

Press Release

BarthHaas Report 2022/2023

No supply shortfall despite poor hop harvest

Nuremberg, July 25, 2023. The hop volume harvested in 2022 was down 19 percent year on year. Although hop acreage remained virtually unchanged, world crop volume declined by 24,200 metric tons (MT) to stand at 107,000 MT. This was due to extreme weather conditions which brought about a decline of 17,800 MT in Europe alone. This is one of the facts contained in the BarthHaas Report 2022/2023 that the world's leading hop specialist presented during an online press conference on July 25.

In addition to crop volume, alpha acid is a crucial statistic for the hop and beer industries. The alpha yield from crop 2022 was down 24 percent (-3,300 MT). As the hop and alpha volumes produced in recent crop years had been very high, the market was already in surplus on account of stockpiled hops before picking even began in 2022. "Due to the surplus produced over the previous three crop years, there will not be a supply shortfall despite the poor harvest in crop year 2022", explains Heinrich Meier, the author of the BarthHaas Report.

(Explanation: Alpha acid is the most important hop constituent for brewing and is responsible for the bitterness of the beer. Hop growers sell their hops partly on the basis of the alpha volume delivered, and alpha acid is also often a price factor in contracts with breweries.)

Safeguarding raw materials with new, resilient hop varieties

Although stocks are still plentiful, the 2022 crop shows the magnitude of the challenges faced by the entire hop industry due to the increasingly frequent occurrence of extreme weather conditions. "As we will very probably be confronted with such challenges more and more often in the future, we will have to counter them worldwide", says Peter Hintermeier, Managing Director of BarthHaas.

Variety selection is a starting point in this respect. Many of the older hop varieties might not be able to realize their full potential in these changing climatic conditions. New, sustainable breeds of hop that are better able to tolerate drought stress and are more resistant to disease would serve the entire industry with regard to safeguarding raw materials", says Hintermeier.

"We have set ourselves the goal of promoting change at all levels in the industry." He adds that BarthHaas will work alongside the brewers to ensure that the beers they brew with the new, more

resilient hop varieties taste the same as before. “In doing so, we can help our growers to implement the changes needed to make the future supply of hops as stable and reliable as possible”, he explains.

Slight decline in hop acreage

For the first time after eight years of uninterrupted expansion, there was a slight decline in world hop acreage. In crop year 2022, hops were grown on an area of 62,802 hectares, a drop of 96 hectares (-0.2 percent) year on year. In the USA, the country with the world’s largest hop acreage, the planted area contracted by 438 hectares to 24,758 hectares. Germany, with 20,605 hectares (-16 hectares), retained its second-place ranking, followed by the Czech Republic with 4,943 hectares (-29 hectares). Together, the USA and Germany account for 72 percent of world hop acreage; the two hop-growing countries harvested a total of 76 percent of world hop volume in 2022.

Please note the photo credit: BarthHaas

About BarthHaas

BarthHaas is one of the world’s leading suppliers of hop products and hop-related services. The family-owned company specialises in the creative and efficient use of hops and hop products. As visionaries, instigators and implementers of ideas, BarthHaas has been shaping the market surrounding a unique raw material for over 225 years.

Contact:

Thomas Raiser
Director Sales & Marketing/Member of the Board of Directors
BarthHaas GmbH & Co. KG
Tel. +49 911 5489 115
thomas.raiser@barthhaas.de