GCIRC News

Global Council for Innovation in Rapeseed and Canola

"Building a World community for Innovation on Rapeseed and Canola"

N° 15, July 2023

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Editorial

Greetings and welcome to GCIRC Newsletter #15, July 2023.

As always welcome to newsletter #15 and trust that this finds you in good health especially all colleagues in the northern hemisphere as many of you are being affected by the extreme hot conditions. It saddens me that the war in Ukraine continues, but our thoughts and support remain very strong for everyone in Ukraine and none more than our colleagues and the agriculture community. Living so far away it is hard to comprehend the despair of a country at war.

Globally grain and oilseed supplies will be monitored closely as the northern hemisphere gears up for harvest and what impact heat and drought conditions have.
Canola forecasts in Australia is shaping up to be a mixed bag with area and production numbers trending down on 2022 numbers by around 10-15%. In Western Australia much of the cropping regions in the north and east very dry and outlook for below average rainfall, whereas in the southern areas good soil moisture, and outlook is much better. In the eastern states, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales have some variation in soil moisture and generally in a stronger position. AOF July crop forecasts are due to be released this week and made available.

At the May GCIRC board meeting, the US advised that they are able to host the 2025 technical meeting, on a good note the UK has shown interest and along with India been asked to submit a formal application by the end of July, to enable appropriate discussion for a decision and announcement at the Sydney board meeting.

Finally, I look forward to seeing the more than 400 delegates already registered in September and encourage it's not too late to register and participate.

Robert Wilson, GCIRC President

Activity/ News of the association:

IRC-16 Sydney 2023 – September 24-27, 2023, Australia

irc 2023 SYDNEY
16th INTERNATIONAL RAPESEED CONGRESS
24 - 27 September 2023
GLOBAL CROP - GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome Reception – Sunday 24th September.

IRC-2023 is thrilled to announce the Welcome Reception on Sunday 24th September will be held on the luxurious super yacht, The Jackson. Presented by the hosts GCIRC & AOF, delegates will sail around Sydney Harbour, enjoying breathtaking views of iconic landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge.

After four difficult years this is GCIRC's first in person get together, this Welcome Reception Cruise will allow delegates to reconnect with their international colleagues and friends, to engage in meaningful conversations and establish valuable new connections. Delegate will enjoy delectable canapés and refreshments, featuring Australian wines and produce, all prepared by the expert onboard culinary team. A great way to kick off IRC-2023.

Program - Monday 25th – Wednesday 27th September.

The IRC-2023 Program and Agenda has been finalised after some late tweaking. Featuring Plenary and keynote presentations across an array of topics. The many oral and poster presentations will deliver key research associated to the core Congress themes.

- Genetics, Genomics & Breeding
- Agronomy, Physiology & Management
- Diseases & Pests
- Products & Quality, End Uses, Economy & Markets

We are excited to have over 400 delegates from 28 countries registered to attend this the 16th IRC in Sydney.

Dinner - Tuesday 26th September.
Sponsored by Nuseed, the IRC-2023 Gala Dinner will be THE social event of the Congress. Set in the ballroom of the iconic Luna Park, delegates will enjoy a three-course meal, drinks, and an evening of star-studded entertainment. With the backdrop of Sydney Harbour, this will be the perfect way to reminisce about the wonderful sessions, keynotes, and program of IRC-2023.
A ticket to the dinner is included in the Full Registration ticket, or individual and group tables are also available to purchase. So why not consider inviting colleagues or clients?

GCIRC General Assembly

The GCIRC General Assembly will be held in Sydney, Australia, on Monday, September 25, 5:30 to 7:00 PM local time, at the Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park, the IRC location.
Only GCIRC members who have paid their annual subscription will vote the resolutions. The meeting will be open to all interested people present at the IRC.

Welcome to New GCIRC members

Since last February, we have welcomed two new members:

- HU Qiong, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, CHINA
- RAHMAN Mukhlesur, North Dakota State University, USA

You may visit their personal pages on the GCIRC website directory, to better know their fields of interest. We take this opportunity to remind all members that they can modify their personal page, especially indicating their fields of interest in order to facilitate interactions.

