

Egypt top foreign market for cottonseed oil

Egypt's increasing importance as a market for U.S. agricultural products is outlined in the March report on Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States by the USDA's Economic Research Service.

Three years ago Egypt was the 30th most important market for U.S. agricultural goods, but in 1977 it will move into the top 12. Egypt is the major foreign market for U.S. cottonseed oil and wheat flour, despite increasing competition from Brazilian soybean oil that caused a 28 percent decline in 1976 from 1975 U.S. cottonseed oil import levels. Egypt is the leading Mideast market for U.S. tallow, vegetable oils, wheat, corn, and tobacco, the report said. Total U.S. agricultural exports to Egypt may surpass \$600 million in 1977, partially because of larger shipments of vegetable oils, wheat, wheat flour, and cotton.

Egypt imports more than half its vegetable oil supply. New urban developments near Cairo, along the Mediterranean and in the Suez Canal region may trigger much heavier demand for agricultural imports, the report says. Per capita income has risen from \$230 in 1972 to \$296 in 1976. Per capita income in the Cairo metropolitan area is probably about double that of the all-Egypt average, the report says, and notes that a 10-year plan concluding in 1981 aims at attracting sufficient foreign investment to raise per capita income to \$600 by 1981. Per capita income in many parts of the world is closely related to fats and oils consumption.

Egypt's rapidly expanding soaps output has created a jump in tallow imports from 48,460 tons in 1972 to about 150,000 tons in 1976. U.S. tallow exports to Egypt in 1976 totaled 127,534 tons worth \$51.2 million—double the 1972 level. Purchases of U.S. tallow were aided by a commodity loan for \$35.8 million from AID.

Vegetable oil imports from the U.S. could be higher than anticipated if financing can be arranged because of government hopes to satisfy urban consumers and reduce food shortages. Recent Egyptian government policy decision indicate consumers will be given a higher priority than earlier planned, the report says.

Copies of the full March report on U.S. foreign agricultural trade are available from the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. James B. Parker, agricultural economist for developing countries program area, prepared the report on Egypt's agricultural imports.

Brazil peanut production off

Brazil's 1976/77 peanut production is expected to total about 304 thousand metric tons, down from the 513.5 thousand tons for 1975/76. Tax incentives will favor export of peanut oil rather than whole peanuts, but total exports will be below the 1975/76 crop figures, according to a report from Robert Wicks, U.S. agricultural officer in Brazil.

Several factors led to the production reduction. Some acreage previously planted to peanuts was diverted to soybeans, cotton, and rice. Peanuts have been interplanted in coffee groves, but with coffee prices soaring, farmers are not interplanting to avoid any prejudice to coffee production, Wicks said. Day labor costs more than doubled in the year ending in March, making peanut raising more costly. Planting of the wet crop, harvested from January through April, was delayed last year because of rains. Additional rains at harvest time reduced the crop's quantity and quality.

Wet crop harvest is forecast at 209 thousand metric tons. The dry crop, harvested from April through July, is expected to total about 95 thousand metric tons. The 1976 crush is estimated at 375,000 tons, relatively large in rela-

tion to crop size because of tax credits for oil exports, credits not extended to export of whole peanuts or meal. The crush for 1977 is forecast at approximately 200,000 tons. Domestic peanut oil consumption for 1976 is estimated at 12,000 to 16,000 tons, expected to decline in 1977 to as low as 10,000 tons. Soybean oil is displacing peanut oil, Wicks' report said.

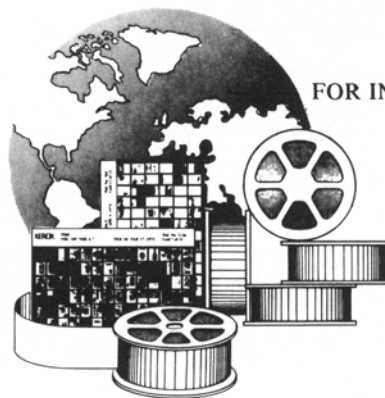
The Netherlands and Venezuela are the major markets for Brazil's soy oil exports, accounting for slightly more than half the 92,622 metric tons exported during January–November 1976. Total value of raw peanut oil exports was about \$59 million, with The Netherlands and Venezuela accounting for about \$30.8 million of the total.

the latest in Lipids

MAY 1977

Prevention of Obesity in *AVY/a* Mice by DHA
Fatty Acids of *Dictyostelium discoideum* Amoebae and Sorocarps
Calcium Activation of Peanut Lipoxygenase
Effect of Dietary Fats on Sheep Plasma Lipids
Dietary Control of Microsomal Chain Elongation of Palmityl-CoA
Phospholipid Composition of Type II Pneumocytes
Hepatic Triglyceride Lipase Deficiency in Liver Disease
Stimulation of Hepatic Lipogenesis by Dietary TYA
Phospholipid Content of the Oyster in Three Conditions
Bis-Phosphatidic Acid in Developing Soybeans

This Publication
is Available in
MICROFORM



FOR INFORMATION
WRITE:

University Microfilms International

Dept. F.A.
300 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
U.S.A.

Dept. F.A.
18 Bedford Row
London, WC1R 4EJ
England