

German soybean harvest down from previous year

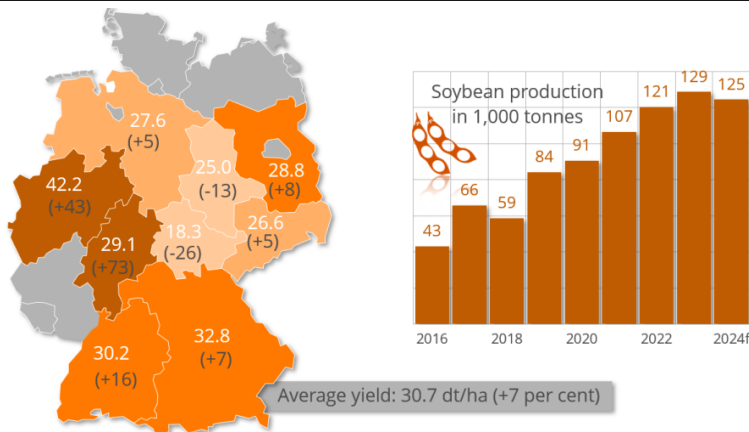
Berlin, 2 October 2024. – In view of a significant reduction in area, the 2024 soybean harvest will probably fall short of the previous year's output. However, the decline will be partially offset by increases in yield.

According to Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), soybean farming did not play an appreciable role in Germany until 2015. Since then, the area has grown continually and significantly. However, in 2024, it has been reduced good 9 per cent to 40,600 hectares.

According to preliminary information by the German Federal Statistical Office, 124,500 tonnes of soybeans were probably harvested from the significantly reduced area, around 4,500 tonnes less than the previous year. Consequently, yields are likely to exceed the previous year's level. Soybean yields will presumably reach on average 30.7 decitonnes per hectare, representing a just under 7 per cent rise compared to the previous year. Only Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt are expected to experience lower yields. Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg are anticipated to remain the most important production regions.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) has underlined the remarkable substitution potential of German or EU-grown soybean, given Germany's immense demand for imports. In 2023, soybean imports reached 3.4 million tonnes, of which approximately 2.7 million tonnes came from the USA. The strong demand for higher-protein feedstuff opens up opportunities for sales and increases in area under cultivation of locally grown soybeans and grain legumes, as well as rapeseed meal from rapeseed processing. From the perspective of the UFOP, legumes are crucial crops in resilient crop rotations geared to climate change mitigation and should play a key role in the future design of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) when it comes to justifying transfer payments by societal benefits.

Soybean yields in Germany
2024 forecast, in dt/ha, change compared to 2023 in per cent



Source: Destatis

Note: 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.