

Rapeseed study

The West German government has launched a 260,000 Deutsche-mark research program to determine whether double-low rapeseed is responsible for the increased incidence of wildlife death in various sections of the country. According to reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), German ecologists have attributed the large number of deaths among wild game last year to the consumption of low-glucosinolate rapeseed varieties.

German television and magazine reports have indicated that double-low rapeseed varieties are sweeter in taste than traditional varieties. Researchers speculate that the more bitter taste in traditional varieties acts as an appetite suppressant while the newer "sweet" varieties lead to greater consumption. One theory is that some ingredient in the rapeseed is converted in the rumen to bimethylsulfide, which then acts as a poison. Another theory is that foraging animals consume dirt at the same time they consume the protein-rich rapeseed; *Clostridium* bacteria, thriving in this environment, release toxins that kill the animals.

The government studies will focus on the loss of wild rabbits and deer in areas where large amounts of double-zero rapeseed are grown. Other research will examine the concentration of *Clostridium* in the internal organs of deer and rabbits consuming high-protein forage and the effects of different rapeseed varieties.

USDA said members of the German parliament have asked whether the government would withdraw their plans to expand double-low rapeseed area if the studies concluded that the rapeseed was the cause of wildlife death. Agriculture Minister Kiechle reportedly said that a withdrawal theoretically was possible through an European Economic Community (EEC)-wide political decision. However, that decision could only be made by the EEC's Council of Ministers. Although Germany could apply for the motion, Kiechle said, "Prior to clarification of the matter, the federal government sees no reason for considering action in that direction."

The 1987 German rapeseed crop is estimated at 1.24 million metric tons (MT). The estimate includes 1.22 million MT of winter rapeseed and 19,000 MT of spring rapeseed.

French plant

A 400,000 metric ton (MT) per year oilseed crushing plant is being planned for the port of Sète in southern France. The facility will crush rapeseed, sunflowerseed and soybeans to produce 150,000 MT of oil annually. Crushing is scheduled to begin in mid-1989.

CNTB, operators of a 100,000 MT sunflowerseed plant in Lezour, will finance the facility. Vandermoortele, the Belgium firm, will hold 66% of CNTB's capital, with the remainder held by SOFIPROTEOL, a French oilseed producers organization.

Sète is in a sunflowerseed-producing region with

easy access to the Rhone Valley area, a major livestock and poultry region, and close to Marseille, where major oil refineries are situated.

In other developments, CETIOM, the French technical oilseed institute, is conducting research on establishing domestic castorseed production. The French oilseed industry association (ONIDOL) and seven French cooperatives signed planting contracts for 200 hectares in 1987. Improvements in mechanical harvesting techniques are spurring the interest, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report.

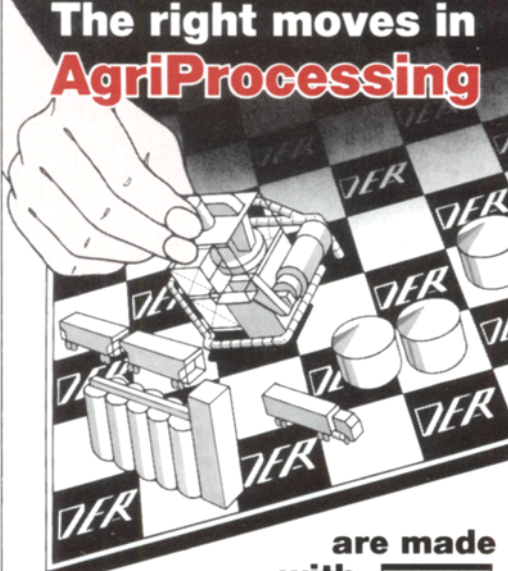
France currently imports about 50,000 MT of castorseed annually. Italy also reportedly is interested in increasing domestic castor production, particularly if the European Economic Community reestablishes producer support programs that lapsed in 1984.


Fish oil plant

EPA Ltd. based in Ontario was scheduled to begin construction during November of an \$8 million (Canadian dollars) facility to produce concentrated fish oil for use in pharmaceutical capsules.

The facility will be built in Mulgrave, a town in the Atlantic coastal province of Nova Scotia. EPA, a subsidiary of Capsule Technology Group based in

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Windsor, Ontario, will receive almost \$2.5 million (Canadian dollars) from the Canadian government for the project.

