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International Sunflower Association

Contents

Editorial

2023 comes to its end, after the international symposium on broomrape, the 5th one, held in Antalya, Turkey, early November. Despite the sad international situation characterized by tensions and wars in the Black Sea and Mediterranean regions, this event was a success: as a non-political organization, ISA goes on organizing exchanges between researchers and developers of all countries.

Vegetable oils, and at a lesser extent proteins, know a growing pressure for non-food uses, when requirements for food are still growing, research and development efforts for sunflower are more necessary than ever, and exchanges and coordination remain essential.

Until we meet again in 2024 at the International Sunflower Conference in Bayannur, China Inner Mongolia, we wish you all a very happy festive season.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Etienne Pilorgé, ISA Secretary

Activity and News of the association

5th International Symposium on Broomrape in Sunflower, Antalya, Turkey, 1-3 Nov. 2023

The 5th International Symposium on BROOMRAPE in Sunflower "OROBANS" was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 1st to 3rd November 2023. It was organized by Prof. Yalcin Kaya and his team of Trakya University, and ISA, and gathered about 150 participants, from 22 countries, with high participation of seed companies, some taking the opportunity for their regional meeting in very attractive housing conditions.
A parallel meeting "PROTOIL 2023, International congress on oil and protein crops," organized by Trakya University and EUCARPI from 2nd to 4th November, permitted to some of the attendees to join the two events.
17 Oral presentations and 8 posters were presented during the broomrape symposium.

The book of abstracts is presently available on the conference website http://www.orobans.com/en/sayfa/1028/home

21st International Sunflower Conference, August 20-24, 2023, China

Registration and abstracts submission are now open for the 21st International Sunflower Conference In Bayannur, China Inner Mongolia, August 20-24, 2023.
Key dates for participants are the following:
Early registration: November 5th, 2023 to March 31st, 2024
Abstracts submission: November 5th, 2023 to May 31st, 2024

Pustovoit Awards 2024

Following the tradition of ISA, the Pustovoit Awards ceremony will take place during the Sunflower International Conference, next August in Bayannur, China.

The Awards are given to persons, individuals or teams, but not to Institutions, to recognize major contributions in the field of sunflower research and crop development. The criteria and rules for nominations are explained on the ISA website at https://www.isasunflower.org/about-us/pustovoit-awards .

The process leading to the attribution of the awards is the following:

- A call for propositions is sent to ISA members
- Names will be proposed with short notices to the ISA Secretariat (email: contact(at)isasunflower.org)
- The choice through a voting process by the ISA board, each Board Member voting for 4 nominees, with order of preferences.

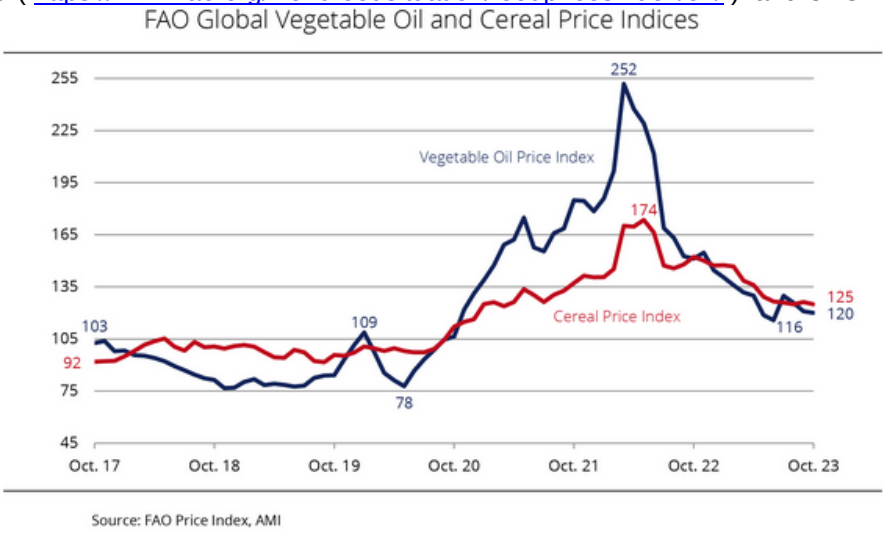
ISA members may send their propositions until March 31st, 2024*. Each proposition must include a short notice (about one page) describing the major contribution(s) of the nominee.*

Value chains and regional news

FAO vegetable oil price index 2023 going down

"The **FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index** averaged 124.1 points in November, up 4.1 points (3.4 percent) from October after declining for three consecutive months. The increase in the price index was driven by higher world palm and sunflower oil prices, more than offsetting lower soy and rapeseed oil quotations. International palm oil prices rebounded by more than 6.0 percent in November, chiefly underpinned by more active purchases by leading importing countries and seasonally lower outputs in major producing countries. World sunflower oil prices also rose moderately, mainly supported by a continued steady pace of import purchases. By contrast, international soy oil prices dropped slightly on subdued global import demand, outweighing the impact of lower soybean production prospects in Brazil, while lingering abundant world supplies contributed to lower world rapeseed oil prices."