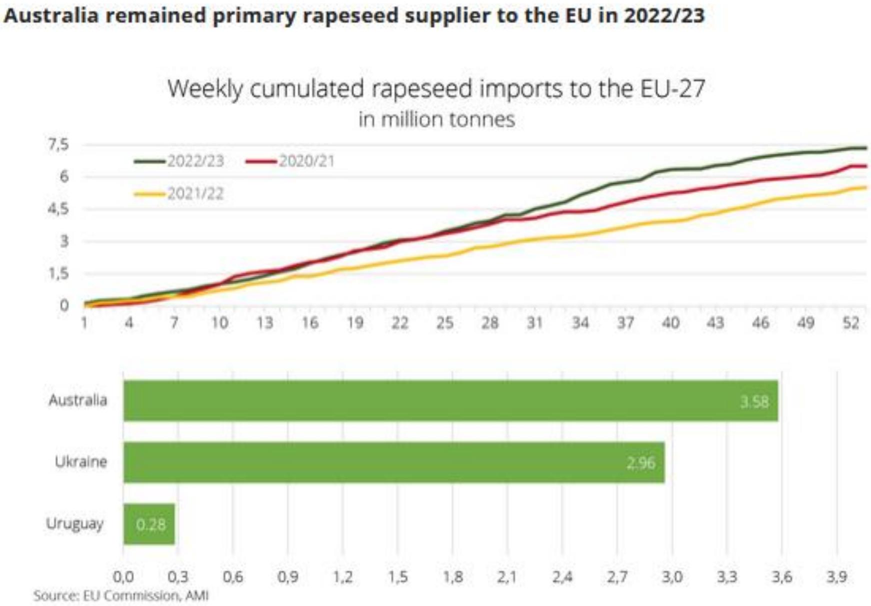
Value chains and regional news

Australia

According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), National planting to winter crops in 2023–24 is forecast to fall but remains historically high in at 23.3 million hectares. Winter crop production is expected to fall from record highs under expectation of below average rainfall for winter and spring. “Area planted to canola is forecast to fall by 11% to 3.5 million hectares, the second largest area on record. The reduction in area reflects the less favourable start to the season and drier outlook, and to some extent the lower expected returns following recent falls in world canola prices. Grower constraints related to crop rotations have also seen some substitution towards other crops. Following three consecutive record production years, total Australian winter crop production is forecast to fall by 34% to 44.9 million tonnes in 2023–24. This is around 3% below the 10-year average to 2022–23 of 46.4 million tonnes. Yield prospects are forecast to be below average due to the expectation of below average rainfall for winter and spring." 2023/24 Canola production is estimated to 4,9MT, 3rd largest harvest, but 41% decline after the 2022/23 record (8,2MT) and 2021/22 (6,8MT).

Read more at: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/australian-crop-report/overview#summer-crop-production-above-average-but-below-last-seasons-record

The UFOP chart of the week (28 2023) shows that Australia remained primary rapeseed supplier to the EU in 2022/23, with 3,58 MT on a total of 7,3MT.



"At 7.3 million tonnes, EU-27 rapeseed imports from non-EU countries clearly exceeded the previous year's volume of 5.5 million tonnes. This translates to a 33 per cent rise." *(Read more at https://www.ufop.de/english/news/chart-week/#kw24_2023)*

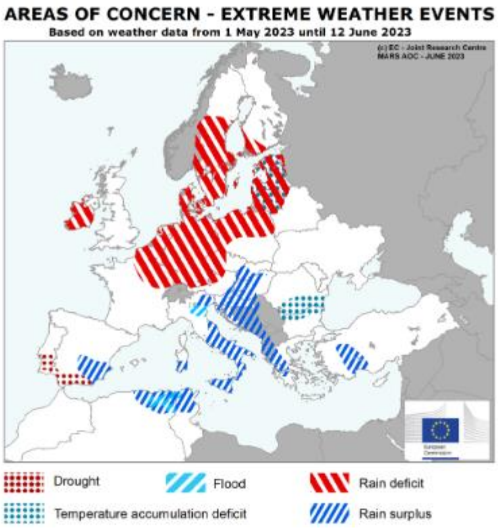
Rapeseed prices: importance of biodiesel and biodiesel regulations