The plant will manufacture highly concentrated fatty acids extracted from oils found in fish such as cod, salmon and sardines. The concentrate will be put into capsules at another facility and sold to pharmaceutical companies.

Press reports say the project should be completed early in 1988, with the plant expected to employ 85 persons by 1990.

Coconut briefs

The Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines has developed a standardized process for a simulated dairy milk based on coconut skim milk, according to *The Cocomunity* newsletter.

The coconut skim milk is a liquid by-product obtained from the flesh of coconuts by aqueous extraction, followed by centrifugal separation of the cream. Department spokesmen reported that a series of tests had been conducted on simulated milk, and that both chocolate and unflavored versions received acceptable rates from a taste panel.

Meanwhile, the Saraoutou Research Station in Vanuatu has celebrated its 25th anniversary. The research station, opened in 1962, was developed as the main center for coconut research in the Pacific region.

In other coconut news, Canada's Rainex Industries has signed an agreement with Companhia do Boror for construction of a coco-chemical processing and copra extraction plant at Quelimane, Mozambique, according to *The Cocomunity* newsletter. Plans are to erect a facility that can produce 16,000 metric tons of laurates a year, to provide byproducts for soap manufacture, glycerin, methyl laurates and methyl esters.

International

Brazil

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reported that Rio Grande do Sul, the largest soybean-growing area in the country, has initiated a yield improvement campaign. Rio Grande do Sul' yields have been below the national average. The program will advise producers on soil preparation, seed selection, planting and reduction of harvest losses. Sources say the success of the program may depend on available credit. The Brazilian soybean crop forecast for 1987/88 has been raised to 18 million metric tons (MT).

China

The People's Republic of China has expressed interest in a canola-crushing process developed at the University of Toronto, according to *Canola Digest* published by the Canola Council of Canada.

The Canola Council reported that the Chinese are interested in removing glucosinolate from the rapeseed they grow so that it can be used for livestock

feed. The three-phase process, developed by Leon J. Rubin and Levente L. Diosady at the University of Toronto, initially removes all the glucosinolates and polyphenols. If the meal is processed through to the final phase, protein isolates free of hull and phytin are produced.

The *Canola Digest* report said the Chinese are discussing building a continuous process pilot plant using the process in Nanjing.

Dominican Republic

The Soy Protein Council and ASA have donated 1.5 MT of soybean protein to the Dominican Republic for a pilot human nutrition program conducted by 16 national and international institutions. According to *Soybean Update*, about 1,000 children and adults were fed foods fortified with soy protein.

Japan

Japanese apparent consumption of edible fats and oils rose to 2,005,000 MT during 1986, about 4.4% more than in 1985. Average daily per capita consumption was 45.2 grams. Consumption has been increasing during the past five years at a rate of 2.8% annually.

Gifts of edible oil during Japan's summer gift season reportedly were down slightly from the 1986 season, but safflower oil appeared to gain popularity. In 1986, the value of edible oil gifts was about 80.7 billion yen, about 4% above 1985. About 33% of the gifts were purchased by firms and two-thirds by individuals.

Korea

In Korea, Dong Bang Corp. has introduced the country's first soybean oil packed in a tetra-brik box, similar to fruit juice box packaging in the U.S., according to *Soybean Update*, the American Soybean Association's (ASA) newsletter. ASA said Dong Bang took this action after company officials participated in an ASA study mission to Italy where the Crivellaro Co. has gained market share with tetra-brik packed soybean oil.

In other news, the Korean government temporarily has lowered tariffs on soybeans, soybean meal, coconut oil and cottonseed oil in an effort to minimize inflation. Soybean and soybean meal tariffs were lowered from 10% to 7%, the coconut oil tariff dropped from 20% to 10% and the cottonseed oil tariff went from 25% to 10%. Although the tariffs were in effect for calendar year 1987, it is expected that Korean importers will press for an extension of the lower tariff into this year.

Malaysia

The Kuala Lumpur Commodity Exchange has announced it will introduce futures trading in cocoa and palm olein in May 1988 and October 1988, respectively.