Sources: FAO (https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/) and UFOP

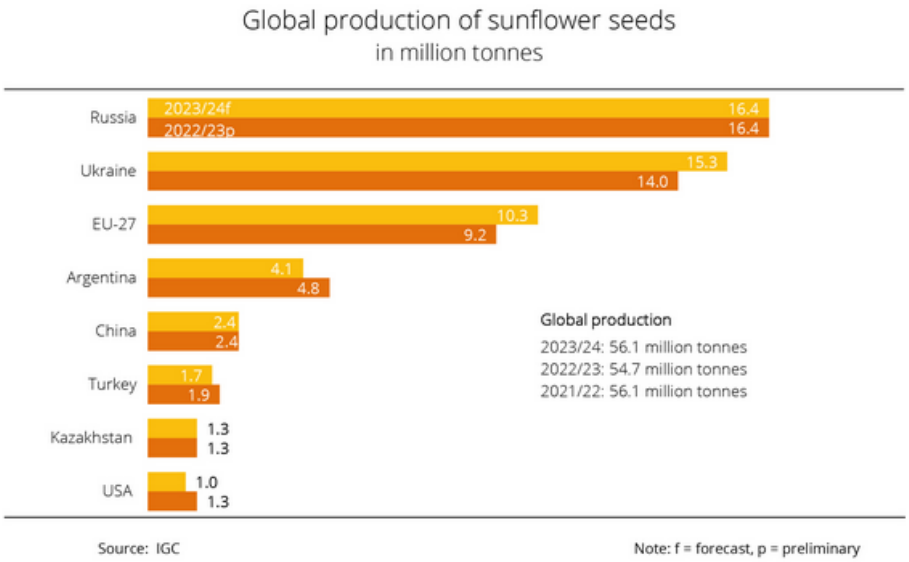


USDA: 2021 Production Down 36% from 2020

« According to recent information published by the International Grains Council (IGC), global production of sunflower seed will probably amount to 56.1 million tons in 2023/24. The IGC lowered its previous month's forecast by 300,000 tons, mainly due to a prospective smaller crop in the EU-27. The previous year's output is seen to be exceeded by only 2.6 per cent.

The sunflower seed harvest in the Union, the world's third most important supplier, is expected to reach around 10.3 million tons, which is 100,000 tons less than projected in August. Nevertheless, the previous year's figure will presumably be exceeded by 12.4 per cent.

The harvest area in Ukraine is seen to have been expanded significantly for 2023. Due to favorable growing conditions, yields are expected to increase on 2022. The IGC projects production to reach 15.3 million tons. This translates to an 8.9 per cent rise on the past year. Especially the sunflower acreage in the currently "uncontrolled areas" account for a significant share in the overall output. In Russia, where harvesting commenced at the end of September 2023, output of sunflower seed is expected to remain at the previous year's level of 16.4 million tons. In other words, the previous month's forecast remained unchanged. »

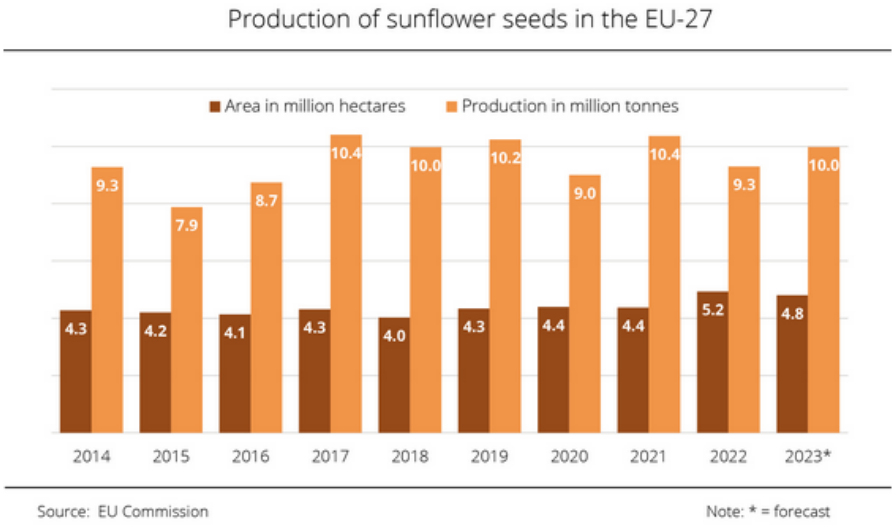


Source: UFOP Chart of the week 41/2023 https://www.ufop.de/english/news/chart-week/#kw49_2023

Sunflower harvest in EU: 2023 in the top years

According to EU Commission, reported in the UFOP “chart of the week” 2023 is among the best years for sunflower production.

