

IGC expects lower production of dry peas in Canada

UFOP calls for more support for domestic protein crops

Berlin, 22 February 2024. Whereas in Russia more dry peas were presumably harvested than a year earlier, Canada's harvest fell well short of the previous year's output. Against this background, global production will probably only just exceed the previous year's level.

The International Grains Council (IGC) assumes that world dry pea output will amount to 13.9 million tonnes in the marketing year 2023/24. According to investigations conducted by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), this would translate to a 0.5 per cent increase on the previous season. The forecast is mainly based on a raised harvest estimate for Russia, where the harvest grew around 400,000 tonnes on the previous year to 4 million tonnes. This means that Russia remains the largest dry pea producer worldwide. Canada ranks second with production amounting to 2.6 million tonnes and a decline of 800,000 tonnes or 23.8 per cent. The historically low output of 2.2 million tonnes recorded in the 2021/22 season was only just surpassed.

With production amounting to 2.0 million tonnes and an increase of around 100,000 tonnes, the EU-27 follows in third place, especially based on a larger crop in Romania. In contrast, dry pea production in Germany declined around 59,000 tonnes to 264,000 tonnes. Poor weather conditions with high temperatures and lack of rain in spring, followed by excessive rainfall in the main growing season, played a vital role.

The US recorded an increase of around 100,000 tonnes on 2022 to 800,000 tonnes. The Ukrainian feed pea harvest in 2023 is projected at 400,000 tonnes, up around 100,000 tonnes on the previous year's level.

In view of the EU's large demand for feed protein imports, the Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) has once more underlined the great exploitable potential for growing dry peas and other large-grained pulses in Europe. To unlock this potential in Germany, the German Ministry of Agriculture would have to provide stronger and reliable support to the protein plant strategy in terms of product development and sales promotion, providing economic incentives for expanding crop rotation with grain legumes in the long term.

The association has said that the option recently launched by the EU Commission to meet the so-called GAEC 8 requirements (non-productive areas and landscape elements) by growing protein crops is basically also a good approach to expanding production. The war in Ukraine has once again clearly shown the importance of food



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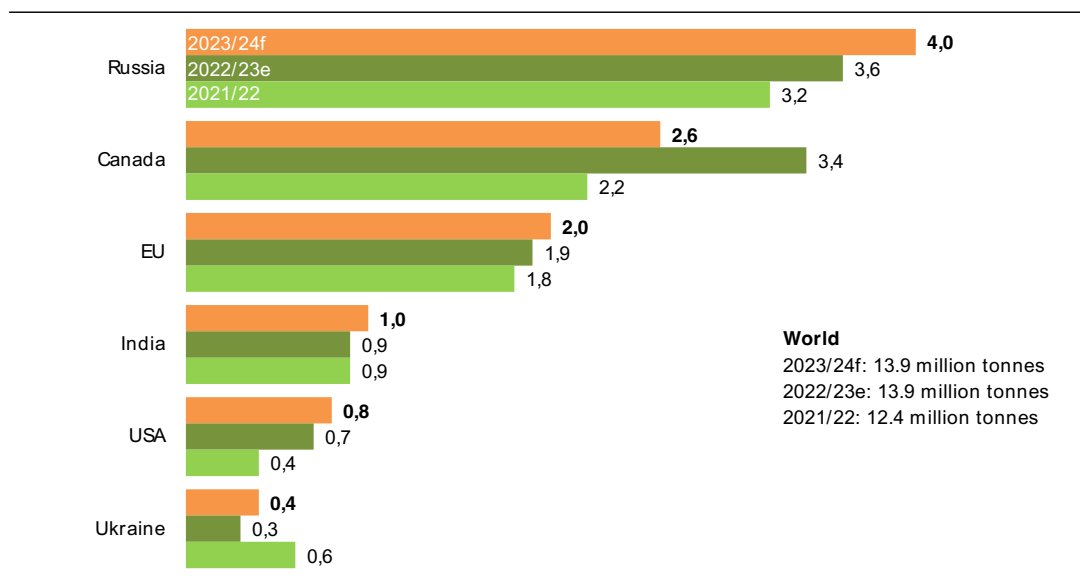
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security. Instead of taking land out of production, preference should be given to taking production-integrated measures to conserve biodiversity. According to the UFOP, the production of protein crops in particular has numerous positive effects on the environment and agricultural soils, such as biological nitrogen fixation and the provision of food and habitat for flower-visiting insects.

However, the application of crop protection products is essential for stable and reliable harvests of field beans, grain peas, sweet lupins and soybeans in Germany. The UFOP has stressed that, therefore, if the suspension of GAEC 8 is also to result in extensive and beneficial production of grain legumes, the ban on chemo-synthetic plant protection products will have to be lifted.

Production of dry peas in important countries of origin in million tonnes



Source: AMI, IGC

Note: f=forecast, e=estimate

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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.