

The European Soybean on the Rise

Chances for Hungarian Soybeans

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Donau Soja

- is a **non-profit & independent** association that supports its partners & members in transforming the social, environmental & economic challenges in the production & consumption of soya, pulses & protein.
- is **supported by 24 EU governments** (Donau Soja & Europe Soya Declaration)
- has currently **337 members** in **34 countries**; **900 partners**, over **9,000 farmers** in the system
- certified **1 million tonnes** of soya from 11 European countries in 2024
- does **cross-sector work**: plant breeding, agriculture, processing, food & feed production, distribution, retail & civil society



The Donau Soja offices:

- Vienna (Austria)
- Novi Sad (Serbia)
- Chişinău (Moldova)
- Kyiv (Ukraine)

Soybean



- 30-40% protein, ~20% oil
- Biological nitrogen fixation (no N fertilisation)
- Broad range of applications as feed, food and in industry
- Prefers warm climates and well-drained soils (similar to corn)
- Good for crop rotation

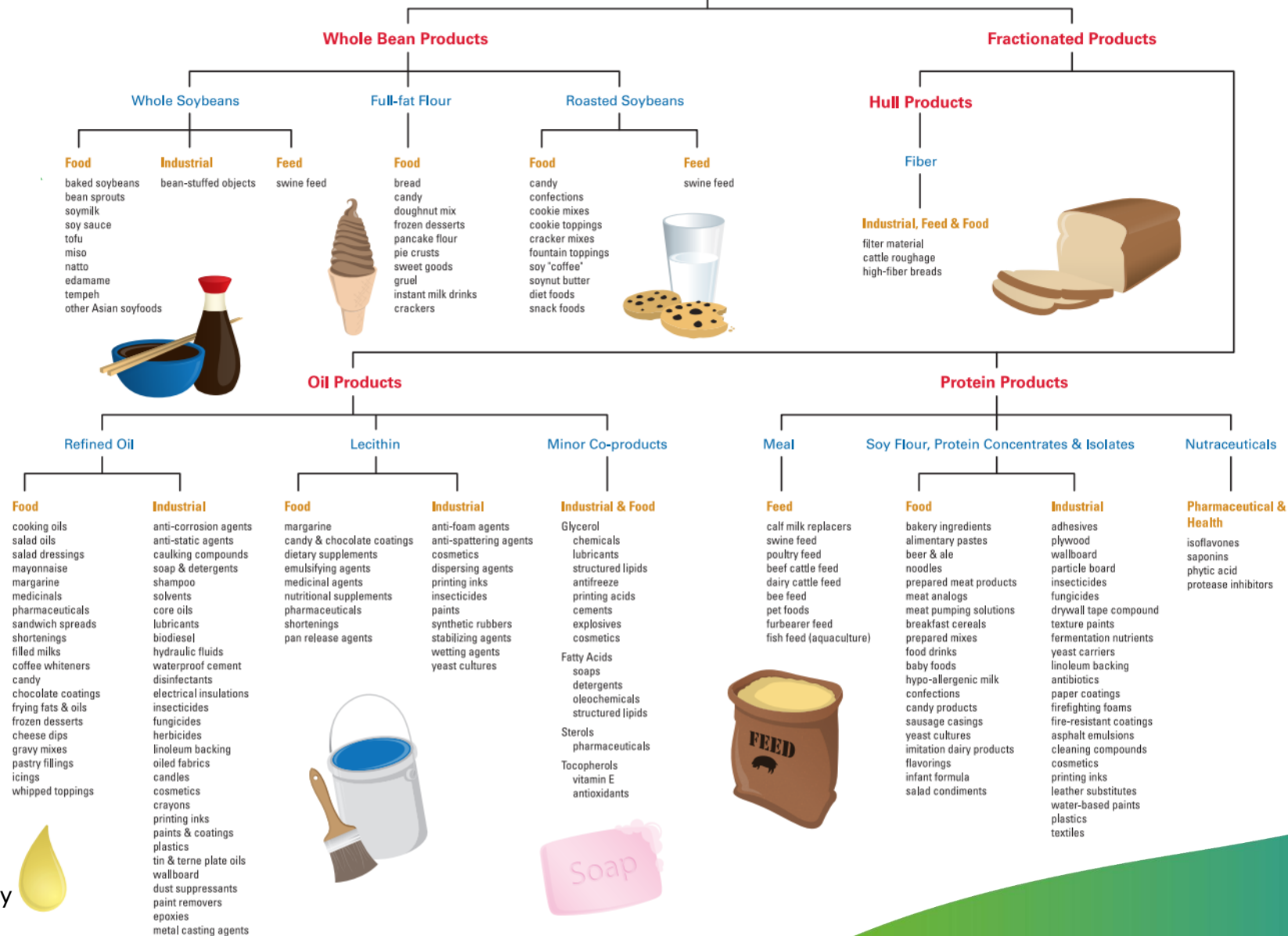


Photo: Donau Soja

Soya in all its shapes and tastes



Soybeans



Source: Iowa State University

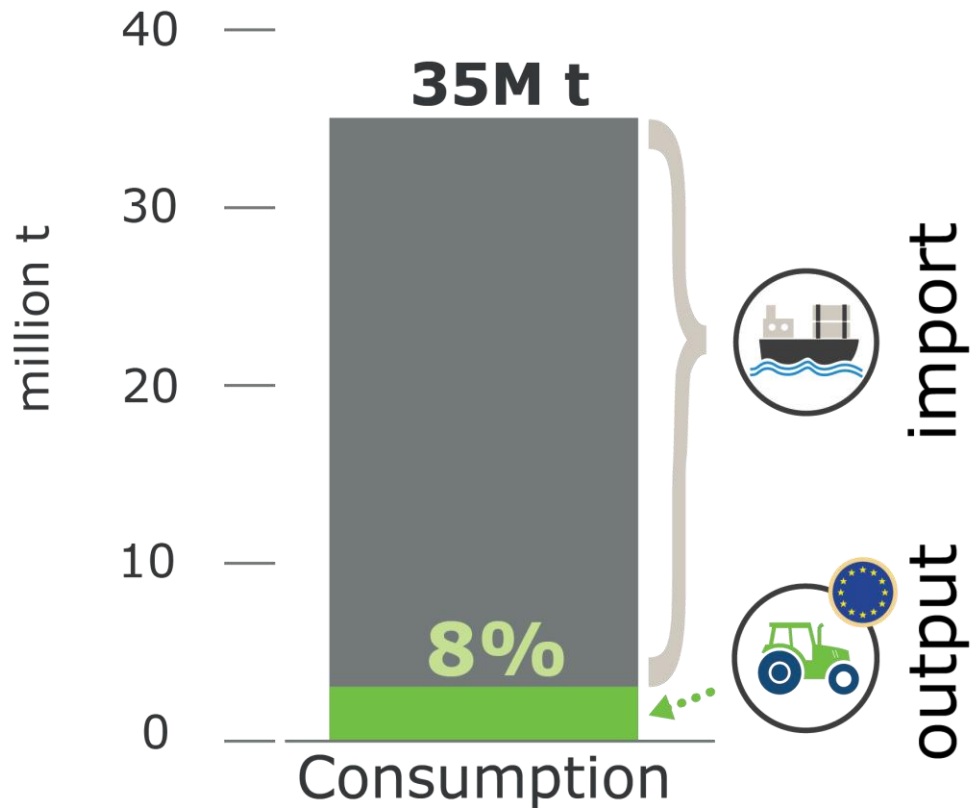
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Soybean market

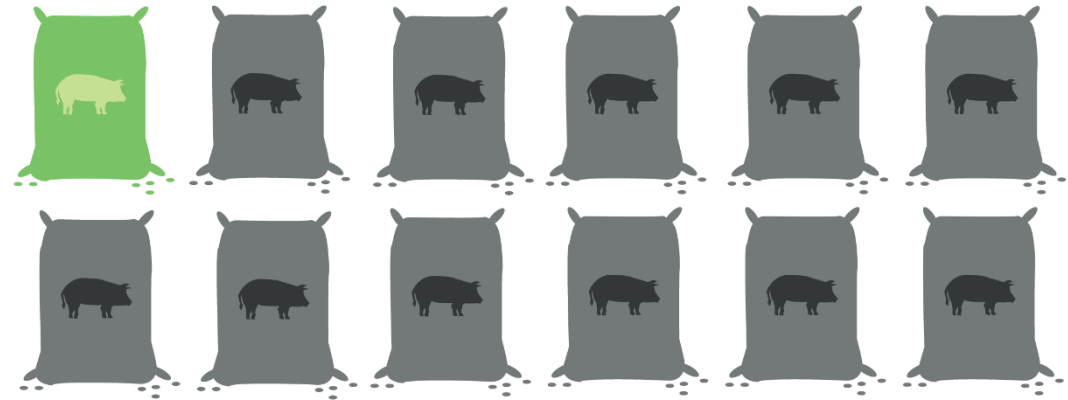
Latest developments

Soya is demanded

Soya consumption¹ and self-sufficiency² in EU-27 (2024)



