

Drought in Australia expected to decimate rapeseed yields

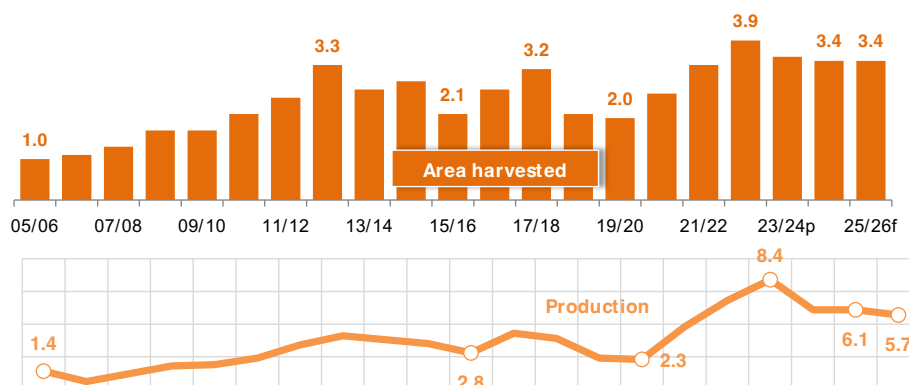
Berlin, 11 June 2025 – The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has lowered its forecast for rapeseed production in 2025/26. Reduced yields and a slight drop in production area are expected to limit export potential – carrying implications for the global market.

The new outlook, published by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), presents a more cautious assessment of Australian canola cultivation, production and exports in the 2025/26 season compared to forecasts from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the International Grains Council (IGC).

ABARES projects a modest decrease in canola area to just under 3.4 million hectares. Production is estimated at just over 5.7 million tonnes – around 400,000 tonnes below the current season's output. According to research by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the decline is primarily due to lower yields resulting from the continued dryness. In many regions, soil moisture levels are below those of the previous year, which has a negative impact on sowing, plant growth and, ultimately, yields.

The ABARES forecast is lower than those issued by the USDA and IGC. The IGC expects Australian production to reach around 6 million tonnes, whereas the USDA projects slightly more than 6.1 million tonnes. This discrepancy is also reflected in export expectations: ABARES projects canola exports of 4.6 million tonnes for 2025/26 – around 200,000 tonnes less than the current season and almost 1.4 million tonnes below the 2023/24 level. In contrast, the USDA expects export volumes to remain stable.

Canola in Australia
Area harvested in million hectares, production in million tonnes



Source: ABARES

Note: p = preliminary, f = forecast



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