

The 2024 harvest: on track to meet market demand

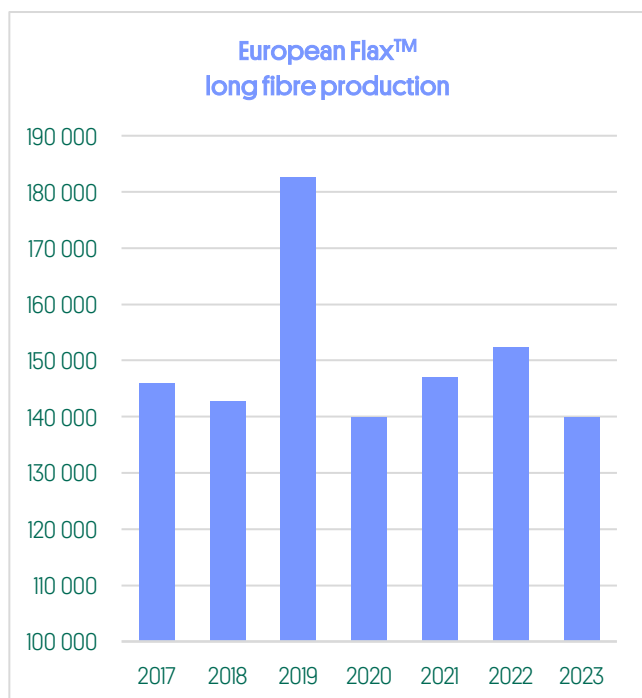
Right at the start of the flax pulling period, the industry is brimming with optimism about the upcoming harvest. **Favourable weather conditions** have made it possible to catch up after a slow start to the agricultural cycle and have ensured the best possible context.

As a result, and barring unforeseen weather events, **our latest estimate forecasts average straw yields of 6-7 tons per hectare** for spring flax. This is the first time this has happened since 2019. Winter flax (30,000 hectares sown for this harvest) is showing a slightly lower performance in some regions. Flax straw is the raw material used for fibre extraction during scutching.

The area under the cultivation of European Flax™ is expected to reach at least 180,000 hectares (for spring and winter flax combined – see the Q2 news release of 31 May 2024), the highest figure since 2020 (when it reached 163,000 hectares). This means that **the European sector will likely reach record levels of flax straw yields in a single harvest.**

Country	Est. area under cultivation 2024 (ha)
France	160,000
Belgium	20,000
Netherlands	3,000
UK	1,000

NB: these figures include spring and winter flax



Source: Flax-Linen & Hemp Economic Observatory

For now, it is impossible to determine how much flax fibre will be extracted from this volume of flax straw. Retting* will take place in the summer and will provide more detailed information about current trends.

Our next news release in October will contain an estimate of the volume of long fibres which will be supplied in the months that follow.

Scutching of the current harvest will begin in autumn 2024 in French, Belgian and Dutch factories. It is only then that European Flax™ long fibre production is expected to increase. Supply will thus remain tight in the short term.

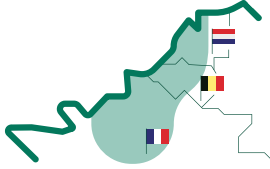
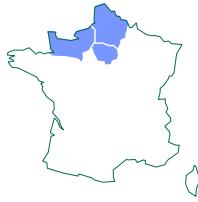



*The first natural step in the transformation of the plant into fibre after the Flax stalks have been pulled and laid in the field in swaths. The retting process occurs through a combination of moisture (rain, dew), sun, and microorganisms in the soil, whereby enzymes breakdown the natural glues between the fibres and the woody part of the plant. This stage helps facilitate the mechanical extraction of fibres during scutching.

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2023 - KEY FIGURES IN THE PRODUCTION OF FLAX

<p>FLAX</p> <p>3/4 of the world's long* fibre are produced in France, Belgium and the Netherlands*</p> <p><small>*Long fibres: the main product of scutching, used in the textile industry</small></p> <p>Europe, the #1 global producer of Flax fibre</p> 	<p>Today, Flax fibres* account for < 0,5% of global textile fibre production</p> <p><small>*Long fibres + short fibres</small></p>
<p>+ 133% increase in Flax area from 2010 - 2020</p>	<p>3 main Flax-producing regions in France</p> <p>Normandy Hauts-de-France Ile-de-France</p> 
<p>150,000 hectares in Europe of Flax in 2023 (incl. 87% in France, or 131,000 hectares)</p>	<p>1 hectare of European Flax</p> <p>=</p> <p>900 kg of yarns</p> <p>OR 3,750 m² of fabrics</p> <p>OR 4,000 shirts</p> <p>OR 450 sets of bed linens</p> <p>OR 1,375 chairs made of composite Flax</p>  
<p>140,000 tonnes of long fibres in 2023 (incl. 122,000 tonnes in France)</p> 	

Source : 2023 Flax-Linen Economic Observatory of the Alliance for European Flax-Linen and Hemp, FAO, Interchange

ABOUT

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp is the only European agro-industrial organisation and global leader that brings together all players in the value chain for European Flax-Linen and Hemp.

A platform for reflection, market analysis, dialogue, and strategic orientation, the Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp presides over an industry of excellence in a globalised context. It encourages dialogue with national and European public authorities.

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp creates an environment that fosters competition among industrial businesses as part of its three-fold mission of informing members, brands and consumers, supporting the European ecosystem and European expertise, and promoting European Flax-Linen and Hemp as the sustainable fibres of choice around the world.

It connects more than 10,000 businesses in the European Flax value chain from 16 European countries around the values of solidarity, innovation, scientific validation, and respect for people and planet.

It promotes, initiates, and organises strategic reflections and research on its fibres in order to be able to provide all of its interlocutors with evidence-based economic data, environmental information, and reliable scientific evidence.

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp strives to increase the international visibility of its fibres, whose technical and environmental properties inspire global creation and open up new opportunities for industrial innovation. It guarantees the traceability of Flax fibre thanks to the EUROPEAN FLAX™ and MASTERS OF LINEN™ certifications.

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp is the new name of the CELC, an association founded in 1951. Europe is the number one Flax-producing region in the world (France, Belgium, and the Netherlands account for three-quarters of production).



European Flax™: A traceability guarantee for premium Flax fibres grown in Western Europe for all markets. A plant-based fibre, the product of ecofriendly agriculture grown without irrigation or GMOs.*

**barring exceptional circumstances.*



Masters of Linen™: Traceability guarantee for Linen processed by European businesses in Europe and Euromed 1 locations. An outstanding local textile at all stages of production: from European Flax™ plant fibres to yarn and fabric.