Only 8% of soya consumption is covered **by domestic soya production**

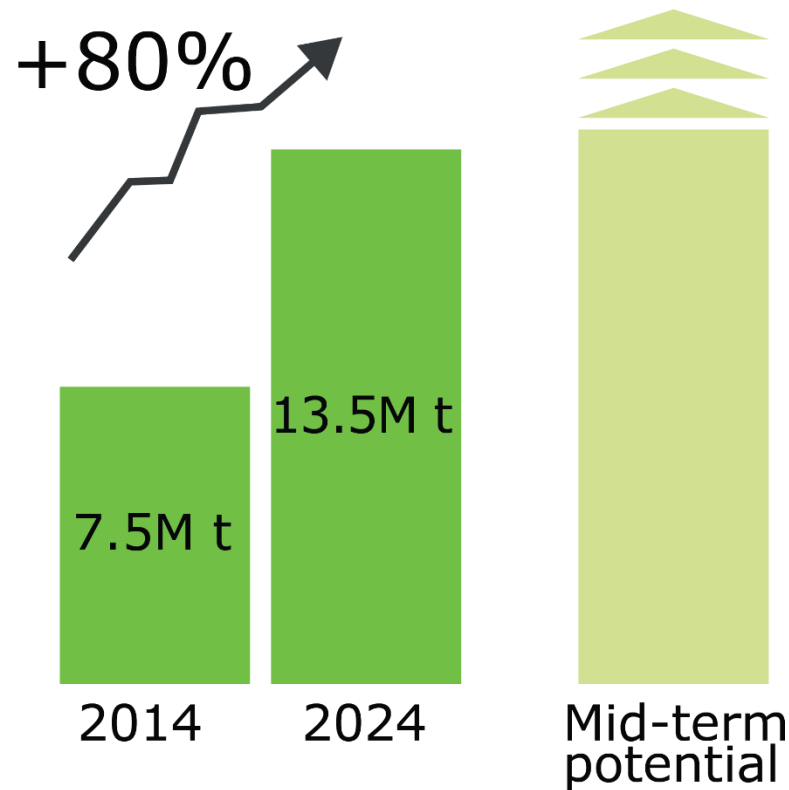


¹Soymeal consumption is calculated in soybean equivalent / ²This ratio shows the extent to which the EU is able to satisfy its domestic demand for soybean meal through domestic soybean production.

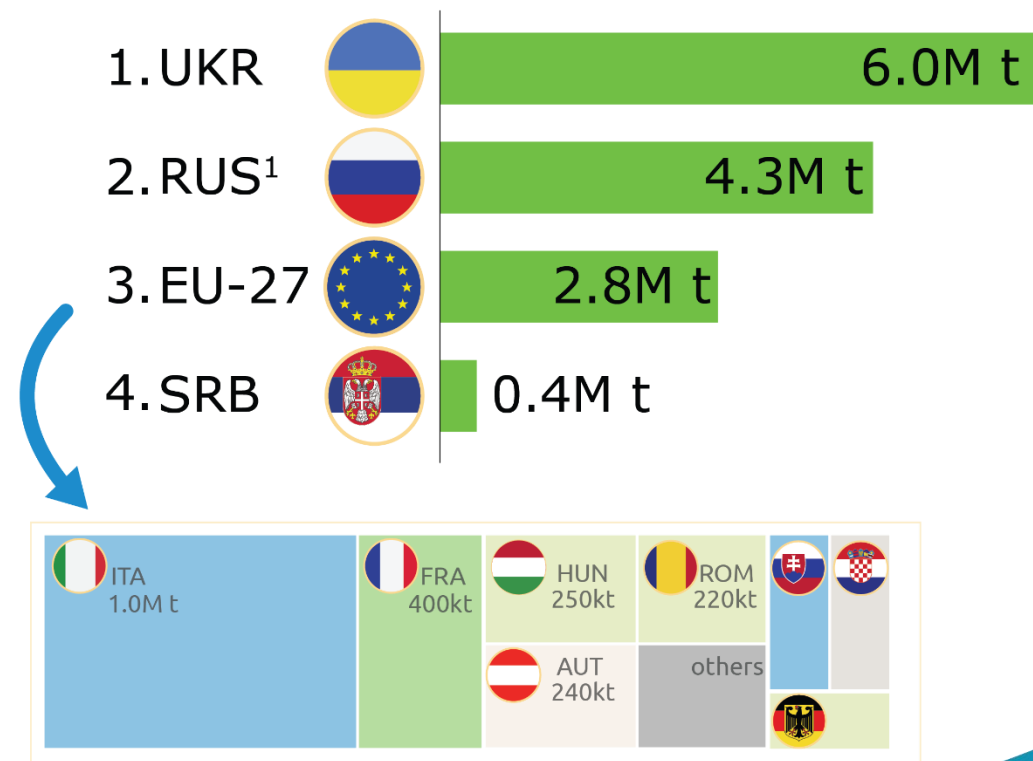
Source: Donau Soja

Soya production in Europe

Soya output in Europe (2014 – 2024):



