

Rapeseed Cultivation in Germany 2006

Dr. Manuela Specht

Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Eiweißpflanzen e. V. (UFOP), Claire-Waldorff-Straße 7,
D-10117 Berlin

For harvest 2006 the rapeseed acreage in Germany has reached a peak of more than 1.4 million hectares. The quantity of the winter rapeseed harvested amounts to around 5.3 million tons. This is the best harvest by German farmers so far and it surpasses last year's results by 5.3 % and the average results of the last 5 years 2000 – 2005 by around 25 %. Additionally there are about 46,700 tons of spring rapeseed.

The growing season 2005/2006 was characterised by a long cold winter, regionally strong attacks of the pollen beetles in April/May as well as by an extremely hot period in July, which causes important losses in some regions. Especially Saxony (-10 % in comparison to last year) and Brandenburg (-8 % in comparison to last year) which have light soils suffered from low yield. The farmers in Hessen had the highest yield increase. This year they had an average result of 40 dt/ha for winter rape. Indeed the federal average yields of 37.5 dt/ha were 1 % below the good result of last year, but 8 % above the average of the last 5 years.

The yield level of harvest 2006 as well as the relatively low fluctuation between the weakest federal states with an average yield of 33.3 dt/ha in Brandenburg and 40.0 dt/ha in Hessen demonstrate the high level of rapeseed production in Germany. Last but not least the breeding progress of modern varieties and the use of certified seed of about 100 % in order to guarantee a quick use of new improved varieties contributed to the successful rapeseed cultivation. Furtheron the German producers have a high professionalism in the production management.

Cultivation data of winter rapeseed (see annex 1)

The total demand for rapeseed oil further increased and also the use of rapeseed in local oil mills. According to estimations on the basis of the official registration regulation around 5.8 million tons of rapeseed were crushed in German oil mills which is 6 % more than last year. At the same time the proportion of the domestic production in the total rapeseed processing decreased to 69 %. More and more rapeseed is used in small decentral oil crushing plants, whereupon the quantities are not recorded to a large extent. In total the use of raw material of more than 300 German decentral oil crushers is estimated to be 500,000 – 700,000 tons which is already more than 10 % of the total domestic production.

According to future perspectives, the consumption of rapeseed oil which essentially increased in Germany during the last years, will continue to increase. Beside the high demand as edible rapeseed oil for human nutrition there are high demands for the biofuel production. Due to a good competitive position against soy bean meal the rapeseed coarse meal and cake are used as valuable protein supplement for animal feeding without any problems in spite of the considerable enlargement of the oil crushing capacities.

The cultivation of non-food rapeseed on set-aside land (319,251 ha for harvest 2006) and as energy crops (171,927 ha for harvest 2006) is attractive for German farmers, because high rapeseed oil demand for the production of biofuel supports to achieve higher rapeseed prices. Particularly the future contract business for the next season 2007 has got a fresh impetus. New in the financial year 2005/2006 were very early contract negotiations for the season 2007, which starts before beginning the harvest 2006. With the begin of taxes on biodiesel since August 1, 2006 and the change of the actual promotion policy from a tax exemption to an admixture obligation with a full tax rate the general conditions for biofuel in Germany have changed dramatically. The partial tax rates provided for the pure biodiesel market are too high and should be refused, because already since 2008/2009 the pure biofuel market of biodiesel and rapeseed oil fuel will not be profitable anymore.

Taxation on pure biofuel in Germany (see annex 2)

For this reason UFOP argues to introduce an appropriate tax rate for pure biofuel. The increase in 3 steps until 2009 of the biodiesel tax rate shall not exceed 21 cent/l. Furtheron UFOP is critical of the fact that in 2007 less than half of the biodiesel capacity is covered by the blends with mineral diesel. Consequently all preconditions have to be quickly provided to double the use in blends.

