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Netherlands

Frozen Potato Products

Benelux

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Report Highlights:

The total potato production in the Netherlands and Belgium is back to pre-MY 06/07 levels. The average yield in 2007 is estimated to be 13% higher than the previous year's yield, although there are big differences between the various soil types and types of potatoes.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
The Hague [NL1]
[NL]

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Netherlands

Total potato production¹ in the Netherlands for 2007 is estimated to be 7 million MT, up 0.85 million MT compared to the 2006 production. This increase is the result of a slightly higher harvested acreage² and, more importantly, an increase in yield per hectare (especially on the sandy and peat soils). The average yield in 2007 is estimated to be 13% higher than the previous year's yield, although there are big differences between the various soil types and types of potatoes. More detailed information on the 2006 harvest can be found in GAIN report NL6038 and more detailed production figures can be found in Appendix I.

Of the total production of potatoes for consumption in the Netherlands, in Marketing Year 2006/2007 (MY 06/07), almost 2.0 million MT has been used for further processing. In addition, over 1.1 million MT potatoes were imported from neighboring countries to fully utilize processing capacity of potato processors. The production of potatoes for consumption for this marketing year (MY 07/08) is estimated to be 3.5 million MT. Almost a third is destined for the fresh market and the remaining will find its way to the processing industry.

Table 1: Output of Potato Products, 1,000 MT

	MY 04/05	MY 05/06	MY 06/07	MY 07/08*	Jul 06 – Nov 06	Jul 07 – Nov 07
Pre-fried products	1,371	1,380	1,275	1,380	513	520
Other products	353	346	371	350	148	165
Total potato products	1,724	1,726	1,646	1,730	661	685

Marketing years run from July until June

* FAS/The Hague estimates

Source: www.productschapakkerbouw.nl

Above table shows that the output of potato products in MY 06/07 was lower than previous marketing years, the main reason for this is the disappointing harvest, in both quantity and quality, in 2006. Since the 2007 harvest is expected to be back around 7 million MT, FAS/The Hague expects the output of potato products for this MY to be similar to pre-MY 06/07 years.

Belgium

Industry sources in Belgium have indicated that the production of potatoes for consumption for 2007 is estimated to be 3 million MT. The higher production in 2007 is, like in the Netherlands, the result of a higher yield per hectare. The average yield in 2007 is estimated to be around 45 MT per hectare (somewhat lower than in the Netherlands), while the harvested acreage remains around 65,000 hectares. Potato plants in Belgium process around 2 million MT potatoes per year. The industry is, similar to the Dutch situation, strongly focused on the production of pre-fried potato products for export markets. The output of pre-fried potato products is estimated to be around 1 MT (product weight). No official figures are available for Belgium.

¹ Production includes not only the production of potatoes for consumption and seed potatoes, but also starch potato.

² This estimate is based on actual planted acreage; the historical average of harvested acres is ninety-seven percent and no deviations are expected for this year.

Appendix I

	Year	Harvested Acreage (Ha)	Yield Kg/Ha	Total Production/MT
Total Potatoes	2001	161,665	43,400	7,015,253
	2002	164,308	44,800	7,362,738
	2003	158,518	40,800	6,468,762
	2004	162,821	46,000	7,487,652
	2005	155,558	43,600	6,776,860
	2006*	155,826	40,042	6,239,648
	2007**	157,173	45,088	7,086,684
Seed Potatoes (sandy and peat soil)	2001	5,974	33,900	202,659
	2002	4,809	30,400	146,204
	2003	3,855	33,000	127,236
	2004	3,594	31,000	111,262
	2005	3,516	33,500	117,839
	2006*	3,171	33,972	107,725
	2007**	3,137	40,555	127,221
Seed Potatoes (clay)	2001	32,772	35,800	1,173,953
	2002	33,939	35,000	1,188,754
	2003	35,420	36,100	1,279,786
	2004	35,699	36,500	1,301,236
	2005	35,720	33,400	1,191,759
	2006*	33,962	35,029	1,189,639
	2007**	33,593	39,524	1,327,744
Potatoes for consumption (sandy and peat soil)	2001	20,752	50,400	1,046,493
	2002	26,319	50,800	1,336,877
	2003	21,964	45,900	1,007,499
	2004	22,042	53,600	1,181,821
	2005	19,227	49,500	951,834
	2006*	18,290	46,437	849,328
	2007**	19,178	52,217	1,001,414
Potatoes for consumption (clay)	2001	54,298	46,900	2,545,292
	2002	50,643	51,500	2,610,554
	2003	48,485	46,000	2,232,445
	2004	50,275	52,200	2,623,078
	2005	46,406	48,700	2,261,184
	2006*	50,818	43,835	2,227,616
	2007**	53,285	46,659	2,486,250
Starch Potatoes (all)	2001	47,869	42,800	2,046,856
	2002	48,598	42,800	2,080,359
	2003	48,794	37,300	1,821,796
	2004	51,211	44,300	2,270,255
	2005	50,688	44,500	2,254,244
	2006*	49,585	37,619	1,865,340
	2007**	47,980	44,686	2,144,055

*revised figures

**Preliminary figures

Source: www.cbs.nl, www.aardappelinfo.nl, industry contacts, FAS/The Hague