

International

Palm development

The Malaysian Development Authority (MDA) has approved 10 downstream projects for palm oil and palm kernel oil. According to *The Cocomunity* newsletter, products scheduled included fatty acid distillates, cocoa butter, margarine, vanaspati, shortening and other manufactured fat products, crude palm kernel olein and stearin, and interesterified oils.

The newsletter said an estimated U.S. \$140 million will be invested in the projects.

British rapeseed

New price packages in the United Kingdom may mean rapeseed growers will get £60 to £65 less per ton of seed than they received last year, according to the *Public Ledger Commodity Week*.

The package changes premiums and discounts for standards such as oil content, erucic acid content,

free fatty acid content, moisture content and admixture. Growers in the U.K expect to harvest a record 1.2-1.3 million metric tons (MT) this year. The Seed Crushers and Oil Processors Association (SCOPA) reports said the new standards have been adopted throughout the EEC.

Austrian plant

Austria plans to build its first crushing plant in Bruck, according to *Oil World*. The softseed crushing plant will process the nation's rapidly increasing rapeseed output.

Austria's 1987/88 rapeseed crop is forecast to more than double to an estimated 60,000 MT, up from 26,800 MT in 1986/87. The lack of crushing capacity had forced Austria to export most of the rapeseed crop.

Indian peanuts

Preliminary estimates indicate India's kharif peanut crop will fall to 0.3 million MT (unshelled basis), well below the government's 2.05 million MT target.

Dry weather during monsoon season in Gujarat, India's main peanut-growing area, caused *Oil World* to forecast a reduced crop for the autumn season. Poor weather last year lowered the season's crop to 1.1 million MT, down from an average of 1.7 million MT. The seasonal decline has caused *Oil World* to lower its total peanut production projection for India to 3.9 million MT (shelled basis). The yearly average is 4.5-5 million MT.

Coconuts

The Malaysian government announced it reduced coconut-growing area in 1987 by 10% compared to that in 1986.

Citing increasing competition from "a dozen vegetable oils," Malaysia reported coconut oil production will range from 40,000-50,000 MT, compared to an earlier level of 60,000 MT. In 1986, total area under coconut production was approximately 274,000 hectares.

Meanwhile in the Solomon Islands, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, through its Rural Services Project, has announced it will establish a national agricultural training institute that will concentrate on training extension workers for the coconut industry, according to *The Cocomunity* newsletter.

Toxic oil syndrome

Leading British epidemiologist Richard Doll has testified that adulterated cooking oil was the cause of the mass poisoning that killed 600 people and injured 25,000 others in Spain in 1981.

Doll, an independent expert appointed by the World Health Organization, testified before the Spanish court earlier this year that new evidence based on "blind" studies done by U.S. Centers for Disease Control led him to conclude that adulterated oil caused the toxic oil syndrome.

A report in the British journal *New Scientist* quoted Doll as saying that evidence from the Centers for Disease Control could not "have been biased by knowledge of the presence of the disease," and it provides "clear evidence of a dose-response relationship, which had been lacking from the previous case control studies." The article noted samples of oil taken from homes affected by toxic oil syn-

drome contained aniline and three fatty acid anilides; oil samples from unaffected homes did not. The contaminated oil was rapeseed oil which had been marked with an aniline dye to indicate it was suitable only for industrial use; according to the article, the oil was treated to hide the dye and then marketed as olive oil.

At least 38 oil merchants have been charged in the case. Of those, eight face possible prison sentences totaling 10,000 years.

Testimony is expected to continue several more months. Others who have testified have blamed the deaths and injuries on organophosphorus compounds in pesticides. According to *New Scientist*, defense lawyers have blamed the mass poisonings on secret experimental work on nerve gas. For a review of a book examining the toxic oil syndrome in Spain, see the Publications Section (page 1402).

Rice bran oil

Production of edible-grade rice bran oil in India rose from 33,000 MT in 1985-86 to 95,000 MT in 1986-87, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) newsletter.

India now is the largest producer of edible rice bran oil in the world, according to SEA. A major factor has been a government excise duty rebate to the vanaspati industry for using edible rice bran oil.

SEA noted, however, that edible-grade rice bran oil represented less than half of the 2.5 million MT of rice bran oil produced in 1986-87. The major portion produced was nonedible, reflecting the need to improve milling operations in India.

Articles in SEA's July 1987 newsletter noted that India's solvent extraction industry capacity totals more than 10 million MT but only produces 4.5 million MT of edible and nonedible grade oils a

year. In a talk at the association's annual meeting, SEA's president G.V. Sirur urged that India import more oilseeds such as soybeans, sunflowerseed, rapeseed and rice bran, rather than oils, to better utilize domestic capacity.

