

A Short Overview of the Position of Rapeseed in International Crop Production

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Introduction

Data from the FAO Yearbook for 1994 (Ref. 1) showed total arable land in the world to account for 1,343 million hectares, approximately one-tenth of the world surface.

Leading crops were :

	Production (t x 10 ⁶)	Area (ha x 10 ⁶)
Maize	570	132
Paddy Rice	535	147
Wheat	528	216
Potato	266	18
Barley	161	74
Cassava	153	16
Soyabean	137	63
Sweet potato	125	9
Oilseed rape	22	30

World oils and fats markets

World consumption of fats and oils in 1988 was 77,6 million tonnes, that being projected to expand to approximately 107 million tonnes by the year 2000.

This projection suggests that in 2000 AD 76 % of oils and fats consumption will be as food and 24 % in non-food industrial uses and world consumption of oilseed meals will be approximately 71 million tonnes (Ref.2).

Gray (Ref.3) reported that an average per capita consumption of vegetable oils was rising at a rate in excess of 1 % per annum at least and if anything was increasing. Additionally, growth in world population has been approximately 2% per annum. Hence demand for vegetable oils for human consumption is likely to increase, and that rate of increase may be enhanced as demands for vegetable oils for industrial consumption expands.

The international division of production of oils and fats

	% by wt of production
North America	23
South America	10
Africa	5
Europe	15
Central Asia	12
India	7
Asian Pacific Rim	28

Production of vegetable oils in 1994 was :

	Seed (t x 10 ⁶)	Oil (ha x 10 ⁶)
Soyabean	137	17
Palm	-	16*
Oilseed rape	30	9
Groundnut (in shell)	28	4
Sunflower	22	8
Coconut	-	3
Linseed	2	0,6
Castor	1	0,4
Olive	-	2

* of which 2 million is kernel oil

Projections from American Soya Association indicate that the developments currently occurring in production of oil from palm will change the order of importance with palm replacing soya as the leading oil with rapeseed remaining in third position but with increased production.

Projections elsewhere (Ref.2) show palm oil (ie palm oil and palm kernel oil) to have an average annual expansion of 5.4 % whilst that of rapeseed to be 3 to 4 %.

In terms of oilseed meals, the total market at the millennium will be approximately 70 million tonnes, with soyabean meal accounting for two thirds of this and rapeseed, the second most important oilseed meal providing about one tenth of the total.

Trade in rapeseed

In terms of import and export of rapeseed in TradStat Key Reporting Countries, trade in rapeseed in 1995 was :

	Imports '000 t	Export '000 t
Japan	1,873	Nil
UK	522	41
USA	201	1,974
France	72	943
Canada	56	3,437
South Korea	9	Nil
Switzerland	0.3	Nil

(Ref 5)

Total value of imports was £ 551 million and total value of exports £ 852 million.

References

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