

# GROWING OILSEED RAPE IN 2025

## Oilseed rape is and remains in number one position

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Accounting for just under 60 % of the total area under oilseed cultivation, oilseed rape is the most important oil crop in the EU-28. Despite a growing interest in soya beans, oilseed rape looks set to remain in number one position in the future. The use of GMO-free rapeseed meal in animal feed is a compelling argument in the European genetic engineering debate. A further point in favour of oilseed rape is the consistently high quality of meal and oil, as this engenders a high degree of acceptance and appreciation on the part of purchasers. With a market share of over 40 %, rapeseed oil is the bestselling oil in Germany.

Experts predict an upward trend in global oilseed production, with the proportion of arable land under oilseed rape cultivation worldwide likely to increase. This is largely due to the importance of oilseeds in animal feed, demand for which is on the rise. The OECD predicts global oilseed production to increase by 17 % by 2023 and has not ruled out a price rise. The prices will reflect positively the sustained rise in the demand for oils and fats by the food industry and for proteins by feed industry. Although the record prices of 2013, which stood at 545 USD/t are unlikely to be repeated in the next eight years, the estimated 522 USD/t nonetheless still represents an increase of just under 6 % on the 2015 price of 493 USD/t. At the same time, curren-

cies and financial markets are expected to have a growing influence on global trade. In June 2016 for example, speculation regarding the outcome of the UK referendum resulted in significant currency fluctuations which have had some effect on raw material markets yet , although fundamentally new stimuli failed to appear. Inflation is expected to impact on the major currencies in the long term. The International Monetary Fund predicts an average inflation rate of 1.8 % per year by 2021 in the eurozone countries. This will also push up the price of raw materials. The global climate will continue to affect production and thus the price trend over the coming decade. Anthropogenic climate change causes the weather to be in a constant state of

flux, making it virtually impossible to predict. At the same time, extreme weather events are on the increase, leading to a greater risk of total crop failure. Oilseed rape, just like any other crop, needs specific conditions for optimum development in order to produce high yields. Due to climate change, weather fluctuations are likely to increase year-on-year, resulting in increased price volatility.

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