“According to EU Commission estimates, EU sunflower seed production in 2023 amounted to just less than 10 million tonnes. This was just over 7 per cent more than in 2022, but clearly below the 10.4 million tonne bumper harvest recorded in 2017. Although the area planted was reduced around 2.7 percent to 4.8 million hectares, yields were nearly 10 per cent higher than those recorded in 2022, reaching 20.7 decitonnes per hectare. Whereas dry spells and extreme heat had diminished the yield potential significantly the previous year, crop development in 2023 benefited from mild temperatures and rainfall in some regions. Romania remained by far the most important sunflower-producing region in the EU-27, the sunflower area hitting a new record at 1.2 million hectares. However, despite the significant expansion in area, yields fell around 12 per cent short of the previous year's level, resulting in a marginally smaller Romanian harvest of 2.1 million tonnes compared to 2022.”

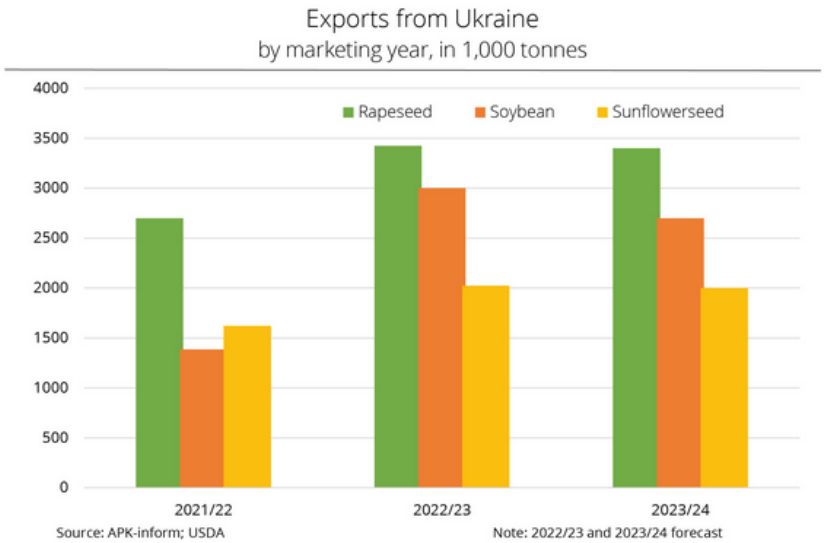


Source: https://www.ufop.de/english/news/chart-week/#kw49_2023

Ukraine maintains its global position in sunflower despite the war

Exports of oilseeds grown in Ukraine increased despite the war that has been going on since February 2022 and the associated restrictions.

“Ukraine maintained its global position as main producer of sunflower seed in the 2022/23 season. Although the 12.2 million tons harvest was 5.3 million tons smaller than that of the previous season, Ukraine remained the world's second most important producer after Russia and ahead of the EU. At the same time, the share of commodity exports increased considerably in the year-on-year comparison. Between September 2022 and May 2023, most exports were destined for the EU (79 per cent), because access to the world market was limited due to the fragile grain deal. Despite the challenging conditions, around 2 million tons of sunflower seed were still exported, slightly more than in the previous season.”



Source: https://www.ufop.de/english/news/chart-week/#kw49_2023

Scientific news

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Coming international and national events

April 28 – May 1, 2024, Palais des congrès de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada : 2024 AOCS Annual Meeting & Expo

https://annualmeeting.aocs.org/

8 - 10 July 2024, Bologna, Italy: 5th International Symposium on Lipid Oxidation and Antioxidants - 5th ISLOA

https://veranstaltungen.gdch.de/microsite/index.cfm?l=11650&modus=

20 - 24 August 2024, Bayannur/China: 21st International Sunflower Conference http://www.esanrui.com/isc

23 - 27 September 2024, Virgina Beach, VA, USA: ISTRO International Soil and Tillage Research Organisation Conference
https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore/istro-2024-22nd-conference.html

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