Top soya producers in Europe (2024):



¹it covers only the European part of Russia
Sources: Donau Soja

Market opportunities for Hungarian soya

Local

- Excellent HU livestock producers with non-GM supply chains (e.g.: Bonafarm, Mastergood, Tranzitker)
- Non-GM soya processor in the region (ADM in Komárom)
- Hungary is a net importer of soybean & soymeal

Export

- Good logistics/short distance to Western European markets with great demand for non-GM/regional soya (e.g.: Danube)
- BAG Güssing, Austria
- Austria with high soya food demand (hi-prot variety)
- Organic soya



Soybean Cultivation technology, news

Weed management trial (near Linz)

Mechanical weed control can be as good as chemical

Variant	Yield 2019 kg/ha (87%DM)	Yield 2020 kg/ha (87%DM)	Yield 2021 kg/ha (87%DM)	Yield 2022 kg/ha (87%DM)	Yield 2023 kg/ha (87%DM)	Average Yield 2019-2023 kg/ha (87%DM)	Yield rel. %
1	4.200	3.931	3.978	5.558	5.295	4.592	100,0
2	4.167	4.008	3.825	5.353	5.243	4.519	100,3
3	4.216	3.779	3.824	5.590	5.537	4.589	98,9
4	4.472	3.896	3.511	5.448	5.345	4.534	99,9
5	4.067	3.885	4.250	5.380	5.647	4.646	101,6

1: Pre emergence: Metribuzin + Flufenacet; one time with less concentration + harrow afterwards

2: Pre emergence: Pendimethalin + Dimethenamid-P

3: Pre emergence: Metbromuron + Dimethenamid-P

4: Post emergence: Imazamox + Thifenosulfuron

5: Mechanical only: 2019, 2022, 2023: 2x harrow; 2020, 2021: 2x harrow, 1x weeder

Source: LWK OÖ, 2023: Soja Herbizidversuch 2023 inkl. Zusammenfassung der Versuche seit 2019. [23 Sojabohne Herbizid Praxisversuch K PV Alkoven 4072 Eferding MJ.pdf](#)

Precision farming in soybean cultivation



- Auto-steer / Guidance systems / GPS / RTK for sowing and weed control machinery
- Camera-guided weeder
- Adapt the number of planted soybean seeds through Variable Rate Technology
- Remote sensing / Satellite imagery
- Soil and crop sensors
- Digital platforms / Decision support systems
 - > Increased input efficiency
 - > more costs
 - > Higher yield

EUDR update

EU Deforestation Regulation

– Status quo Oct 2025



- **European Commission proposed a further 1-year postponement**

Official reason: the IT system for due-diligence statements is not yet capable of meeting demands.

- **European Parliament & Council still need to approve postponement**

Approval is expected, but there is growing opposition in the European Parliament.

Current start dates:

- Medium & large companies: 30 Dec 2025
- Small companies: 30 Jun 2026
 - EU farmers most likely fall under small company definition

EU Deforestation Regulation

– Status quo Oct 2025



Further Simplifications announced by the Commission

Unclear whether simplifications will

- be implemented in the current form of the EUDR, e.g. reducing administrative burden, or
- if the EUDR will be amended, e.g. introduction of a “zero-risk” category.
- Zero-risk category would exempt companies from all due-diligence obligations, creating major loopholes for illegal imports and unfair competition against EU farmers.

EU Deforestation Regulation

– Implications for EU Farmers

EU farmers are considered as **first operators** under the EUDR, meaning:

- When selling soybeans, they are obliged to submit a Due Diligence Statement (DDS) once the regulation applies.

Support for farmers:

- Farmers can authorise e.g. primary collectors with the creation of the DDS.
- National implementation law can transfer the obligation to create the first DDS to the primary collector (e.g. cooperative or trader).

Market expectations for deforestation-free soya persist due to:

- Commitments of major retailers and food brands to deforestation-free sourcing;
- Voluntary frameworks such as the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

→ The **importance of certification schemes** increases again as they provide assurance systems to demonstrate compliance and sustainability performance across supply chains.

Conclusions and outlook 2025

Donau Soja members & partners in Hungary



- Vital soya market in Europe
- Local and intl. market opportunities for Hungarian soya farmers
- Soya is a low-input crop
- Experience and skill make soya a profitable crop

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