

Oilseed rape in Poland in 1995

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Introduction

Poland was a big producer and exporter of oilseed rape since 1985 to 1991. In 1992 the recession in rapeseed production took place. That recession was a result of economical changes in our country what generated the decrease of profitability of oilseed rape cultivation. This situation was intensified by bad weather conditions. Last year an increase in yield production of oilseed rape was observed. It was a result of favourable weather and agricultural conditions during the whole vegetation period. In spite of such good conditions there was not achieved the highest yield because of a low fertilization level (Fig 1).

The intensification of fertilization during last years concerned only the nitrogen fertilization what caused disequilibrium of macroelements.

In vegetation season 1994/95 mean consumption of NPK in arable production amounted 81.0 kg/ha. Average fertilization level of oilseed rape was higher but it didn't exceed 140 kg/ha what makes only 40 per cent of recommended dose for oilseed rape.

Cultivation area, harvest, yield

The 28 per cent increase in prices of oilseed rape seeds in 1994 and an improvement of profitability caused the increase in oilseed rape sowing area till the level of 606 thousands ha. This year with cultivation area increase 236 thousands ha (63,8 per cent) the production reached 1357 thousands tons and it was above 600 thousands ton (80 per cent) higher than in the year before.

The increase of oilseed rape production was noticed in all provinces of Poland. The biggest increase was in the following provinces: opolskie 60,4 thousands ton (49,6 per cent), poznańskie 52,2 thousands ton (90,9 per cent), bydgoskie 45,1 thousands ton (113,4 per cent).

Current seed yield amounted 22,4 dt/ha and it was 2 dt/ha (9,8 per cent) higher than in 1994.

Varieties

In 1995 six Polish and three foreign varieties of winter oilseed rape were licensed: Bolko, Bor, Leo, Mar, Marita, Polo, Lirajet, Liropa, Silvia. Apart from licensed varieties Libravo, Ceres and Idol were also cultivated. Polish varieties were cultivated on 70 per cent of oilseed rape growing area in vegetation season 1994/95.

Fig.1a

The NPK consumption in Poland (kg/ha of arable land)

