Belgium and its Agriculture

Intensive Program: The Position of Agriculture in Regional Development
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Overview

• Facts about Belgium
• Languages
• Monuments
• Ghent
• Food en drinks
• Economy
• Agriculture
• Kiwiberry
Belgium

- Where?

Belgium

- Capital: Brussels
- Constitutional monarchy since 1830
- King Philippe
- Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo
- Country — 30 528 km²
- Population — 10,709,972
  - In urban areas — 10,427,229
  - In rural areas — 282,743
3 official languages

Famous monuments

Manneke pis

Atomium
Ghent

66,714 students
Gravensteen: The present castle was built in 1180

Popular sports

National footballteam

Cycling
Belgium is also very known for its

Belgian chocolate
Belgian fries

• Chips
• French fries

Brussels sprouts
Waffles

Specialty Ghent

• “Gentse neuzekes”, Ghent nose, cuberdon
• A cuberdon is a cone-shaped Belgian candy
Beer

- ±180 breweries in the country
- Over 365 different beers
- Best beers in the world = 🇧🇪

Belgian economy

**Composition per sector**

- Agriculture: 1.3%
- Industry: 24.4%
- Services: 74.4%

**Principal sectors**

- Car industry
- ICT
- Chemical products
- Electronics
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Constructions
- Diamonds
- Steel
Agriculture in Belgium

Natural conditions

Climate zone: Warm temperate
Soil types: Clay, sand, sand-loam, loam
Temperature:
Average maxima: 28 (Ardennes) 32°C (lower Belgium)
Average minima: -10°C (lower Belgium) -19°C (Ardennes)
Rainfall:
Average: 800 mm (lower Belgium) 1200 mm (Ardennes)
200 rainy days
Belgian agriculture in numbers

- **Agricultural land area**: 333,913,00 ha
- **Arable land**: 826,676,33 ha
- **Permanent grassland**: 507,236,67 ha
- **Employed in agriculture**: +/-1.2% of total employment
- **Share of agriculture in GDP**: 0.7%

Land use
Farm structure

- **Number of farms**: 38,559
- **Average surface used per farm**: 23.6 ha
- **Employed**: 75,589 - 58,337 FTE
  - Family: 60,600 – 41,738 FTE
  - Non-family: 15,529 - 16,599 FTE

FTE = fulltime-equivalent

**Categorization of companies by specialization 2011**

- Divers, mixed farms: 12%
- Horticulture: 13%
- Agriculture: 19%
- Livestock production: 56%
- Milk production: 21%
- Mixed animal production: 8%
- Pigs and poultry: 25%
- Mixed cattle: 8%
- Cattle production: 30%
- Others (sheeps,...): 8%
Crop production

Import Export
Growing kiwiberry in Belgium: Experiences, opportunities and challenges for farmers in rural areas

Research at university in cooperation with farmers and cooperative auction

• Irrigation
  – Measuring water need
• \textit{In vitro} multiplication
  – Optimalisation media
  – Polyploidisation
• New varieties
  – Collection garden
  – Crossings
• Kiwiberry products
Sources


• Poster 19th International Farm Management Congress 21-26 July 2013, Warsaw, Poland Agriculture in Belgium Evelien Lambrecht, Prof. Dr. X. Gellynck