
International

Codex unit to meet April 19-23

The Codex Alimentarius Fats and Oils Committee will meet April 19-23, 1982, in London.

The committee is considering what tasks it still needs to complete as the full Codex Alimentarius Commission has discussed the need for individual committees to consider finishing their work and dissolving.

The FAO-WHO-sponsored Codex operation attempts to establish standards for various foodstuffs in international trade.

The fats and oils committee has established standards for numerous fats and oils products for retail sale without further processing, but one major unresolved question is whether it also should attempt to do the same for bulk shipments of crude oil. The committee also has received a proposal to publish a compendium of its fats and oils standards, which thus far have been published in individual booklets for each oil or fat. All committee recommendations must first be approved by the full commission before submission to individual nations for adoption. □

FOSFA methodology work announced

The Federation of Oils, Seeds and Fats Association Ltd. (FOSFA) in England has announced the first major task to be undertaken with a newly established research fund will be to work on methodology used to determine the authenticity of oils and fats.

In its September newsletter, FOSFA said the three-year program will seek "to investigate definitive means of determining when an oil is authentic as opposed to when it has been altered or contaminated with another oil or oils." Determining the degree of adulteration as well as identifying the contaminant(s) will be goals.

Other FOSFA methodology work underway includes a comparison of FOSFA and ISO oil extraction techniques and a review of determining oil content of sunflower seed. Proposed projects include analytical techniques for rapeseed, determination of soap in acid oils, and analysis of relationships between castor seed internal damage and the level of free fatty acids.

FOSFA offices are at 24 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8ER, England. □

Fall harvest reports

Fall reports on oilseed harvests in the northern hemisphere and the start of plantings in the southern hemisphere have been filed by USDA agricultural observers.

In China, total 1981 oilseed production is expected to be about 10% above 1980, which would be 50% above levels as recent as 1977. Total oilseed production is esti-

mated at 23 million metric tons (MT), compared to 21 million MT in 1980. Rapeseed production, estimated at 3.6 million MT, is up about 50% from 1980 on an acreage increase of 33%. Sunflower seed production is estimated up 25% to 1 million MT, reflecting a proportionate increase in acreage. China may have more oilseed materials available for export and require fewer imports during the marketing year.

In Japan, vegetable oil consumption is expected to rise 5% during 1982. Soybean imports are expected to decline to 4.15 million MT from 4.4 million MT during 1981. The need for increased oil is expected to be met by drawing down of existing oil stocks and crushing of existing stocks of oilseeds. The Japanese have been increasing imports and use of palm, cottonseed and sunflower oils.

In Brazil, initial forecasts were for an acreage about the same as 1980/81 or perhaps slightly lower. Other crops are forecast to provide more money per unit than soybeans to farmers during the coming year. The 1981/82 forecast for soybean production was 15.6 million MT.

In France, 1981 rapeseed production is estimated at 1.1 million MT with 1982 production expected to be slightly lower. Sunflower seed production was estimated at 222,000 MT for 1981 and is forecast at 367,000 for 1982, primarily because of increased acreage. Soybean production, estimated at 14,000 MT in 1981, is forecast at 20,000 MT for 1982. France's soy oil imports are expected to rise in 1982 to 190,000 MT from 82,300 MT in 1981.

Denmark's oilseed production continues to rise. Total 1981 production is estimated at 312,060 compared to 1980's 212,019. Most of that increase is in spring rapeseed, which experienced approximately a 50% increase in acreage and production between 1980 and 1981. Spring rapeseed production for 1981 was estimated at 300,000 MT, compared to 200,000 in 1980. □

1980 Canadian oilseed crop

Canada's oilseed production totaled 3,947,700 tons for the 1980 crop, down from 5,342,300 the previous year, according to *Fats & Oil in Canada, Annual Review 1980*, published by the Grain Marketing Office of the Department of Industry Trade and Commerce in Ottawa.

On an oil equivalency basis, the 1980 crop totaled 1,409,211 tons, compared to 1,997,037 oil equivalency for the 1979 crop.

The production decline was a result primarily of reduced acreage for rapeseed and flaxseed. Rapeseed 1980 acreage and production were 2,080,000 hectares (ha) and 2,506,100 tons, compared to 1979 figures of 3,439,000 and 3,560,700, respectively. An October forecast from Statistics Canada forecast a 1981 harvest of 1.8 million tons. Flaxseed acreage fell to 575,000 ha in 1980 compared to 927,000 in 1979, with 1980 production at 464,800 tons compared to 1979's 835,700.

Canada's 1980 exports of fats and oils rose to 189,516 tons in 1980 compared to 137,277 tons in 1979. Imports in 1980 fell about 9% to 100,235 tons.

Soybean production and imports rose, with the opening of a new soy processing plant at Windsor, Ontario, cited as the major reason for increased imports.

