

Rapeseed remains the dominant feedstock in biodiesel production

UFOP: biodiesel industry is most important market for rapeseed oil

Berlin, 30 April 2025. – Germany is the largest producer of biodiesel in Europe. According to the latest data from the Verband der Deutschen Biokraftstoffindustrie (VDB, Association of the German Biofuels Industry), total biodiesel production in Germany reached around 3.6 million tonnes in the calendar year 2024, representing year-on-year increase of 100,000 tonnes.

More than half of this production was based on rapeseed as a feedstock, with rapeseed oil-based biodiesel accounting for around 53.1 per cent of total output in 2024. Used cooking oils and fats ranked second, accounting for 24.1 per cent, followed by soybean oil at 15.0 per cent. Animal fats, which have only counted as feedstock in German biofuel production since 2021, made up 2 per cent of production. In contrast, palm oil is no longer used in German biodiesel production and fuel applications, because biodiesel and HVO made from this tropical oil have not been credited towards meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets since 2023.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) has stated that approximately 1.45 million tonnes of rapeseed oil were processed into biodiesel in Germany in 2024, adding that this volume is roughly equivalent to the year's rapeseed harvest. This means that the German biodiesel industry is the primary market for domestically grown rapeseed. Accordingly, demand for rapeseed oil to produce fuel also yields approximately 2.2 million tonnes of rapeseed meal, which is currently by far the most important GM-free protein source in dairy cattle feeding. This value chain is a perfect example of an integrated bioeconomy with market potential, because in future rapeseed oil and methyl ester respectively may play a greater role in the so-called molecular transformation within the chemical industry. The UFOP has urged that this transformation be reflected and funded under the national and EU bioeconomy strategies, emphasising that the corresponding harvest is basically also available to the food market as a "reserve" at any time.



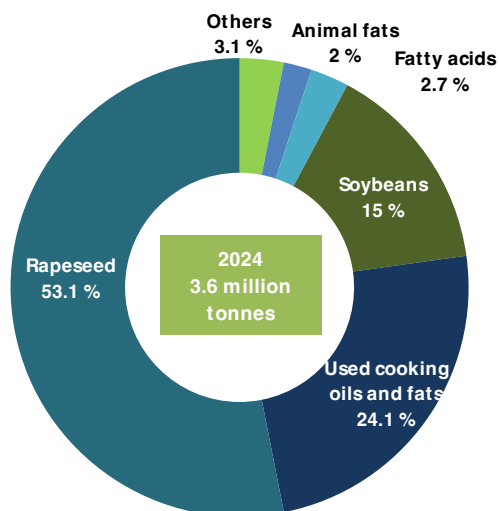
Union zur Förderung
von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.

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.

Biodiesel production in Germany by raw materials, in per cent



Source: VDB

Editorial contact:

Stephan Arens

Tel. +49 (0)30 235 97 99 – 10

E-Mail: s.aren@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.