

EU legume harvest seen slightly lower

UFOP calls for stronger long-term support for protein crops

Berlin, 1 April 2026. – According to estimates by the European Commission, EU production of legumes for the 2026 harvest will fall by 1 per cent below the previous year's level. The harvest will nevertheless remain higher than average. Feed peas are expected to record the strongest decline.

In its estimate published at the end of March, the EU Commission expects the legume harvest in the EU to reach just over 7.0 million tonnes in 2026. This would translate to a 1 per cent decline year-on-year. According to Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the decline is primarily attributed to a slight reduction in legume area, while average yields have so far been projected at just above the previous year's level.

Feed peas are likely to record the sharpest decrease, with production expected to fall 6 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching 2.3 million tonnes. The broad bean harvest is expected to decrease around 3 per cent to 1.4 million tonnes. Soybean remains the most important legume in the EU, accounting for 40 per cent of the total legume crop. The harvest is projected at 2.8 million tonnes, representing a 2 per cent rise on the previous year due to an expansion in soybean area. Production of sweet lupins is expected to reach 486,000 tonnes, exceeding last year's 417,000 tonnes and setting a new record.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e.V. (UFOP) regards the European Commission's latest forecast as evidence that political support and the sustainable promotion of legume production should continue. The association has emphasised that, in individual farm planning, legumes, like any other crop, must compete with other market crops. This means that, farmers ultimately need to achieve not only good crop yields but also adequate economic returns. This requires reliable and transparent supply chains and contractual relationships. According to UFOP, the result should be added value that benefits all members of the supply chain and forms the basis for business continuity.

The association therefore welcomes the European Commission's announced intention to submit a European protein plan by the summer, aiming to reduce the EU's dependence on protein imports. The plan will focus on plant-based protein sources, including legumes and oilseed crops. Significant impetus for the plan could also come from extending the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation to include the protein crop sector. Such step would require Member States to recognise producer organisations in this sector and implement Operational Programmes (OPs). UFOP has emphasised the importance of introducing marketing and quality standards for protein crops to improve price transparency for producers.



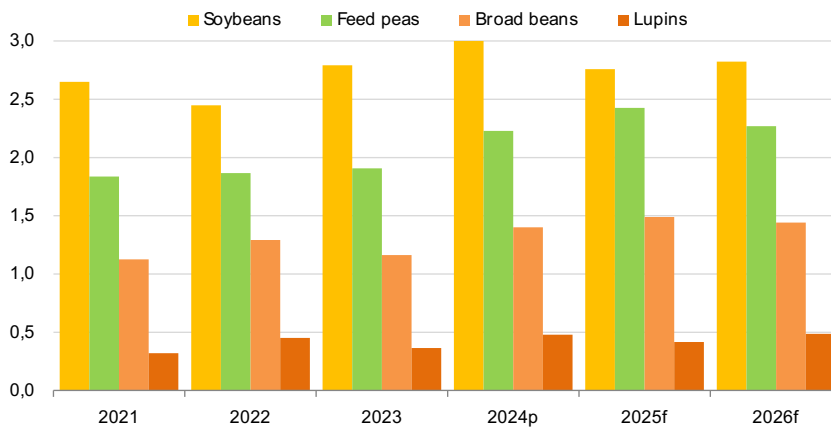
**Union zur Förderung
von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.**

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.

Harvest of the most important legumes in the EU-27 in million tonnes



Source: EU Commission

Note: p = preliminary, f = forecast

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.