

# 2006 Harvest in EU-25: -Early estimates-

## Statistics in focus

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

9/2006

#### Agriculture

Author

Céline OLLIER

## Contents

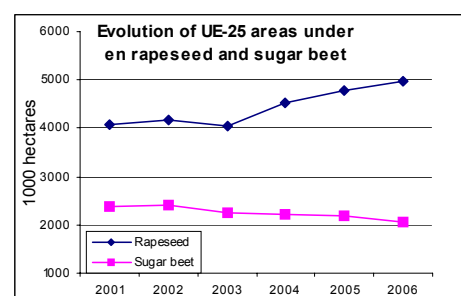
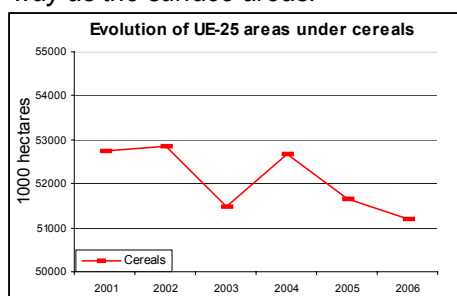
Cereals in the European Union of 25 Member States (EU-25): 51.2 million ha for an estimated harvest of 262.1 million t. 1

Sugar beet in EU-25: 2 million ha for an estimated harvest of 121.8 million t ..... 2

Rapeseed in EU-25: 4.9 million ha for an estimated harvest of 16.2 million t ..... 2

According to the estimates of Eurostat and the estimates submitted by the Member States<sup>1</sup> in early June, areas under cereals have remained relatively stable. On the other hand, areas under sugar beet have decreased considerably owing to the application of the reform of the Common Market Organisation for sugar, while areas under rapeseed continue to increase as a result of the bio-diester outlets.

With the exception of cereals, production is expected to develop in the same way as the surface areas.



### Cereals in the European Union of 25 Member States (EU-25): 51.2 million ha for an estimated harvest of 262.1 million t.

Areas under **cereals** remain relatively stable at 51.2 million ha (i.e. -1% in comparison with 2005).

Production is expected to increase by 1% and settle at 262.1 million t. France, the biggest cereal producer, is expecting production to total 63.7 million t, remaining relatively stable in comparison with 2005 (-0.5%). Spain and Portugal are to increase their cereals production by 29% (i.e. 17.1 million t and 0.9 million t respectively) in 2006 in comparison with 2005, an extremely dry year on the Iberian peninsula. However, production is to remain under the 2001-2005 average.

Average yield for EU-25 is estimated at 50.3 quintals/hectare, against 49.5 quintals/hectare in 2005. Belgium, with a forecast of 88.3 quintals/hectare, is expected to achieve the highest yield.

Areas under **common wheat** are to remain relatively stable (19.2 million ha, -0.5% in comparison with 2005), as production is to increase slightly (116.2 million t, i.e. +1%). Average yield for EU-25 is to increase slightly against 2005 to reach 58.5 quintals/hectare.

Areas under **durum wheat** are expected to decrease again (-4%) to 3.5 million ha. This drop is due to a significant decrease in surface area in Spain (-12%, i.e. 0.8 million ha) and Italy (-4 %, i.e. less than 1.5 million ha).



However, EU-25 production is to increase to 10.7 million t. In fact, average EU-25 yield is to increase in comparison with 2005 to 31.7 quintals/hectare.

There is to be a slight decrease in areas sown with **barley** (-1%) to 12.9 million ha, while barley production is expected to increase by 10% to reach 57.9 million t. Spain, the third biggest producer of barley after Germany and France, is expected to double its production in comparison with 2005 (i.e. 9.3 million t). Yield from Spain, which in 2005 was affected by drought, will recover its average level in 2006 of 29.8 quintals/hectare. Average yield for EU-25 is to increase to 44.9 quintals/hectare.

Areas under **rye** are to remain relatively stable (+1%, i.e. 2.5 million ha), whereas production will increase (+4%, i.e. 7.9 million t). Poland, the biggest producer of rye, is expected to increase its

areas under rye (+6%, i.e. 1.5 million ha for a production estimate of 3.7 million t). Average yield for EU-25 is to increase slightly to 31.8 quintals/hectare.

