

BLACK SEA-DANUBE-BALKAN OILSEEDS: IN 2026/27 OILSEED IS GETTING BIGGER, BUT COMPETITION WILL BE HARDER

Based on presentation made at the 24th Black Sea Grain Conference, Kyiv-2026

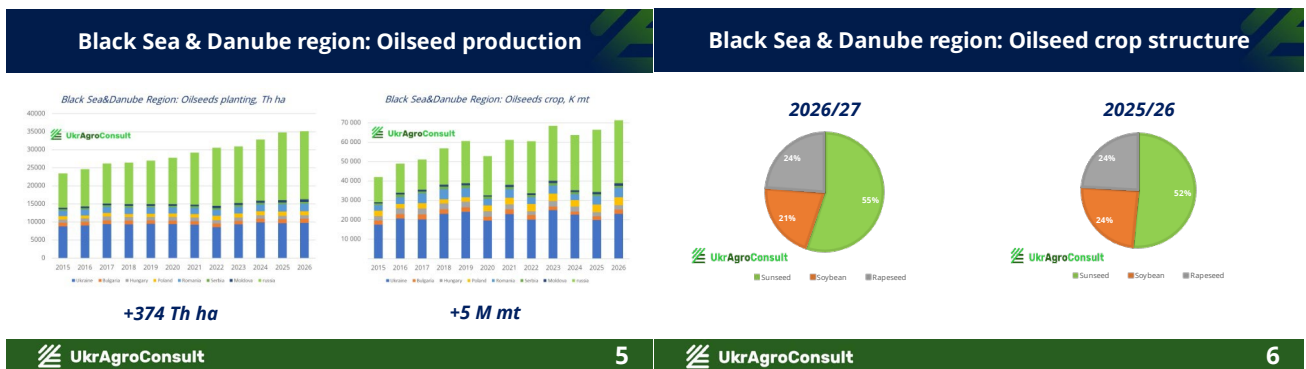
Strategy changes are likely in the Black Sea-Danube-Balkan region in 2026/27. Oilseed area is expanding vs. grains, processing is increasing, the region position is strengthening in the global sunflower trade. However, projected record oilseed production means higher competition, tighter margins, and stronger dependence on weather, policy and export destinations.

The key regional trend is increased oilseed production, but intensifying competition could decrease liquidity potential in 2026/27. Financial models based on current spot prices should be revised to be more conservative.

Key drivers of oilseed being more attractive than grains

- Higher margins per ha vs. grains under similar risks;
- Processing adds value inside the countries;
- Rapeseed and soybeans can improve crop rotation and soil quality. This can save money when fertilizers are expensive;
- Sunflower is more flexible under climate stress;
- Demand is also stronger, supported by food oils, feed meal and biofuel.

In 2026/27, oilseed area in the Black Sea-Danube-Balkan is expected to rise by 374 K ha to a record 35.2 M ha. Output may increase by 5 M mt y/y to a new record of 71.5 M mt. The forecasts look cautiously positive early in the season, but weather remains the key risk, especially spring frosts for winter rapeseed and low temperatures for spring crops.



Source: UkrAgroConsult basing on national and European Commission statistics

Sunflower remains the real power crop of the region. The Black Sea–Danube region accounts for around 72% of global sunflower production, compared with 18% for rapeseed and only 3.5% for soybean.

Sunflower area is expected to reach a new record of almost 21 M ha. Ukraine may expand by around 200 K ha to 6.1 M ha, while russia may add at least 100 K ha, with potential for even more.

For Ukraine, this is both an opportunity and risks. Sunflower oil exports may rise to 5.5 M mt in 2026/27, up from 4.5 M mt in 2025/26. russia’s exports may exceed 5 M mt. If russia really moves toward a sunflower crop close to 19 M mt, Ukraine may find it harder to keep leadership in sunflower oil exports.

Sunflower

Black Sea&Danube Region: Sunflower crop, K mt

Sunflower planting, Th ha

Country	2025	2026	+/-
Ukraine	5900	6100	200
Bulgaria	970	995	25
Hungary	711	693	-18
Poland	24	29	5
Romania	1 205	1 220	15
Serbia	242	244	2
Moldova	500	550	50
russia	11043	11150	107
Total	20 595	20 981	386

Sunflower oil

Ukraine focus on

EU
India
Egypt
Turkey
Iraq

EU focus on

Covering one's own needs EU

russia - focus on

India
Turkey
Iran
Egypt

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Source: UkrAgroConsult basing on national and European Commission statistics

The EU will remain Ukraine's core destination. russia, blocked from the EU, will focus more aggressively on India, Turkey and other destinations. This means competition in key third-country will increase.

Sunflower oil: Ukraine VS russia

Sunflower oil

Turkey: Sunflower production and imports, M mt

Argentina: Sunflower production and exports, M mt

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Source: UkrAgroConsult basing on national statistics offices and estimations

Turkish market is impressively specific. The 2025 low sunflower crop turned Turkey into active seed and oil importer. If russian oil dominates Turkish imports, the attractive price of European sunflower seeds relative to the Turkish domestic market is hindering the expansion of the 2026 area. This trend is based on Turkish sources at the start of the 2026 planting season. So, in the new season, Turkish demand for sunflower will remain high, balancing the Black Sea-Danube-Balkan market, supporting sunflower prices. Most likely, this is a long-term trend.

