

Third smallest sunflower seed harvest in ten years

Berlin, 5 November 2025. – According to estimates by the EU Commission, sunflower seed production in the EU in 2025 is expected to total just over 8.5 million tonnes. This would represent to a 3 per cent rise on the disappointing 2024 harvest. The higher yield could partly offset the slight decline in area within the EU. Nevertheless, the harvest remains the third smallest in the past ten years.

Although yields are forecast to exceed last year's levels, averaging 18.0 decitonnes per hectare, they remain well below the long-term average of 20.1 decitonnes per hectare. In 2024, yields reached only 17.4 decitonnes per hectare. The EU's sunflower area has been reduced slightly, by around 0.5 per cent, to just under 4.8 million hectares.

Romania remains the leading sunflower-producing country in the EU-27, with a reduced production area of 1.2 million hectares. Yields are projected to slightly surpass last year's levels but to remain below average. Production is expected to reach 1.7 million tonnes, a significant year-on-year increase from 1.5 million tonnes. With an expected harvest volume of nearly 1.8 million tonnes, Hungary is set to retain first place among the EU's major sunflower producers for the second consecutive year.

According to research by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH) (AMI), the sunflower area in Germany expanded again in 2025, after two years of decline. At 61,000 hectares, the area planted with sunflowers remains well above the level recorded before Russia's attack on Ukraine. In the wake of the aggression, many German farmers significantly expanded their sunflower areas in 2022. For comparison, in 2020 the total area under sunflowers was only 28,000 hectares. Thanks to the increase in area, Germany's 2025 harvest is expected to reach about 150,000 tonnes, representing a rise of around 16,000 tonnes compared to 2024.

By contrast, sunflower crop development in France was negatively affected by persistent drought and heat waves during the summer months. The EU Commission recently projected the French harvest at nearly 1.5 million tonnes, a decline of 25,000 tonnes compared with the already disappointing 2024 result. This means that, for the second year in a row, the French harvest remains well below the long-term average of 1.8 million tonnes, largely due to a 9 per cent reduction in cultivation area.



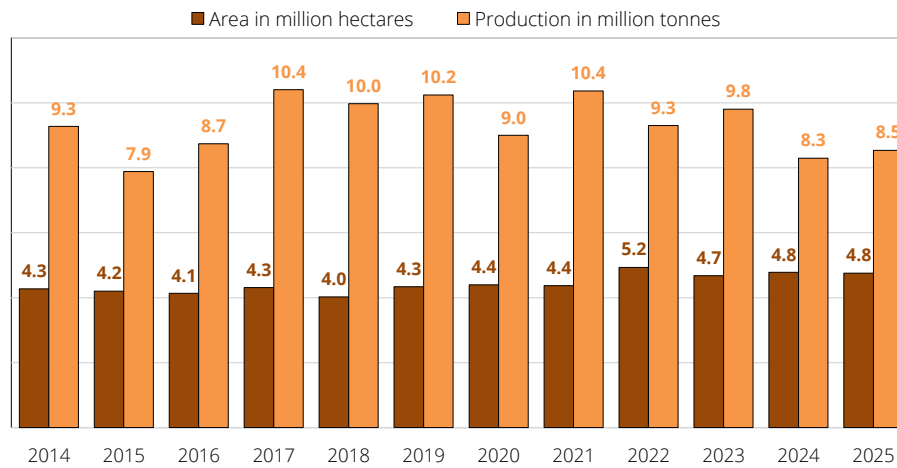
Union zur Förderung
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INFORMATION
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EU production of sunflower seeds



Source: EU Commission

Note: 2025 forecast

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