Lastly, areas under **grain maize** are expected to decrease by 3% to 5.9 million ha. Production is therefore to fall by 8% to 46.8 million t. It is estimated that France, Italy and Hungary will account for more than 60% of grain maize production.

Average yield for EU-25 is to decrease to 79.2 quintals/hectare.

Romania is expected to have a sown area under maize grain of 2.5 million ha, i.e. over one quarter of the area under maize grain in the future EU of 27 Member States.

---

### Sugar beet in EU-25: 2 million ha for an estimated harvest of 121.8 million t

---

Due to the reform of the Common Market Organisation for sugar for the current marketing year, areas sown with sugar beet are expected to decrease by 9% in EU-25 to 2 million ha.

The three biggest producers of sugar beet, France, Germany and Poland are to reduce their sown areas by 2% (i.e. 371 000 and 412 000 hectares) and 15% (i.e. 242 000 hectares) respectively.

Hungary is expected to reduce its areas by 34% (i.e. 41 000 hectares) and Italy by 20% (i.e. 202 000 hectares).

EU-25 production of sugar beet is therefore estimated at 121.8 million t, i.e. a decrease of 6% in comparison with 2005 production. This drop in production is mainly due to the decrease in surface area, as average EU-25 yield estimated at 598.2 quintals/hectare is to undergo a slight increase in comparison with 2005.

---

### Rapeseed in EU-25: 4.9 million ha for an estimated harvest of 16.2 million t

---

The increase in crude oil prices and the policies to encourage the production and use of biofuels such as biodiester, which is produced using rapeseed have led to an increase in the supply of rapeseed.

It is therefore expected that the increase in areas sown with rapeseed will be confirmed: +15% against the 2001-2005 average (+5% in comparison with 2005), i.e. an unprecedented EU-25 area of 4.9 million ha.

The biggest producers of rapeseed, namely Germany and France, are to increase their areas sown with rapeseed by 6% and 7%, i.e. 1.4 million ha and 1.3 million ha respectively.

Denmark, Austria and Hungary are expected to increase their areas by 20% (i.e. 134 000

hectares), 20% (i.e. 42 000 hectares) and 15% (i.e. 140 000 hectares) respectively.

Romania is to double its area under rapeseed, bringing it to 176 000 hectares (against 87 000 hectares in 2005).

EU-25 production of rapeseed is estimated at 16.2 million t, i.e. an increase of 7% in comparison with 2005 production and of 26% in comparison with the 2001-2005 average. With average EU-25 yield increasing slightly at 32.8 quintals/hectare, this increase in production is therefore mainly due to the development of areas under rapeseed in EU-25.

**Table 1: Areas, 1000 hectares**

| EU-25                           | Average<br>2001-2005 | 2005  | 2006  | % change<br>2006/2005 | % change<br>2006/2001-2005 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Cereals (excluding rice)</b> | 52280                | 51642 | 51175 | -0.9                  | 2.2                        |
| <b>Soft wheat</b>               | 18882                | 19245 | 19157 | -0.5                  | 1.5                        |
| <b>Durum wheat</b>              | 3876                 | 3636  | 3483  | -4.2                  | -10.1                      |
| <b>Rye</b>                      | 2835                 | 2453  | 2473  | 0.8                   | -12.8                      |
| <b>Barley</b>                   | 13254                | 13071 | 12887 | -1.4                  | -2.8                       |
| <b>Grain maize</b>              | 6244                 | 6074  | 5916  | -2.6                  | -5.3                       |
| <b>Triticale</b>                | 2311                 | 2554  | 2348  | -8.1                  | 1.6                        |
| <b>Rice</b>                     | 408                  | 407   | 381   | -6.4                  | -6.6                       |
| <b>Rape</b>                     | 4320                 | 4694  | 4949  | 5.4                   | 14.6                       |
| <b>Sugar beet</b>               | 2293                 | 2242  | 2044  | -8.8                  | -10.9                      |

