Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report

November 2010

Canola 2010/11

	2009/10 Final			2010/11 November Estimate	
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted* (hectares)	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	227,000	261,000	315,000	325,000	650,000
Vic	234,000	391,000	260,000	240,000	455,000
SA	184,000	259,000	200,000	205,000	350,000
WA	745,000	986,000	875,000	845,000	590,000
Total	1 390,000	1,897,000	1,650,000	1,6150,000	2,045,000

**Area planted as at July 2010 estimates.*

Source: Industry Estimates: 12/11/2010

Continued hot and dry conditions have seen a further deterioration in yield expectations for WA canola, bringing estimates for WA down by 85,000t. This shortfall was almost entirely offset with gains in NSW and SA, to produce a National shortfall of just 20,000t versus estimates for the prior month.

The extremely favourable season in **NSW** has served the crop well, with yields well above long term averages at 2t/Ha, and oil content also above average. Windrowing and/or harvest is underway throughout much of the State, although it has been interrupted by continued rain in many areas and the impact of lodged crops. Windrowed crops that have delayed harvesting are at risk of grain damage through either sprouting or general moisture damage. In the south of the state there are reports of crops having been lost due to rain impacts, mostly water-logging. Pest and disease levels are generally low, with some light evidence of sclerotinia, and no reported impact from locusts as yet. Blackleg is significant this year, leading to stem canker in some cases, however the impact is not seen to be of concern due to the overall high yields.

Recent rains in **Victoria** have assisted the crop in areas where soil moisture has been low, while elsewhere, particularly in the Western District, some crops have been lost due to waterlogging. The long, cool moist conditions has resulted in some crops still being in flower this late in the season, which augers well for strong yields and good oil contents. Forecast rain in the coming week will not be welcomed, however, as the resulting over saturated ground will make impending harvest difficult and slow.

In **South Australia**, a cool September with maximum temperatures well below average, and a cool to mild October has supported the crop well, with expectations of above average yields and oil content. Windrowing commenced in some parts of the State, while pod filling is underway elsewhere. In the (traditionally drier) Mallee, canola has performed very well, which has served to boost the overall state result.

The situation in **Western Australia** deteriorated further in the past month, with no significant rain, combined with warm to hot temperatures. The biggest change in the forecast is the decline in the crop condition at Esperance where drying soil has reduced crop potential to average. Oil content is expected to be below average for this season, with reports of 35-41% oil content being recorded.

Sunflowers 2010/11

	2009/10 Production (tonnes)	2010/11 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	30,800	28,200	28,740
Qld	9,600	11,000	11,700
Total	40,370	29,200	40,400

Source: Industry Estimates 12/11/10

The outlook for sunflowers this season is very much shaped by the high price of cotton, the resultant cotton plantings, and the area left for sunflowers. At this stage, estimates are still short of the five year average, however with excellent soil moisture profile and strong prices, there is some upside in estimates with more late plantings than currently anticipated.

In **NSW** the early planted sunflowers have done well on the back of good moisture at planting, and continued rain through the growing season. At this stage, the crops are at late budding

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/early flowering stage, with little incidence of pest or disease damage.

In **Queensland**, on the Darling Downs, dryland cotton and sorghum has consumed the space that may have been devoted to sunflowers, with lower sunflower prices at the time of sowing also serving to keep sunflower area low.

With stronger prices now, and good moisture retained in the soil, there is a good chance of increased area devoted to late planted sunflowers in CQ, and average area in CQ.

Global Snaphot

Oilseed prices have been trading at close to 2 year record levels, although with forecast increased palm output and the risk of lower output in South America diminishing, will probably see a softening in prices.

In the medium term, several factors will continue to underpin oilseed prices, keeping them generally firm. Driving this is the overall increase in world consumption of close to 5%, which is growth in increased production. The net effect is a projected decline in world stocks.

Source: Various on-line market reports, including Oilworld ISTA Mielke GmbH

AOF Crop Report is provided free due to the support of the Oilseed Development Fund (ODF).

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