

## Romanian Farmers Started Sunseed Seeding

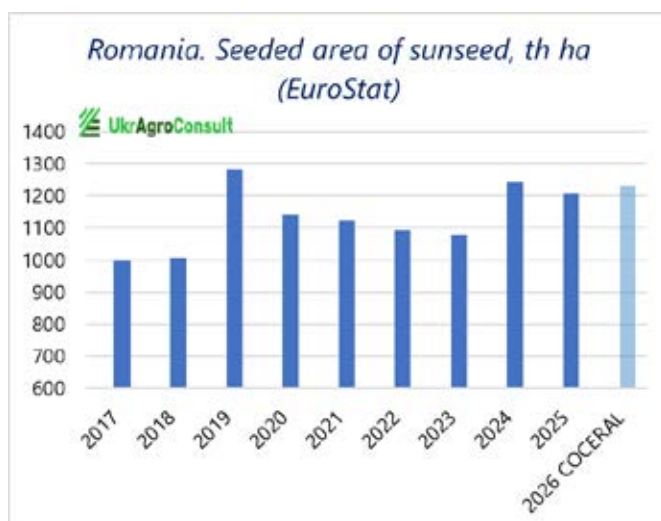
Last week some Romanian farmers in the western part of the country started to plant sunflowers. The soil temperature on March 20 was +11°C (the optimal recommended for sowing SFS is a minimum of +7°C), which allowed to start the seeding.

Seeds can germinate at lower temperatures, however reaching +11°C threshold ensures uniform emergence and reduces the risk of seedling diseases.

Also, the key reason for early seeding was the availability of needed soil moisture. Thus, the works started so as not to lose time. Recent years contradicted optimal terms for SFS seeding (which are closer to April). Now works are done according to the situation in the field, to the forecast, but also according to the flair of each farmer.

The situation is shaping well, especially since the good rains appeared in the meteorological forecasts for Romania and air temperature is going up. Some cooling expected next week (March 25-31) is seen as short-term.

According to COCERAL, Romanian SFS area may increase up to 1230 K ha (1205 K ha in 2025). UkrAgroConsult expects some minor decrease in seeded area (1170 K ha), due to farmers awareness of the climate risks, as well as increasing prices for fertilizers.



Sunseed	2026/27		2025/26	
	FEB	MAR	FEB	MAR
Opening stocks	12	12	21	21
Area seeded Th ha	1170	1170	1205	1205
Yield, MT/ha	1,51	1,8	1,5	1,5
<b>Production</b>	<b>1766,7</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>1808</b>	<b>1808</b>
Imports	300	280	300	300
<b>SUPPLY</b>	<b>2078,7</b>	<b>2398</b>	<b>2129</b>	<b>2129</b>
Crushing	900	950	900	900
Other uses	10	10	10	10
Seeds	16	16	17	17
<b>Exports</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>1180</b>
Losses	10	10	10	10
<b>DEMAND</b>	<b>2056</b>	<b>2336</b>	<b>2117</b>	<b>2117</b>
Ending stocks	22,7	62	12	12

However, the area should remain above the 5-year average (1150 K ha) due to high SFS margin. Old 2025 crop is still actively hunted by local traders and processors. Buyers offers are about USD 630-635/mt DAP Constanta, however the sellers remain higher (USD 645-650/mt DAP Constanta), due to tight stocks.

Prices are likely to remain high until the 2026 crop arrival. However, some relieve may come from the new SFS crop of Argentina, harvesting of which should be done by April. New crop might be of higher quality with total production expected at 7 MMT, the highest in 28 years for Argentina.

*Olena Hesova*  
Grain and oilseed market analyst  
UkrAgroConsult

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 **UkrAgroConsult**

+38 044 364 55 85

+38 050 786 13 10 (WA, Viber, Telegram)

[uac-info@ukragroconsult.org](mailto:uac-info@ukragroconsult.org)

[www.ukragroconsult.com](http://www.ukragroconsult.com)

