

# German rapeseed meal exports up 26 per cent on the previous year

## UFOP: rapeseed oil-based biodiesel is a key element of the European protein strategy

**Berlin, 10 July 2024 – German rapeseed meal exports have exceeded the previous year's volume significantly. Main buyers, such as Denmark, the Netherlands or Finland, raised their imports considerably, whereas Sweden ordered less.**

From July 2023 to April 2024, Germany exported a total of just less than 1.7 million tonnes of rapeseed meal. This was up about 26 per cent on the same period a year earlier. According to Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), this is the largest quantity exported in three years. German rapeseed meal is primarily delivered to EU member states, which received round 1.5 million tonnes in the period stated. The Netherlands imported the largest quantity at 755,000 tonnes, representing an increase of 24 per cent. Denmark, the second largest trading partner, raised its imports from Germany 7 per cent to 184,000 tonnes. Deliveries to Finland are noteworthy as they doubled from just under 91.000 tonnes during last year's period to 175,000 tonnes. Spain and France also sourced more rapeseed meal from Germany. In contrast, deliveries to Sweden dropped 14 per cent to 88,000 tonnes, according to information published by the German Federal Statistical Office. Switzerland remained the most important recipient outside the European Community, boosting its imports just less than 23 per cent to a record 85,000 tonnes.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) has highlighted the significant amounts of rapeseed meal generated in the processing chain of rapeseed oil-based biodiesel. In Germany, rapeseed meal is by far the most important source of protein for animal feed and, in the future, potentially also for the human diet. The German biodiesel industry produced approximately 3.7 million tonnes of biodiesel in 2023, of which 52.3 per cent was based on rapeseed oil. Accordingly, approximately 1.92 million tonnes of rapeseed oil were used in biodiesel production, which in turn were obtained from approximately 4.8 million tonnes of rapeseed. Rapeseed processing also generated approximately 2.9 million tonnes of rapeseed meal. Taking into account the higher feed value of soya meal, this equates to a volume of approximately 2.2 million tonnes of soybean meal equivalents that did not have to be imported. The demand for cropland in the countries of origin, especially South America, decreased accordingly. This "service" has not been credited to biodiesel or rapeseed production to date. The UFOP has therefore called for such service to be taken into account in an overall ecological evaluation in the future. Similarly, the contribution rapeseed as a flowering crop makes towards fostering biodiversity in crop rotation should be accounted for.



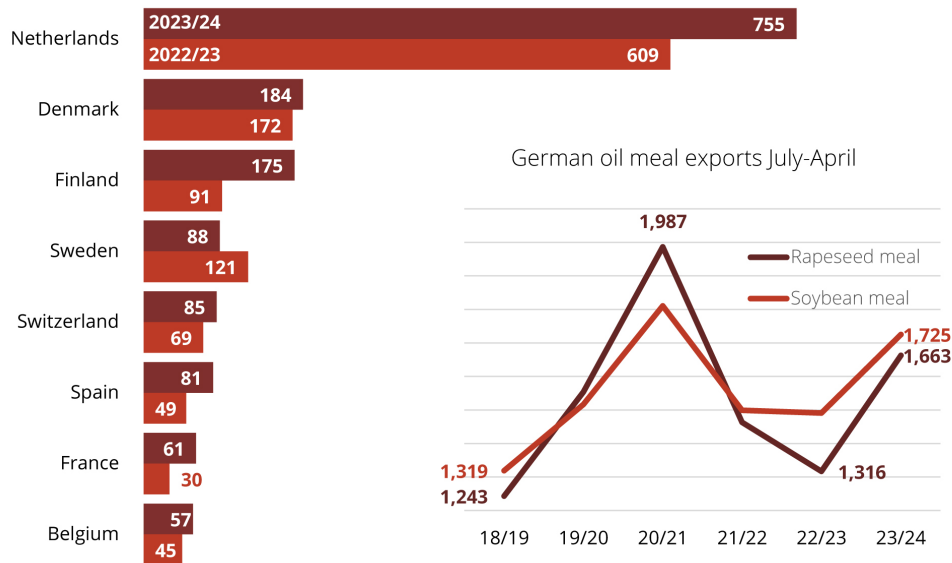
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**INFORMATION**  
Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.

Key destinations of German rapeseed meal exports  
from July to April in 1,000 tonnes



Source: Destatis

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Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants 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.