



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 11/18/1998

GAIN Report # BU8040

## **Bulgaria**

### **Oilseeds Update November (Bulgaria) 1998**

Prepared by: **Jamie Rothschild-Agricultural Attache  
U.S. Embassy**  
Drafted by: **Mila Boshnakova**

---

**Report Highlights:** This year's crop of oil bearing sunflower seeds on average has lower quality than usual. Nevertheless, some of the high quality sunflower is being exported to some European countries as well as North Africa.

**Imports of refined sunflower oil from Hungary and Turkey have continued.**

---

Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report

## Weather

The weather in November was cool and dry and allowed farmers to finish sunflower harvesting.

## Production

According to MinAg data, about 99% of oil bearing sunflower planted area has been harvested as of the beginning of November. Total production from this area is estimated at 470,000 MT. In addition, 94% of striped sunflower planted area has been harvested with an estimated total production of 35,000 MT.

The final survey of harvested area show 455,000 HA for oilbearing sunflower (the same as AgOffice estimate) and 40,000 HA for striped sunflower (a little higher than the AgOffice estimate).

Average yields for oilbearing sunflower were estimated at 1.04 MT/HA and for striped sunflower 0.88 MT/HA.

## Bulgarian Oilseed Production Estimates and Forecasts (1,000 HA, 1,000 MT)

Crop	Harvested Area			Production		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
Sunflowerseed	450	450	490	490	500	500
Soybeans	16	6	9	10	6	8

## Trade and Prices

According to brokers, the quality of sunflower seeds is lower compared to 1997, the oil content is 40%-41% instead of the standard 42%. However, the demand for higher quality sunflower in larger lots for exports has increased and led to temporarily higher prices. According to traders, oilbearing sunflower is exported to European countries and North Africa. Striped sunflower seeds is also exported well, however, trader prefer to withhold exports until January when the prices, reportedly, may increase to 300,000 leva/MT and higher.

## Commodity Exchange Prices, November 1998

	Leva/MT	USD/MT
Sunflower Seeds	350,000 - 390,000	216 - 222
Striped sunflower seeds	250,000 - 260,000	154 - 160

## Refined Sunflower Oil

in bulk	1,450,000 - 1,500,000	895 - 926
in bottles	1,540,000 - 1,800,000	969 - 728

Sunflower meal	156,000 - 175,000	96 - 108
----------------	-------------------	----------

Note: Exchange rate as of November 18, 1998, 1,620 Bleva/US dollar.