Argentina also intends to increase its share in the sunflower market. Concerns about the Argentine sunflowers quality are already leading to regulations on pesticide use, which may influence farmers' decisions about sunflower area in 2026 afterwards.

For the second season in a row, **sunflower oil** price is premium vs. competing oils because of crop problems. Middle East escalation pushed soybean and palm oil prices higher, while sunflower oil reacted more cautiously.

Vegoil prices

Sunflower oil
Europe, six ports, FOB

April - 1455 USD/Mt
May/Jun. - 1470 USD/Mt
Jul/Aug/Sept. - 1475 USD/Mt
Oct./Nov/Dec. - 1325 USD/Mt

Soybean

Black Sea&Danube Region: Soybean crop, K mt

Soybean planting, Th ha

Country	2025	2026	+/-
Ukraine	2 400	2300	-100
Bulgaria	1	4	3
Hungary	79	84	5
Poland	38	33	-5
Romania	124	125	1
Serbia	206	210	4
russia	4731	4600	-131
Total	7 579	7 356	-223

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Source: UkrAgroConsult basing on trader information and other sources

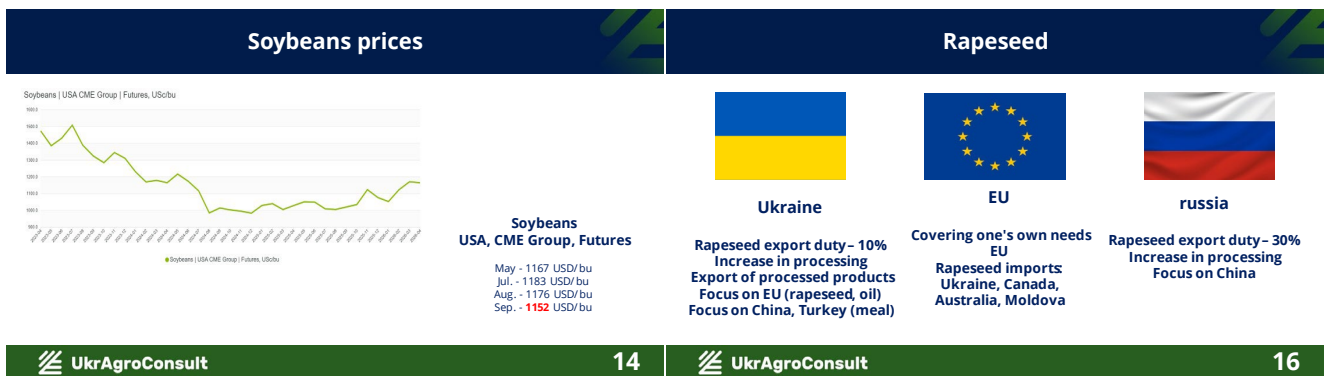
Anyway, sunflower oil premium values are relatively supported. But if the regional crop is larger, sunflower oil prices will face pressure. Forward prices in six ports already reflect this: new-season values are around \$130/mt below current prices, compared with only \$95/mt discount a year ago. The market is already pricing a bigger 2026 crop.

Soybean is the weakest strategic crop in the regional oilseed basket. Area is expected to fall by more than 200 K ha to 7.4 M ha, production may decline by 0.5 M mt to 7.4 M mt. Ukraine and Russia are the main drivers of this trend.

Both countries are trying to switch to higher domestic processing through export duties: 10% in Ukraine and 20% in Russia. But the results differ. Russia is almost self-sufficient in soybean meal expanding the meal exports, soybean oil is shipped mainly toward India and China.

Ukraine is only beginning to rebuild the soy processing. In 2026/27, raw soybean exports may still account for around 45% of total crop, almost unchanged from 46% in 2025/26. Processing may rise only slightly to 49%.

Ukraine's advantage remains logistics and non-GMO demand from the EU. Soybean oil and meal are exported mainly to the EU, while soybeans also move to Turkey and Egypt. But globally, the region does not set soybean prices, following the world market.



Source: UkrAgroConsult data base AgriSupp

Source: UkrAgroConsult

Rapeseed area is expected to rise to 6.9 M ha from 6.7 M ha, driven by Russia (+140 K ha), Bulgaria (+40 K ha) and Romania (+42 K ha). Crop may exceed 17 M mt, a new regional record in 2026. Winter losses remain local, so the yield outlook is moderately positive.

Ukraine and Russia are both limiting raw rapeseed exports through duties: 10% in Ukraine and 30% in Russia. This supports processing but also changes trade flows.

The EU is meeting its processing capacity needs through own rapeseed harvest and imports from Ukraine, Canada, Australia, and Moldova. Ukraine's rapeseed and rapeseed oil market are strongly EU-oriented and is attractive for European importers, while meal exported largely to China and Turkey. Russia is much more dependent on China and much less diversified, being more vulnerable.

Rapeseed is also the oilseed most exposed to Middle East conflict because of biodiesel link. New-crop rapeseed prices are only EUR 14.25/mt below current levels, compared with a EUR 56/mt discount last year.

Black Sea-Danube-Balkan regional trends, 2026/27 season

- Oilseeds area expanding vs. grains due to growing domestic processors' demand.
- Oilseeds export duties are leading to growing domestic crushing, but may reduce farmers' incentives.

- Export competition will intensify and now only in 2026/27 but afterwards. Ukraine and Russia will fight in sunflower oil markets (EU, India and Turkey).
- Margins are determined not only by crop size but more and more by processing, logistics and import regulation.

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