



PRESS RELEASE

Potato harvest 2018: Dramatic development due to drought – crop shortage expected

Bonn, 25.07.2018 — Due to the long ongoing drought and heat wave, the potato harvest in Germany and Europe will be significantly reduced in quantity, as well as quality compared to the previous year. This is the current assessment of the BOGK (German Association of Fruit, Vegetables and Potato Processing Industry).

Using the available reports out of the crop growing areas the BOGK is expecting a significantly decreased potato harvest for this year.

Farming and potato processing industry experts explain that at this current time the crop will be expected to be reduced by a minimum of 25 %; large potatoes, which are necessary to produce French Fries will only be available in small numbers or in the worst case not at all in many areas.

Based on the extreme dry and hot summer, which will be ongoing for the following weeks, according to the latest weather forecast with hardly any rainfall, the problem will increase from week to week.

Due to the increased drought and heat wave more and more potato plants are under stress and they stop growing.

Agriculture experts say that also water sprinkling, if possible and allowed, is not really an option in the present situation.

It is already foreseeable, that because of the dramatically reduced amount of raw material, as well as quality problems with the potatoes, the supply to the market, especially for the production of French Fries, will lead shortened.

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