UFOP dismisses classification of soybeans as high-iLUC feedstock

Biodiesel/HVO consumption in the EU: rapeseed oil is a key element in feedstock composition

Berlin, 4 February 2026. The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) has dismissed the European Commission's initiative to classify soybeans as feedstock involving a high risk of indirect land use change (high-iLUC) in the future. This classification is proposed in the draft amendment to the Delegated Regulation (EU)2019/807. The EU Commission has initiated a public consultation process on this matter. The UFOP has specifically criticised the fact that, as a result of calculations relating to the expansion of agricultural cropland into areas with a high carbon stock, soybeans are classified across the board as "high-iLUC feedstock". The UFOP has dismissed this approach, making reference to the applicable polluter-pays principle.

The association fears that an across-the-board classification would affect soybean farming in general, i.e. including production in the US or in Europe. According to the UFOP, the EU Commission would undermine the increasingly strict requirements for obtaining sustainability certifications, in particular the obligation to provide dated proof of land use. According to EU legislation, biofuels from cultivated biomass can only be counted towards climate objectives if it can be proven that the area in question was used as agricultural cropland prior to January 2008. The postponed EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) provides for a similar verification requirement. The UFOP has pointed out that these arrangements would no longer make sense in the case of soybeans.

The implications of classifying soybeans – rather than soybean oil, as is the case with palm oil – as a high-risk feedstock have not been adequately considered. According to the UFOP, the expansion of soybean farming is primarily driven by soybean meal, the soybean component that plays a decisive role in price formation. The association fears that an across-the-board classification would eliminate a major sales outlet in the biofuel sector, including for German and European soybean producers. At the same time, classifying soybeans as a high-risk feedstock does little to enhance the image of national and European protein strategies, which are also currently being

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.

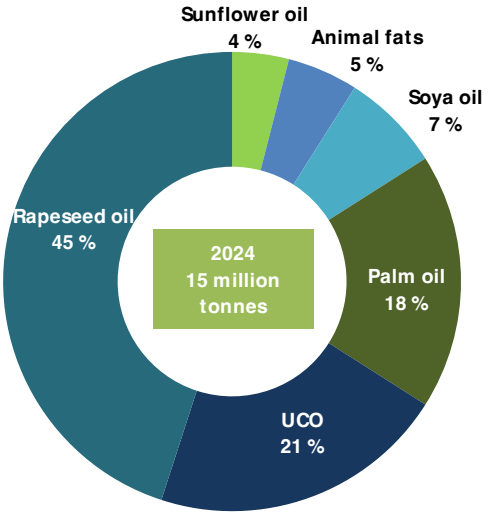
developed, particularly with regard to greenhouse gas balance assessment. The UFOP has therefore called on the EU Commission to withdraw the draft and to discuss an impact evaluation with the trade associations.

Regarding the significance of soybean oil as a biofuel feedstock in the EU, the UFOP has emphasised the substantial importance of rapeseed oil. Accounting for 45 per cent, this source is significantly more important than soybean oil, which accounts for only 7 per cent.

With an average oil share of 42 per cent, the biofuel market is a key factor in rapeseed pricing and, consequently, in European farmers' crop-choice decisions. The UFOP has pointed out that rapeseed cultivation is subject to crop rotation restrictions, meaning that rapeseed can only be grown on the same land every three to four years. As a rotation crop and Europe's most important source of protein, rapeseed makes a significant contribution to ensuring protein supply, enhancing soil quality and improving biodiversity. Plans exist to increase the importance of soybean cultivation in the future. However, at 7 per cent in 2024, the significance of soybeans in terms of biofuel consumption remains relatively low. Against this background, the UFOP has called for appropriate measures to tackle the root causes of deforestation to prevent further forest loss as far as possible and has urged for the application of the polluter-pays principle.

The association has drawn attention to the fact that the statistical basis for commodity shares varies significantly depending on the source used. This highlights the need for the EU Commission to improve official statistics. An EU database that also supports substantiated reporting would provide the required information.

Feedstock uses in biodiesel and HVO production
in the EU-27, 2024, in per cent



Source Oil World

Editorial contact: Stephan Arens
Tel. +49 (0)30 235 97 99 – 10
E-Mail: s.arens@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.