In spite of a rapeseed acreage of more than 1.4 million hectares for harvest 2006, Germany has still further potential for an acreage increase. Assuming 15 % of the total acreage can be reached, a winter rapeseed cultivation of 1.8 million hectares may be possible.

During the sowing season 2006 the farmers were ready to expand the rapeseed cultivation regionally up to the crop rotation limits. Nevertheless due to heavy rainfall in August and begin of September not all acreages planned for winter rapeseed could be cultivated. Nevertheless the German rapeseed cultivation has increased again in the sowing season 2006.

Taxation on pure biofuel in Germany (Annex 2)

Year	Tax rates	
	Biodiesel	Vegetable oil
2006 and 2007	9 Cent/l	0 Cent/l
2008	15 Cent/l	10 Cent/l
2009	21 Cent/l	18 Cent/l
2010	27 Cent/l	26 Cent/l
2011	33 Cent/l	33 Cent/l
since 2012	45 Cent/l	45 Cent/l

Rapeseed Harvest 2006

(Preliminary Result)

Federal state	Acreage					Yield					Production				
	Ø	2005	2006	2006 opposing		Ø	2005	2006	2006 opposing		Ø	2005	2006	2006 opposing	
	2000/05		vorl.	2000/05	2005	2000/05		2006 prel.	2000/05	2005	2000/05		2006 prel.	2000/05	2005
	1000 ha			± %		dt/ha			± %		1 000 t			± %	
Baden-Württemb.	64,6	67,5	68,5	6,0	+1,5	33,9	37,6	39,8	17,4	+6,0	219,0	253,5	272,8	24,5	+7,6
Bayern	153,0	156,3	162,6	6,3	+4,0	32,2	36,5	38,1	18,2	+4,3	493,0	570,9	619,3	25,6	+8,5
Brandenburg	102,1	115,2	123,0	20,5	+6,8	30,9	36,2	33,3	7,7	-7,9	316,1	416,4	409,9	29,7	-1,6
Hessen	53,6	57,3	62,1	15,8	+8,3	33,4	36,2	40,0	19,7	+10,5	179,0	207,1	248,0	38,6	+19,7
Mecklenb-Vorpommern	217,7	231,9	238,2	9,4	+2,7	38,4	38,7	38,5	0,2	-0,5	836,0	896,6	916,0	9,6	+2,2
Niedersachsen	90,5	115,1	128,7	42,1	+11,8	34,4	37,7	38,9	12,9	+3,0	311,6	434,3	499,9	60,4	+15,1
Nordrhein-Westfalen	51,3	60,2	66,0	28,6	+9,6	35,0	38,3	36,8	5,2	-3,9	179,3	230,8	242,6	35,3	+5,1
Rheinland-Pfalz	29,6	34,7	36,2	22,0	+4,2	32,9	37,6	39,5	20,2	+5,1	97,3	130,3	142,7	46,7	+9,5
Saarland	3,0	2,8	3,3	7,8	+16,0	28,1	36,2	34,7	23,6	-4,1	8,6	10,2	11,4	33,2	+11,3
Sachsen	113,7	121,1	129,7	14,1	+7,1	33,6	37,7	33,6	0,0	-10,9	381,9	456,7	435,8	14,1	-4,6
Sachsen-Anhalt	124,2	146,7	159,1	28,2	+8,5	34,4	38,1	37,7	9,6	-0,9	427,5	558,7	600,6	40,5	+7,5
Schleswig-Holstein	100,1	104,1	111,2	11,1	+6,8	39,4	41,7	39,5	0,3	-5,1	394,3	433,6	439,5	11,5	+1,4
Thüringen	103,8	109,3	114,0	9,9	+4,3	34,9	36,8	37,5	7,4	+1,8	362,5	402,4	427,5	17,9	+6,2
D	1 207,7	1 323,1	1 403,3	16,2	+6,1	34,8	37,8	37,5	7,8	-0,7	4 208,1	5 005,0	5 269,1	25,2	+5,3