



Four Corners

Chairman, International Relations — Eugene Marshack • Corresponding Secretaries — P.V. Pravda and B. Matijasevic

Afghanistan P.V. Pravda

(The following report is from P. V. Pravda, an economic and chemical engineer with the Research Institute for Paints and Varnishes in Prague. He recently completed a four-year assignment at the Czechoslovakian embassy in Afghanistan helping in Czechoslovakia's technical assistance program there.)

The edible oils in Afghanistan are produced in two oil factories. The larger is Spinzar Company in Kunduz in north Afghanistan; the second is run by Sanati Bachtar Company at Mazar-i-Sharif in north Afghanistan.

In Kunduz, the mill processes cottonseed exclusively. The small delinting capacity prevents operation of the presses at the capacity of 10 tons per day, which also is capacity at the refinery. Lack of consistent energy delivery also is a problem. Equipment in the plant is from Krupp Hamburg and, with sufficient maintenance, will last many years.

An extensive renovation project is under way in the Kunduz operation, both in the main refinery and the branch units where delinting and pressing are done. Simon Rosedowns is supplying equipment in this renovation.

Annual capacity of the oil factory will be 2,200 tons of cottonseed oil, 630 tons of refined oil, and 1,600 tons of solid refined oil.

The equipment at the oil factory in Mazar-i-Sharif uses Krupp equipment for dehulling. The older pressing shop has equipment from Technoexport, Czechoslovakia. The newest pressing shop, built in 1965, has Krupp equipment.

Yugoslavia Dr. B. Matijasevic

Production of new sunflower hybrids

In Yugoslavia, new domestic sunflower hybrids have been produced with better yield than previous varieties. The research with hybrids started some years ago. It is well known that the sunflower is susceptible to a number of diseases that reduce yield and make production unstable. Disease resistance is more easily incorporated into the hybrids. The hybrids genetically resistant to downy mildew are the best proof of the above statement. It is reasonable to expect that the near future will bring hybrids resistant or tolerant to other sunflower diseases too. Large-plot and small-plot trials conducted in Vojvodina in 1976 included a group of Novi Sad hybrids. The research was done by a group of research workers from the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Faculty of Agriculture, where Dr. T. Vrebalov is the director. In the paper, "Production and Economic Values of New NS Sunflower Hybrids," published by Dr. D. Skoric in "Sunflower Newsletter — The International Sunflower Association" (vol. 1, no. 2, 1977), the results obtained with the hybrids are given. The results show that the hybrids had significantly higher seed yield than the variety VNIIMK 8931. A majority of them have as much or more oil content. In 1977, the domestic sunflower hybrids were introduced into commercial production. The results were very good. In some areas (on 2050 ha), the average yield with the hybrids was 31.62 mtc/ha. At the same time in this region, the average yield with VNIIMK

8931 and Peredovic was (on an area of 2200 ha) 25.04 mtc/ha. In one locality (on 40 ha), the yield with the hybrids was even 43 mtc/ha and 44.6 mtc/ha. In the coming years, research will continue and a new group of hybrids will be tested, and it is reasonable to expect that they will be better than the hybrids we have now.

Meeting of Yugoslav oil technologists

The meeting of technologists from oil industries was held in November 1977 in Zadar. The papers presented discussed current problems of the oil industry. The storage and refining processes of sunflowerseeds were elaborated in some papers as were problems dealing with soybeans and rapeseeds. Some new analytical methods for the oil industry were also described. One of the papers elaborated the decolorization of soybean oil with bleaching earths and by thermal treatment. The domestic production of the rapeseeds and the quality of rapeseed oil was the topic of another paper. The quality of the sunflowerseeds before and during storage was discussed since sunflower is the main oilseed in Yugoslavia. The winterization of the sunflower oil is a process for which the technologists are very interested, and the discussions covered the classical process of winterization and the new Alfa Laval method. During the meeting, the technologists visited a new modern oil factory in Zadar, recently built for treatment of soybean, which has a capacity of 1,000 tons of soybeans daily.

American research chemists in Yugoslavia

Robert A. Reiners, research chemist from the Moffett Laboratories, CPC International, visited the Oil and Fat Department at Faculty of Technology in Novi Sad during November 1977. Dr. Biserka Ostric-Matijasevic, head of the department, and her co-workers had very interesting and useful discussions with Mr. Reiners about research in the oil and fat field. During his stay at the University of Novi Sad, Mr. Reiners addressed a meeting of the Yugoslav Oil Technologists. He spoke first on the preparation of edible proteins from corn milling by-products and then on the composition and properties of corn oil. Mr. Reiners pointed out that edible protein products of excellent organoleptic and nutritional properties can be made both from dry millers germ and from gluten obtained on wet-milling corn. The talk on corn oil reviewed both the effect of oil recovery and oil refining procedures on finished oil quality. Mr. Reiners also visited the oil factory in Zrenjanin. Mr. Reiners was in Yugoslavia as a representative of a United Nations Development Program to improve both corn cultural and utilization practice. ●

A.R. Baldwin named to USDA council

Dr. A.R. Baldwin, *JAOCs* editor and AOCs director of publications, has been named by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to a Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Science.

The council, composed of USDA and outside members, is to help promote coordination of agricultural research, extension, and teaching activities, Bergland said. Dr. Baldwin was one of 11 non-USDA representatives named to the council. ●