



FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS, SUGAR BEET HAS BEEN A KEY ROTATIONAL CROP ON NUMEROUS ARABLE CROP FARMS AND THE BASIS OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN EUROPE. TODAY, BEET FARMERS CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT EUROPEAN CONSUMERS ARE RELIABLY SUPPLIED WITH THIS LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE AND NATURAL PRODUCT.

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BEET GROWERS

1.5 MILLION HECTARES ON 110 000 FARMS GROWING SUGAR BEET IN EUROPE



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Sustainable and circular sector

Beyond its economic importance, the sugar beet sector contributes to the EU's food sovereignty, decarbonisation, preservation of the environment and availability of bio-based products.

These include food ingredients, animal feed, green chemistry products and renewable energy such as ethanol and biogas. The sector is a key player in the transition from a fossil-based economy to a renewable bio-based economy.

Growing sugar beet helps diversify agricultural practices, promoting crop rotation and improving soil quality. Growers have continuously striven to improve efficiency and reduce their environmental footprint.

To that end, they need available, affordable and efficient tools as well as access to innovation and financing.



NO BAN WITHOUT SOLUTIONS



A local production supporting EU rural economy

The sugar beet sector is a vital contributor to the European Union's economy and rural communities. Sugar beet cultivation fosters job creation, with each direct industry job supporting up to 14 indirect positions throughout the supply chain. The EU is the world's leading producer of sugar beet, accounting for roughly half of all beet sugar globally.

Food and Energy Sovereignty

A major challenge for the sector today is to reconcile the EU's agricultural, environmental and trade policies with the EU's strategic autonomy.

Indeed, sugar imports into the EU have increased over the past decade, turning the EU into a net sugar importer and undermining the resilience of the EU beet sugar sector.

This leads to increasing dependence on imports of less reliable, less sustainable and less traceable sugar from abroad.