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Russian rapeseed – evolution and economic perspectives

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PLENARY TALKS

At present time agricultural producers show an increased interest to oilseed rape cultivation, the commodity price of oilseeds has actually doubled since 2015 and the crop has become more profitable compared to cereals especially in Non-black soil area of European part of Russia and the vast Siberian region. As for the regional positioning of rapeseed, the main crop is spring rapeseed. The winter oilseed rape is mainly cultivated in Kaliningrad and Northern Caucasus regions due to mild winter season. The area of oilseed rape cultivation has been increasing continuously since 2005 due to introduction of spring oilseed rape in the crop rotation as a totally new crop for most of the farms. The sowing area of rapeseed (spring and winter types) has already increased up to 1.6 million hectares in 2018 (1 million hectares in 2017), including about 1.3 million hectares (867 thousand hectares in 2017) of spring rapeseed and 300 thousand hectares (180 thousand hectares in 2017) of winter oilseed rape. The main region which provided such rapid growth of spring oilseed rape sowing acreage is Siberia. The sowing acreage of spring oilseed rape in Siberia has increased up to 770 thousand hectares in comparison with 2017 (430 thousand hectares in 2017). There was obtained the record volume of rapeseed in 2018. The total harvested volume of rapeseed was 2.1 million ton (1,6 million ton in 2017). But even having such acreage increase the average yield rate remains at the very low level of 1.2-1.4 t/ha, which indicates the still weak material and technical machinery and equipment of farms and the need to introduce new hybrid varieties that would provide an increase of the yield rate. Naturally, in order to obtain the maximum yield rate of hybrid varieties, it is necessary to use intensive technologies of oilseed rape cultivation, which allow to fully reveal the potential of each hybrid. Long-term experience of agro holding companies show that the rapeseed hybrids can produce stable high yields while observing all technological operations and proper crop management. The development of the rapeseed cultivation acreage directly depends on the market situation, the potential for spring oilseed rape is very high. The preliminary forecast of a rapeseed sowing acreage (spring and winter types) is about 2 million hectares in 2019, including 1.6-1.7 million hectares of spring oilseed rape. The spring oilseed rape grows where neither soybean nor sunflower is cultivated. Therefore, the products of processing rapeseed - cake is a source of local protein, which is widely used by livestock enterprises.

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