

# Price gap over wheat makes rapeseed production more attractive

## UFOP: new German government should make arable farming future-proof

**Berlin, 15 January 2025. – Ex-farm prices of rapeseed climbed over the course of the year. By the end of 2024, they hovered around the mark of 500 EUR per tonne, a level not seen since the start of the war in Ukraine. Soft wheat moved up and down at the producer level throughout the year but did not exceed the previous year's level slightly until December. As a consequence, the price spread between rapeseed and soft wheat has grown continuously. Most recently, rapeseed fetched almost 2.5 times the price of wheat.**

Ex-farm prices of rapeseed and soft wheat surged sharply over the past weeks. Futures market prices of rapeseed almost reached levels last recorded nearly three years ago when concerns over global supply were rising at the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Despite ongoing volatility, the smaller supply from Europe, Canada and Australia in particular is currently supporting prices. Support has also come from the crude oil and soybean markets. Developments on the cash market were similar, even though producer prices were under pressure at the beginning of the year, falling back below the line of 500 EUR per tonne. Nevertheless, prices at the beginning of 2025 were almost EUR 100 per tonne higher than the previous year.

Producer prices of soft wheat fluctuated strongly throughout 2024, eventually climbing above the level of 200 EUR per tonne in December. This led to a price gap of around 7 EUR per tonne on the previous year. Early-year trading has been quite moderate with a wait-and-see approach prevailing. Processors are well supplied and are waiting out the current weakening trend for the moment. In any case, producers show little willingness to sell at the current price level.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) has noted that a price gap in favour of rapeseed increases the crop's attractiveness in crop rotation planning. At the same time, the UFOP has emphasised that producer prices should always be at a level that will allow farms to generate sustainable profits.

Given the current and foreseeable tough economic environment, the UFOP expects the new German government to make the right decisions to address regulative challenges appropriately. The UFOP has stressed the need for a holistic and sustainable arable farming strategy to ensure competitive and future-proof arable farming. The economy should be taken into appropriate account as a guiding principle, alongside societal acceptance. The economy should be taken into appropriate account as a guiding principle, alongside societal acceptance. In the



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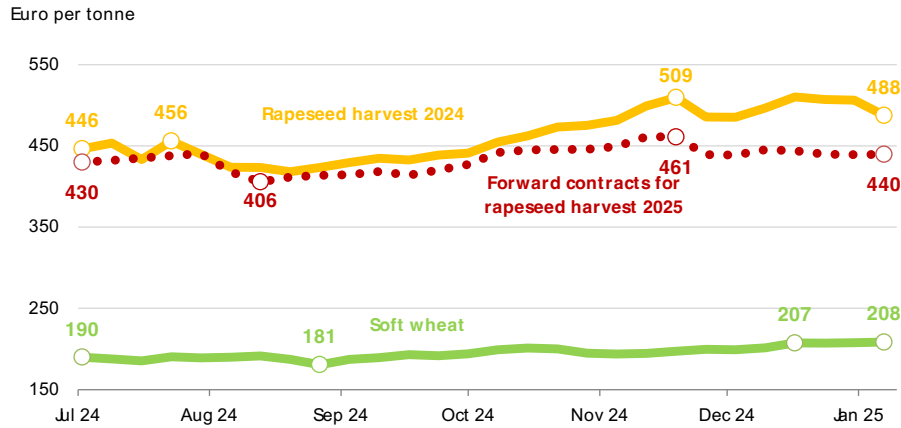
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future, the definition and remuneration of ecosystem services resulting from the diversification of crop rotations with oil and protein crops will become increasingly important. The association has emphasised that nevertheless, the harvest result in combination with an attractive producer price should be main factors determining a farm's financial balance.

## Development of rapeseed and wheat prices

Producer prices



Source: AMI

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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.