



11 % decrease of the NEPG ware potato area!

Gembloux, 30-06-2026

After more than a year of repeated calls from the NEPG for the supply to be adjusted, European potato growers have taken responsibility. Official figures from Belgium (-16,6 %), The Netherlands (-15,1 %) and France (-9,7 %) and estimates from Germany confirm a reduction of around 11 % (provisory estimation) in the ware potato area.

Potato producers realized that the only way to improve market conditions was to plant less potatoes. A responsible decision to pave the way for a more balanced market

Faced with a historically difficult marketing year, characterized for many weeks and months by spot prices ranging from 0 to € 2 €/100 kg (unseen during the last decades) and low contract prices for next season, growers have shown responsibility by adjusting their planting areas. Despite the lack of genuinely more attractive alternatives in other arable crops (cereals, vegetables, rape, flax, ...), growers sensibly decided they should plant less potatoes !

2026 area should go down by around 67.000 ha (from 604.100 last year to 536.900 ha this season). The reduction in hectareage is now a certainty. However, it is still far too early to draw any conclusions about the size of the 2026 harvest. Weather conditions over the coming months will be decisive, and yields and quality remain highly uncertain, particularly with the recent heatwave.

An ex-field contract price level that is causing concern for the future of the sector

Ex-field contracts at around 12,50 € per 100 kg were “offered” by processors, whilst some growers did not have the choice but to sign contracts at those low prices... At these price levels, which do not reflect the continuous rise in production costs (fertilizer, fuel, electricity, machinery, etc.), the economic viability of many farms could be jeopardized.

The NEPG believes that this pricing strategy could have long-term consequences for the entire sector, including the processors themselves. The sector’s long-term viability depends on balanced contractual relationships that guarantee remuneration in line with producers’ economic realities.