EU Commission sees Germany as the biggest rapeseed producer in the EU

UFOP: estimates by the EU Commission and Deutscher Raiffeisenverband are far apart

Berlin, 7 August 2024 – According to latest EU Commission estimates, the EU rapeseed harvest will likely be smaller than previously expected. The main reason is the lower harvest volume in France. Many market players are putting a question mark on the expectations concerning the German crop.

The rapeseed harvest in the EU is in full swing and has already been completed in some areas. The yield reports confirm the estimates, which had already been lowered in the run-up to the harvest. The drops in yield are mainly attributable to the unfavourable weather prior to flowering – a critical phase for crop development and therefore yield production – and pest pressure after emergence in many parts of the EU. In the light of this, the EU Commission lowered its crop forecast several times. According to recent information, the EU rapeseed harvest is likely to amount to just under 18.4 million tonnes, which is down just less than 0.5 million tonnes on the June forecast and down as much as 1.3 million tonnes on the 2023 harvest. Nevertheless, the long-term average of 17.8 million tonnes is set to be outpaced. The International Grains Council (IGC), forecasting 18.5 million tonnes, is slightly more optimistic, as is the USDA with its forecast of 18,9 million tonnes.

The main reason for the scale-down is a presumably smaller harvest in France. The Commission is currently forecasting 3.9 million tonnes, which compares to 4.1 million tonnes expected in June. In other words, this year's production will fall far short of the previous year's output of 4.3 million tonnes. Exceptionally high rainfall in the first half of the year affected the development of the crops and thus also significantly limited the yield potential.

The forecast of Romanian rapeseed production was also revised downwards. At just less than 1.5 million tonnes, the Commission projects the harvest just under 0.1 million tonnes lower than it did in June and as much as 0.3 million tonnes lower than the previous year's harvest. Similarly, the forecasts for Hungary, Latvia and the Czech Republic are also considerably lower compared to the previous month. Harvests in these countries also fall short of the previous year's levels. The forecast for Germany was only lowered slightly to 4.0 million tonnes, representing a significant gap over the previous year's volume of 4.2 million tonnes. Nonetheless, the EU Commission's forecast is well in excess of that of many other market partners and the latest forecast of the Deutscher Raiffeisenverband (DRV), which expects just over 3.8 million tonnes.

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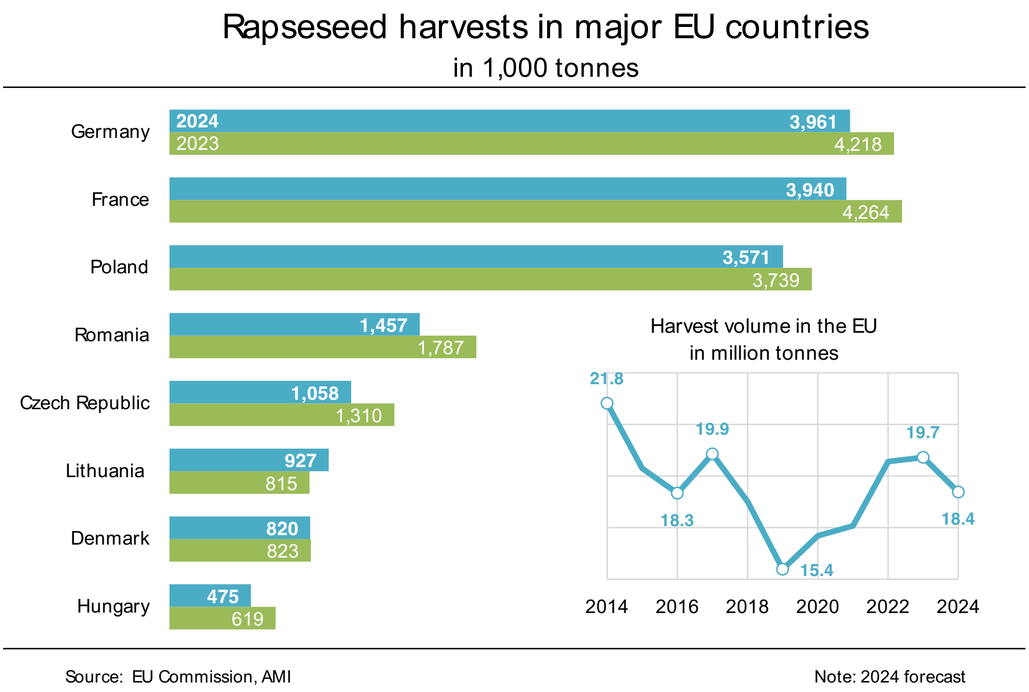
Only expectations for Slovakia, Ireland and Denmark were slightly raised. However, the volumes estimated by the EU Commission are still below the previous year's figures. According to investigations conducted by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the somewhat higher production estimated for these countries is not sufficient to offset the significant decline in France and other countries. Rapeseed supply in the EU for the 2024/25 marketing year is set to be substantially lower than only recently expected.



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