
International

South Africa encouraging groundnut production

South Africa's oilseeds board is hoping for increased production of groundnuts to take advantage of export opportunities. Production of sunflower seed and soybeans is geared to domestic needs as local prices for the latter two commodities are above the world price level.

D.J. Bosman, chairman of South Africa's Oilseed Board, reported on the nation's oilseeds crops as part of South Africa's 1981 Agricultural Outlook. The oilseeds board does not control marketing of other oil-bearing materials, such as cottonseed, which are produced as by-products of other industries.

While the 1980/81 groundnut crop, estimated at 237,000 tons, is the largest since 1974/75, Bosman noted groundnut production has been on a downward trend. South Africa is expecting to export about 53,000 tons of groundnuts for the 1981 marketing year, but that total could approach 80,000 if production was higher, Bosman said. Domestically, groundnuts are used in food products as well as crushed for oil.

Increasing popularity of sunflower seed oil had spurred expansion of the sunflower seed crop. Since 1974, sunflower oil has replaced peanut oil as the domestic favorite.

Total domestic consumption of vegetable oils is estimated at 57 million tons for 1980/81, compared to 47.5 million tons in 1976/77. Bosman estimated domestic consumption will continue to rise about two million tons each year.

Bosman estimated potential soybean production at 120,000 tons, whereas the 1980/81 crop was estimated at a

record 39,000 tons. Increased soy meal production is urged by South Africa's livestock industry, which has used fish meal to a large extent.

Domestic needs to not fully use oilseed crushing capacity, so the oilseeds board can supply surplus materials to local crushers, who then are required to sell the oil in the export market, Bosman said. This is done partially to distribute crushing costs over more product and thus make domestic products available at lower prices. □

South African Oilseed Production and Use

	Production	Domestic crush	Export
Groundnuts			
1970/71	207,866	117,065	
1975/76	169,700	106,845	22,862
1980/81	237,000	75,004	53,554
Sunflower seed			
1970/71	95,116	93,049	
1975/76	209,329	205,961	
1980/81	330,000	324,937	
Soybeans			
1970/71	7,709	—	
1975/76	22,686	—	
1980/81	39,000	37,996	500

Source: *Oilseeds, Agricultural Outlook 1981*, paper by D.J. Bosman, chairman of the Oilseed Board of South Africa.

Australia's oil imports expected to increase

A winter drought in Australia significantly reduced yields from the country's major oilseeds, safflower and rapeseed, according to a report in *AOF Oilseeds '81*, published by the Australian Oilseeds Federation. Dry conditions and shortages of irrigation water were expected to reduce summer plantings in some areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

Australian oilseed crushings for 1979-80 once again failed to meet the vegetable oil requirements of the domestic market. This market has grown at such a rapid rate that the production of table margarine increased by almost 500% between 1969-80 and production of processed vegetable oils increased by almost 200% in the same period.

The decline in supplies, which is expected to continue in 1980-81, has meant that Australia remains a net importer of vegetable oils and expects to import more over the next few years to supplement domestic shortfall. □

Norway imports rising

A report from agricultural attache Lyle E. Moe says that favorable weather conditions in Norway increased 1980 production to 9,500 MT, about 3% above 1979. Norwegian oilseed crops are not converted into oil and meal, but are used directly in feed compounds.

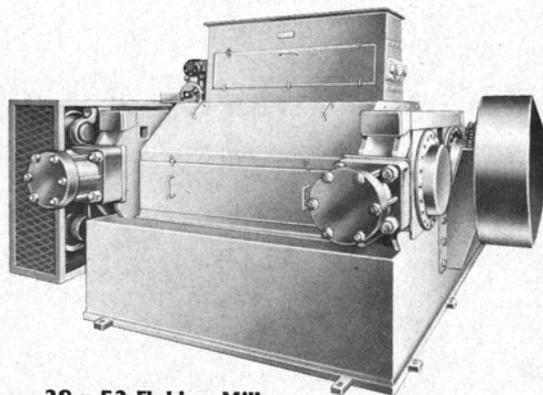
The country's two soybean crushing plants—entirely dependent on imported soybeans—produced 57,000 MT of oil and 258,000 MT of meal, compared to 56,000 MT of oil and 252,000 MT of meal in 1979. Norwegian mar-



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garine production rose to 75,739 MT, an increase of almost 4%.

Oilseed imports were up about 22%, although exports (due to smaller supplies of fish meal) were reduced by about 5%. Oil meal imports rose about 80% to 123,671 MT, mainly as a result of higher imports of rapeseed meal (mostly from Canada) as well as 24,000 MT of soybean meal from Brazil. Exports of soybean meal increased 20% to 168,784 MT. Principal markets were Sweden and Denmark.

Consumption of edible fats increased from 103,000 MT in 1979 to 106,200 MT in 1980. Margarine made up 62% of the total. □

El Salvador production falls

Political instability in El Salvador has caused a substantial reduction in acreage planted to cotton in 1980/81, according to a report by Harry L. Bryan, agricultural attache in Guatemala. Production of the major domestic source of cooking oil—cottonseed—is estimated at 9,537 MT, compared to almost 16,000 MT in 1979/80. Cottonseed meal production—the major protein source for animal feed in El Salvador—which reached 82,644 MT last year, is expected to be only 39,357 MT this year. Bryan says that this output will leave a deficit of about 10,000 MT of oil and at least 20,000 MT of protein meals. □

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