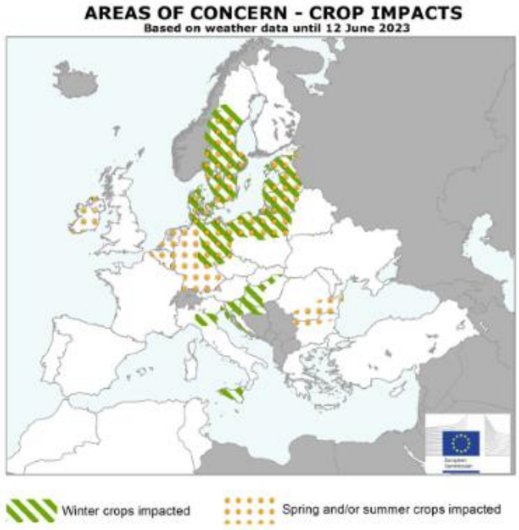
In its Chart of the week 22 2023, UFOP comments the recent sharp decline in rapeseed prices: "Stock exchange prices for rapeseed have been falling almost continuously since the beginning of the year. Temporarily, they even slid below the level of EUR 400 per tonne for the first time since November 2020. According to the UFOP, this development is partly due not only to expected good global market supply of rapeseed, but also to imports of used waste oils and fats from China and biodiesel produced from them (UCOME - Used Cooking Oil Methyl Ester) in the amount of approximately 500,000 tonnes since the end of 2022. (…) The UFOP has explained that if these biofuel volumes counted twofold against the mandatory quotas in Germany and other EU member states, such virtual crediting to meet GHG quota obligations reduces physical demand accordingly, especially for rapeseed oil-based biodiesel. The association fears that this puts a fundamental question mark over the credibility of sustainability certification. (…) In line with the complex market situation, Paris futures market quotations for rapeseed have been falling virtually unchecked for several months. European rapeseed also lost in value based on slipping crude oil and palm oil prices and a temporary decline in US soybean prices."

Read more at https://www.ufop.de/english/news/chart-week/#kw24_2023

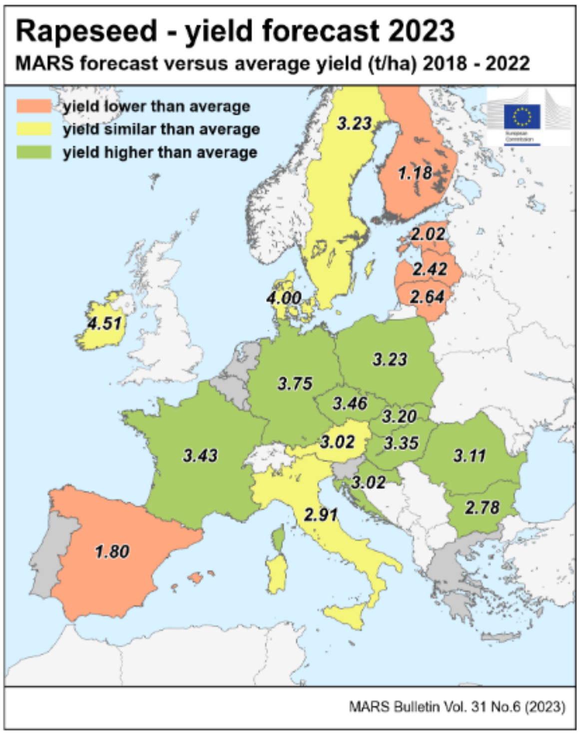
Yield forecast in Europe

According to the JRC MARS Bulletin, published last June 19, 2023 rapeseed yields in the European Union would be slightly lower than in 2022, but remain 6% higher than the 5 years average. The meteorological conditions were unusual and marked by strong contrasts with negative impacts on crop yield expectations in several regions. "Spring was characterised by drier-than-usual conditions in southern Europe, which intensified drought in the Iberian Peninsula, and contrasting wetter-than-usual conditions in many other parts of Europe, including some of the regions affected by drought earlier in the season."





Country	Rape and turnip rape (t/ha)				
	Avg 5yrs	2022	MARS 2023 forecasts	%23/5yrs	%23/22
EU	3.10	3.33	**3.29**	+ 6	– 1
AT	3.06	3.21	**3.02**	– 1	– 6
BE	—	—	—	—	—
BG	2.57	2.29	**2.78**	+ 8	+ 21
CY	—	—	—	—	—
CZ	3.25	3.39	**3.46**	+ 6	+ 2
DE	3.47	3.95	**3.75**	+ 8	– 5
DK	4.08	4.49	**4.00**	– 2	– 11
EE	2.47	2.53	**2.02**	– 18	– 20
EL	—	—	—	—	—
ES	2.35	2.16	**1.80**	– 23	– 17
FI	1.31	1.37	**1.18**	– 10	– 14
FR	3.24	3.68	**3.43**	+ 6	– 7
HR	2.72	2.59	**3.02**	+ 11	+ 17
HU	2.88	2.50	**3.35**	+ 16	+ 34
IE	4.44	4.92	**4.51**	+ 2	– 8
IT	2.84	2.85	**2.91**	+ 3	+ 2
LT	2.80	2.57	**2.64**	– 6	+ 3
LU	—	—	—	—	—
LV	2.62	2.21	**2.42**	– 8	+ 9
MT	—	—	—	—	—
NL	—	—	—	—	—
PL	3.05	3.38	**3.23**	+ 6	– 5
PT	—	—	—	—	—
RO	2.56	2.62	**3.11**	+ 21	+ 19
SE	3.20	3.35	**3.23**	+ 1	– 4
SI	—	—	—	—	—
SK	3.03	3.12	**3.20**	+ 6	+ 3



