THE FOUR CORNERS...

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Research on Oilseeds

Compradora de Maravilla, S.A., COMARSA, is a private organization whose only share holders and members are six extraction and refining firms. These firms represent about 85% of the Chilean seed crushing capacity.

The functions of COMARSA, among others, are to contract the oilseed crop, to import crude oil for domestic processing, and to promote the quality and quantity of the oilseeds in Chile.

Regarding this last task, COMARSA has lately signed several research agreements pertaining to oil, oilseeds and meal. In all these agreements, COMARSA provides funds or equipment or both in exchange for specific research.

The research programs of these agreements and the institutions with whom they were signed are the following:

1. Institute of Agricultural Development, INDAP: (a) Improvement of the oilseed varieties. (b) Studies of the cultivation methods actually being used. (c) Studies on the uses of oilseed meals in the feeding of livestock and poultry. INDAP will carry out these investigations with sunflower, rapeseed and safflower.
2. School of Agronomy of the Catholic University: Possibility of introducing and adapting the safflower crop in Chile.
3. School of Chemistry and Pharmacy of the University of Chile: (a) Studies on the oil content and fatty acid composition of oilseeds in relation to the areas and methods of cultivation, soil quality and fertilizers used. (b) Studies on the protein content and protein composition of sunflower and rapeseed in relation to the areas and methods of cultivation, soil quality and fertilizers used. Regarding rapeseed, the study will also include thioglucosides, content and composition. (c) Protein content and composition of sunflower and rapeseed meals in relation to processing methods being used. In the case of rapeseed, the study will relate the content of isothiocyanates and oxazolidinethione in rapeseed meal, to the processing methods being used.
4. School of Agronomy of the University of Conception: (a) A study of the main diseases affecting the cultivation of sunflower, rapeseed and safflower. (b) A study of some mechanical aspects of the seed bed preparation, seeding and cultivation of oil seeds. (c) Sunflower breeding and improvement. (d) A study of the uses of oilseed meals in the feeding of livestock and poultry.
5. Austral University of Chile: (a) A study concerning genetical improvement of rapeseed. (b) A study on some diseases of rapeseed. (c) A study on the uses of rapeseed meal in animal feeding.

Canadian Expert Visits Chile

By petition of COMARSA and through the Organization of the American States OAS, the Chilean Government requested technical assistance from the Research Department of the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture. The request concerned production and improvement of the rapeseed crop in Chile.

As a result of this request R. K. Downey visited Chile.

Dr. Downey is in charge of the Oilseed Department of the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture.

From October 17, until December 17, 1969, Dr. Downey kept a very tight schedule of activities. He visited the three agricultural experimental stations at La Platina, Quilamapu and Carillanca, which are run by the Institute of Agricultural Development, INDAP, of the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Downey also visited the School of Chemistry and Pharmacy, the School of Medicine of the University of Chile, the Catholic University in Santiago, the School of Agriculture of the University of Concepcion in Chillan, and the Austral University in Valdivia.

During his visit, Dr. Downey made an in-depth study of the organization, research and procedures of COMARSA, which allowed him to get acquainted with most of the Chilean experts in the fields of research and processing of the oilseeds. A great deal of his time was spent analyzing the research currently being done in human and animal feeding with the meal resulting as a by-product of the industrial processing of the oilseeds.

Dr. Downey gave three speeches on topics of his field of interest at the Agronomic Society of Chile, at the School of Agronomy of the Catholic University, and at the Experimental Station at La Platina.

The results of his study concerning production and improvement of the rapeseed will be of great importance to the future of this crop in Chile.

France . . . . . Maurice Naudet

Roger François, General Director of the Institut des Corps Gras (ITERG), retired on December 31, 1969 and was replaced by J. P. Helme. Dr. Helme has previously been technical director of an important firm specializing in drying oils and lipochemical derivations.

The Annual Day of Study, organized by the National Laboratory of Fatty Acids in Marseille, took place on March 26. The theme of this day was: "Several Aspects of Lipochemistry."

The four subjects presented were the following: The Obtainment of Bifunctional Derivatives by Dimerization, The Obtainment of Bifunctional Derivatives by Ozonolysis, The Obtainment of Bifunctional Derivatives by Oxo Synthesis, and An Example of the Utilization of Bifunctional Derivatives: Polyurethanes. These reports will be included in a booklet which should appear at the end of October.

The next Days of Information, which are presented every year in Paris by the Institut des Corps Gras, will take place June 16–19, 1970. They will be devoted to "Toilet Soaps." In addition to general reports on the scientific, commercial and economic aspects of these products, special attention will be paid to the problems caused by the technology of toilet soaps and the use of additives.