

SPAIN

Crop uncertainties

Planting of the 2022/23 cotton crop is almost complete. No official area data are yet available, but it is suspected that some land has been diverted to sunflower, prices of which are exceptionally high. The latter crop is less intensive in terms of increasingly costly inputs than cotton.

Following helpful rainfall over recent weeks, germination and emergence of cotton have been favourable. However, the supply of water for irrigation during the season ahead is precarious. By May 17, the key reservoirs in the Guadalquivir basin were full to just over 32 percent of capacity, versus over 41 percent at the same point of last year. Conditions over the next two months will be critical to the outcome of the season but for now most indications suggest a somewhat smaller crop than those typically produced in recent seasons.