Meanwhile, USDA reported that in late October Malaysia purchased 40,000 MT of U.S. soybeans. This is Malaysia's largest purchase since early 1986 when it bought 10,000 MT.

Mexico

The government of Mexico in late 1987 outlined three oilseed-buying schemes for 1987/88. The first alternative emphasizes importing oilseeds to meet the protein meal deficit; any differences in domestic demand for vegetable oil would be made up by importing crude vegetable oil. The second plan would focus on importing soybeans to meet a soybean meal shortfall. Imported sunflowerseed and Canadian rapeseed would cover the crude oil deficit. The third option is much like the second except that it assumes larger sunflowerseed and canola seed imports to make up for the crude oil deficit.

Under the first plan, approximately 790,390 MT of soybeans, 150,000 MT of sunflowerseed, 157,000 MT of canola and 63,000 MT of cottonseed would be imported. Crude vegetable oil imports are estimated at 206,850 MT. The second plan calls for importing 800,000 MT of soybeans, 200,000 MT of sunflowerseed, 350,000 MT of canola, 90,000 MT of cottonseed and 108,450 MT of crude vegetable oils. Imports under the third plan would include 800,000 MT of soybeans, 280,000 MT of sunflowerseed, 370,000 MT of canola, 100,000 MT of cottonseed and 68,790 MT of crude vegetable oil.

As part of the program, the government will require crushers to buy the domestic crop at \$250 per MT. Import permits will be issued based on the quantities of domestic crop purchased. Mexican crushers have asked the government to prohibit imports of crude vegetable oil until the domestic crop is used.

Soviet Union

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in November announced that the Soviet Union had bought 400,000 metric tons (MT) of U.S. soybeans and 150,000 MT of soybean meal for delivery in 1987-88, the final year of a long-term grain supply agreement with the U.S.

Spain

Spain's soybean oil exports rose 23% during the first ten months of 1986/87, primarily to Tunisia, Morocco, China and Turkey. Spain soybean imports for the same period were up 404,000 MT, 21% higher than the same period the previous year. Total soybean imports for the marketing year are expected to total 2.7 million MT, up 27% from last year, according to USDA.

Spanish crushers reportedly are upset at U.S. announcements of financial incentives for U.S. soybean oil sales to Morocco. The crushers believe such U.S. programs are pushing them out of their traditional markets. That oil, much of it produced from U.S.-originated soybeans, often cannot be sold in Spain.

Crop projections

World oilseed production for 1987/88 is forecast at a record 202.8 million metric tons (MT), up 4% from the 196 million MT produced in 1986/87.

World soybean production is forecast to reach 101.9 million MT. Meanwhile, world sunflowerseed production is estimated for 1987/88 at a record 19.8 million MT, up 4% from last season. EEC production is estimated at a record 3.9 million MT, up 21% from last year. This increase is attributed to higher estimated yield in France, where production was estimated at a record 2.5 million MT, up 31% from the previous record of last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture crop projections released in November showed the U.S. soybean crop reaching 1.98 billion bushels, equivalent to 53.3 million MT, 1% above last year. Yield, at 34.1 bushels per acre, equals the record yield set in 1985.

U.S. peanut production was projected to reach 3.58 billion pounds (1.62 million MT), 3% below last year. Harvested acreage was estimated at 1.52 million acres, down 1% from 1986. Yield was expected to average 2,359 pounds an acre, 48 pounds below last year.

U.S. cottonseed production for 1987, based on a three-year average lint-seed ratio, was forecast to reach 4.97 million MT, 44% above 1986 production.

FOSFA officers

The Federation of Oils, Seeds and Fats Associations Ltd. (FOSFA International), an international organization for the trade in oilseeds, oils, fats and edible groundnuts, held its annual meeting in Liverpool, England, in early November.

Following the general meeting, the Council of FOSFA International elected Mike McKenna of BEOCO Ltd., Liverpool, as president. Martyn Woolf of Woolf Commodity Services Ltd., London, England, was elected vice president.

Also, Hans Salzer-Levi of Nidera Handelscompagnie BV, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, was elected honorary treasurer and Peter Jay of L.M. Fischel and Co. Ltd., London, was elected assistant honorary treasurer.

These officers and John Kendall of the British Peanut Council Ltd. of London, FOSFA's immediate past president, will form the association's executive committee.