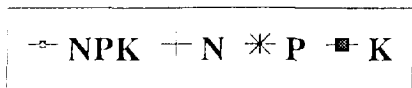
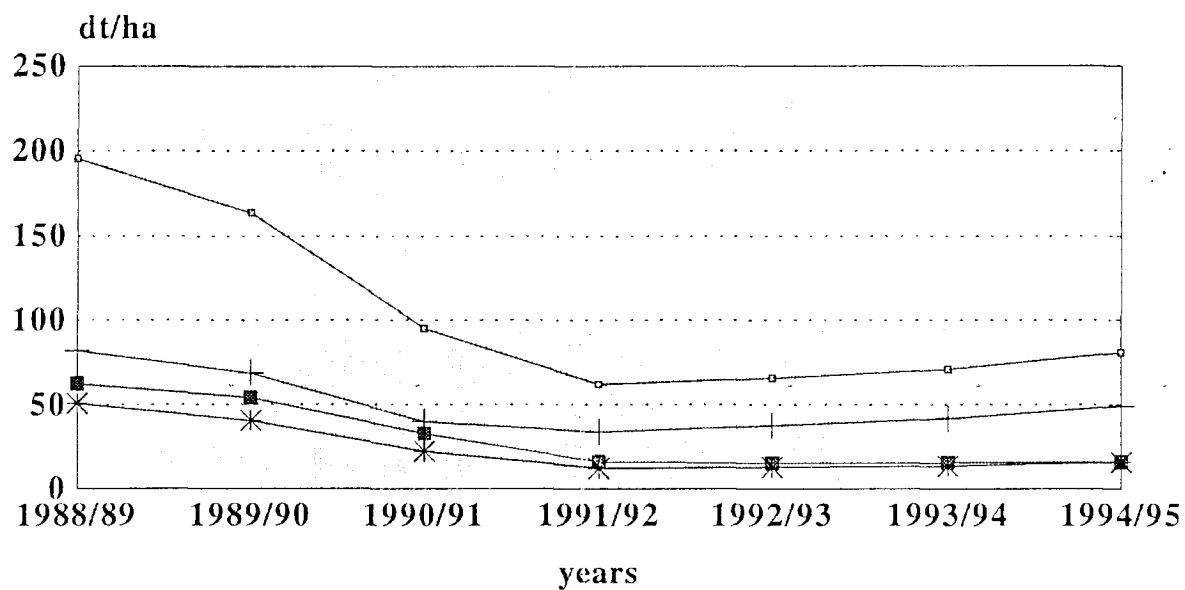
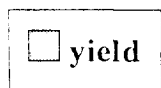
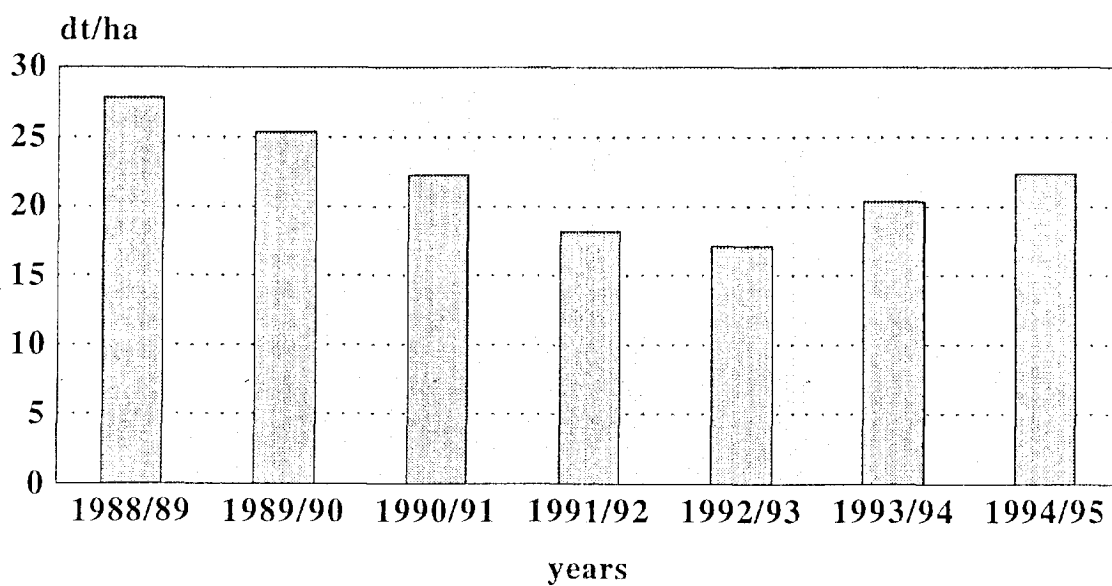


Fig. 1b

Yield of oilseed rape in Poland in seven-year period



Oil production and consumption

In 1995 vegetable oil production will amount approximately 500 thousands ton. Consumers are interested in vegetable fat very much. Last year vegetable fat consumption reached 12,5 kg per person (animal fat 11,4 kg including 3,8 kg of butter). This year it will probably amount 13 kg. The main reason of increasing in vegetable fat consumption is a conviction that vegetable fat is healthier.

Export

Opportunity of rapeseed export in season 1995/96 is estimated at 200-300 thousands ton of seeds.

Processing potential

Processing potential of oil industry in 95 per cent belongs to eight large plants: Kruszwica, Brzeg, Gdańsk, Katowice-Szopienice, Bielsko Biała, Warszawa, Bodaczów, Szamotuły. Remaining 5% of production potential belongs to small factories pressing oil and producing mixtures of margarine with butter and edible oil. The processing capacity of oil industry amounts 850 thousands ton of seeds, 500 thousands ton of refine oils and 400 thousands ton of margarine.

Profitability of cultivation in 1994/95

In 1995 the price of oilseed rape was lower than in 1994. Oil industry paid 580 zł (237 \$) for 1 ton of seeds .

Brutto income (total cost minus direct cost) of oilseed cultivation was calculated for two technologies. Brutto income per hectare received with the use of standard cultivation method amounted 307 zł (126 \$) and with intensive cultivation method 612 zł (251 \$).

Sowing

It is estimated that above 500 thousands ha were sown with winter oilseed rape for the next year harvest.