crop is set to exceed the previous year's figure by 10 per cent and also surpass the average of the past five years. Feed peas and field beans are set to see the biggest increases.

According to the figures published by the Commission, the legume harvest throughout the EU will likely reach just under 6.8 million tonnes in 2024. This would translate to a 10 per cent increase on the previous year. It would also fall just short of the 6.9 million tonne bumper harvest recorded in 2017 (EU-28). Above all, the harvest of feed peas will presumably grow 16 per cent compared to the previous year to 2.2 million tonnes. According to Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the rise is due to both the expansion in area planted and presumed yield increases.

At 2.9 million tonnes and accounting for 43 per cent of the total legume crop, soybean remains the most important legume in the EU. Despite lower yields, output is seen to increase 5 per cent year-on-year. This would be the largest harvest on record. The hectareage of field beans was also expanded. The EU Commission estimates EU output at 1.3 million tonnes, representing an around 14 per cent rise compared to the previous year. On the other hand, the EU sweet lupin harvest is expected to remain below the previous year's output of 362,000 million tonnes, at 345,000 million tonnes.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e.V. (UFOP) has noted that the development of legume production confirms farmers' fundamental interest in maintaining or even expanding the cultivation of legumes. However, the association has criticised that the benefits this type of crop has for biodiversity and climate change mitigation are not properly and appropriately priced in. In short, for corresponding crop rotation planning, the production of grain legumes must pay off in the long term to prevent the repeatedly expressed political call for more resilience in arable farming from coming to nothing. The UFOP has welcomed initiatives by the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture to promote the production of grain legumes as a contribution towards enhancing the added value, adding that such action should also benefit farmers. In view of the ongoing negotiations on the budget of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture in the German Bundestag, the UFOP has called on those responsible to make the accompanying and incentive measures relating to the protein crop strategy sufficiently attractive in order to support this fundamentally positive development.



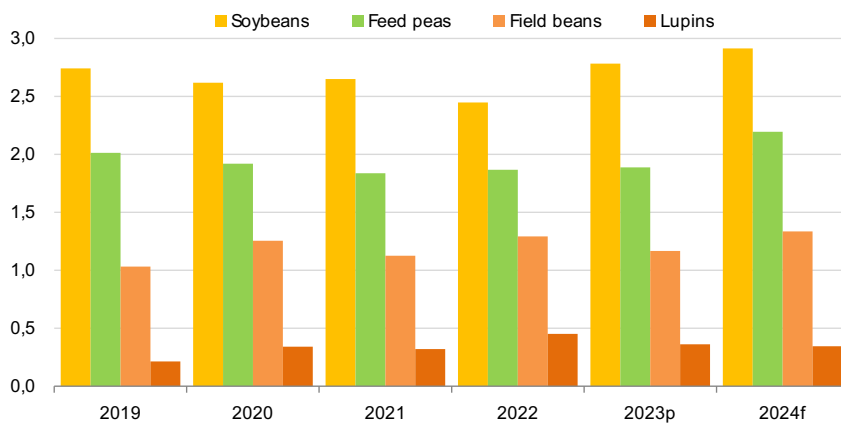
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INFORMATION
Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.

Harvest of the most important legumes in the EU-27 in million tonnes



Source: EU Commission

Note: p = preliminary, f = forecast

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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 crops in national and international bodies. UFOP supports research to optimise agricultural production and for the development of new utilisation possibilities in the food, non-food and feed sectors. UFOP public relations aim to promote the marketing of domestic oil and protein crop end products.