In Ukraine, high levels of winter crops production are expected, especially for rapeseed with a production forecast of 5,47 MT for 2023 compared to 2,93MT in 2021, due to 79% increase of acreage (2023 versus 2021) and 5% yield increase. If confirmed, this production level will make Ukraine a major rapeseed producer in continental Europe, beyond France and Germany.

Read complete analysis at https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC133186

European Union and New Breeding Technologies

Adopting a position on the use of new breeding technologies based on CRISPR is a matter of reflexion for some time in Europe. The European Commission has put forward a proposal to update European Union (EU) rules to reflect greater precision of new gene editing techniques, saying that the move would give farmers more resilient crops and reduce the use of chemical pesticides and offer consumers food with higher nutritional value.

To summarize the past process, the EU's top court had ruled in 2018 that genome-editing techniques should be governed by GMO rules, then the Commission launched a review in 2021 after concluding that GMO legislation from 2001 was "not fit for purpose".

The EU Commission proposes to split new genomic technique (NGT) plants into two categories: those that could also occur naturally or by conventional breeding would be exempted from GMO legislation and labelling requirements. Plants will qualify for the first category if there are no more than 20 genetic modifications. All other NGT plants would be treated as GMOs, requiring risk assessments and authorization. A faster track approval process would apply for the second category of plants if, for example, they are more tolerant to climate change or require less water or fertilizer.

The proposal needs approval from the European Parliament and EU governments and may be revised. However, the proposal is likely to be opposed by environmental groups that would like the 2001 rules on GMO to be retained.

Source: Reuters, July 5.

Some recent illustrations of the use of CRISPR technologies in rapeseed can be seen in the literature section on Genetics and Breeding of this newsletter, applied to diseases resistance and to ALA content notably.

Scientific news

Some publications from Australia

Bell, L., Whish, J., Simpfendorfer, S., Baird, J., Hertel, K., & Erbacher, A. Canola in northern farming systems. REFERENCE

Dillon, S., & Helliwell, C. Optimisation of canola phenology in diverse Australian growing environments using genomics. REFERENCE

Congdon, B. S., Baulch, J. R., Filardo, F., & Nancarrow, N. (2023). Turnip yellows virus variants differ in host range, transmissibility, and virulence. https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2968728/v1

Publications

To the authors: we identify publications through research with 2 key words only: “rapeseed” and “canola”.

If a publication does not contain one of these two words, but for example only Brassica napus or terms implicitly linked to rapeseed/canola (names of diseases or insects or genes, etc.…), it will not be detected.

GENETICS & BREEDING

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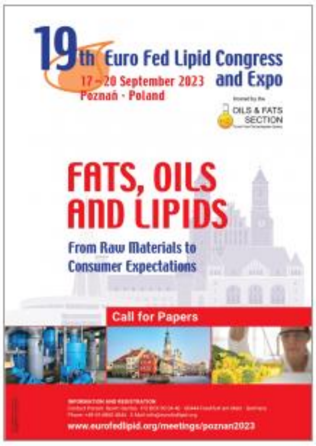
Upcoming International and national events

17-20 September, 2023, Poznan, Poland: 19th Euro Fed Lipid Congress and Expo

Early Bird Registration deadline: 02 August 2023

https://veranstaltungen.gdch.de/tms/frontend/index.cfm?l=11215&sp_id=2



24-27 September, 2023: 16th International Rapeseed Congress, Sydney, Australia

www.irc2023sydney.com

23-24 October 2023, Frankfurt, Germany: **The Future of Oilseeds: Prospects for Plant based Proteins?**
Information and Registration: http://www.dgfett.de/meetings/aktuell/frankfurt2023

5-7 December 2023, Calgary, Canada: Canola Week 2023

The conference will be presented in a hybrid format, allowing attendees to tune in remotely or attend in person.

https://www.canolacouncil.org/research/canola-week/

We invite you to share information with the rapeseed/canola community: let us know the scientific projects, events organized in your country, crop performances or any information of ***interest in rapeseed/canola R&D.***

Contact GCIRC News:

Etienne Pilorgé, GCIRC Secretary-Treasurer: e.pilorge@terresinovia.fr

Contact GCIRC: contact@gcirc.org