Cooking oil price

A liter of cooking oil costs more in Madrid, Spain, than in four other European capitals or the U.S. capital, according to a table published in *Soybean Update* distributed by the American Soybean Association office in Brussels.

The retail price in Madrid was \$2.31. Prices in the other five cities studied were \$2.03 in Washington, D.C.; \$1.53 in Paris, France; \$1.30 in London, England; 94 cents in Rome, Italy; and 88 cents in Bonn, West Germany.

Flavor workshop

The University of Minnesota's Department of Food

Science and Nutrition will present a food flavor workshop, "A Hands-On Course in Flavor Applications," March 15-17, 1988.

Intended for those in the food or flavor industry, the course will include lecture and laboratory time. Laboratory sessions will include learning how to evaluate flavors for use in food products and properly using them in foods.

For information, contact Gary Reineccius, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Minnesota, 1334 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Extrusion course

The Colorado State University is organizing courses on extrusion food processing. Topics will include theoretical and practical aspects of extrusion technology, the capability to design, implement and operate efficiently full-scale food processing plants using this technology, and the marketing of extruded food products.

The courses will be offered between Feb. 22-April 29, 1988, at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Contact Ronald Tribelhorn, Department of Agricultural and Chemical Engineering, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.

News briefs



Frank J. Flider



Antoni Rutkowski

AOCS member **Frank J. Flider**, formerly executive director of **JMC Technologies Inc.**, has joined **Agro Ingredients Inc.** in Des Plaines, Illinois, as general manager. Founded in 1973, Agro is a marketer of vegetable oils and other ingredients to the food and chemical industries. It is a subsidiary of **Calgene Inc.**

Antoni Rutkowski, an AOCS member since 1965, has been named vice president of the **International Union of Food Science and Technology** for 1987-1991. Rutkowski is a professor in the Department of Food and Technology at the Agricultural University of Warsaw, Poland.

J.R. Short Milling Co. has moved its Chicago headquarters to 500 W. Madison St., Northwestern Atrium Center, Chicago, IL 60606-2598. The company's new telephone number is 312-559-5450.

Satish K. Wason has been appointed assistant vice

president of the **J.M. Huber Corp.**'s Chemicals Division, Havre de Grace, Maryland.

John G. Garner has joined **Grain Processing Corp. Inc.** of Muscatine, Iowa, as manager of industrial starch.

BASF Aktiengesellschaft has gone online with a \$25 million biotechnological production facility at its Ludwigshafen, West Germany, site.

Richard Skovholt has been named director of development for field-based products for the **Foxboro Co.**

Procter & Gamble's Puritan Oil, made from canola oil, has been named product of the year by the American Health Foundation, a nonprofit group promoting preventive medicine.

The **Palm Oil Refiners Association of Malaysia's** new address is Peti #12 Wisma Selangor Dredging, Tingkat 15, West Block, 142C, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The **American Fats & Oils Association** has elected **Richard R. Hegenberger** president for 1988. Other officers are **Alan Roemer**, first vice president; **David Italiaander**, second vice president; **Ralph Joel**, treasurer, and **Albert F. Mogerley**, secretary.

The board of directors of **National Distillers & Chemical Corp.** has approved a name change for the firm. The new name will be **Quantum Chemical Corp.**

Eastman Kodak Co. has announced it will build a new manufacturing plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for large-scale production of industrial biotechnology-products, including food additives, pharmaceutical intermediates, industrial enzymes and specialty chemicals. Construction on the \$50 million plant will begin during 1988, with completion planned for 1990.

Robert C. Rund, senior administrator in the Office of the Indiana State Chemist at Purdue University, is president of the **Association of Official Analytical Chemists** for 1988.

Sungene Technologies Corp. has moved its corporate headquarters and plant biotechnology research laboratories from Palo Alto, California, to San Jose, California. Sungene has moved into a 45,300-square-foot laboratory and office building at 2050 Concourse Dr. in north San Jose.

French Oil Mill Machinery Co. has named **Allan L. Monroe** to its sales and customer support staff. He formerly was operations manager for **Bunge Corp.**'s Decatur, Alabama, plant.

Dow Chemical Co. has announced plans to acquire **United AgriSeeds Inc.**, a crop genetics company based in Champaign, Illinois.