

Hungary becomes the EU's top sunflower seed producer for the first time

Berlin, 6 February 2025. – The EU Commission slightly lowered its forecast of sunflower seed output in its February estimate for the 2024 oilseed harvest.

According to recent information by the EU Commission, the 2024 EU sunflower seed harvest is seen to total around 8.0 million tonnes, 7,000 tonnes less than expected at the end of December. The revision increases the year-on-year decline to 18 per cent, as unfavourable weather conditions throughout the year significantly curtailed yield potential. The harvest also falls 18 per cent short of the long-term average, representing the EU's smallest sunflower seed harvest since 2015.

The downward revision is mainly due to the smaller crop in Germany. The Commission now forecasts German production at 127,000 tonnes, 7,000 tonnes below the December estimate. This represents a 25 per cent drop from 2023, but remains just about 20 per cent above the five-year average. Many farmers had expanded sunflower cultivation significantly in 2022 following the start of the war in Ukraine and the sharp rise in producer prices, but scaled back production the following year.

The harvest in Romania also declined compared to 2023, falling 38 per cent to 1.2 million tonnes. Despite a record area planted with sunflower seed, this would represent the country's smallest harvest in fifteen years. As a result, Romania lost its top position as the EU's largest producer, dropping to the fourth place. In contrast, Hungary climbed to first place for the first time, harvesting 1.7 million tonnes despite a presumed 13 per cent decline from the previous year. In France, crop development and harvest operations were severely impacted by persistent rainfall, according to research by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH). With 1.7 million tonnes currently projected, France ranks second largest producer within the Community despite an 18 per cent decrease compared to the previous year.



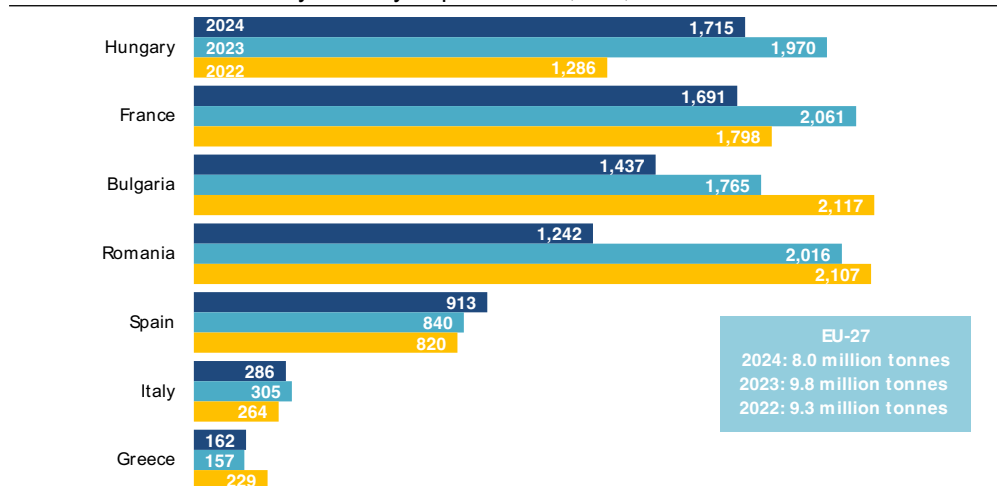
**Union zur Förderung
von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.**

Herausgeber:

UFOP e. V.
Claire-Waldoff-Straße 7
10117 Berlin
Telefon 030/235 97 99 - 0
Telefax 030/235 97 99 - 99
E-Mail info@ufop.de
Web www.ufop.de

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

EU harvest of sunflower seeds by country of production, in 1,000 tonnes



Source: EU Commission

Note: 2024 forecast

Editorial contact:

Stephan Arens

Tel. +49 (0)30 235 97 99 – 10

E-Mail: 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 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.