**Table 2: Yield 100 kg/hectares**

| EU-25                           | Average<br>2001-2005 | 2005  | EECP <sup>1</sup><br>2006 | MARS <sup>2</sup><br>2006 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Cereals (excluding rice)</b> | 49.7                 | 49.5  | 50.3                      | 51.2                      |
| <b>Soft wheat</b>               | 58.8                 | 57.7  | 58.5                      | 61.8                      |
| <b>Durum wheat</b>              | 25.0                 | 24.7  | 31.7                      | 26.1                      |
| <b>Rye</b>                      |                      | 33.1  | 31.8                      |                           |
| <b>Barley</b>                   | 42.7                 | 40.5  | 44.9                      | 43.0                      |
| <b>Grain maize</b>              | 77.5                 | 83.7  | 79.2                      | 82.0                      |
| <b>Triticale</b>                | 41.0                 | 40.5  | 40.5                      |                           |
| <b>Rice</b>                     | 65.8                 | 65.5  | 66.1                      |                           |
| <b>Rape</b>                     | 29.2                 | 32.4  | 32.8                      | 33.0                      |
| <b>Sugar beet</b>               | 558.1                | 581.9 | 598.2                     |                           |

**Table 3: Production, 1000 tonnes**

| EU-25                           | Average<br>2001-2005 | 2005   | EECP <sup>1</sup><br>2006 | MARS <sup>2</sup><br>2006 | % change<br>2006 EECP <sup>1</sup> /2005 | % change<br>2006 EECP <sup>1</sup> /2001-2005 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Cereals (excluding rice)</b> | 260628               | 259229 | 262148                    | 262176                    | 1.1                                      | 0.6   |
| <b>Soft wheat</b>               | 111751               | 115238 | 116237                    | 120208                    | 0.9                                      | 4.0   |
| <b>Durum wheat</b>              | 9672                 | 8969   | 10746                     | 9058                      | 19.8                                     | 11.1  |
| <b>Rye</b>                      | 9094                 | 7619   | 7899                      |                           | 3.7                                      | -13.1   |
| <b>Barley</b>                   | 56514                | 52465  | 57914                     | 55914                     | 10.4                                     | 2.5   |
| <b>Grain maize</b>              | 49664                | 50603  | 46812                     | 48660                     | -7.5                                     | -5.7  |
| <b>Triticale</b>                | 9480                 | 10328  | 9586                      |                           | -7.2                                     | 1.1   |
| <b>Rice</b>                     | 2688                 | 2665   | 2519                      |                           | -5.5                                     | -6.3  |
| <b>Rape</b>                     | 12939                | 15229  | 16239                     | 16303                     | 6.6                                      | 25.5  |
| <b>Sugar beet</b>               | 129281               | 128997 | 121786                    |                           | -5.6                                     | -5.8  |

**► Essential information:**

<sup>1</sup> *Early Estimate for Crop Production: Early estimate system for areas, yield and production, based on the exchange of information between the Agromet model (statistical trends) and the advance data provided by the Member States. Estimates using the Agromet model are progressively replaced by estimates sent by the Member States to Eurostat.*

*Production in a Member State is calculated on the basis of area and yield estimates obtained from the estimates of the Member States and/or Eurostat. EU-25 production and area are the sum of production and area figures from each Member State for a given product.*

<sup>2</sup> *Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing action: yields forecast model based on agrometeorological conditions.*

<http://agrifish.jrc.it/marsstat/default.htm>.

*For the purpose of comparison, estimates for 2006 yields obtained using the agrometeorological model MARS and the 2006 production estimates (using the yields of MARS and areas of EECP) are presented on table 2 and 3.*

**► Abbreviations:**

Million ha = 1 000 000 hectares.

Million t = 1 000 000 tonnes.

EU-25: the current European Union of 25 Member States.

## ***Further information:***

### **Databases**

[Eurostat Website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/Agriculture/Agricultural products/Crops products/Crops products \(excluding fruits and vegetables\)](#)

---

### **Journalists can contact the media support service:**

Bech Building Office A4/017  
L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408  
Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu)

### **European Statistical Data Support:**

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

---

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

### **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.**

2, rue Mercier  
L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>  
E-mail: [info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu)

---