

International

EEC sets rapeseed record

The European Economic Community's 1982 rapeseed harvest should be a record 2.6 to 2.7 million metric tons, about 30% above the 1981 harvest and more than double the 1979 harvest, according to the German publication *Oil World*.

The large crop will make Europe a net rapeseed exporter, *Oil World* says, and will mean less import of rapeseed from Canada or other nations. As European facilities that crush rapeseed also crush sunflower, the large rapeseed crop may reduce European demand for imported sunflower at least this marketing year.

Oil World estimated worldwide rapeseed harvest for 1982/83 season at 13.8 million metric tons, compared to 12.6 million for 1981/82. Other nations with significant increase included mainland China, 4.4 million metric tons (4.1 million tons 1981/82, 2.4 million metric tons 1979/80); and India, 2.8 million metric tons (2.7 million metric tons in 1981/82, 1.7 million metric tons 1979/80).

Canada's 1981 harvest was estimated in September at between 2.0 and 2.4 million metric tons. *Oil World* speculated that poor crushing margins in Canada and export demand in Japan may hold Canada's 1982/83 rapeseed crush to approximately 750,000 metric tons, a decrease of about 20% from the previous season.

Yugoslavia's crop increases

Yugoslavia's 1982 sunflowerseed, soybean and rapeseed production is estimated to reach 500,000 metric tons from 259,000 hectares, compared to 485,000 metric tons from 272,000 hectares in 1981. While the 1982 soybean and rapeseed crop yields increased substantially over those in 1981, this year's sunflowerseed production, estimated at 250,000 metric tons, is down 24% from 1981.

An estimated 139,000 hectares of sunflower were planted for the 1982 crop year, down 28% from the previous year. According to USDA observers, the decrease in planting was due to producers' fears that problems with the disease phomopsis encountered during 1980 and 1981 would be repeated. Outbreaks of phomopsis continued to affect the sunflower seed crop this year, particularly in Vojvodina, the main sunflower producing area. Because of these setbacks, observers are anticipating a decrease in sunflower plantings again next spring.

The 1982 soybean crop is estimated to reach 160,000 metric tons from 77,000 hectares, compared to 93,000 metric tons from 47,000 hectares in 1981. Rapeseed pro-

duction, meanwhile, increased from 65,000 metric tons in 1981 to about 90,000 metric tons in 1982, due mainly to a 39% increase in plantings.

Edible vegetable oil produced in 1982 is expected to be 169,000 metric tons, down from 174,000 metric tons in 1981. While production of soybean and rapeseed oils increased, sunflowerseed oil declined to 78,000 from 100,000 metric tons. Oilseed meal production was expected to be 347,000 metric tons, virtually the same as in 1981.

Crushings of domestic and imported oilseeds are expected to have declined to 595,000 metric tons, from 621,000 metric tons in 1981. Soybean imports, originally projected to reach 230,000 metric tons, are now estimated at 180,000 metric tons, down 21% from 1981. Observers say that this reflects the reduced availability of foreign exchange, which also caused periodic domestic shortages of soybean meal during the year.

Meanwhile, domestic consumption of the principal edible vegetable oils continued to increase. 1982 consumption is projected to include 100,000 metric tons of sunflower oil, 170,000 metric tons of soybean oil, 35,000 metric tons of rapeseed oil and 2,000 metric tons of olive oil. Until 1979, sunflower oil was the country's primary cooking and salad oil. However, due to reduced sunflower production and increased imports of soybean oil, the latter has become the primary oil despite customers' dissatisfaction with its quality. The major complaint is soybean oil's "fishy" odor on heating, which observers say could be eliminated with improved refining techniques.

Senegal peanut crop

Senegal's 1981-82 peanut crop produced 790,000 metric tons. That figure was 110,000 metric tons less than originally projected but still above the 499,000 metric tons harvested during the previous season. Meanwhile, USDA observers are predicting a crop of 900,000 metric tons on a million hectares for the 1982-83 harvest.

The government price for peanuts, raised approximately 52% for the 1981-82 season, remains unchanged. However, for the 1982-83 crop, farmers had to pay cash to purchase fertilizer at planting time. In previous years, the government provided the necessary fertilizer, then deducted that cost when peanuts were sold. Complaining they did not receive ample warning of this change, some farmers said they could not obtain the cash or credit to purchase the amount of fertilizer they needed.

Observers said the bulk of Senegal peanut oil and meal is still shipped to Europe, particularly France.