Sudan symposium

A three-day symposium on oilseed production, processing and utilization organized by the Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Gezira in Wad Medani Sudan, was held earlier this year in the headquarters of the Agricultural Research Corporation in Wad Medani.

Papers covered breeding, production, processing, marketing, nutrition and industrial oils and fatty acids. One of the speakers featured was Professor L.A. Appelqvist of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, who presented papers on "The development of rapeseed production and utilization in Sweden, 1950-1966," and "The composition of the unsaponifiables of edible oils in relation to food control, food technology and medicine."

Discussed were the needs for intensified research with sesame, groundnuts and castor bean and for an oilseeds training center to serve the Sudanese industry. Also, Sudanese researchers voiced support for forming a fats and oils society to foster research and development.

The Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology offers a graduate masters of science program in the chemistry and technology of oilseeds, as well as undergraduate courses and research projects.

Fishing potential

Imports of fish meal and fish oil products by Colombia have reached the equivalent of 322,000 MT a year, according to the newsletter *Columbia Today*, which cited interest in Colombian fishery development for both export and domestic uses.

Currently, the fish catch totals about 23,000 MT a year, but it has the potential to reach 240,000 MT

annually, the newsletter noted. To encourage domestic and foreign fishing enterprises along the country's Pacific coast, Colombian authorities are considering constructing a modern fishing port adjoining Buenaventura's existing terminal, the newsletter said. The project would include additional docks, large refrigerated storage space, fish canning, fish oil and meal plants, and a shipyard for constructing and repairing fishing vessels.

The operation initially is expected to rely on a fleet of 10 vessels, each with 150-MT capacity. The fresh fish catch is projected to 100,000 MT annually, based on an average daily catch of 50 MT per boat, operating 200 days a year. Residue from the canning operation will be used by the fish reduction facility planned, annually producing 20,000 MT of fish meal and 7,500 MT of fish oil.

USDA forecast

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts world oilseed production to reach 201.6 million metric tons (MT) in 1987/88, up nearly five million MT over 1986/87. While soybean output is predicted to rise in Brazil, Argentina and China during that time, a 5% decline in U.S. soybean production will lower total output to 99.6 million MT.

Cottonseed production is forecast to be up nearly 11% and rapeseed up nearly 7%; peanut production is to hit a record 22.1 million MT. Argentina's projected sunflowerseed recovery is expected to help boost total sunflowerseed production to 19.5 million MT. Although palm oil is forecast to recover, coconut oil production will continue downward.

During 1986/87, world crush of the 10 major oilseeds is expected to rise 2.3%, to 159.4 million MT, according to *Oil World Annual* published by ISTA Mielke, West Germany. Areas where expansion was predicted, and the percentage of increase, respectively, included South Korea, 17%; Eastern Europe, 10%; Brazil and Canada, 7% each;

European Economic Community, 6%; Japan, 3%, and the U.S., 2%.

Declines were forecast for the Philippines (down 9%, all in copra); Malaysia (7%, mainly palm kernels); Indonesia (down 4%); China (1.6%), and Argentina and the U.S.S.R. (each down 1%). Meanwhile, the U.S. leads the world in apparent per capita consumption of 17 major fats and oils, with a forecast use of 39.4 kilos for 1986/87, according to *Oil World Annual*. Lowest consumption is in Bangladesh, at 3.0 kilos per capita. Forecast average world per capita consumption for 1986/87 was 14.6 kilos, up from 14.2 kilos the previous year and 13.1 kilos in 1981/82.

Japanese use

Japanese vegetable fats and oils consumption figures since 1979 show usage has increased, although soybean oil's share has decreased slightly.

Soybean oil use increased from 656,000 tons in 1979 to 717,000 tons in 1986, although its share decreased to 35.8%, from 37.7%. Rapeseed oil consumption, meanwhile, increased from 506,000 tons to 630,000 tons, bringing its share to 31.5%, from 29.1%. Corn oil use also increased, from 65,000 tons to 82,000; its share grew to 4.1%, from 3.7%. Palm oil consumption grew to 198,000 tons, from 141,000 tons; this increased its share to 9.9%, from 8.1%.

Household use grew from 480,000 tons to 536,000 tons, but its share decreased slightly, to 26.7%, from 27.6%. Institutional consumption increased to 563,000 tons, from 442,000 tons; its share grew from 25.4% to 28.1%. Industrial use, meanwhile, increased to 567,000 tons, from 491,000 tons. Its share, however, remained around 28.3%.

A look at margarine consumed in Japanese households during 1986 showed that 97% was of all-vegetable origin; the remainder was composed of animal-vegetable blends. Also, 92.6% of total household margarine was of the soft type packaged in tubs, according to the Japan Institute of Oils & Fats.