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Germany

Oilseeds and Products

Record rapeseed crop expected

2004

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Report Highlights:

The German Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture (BMVEL) has issued a preliminary estimate for the German 2004 winter rapeseed crop at 5.17 million MT compared to the previous estimate of 4.4 million MT, and last year's result of 3.6 million MT. This record crop is due to little winterkill, combined with favorable growing conditions in spring and summer. As a result, yields are estimated to remain about 40 percent above those of 2003. The increase in area is less than four percent.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

In its harvest press conference the German Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture (BMVEL) has raised its crop estimate for rapeseed from 4.4 million MT to 5.17 million MT. This is a record crop, up 45 percent from the drought affected crop of 3.56 million MT in 2003. Summer rapeseed was only planted on 16,900 ha in Germany in 2004. Official crop estimates for summer rapeseed are not available yet. FAS Berlin estimates summer rapeseed at about 37,000 MT.

The big increase in the 2004 crop is mostly a result of better yields due to little winter kill and good growing conditions in spring and summer. The rapeseed area increased only marginally by 3.6 percent compared to 2003. According to the BMVEL estimate, the average yield increased by 40 percent from 29.2 MT/ha in 2003 to 40.9 MT/ha in 2004. Details by state are shown in the table on page 3.

The better harvest prospects have lowered the rapeseed prices compared to last year's level, however, strong demand for rapeseed oil from both the biodiesel industry as well as the food limited the decrease to about 13 to 15 percent. Consequently, domestic rapeseed prices are still well above import prices for soybeans.

Table 1: German Area and Production of Winter Rapeseed by State*

State	2003	2004	change (in %)	2003	2004	change (in %)
	final (1000 ha)	preliminary (1000 ha)		final (million MT)	preliminary (million MT)	
Mecklenburg- West Pomerania	218.6	232.5	6.4	742.9	1068.1	43.8
Saxony-Anhalt	118.8	137.9	16.1	358.1	572.7	59.9
Bavaria	163.5	136.2	-16.7	388.4	541.1	39.3
Schleswig-Holstein	102.5	112.6	9.9	387.9	461.8	19.1
Saxony	117.2	117.5	0.3	305.9	446.5	46.0
Brandenburg	103.1	106.3	3.1	214.5	444.2	107.1
Thuringia	100.5	108.8	8.3	299.3	424.3	41.8
Lower Saxony	85.1	100.1	17.6	269.7	406.3	50.6
Baden-Wuerttemberg	67.5	62.4	-7.6	179.9	240.4	33.6
Hessia	55.4	55.1	-0.5	159.6	209.5	31.3
North Rhine-Westfalia	50.9	56.1	10.2	156.0	201.1	28.9
Rhineland-Palatinate	31.3	33.3	6.4	85.4	136.6	60.0
Saarland	3.2	3.0	-6.3	6.9	11.2	62.3
Total	1218.1	1262.2	3.6	3556.1	5165.8	45.3

*ranked by production in 2004

Source: German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture (BMVEL)

Table 2: Winter Rapeseed Yields per Hectare by State

State	2003 final (MT/ha)	2004 preliminary (MT/ha)	change (in %)
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	3.40	4.60	35.29
Brandenburg	2.08	4.18	110.10
Saxony-Anhalt	3.01	4.16	41.50
Schleswig-Holstein	3.79	4.10	8.50
Rhineland-Palatinate	2.73	4.10	51.90
Lower Saxony	3.17	4.06	30.50
Bavaria	2.38	3.97	66.70
Thuringia	2.98	3.90	34.90
Baden-Wuerttemberg	2.66	3.85	45.80
Hessia	2.88	3.80	32.40
Saxony	2.61	3.80	46.20
Saarland	2.15	3.79	77.90
North Rhine-Westfalia	3.07	3.58	17.40
Total	2.87	3.47	20.90