Sunflower acreage was 136,000 ha for 1980, down from 164,000 the previous year. Production in 1980 totaled 166,100 tons compared to 1979's 220,900 tons.

The publication also provides statistics on a crop year basis as well as the annualized figures provided here.

U.S. Department of Agriculture figures for the 1980/81 crop year estimate Canadian rapeseed production at 2.51 million MT, with a preliminary 1981/82 forecast of 1.9 million MT. Sunflower seed figures for the same periods are 760,000 and 690,000, respectively. Flaxseed production for 1980/81 is estimated at 50,000 tons, the same as the 1981/82 forecast. □

Guatemala production declining

Production of edible oils in Guatemala is expected to be about 25,000 MT during 1982, about 11,000 tons short of estimated consumption, Harry Bryan, U.S. agricultural attache, forecast in a report earlier this year.

Cottonseed is the nation's only commercial oilseed crop and acreage has dropped from 126,000 ha in 1979/80 to an estimated 84,000 because of farmers' dissatisfaction with yields and prices in recent years.

Bryan's report says a Bank of Guatemala study indicates per capita consumption of edible fats and oils has risen to 4.61 kg in 1980 from 3.33 kg in 1976.

Sesame seed plantings for 1981/82 are forecast at 20,000 ha, yielding 15,800 MT, Bryan says. Almost all of the crop is exported because of good prices. Bryan estimates soybean production at 2,500 MT annually. The government has attempted to spur interest in a government-backed soy processing plant, but Bryan says producers don't want government involvement in such a plant. A 1979/80 effort at domestic peanut oil production failed financially and such efforts are at a standstill, Bryan says.

Edible oil production in 1981 was estimated at 26,527 tons with imports of 7,847 tons toward estimated total domestic consumption of 34,354 tons. □

Haitian soybean plant

Haiti's new soybean processing plant, with a reported annual capacity of 25,000 MT, opened in late July, according to reports from USDA attaches in the area.

The mill reportedly will be managed by Israeli interests that own one-third of the firm, with another third held by private Haitian investors and one-third by the government.

Availability of mixed feeds has spurred livestock production, which will use almost all the mill's feed. □

Five million tons of palm oil

World palm oil annual production passed the five million tons level during 1981, according to preliminary estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with about 3.3 million tons moving into international trade.

The forecast for 1982 is for production of 5.4 million metric tons and about 3.4 million tons going into export trade.

In the September issue of the *Foreign Agriculture Circular* dealing with oilseeds and products (FOP 16-81), the USDA estimate is that Malaysian palm oil production will be 2.7 million tons in 1981, with exports of 2.3 million tons.

While international trade in palm oil has grown rapidly during the past six years, production has grown even faster, the USDA noted. Indonesia, which is exporting less vegetable oil as domestic needs increase, has shown a sharp drop in exports in recent years. Africa, with substantial palm oil production, has a relatively minor role in international palm oil trade, the USDA said. □

World Palm Oil Situation (1,000 MT)

	1977	1980	1981 ^a	1982 ^b
PRODUCTION				
North America	36	41	50	58
Costa Rica	26	32	31	35
Honduras	10	8	18	22
Others	0	1	1	1
South America	102	132	148	156
Brazil	12	12	15	17
Colombia	52	74	78	80
Ecuador	25	38	42	46
Others	13	8	13	13
Africa	1,109	1,128	1,175	1,208
Benin	25	30	33	35
Cameroon	77	80	80	80
Ghana	23	21	21	20
Guinea	40	40	40	40
Ivory Coast	135	160	180	200
Liberia	20	20	28	30
Nigeria	510	520	535	550
Sierra Leone	48	50	50	50
Zaire	150	125	125	120
Others	81	82	83	83
Asia and Oceania	2,310	4,817	5,054	5,400
China	162	184	190	200
Indonesia	497	691	715	790
Malaysia	1,613	2,576	2,700	2,900
Papua-New Guinea	26	39	45	50
Philippines	12	13	15	18
Others	0	13	16	20
TOTAL	3,557	4,817	5,054	5,400
WORLD TRADE				
Exports				
Malaysia	1,427	2,260	2,310	2,470
Singapore	277	738	450	500
Indonesia ^c	421	434	176	150
Ivory Coast	79	88	80	88
Others	189	268	284	284
TOTAL	2,393	3,788	3,300	3,492
Imports				
Singapore	309	773	470	520
India	460	430	475	450
Netherlands	173	214	237	220
West Germany	198	174	165	165
United States	250	117	140	140
Iraq	104	104	150	180
Pakistan	134	233	250	250
Japan	147	148	148	150
USSR	46	103	120	120
United Kingdom	229	183	150	140
France	69	71	74	74
Others	210	346	393	398
TOTAL	2,329	2,896	2,772	2,807

^aPreliminary.

^bForecast.

^cExports for 1980 and 1981 believed to exclude substantial quantities of refined palm oil.

Source: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, September 1981.