

Oilseed rape production in Europe and specific development in Germany

Dr. Gisbert KLEY
DSV-Lippstadt Bremen (Deutschland)

1. The competitiveness of oil crop production in the European Union has diminished significantly during the last 5 years due to a change of the EU farm policy and the support system, the so called Agenda 2000.

The statistical numbers may be seen from table 1 for the various member countries and for the EU as summary.

Oil Seed Production in the EU (Rape and Turnip Seed, Sunflower, Soybean) (Area 1000 ha)					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*
B/L	7,9	8,0	6,3	11,9	6,8
D	949,3	1042,0	1231,0	1104,0	1161,0
DK	104,1	105,0	143,0	102,0	110,0
ES	1121,1	1261,0	819,0	875,0	796,0
F	1921,4	2052,0	2285,0	2025,0	1942,0
GR	25,7	33,0	35,0	22,2	22,2
I	757,3	791,0	504,0	533,3	526,0
IRL	3,3	6,0	6,5	5,0	5,0
NL	0,5	1,0	22,9	1,0	1,0
ÖS	95,8	96,5	99,3	88,0	95,0
P	62,1	69,9	67,0	51,0	56,2
SF	60,2	61,0	64,0	52,5	70,0
SW	62,1	58,0	77,0	49,0	47,0
UK	473,2	517,0	530,0	407,8	439,0
EU - 15	5644,0	6101,4	5890,0	5327,7	5277,2

* estimated

Sources: EU-Commission
European Seed Association (ESA)
Copa/Cogeca

The oilseed rape production area actually amounts to roughly 3 Mio. ha which seems to indicate stability but in reality comprises shrinking areas in some EU member states except in particular Germany where an increase can be stated compared to 1997 (tab. 2).

Oilseed Production in the EU (EU - 15)					
(Area 1000 ha)					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*
Rape and Turnip Seed	2802,6	3104,7	3565,4	3055,5	3055,5
Sunflower	2388,0	2473,0	2088,3	1929,7	1839,2
Soybean	456,1	517,0	334,4	339,6	392,0
Total Oilseeds	5646,7	6094,7	5988,1	5324,8	5286,7

* estimated

Sources: EU-Commission

European Seed Association (ESA)

Copa Cogeca

2. Situation in Germany

In summary the extension of the acreage amounts to roughly 200,000 ha, i.e. 26 %.

Development of winter and spring oilseed rape in Germany			
over the last 5 years			
harvest year	cultivation in 1.000 ha Germany	cultivation in 1.000 ha EU	cultivation in % from EU
1997	915	2.803	32,6 %
1998	1.007	3.098	32,5 %
1999 *	1.198	3.460	34,6 %
2000 *	1.078	3.037	35,5 %
2001 **	1.156	3.064	37,7 %

* provisional figures EU

** estimation

Which are the reasons for this development contrasting the EU production area evolution?

3. Enhancement of the competitiveness of oilseed rape in Germany

In the scientific committee and on the board of UFOP we have discussed the development extensively and have identified four elements which would enhance

the competitiveness of the cultivation of oilseed rape.

3.1 to shift agronomy to more cost effective technologies, for instance from ploughing to low tillage and advising farmers to enforce growing fungus disease resistant oilseed rape varieties for saving chemical expenses.

3.2 to convince farmers of the agronomic benefits of growing oilseed rape.

UFOP analysed numerous trial results and figures from farm practice and could prove that the monetary benefit from oilseed rape growing amounts to roughly 210 to 290 DM/ha which is equivalent to about 15 % of the total revenues of oilseed rape.

Benefits of oilseed rape in an arable rotation	
- savings on reduced soil preparation (minimum tillage)	30-50 DM/ha
- savings on reduced fertiliser and fungicide application in the following wheat crop	60-80 DM/ha
- Incremental yield of wheat after oilseed rape crop of 10 %	120-160 DM/ha
Monetary value of the contribution of the preceding rapeseed crop	210-290 DM/ha

3.3 To improve the value added in the distribution of labelled pure rapeseed oil to the consumer.

3.4 Enlarging the market volume of rapeseed by creating new marketing opportunities.

4. Oilseed rape cultivation on set-a-side areas and development of bio fuel capacities.

In accordance with the Blair House compromise the EU –farms are allowed to produce oilseed rape for non-food use within an equivalent of 1 Mio. to soybean meal (Tab. 5)

year	cultivation of oilseed rape on set-a-side areas in 1.000 ha	bio fuel production capacities in 1.000 t
1997	96	102
1998	131	107
1999	336	172
2000	332	247
2001	313 *	547
2002	not yet known	872 (partly under construction)

* Status: 31 January 2001

Owing to the environmental policy of the German government with tax benefits granted to bio fuel we faced a growing interest for using bio fuel.

Accordingly industry (crushers and others) invested and are investing considerably in plants of bio fuel production (esterification). The capacity available by 2002 will exceed the volume of rape seed produced on set-aside-areas.