

FACT SHEET: FIRST FLEMISH SOYA SOON TO BE HARVESTED

Research

ILVO

Since 2013, ILVO has been researching the possibilities for cultivating soya in Flanders:

1. **Good cultivation technique** (field tests): variety selection, inoculation of seeds with rhizobium, optimum sowing date, fertilisation strategy, crop protection products, etc.
2. **Breeding new varieties**: early ripening varieties, high yield potential, high protein content, high sclerotinia tolerance, etc.
3. **Evaluation** (in greenhouses & growth chambers): frost tolerance, bioassay with fungal diseases

Information:

1. 4 **demo-platforms**: Beitem Rumbeke (Inagro), Merelbeke (ILVO), Geel (KULeuven) & Landen (AVEVE)
2. A cultivation guide “**Soya cultivation for starters**” is available to inform the farmers.
 - Ideal sowing and harvesting period, ideal fertiliser, crop protection, expected harvest, etc.

Crop & Cultivation



Surface area: in 2017, 25 ha will be harvested in Flanders (about 5 farmers)

Volume: +/- 50-100 tonnes of soya beans

Varieties: Sultana & Shouna (selected based on the ILVO results regarding early ripening and protein content)

Parameters: moisture content 11-13.5%, protein content 42-46%, GMO free, cleaned product

Harvest: current yield ±3 t/ha

2018-2025: 50 ha in Flanders in 2018 and further growth to around 1000 ha in Belgium in 2025

Policy



- Soya cultivation is part of the **Second Action Plan for Alternative Protein Sources**
- Soya is included in the list of **recognised crops for Ecological Interest Area (EAG)** in Flanders -> included in the green subsidy
- Soya cultivation fits in the practice of **crop rotation and therefore plays a role in a more sustainable agriculture**

Processing



Sourcing: Alpro only uses GMO-free soya that is not sourced from deforested areas. In 2017, 50% of the soya beans processed by Alpro come from Europe (FR/IT/AU/NL/BE) & 50% from Canada. We are striving for 60% EU – 40% Canada by 2018.

- The Alpro factory in Issenheim uses 100% French soya beans
- In the Netherlands, soya was first harvested locally in 2015. The quality and protein content are improving. In 2017, there are 250 ha of soya fields providing a harvest of +/- 650 t
- 24 t was harvested in Belgium in 2016. The harvest in Flanders in 2017 is estimated at 75 - 100 t. Future potential in 2025: 3,000-5,000 t (depending on quality, protein percentage and cost)

Volumes: Alpro uses tens of thousands of tonnes of soya beans each year.

Project partners:



Co-financing:

