



March 2004

Crop Outlook

Soybeans 2003/04

Continued favourable conditions across much of Queensland has seen estimated production increase by around 6% on last month, with further upside likely if seasonal conditions remain positive. While most of the increase in production is due to improved yield prospects, area planted has been revised upwards in the Burnett and Lockyer Valley. To date, insect levels have been low although some incidences of white fly have been noted. In NSW, the crops are also progressing well with the exception of northern NSW where moisture stress and white fly have caused some yield loss. On the North Coast, the wet conditions have seen some increased weed pressure, but have not adversely affected the crops at this stage.

State	Area Planted (Ha's)	Production (Tonnes)
Queensland	14,920	30,496
NSW	17,625	41,514
Victoria	546	1,365
Total	33,091	73,375

Source: Industry Estimates, 12/3/04

Sunflowers 2003/04

Harvest of the early crop is virtually complete. Yield and quality were generally disappointing, with the exception of irrigated crops, due to hot, dry conditions at the end of the growing period. As a result, forecast production has been revised down by around 25%. Rainfall has been promising in Central Queensland, although areas of SW Qld have had too much rain and localised flooding has been a problem.

	Area Planted (ha's)	Production (tonnes)
Monounsaturated sunflower		
Queensland	10,000	12,500
NSW	16,200	23,500
Polyunsaturated sunflower		
Queensland	15,000	15,800
NSW	4,950	8,200
Total	46,150	60,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 12/3/04

Upcoming Meetings

Northern Australian Soybean Industry Association Field Day and Tour, 6 April 2004 The field day will look at variety trials, commercial crops and organic crops. Anyone interested in attending should contact Catherine Brodie on 07 4630 1944

Agriculture Australia 10 and 11 August, 2004 Sydney. For further information contact Liz Walker 03 9573 9816

AOF Industry Forum & AGM 6 & 7 October 2004, Melbourne. For further information contact AOF 03 9533 2623

Soybean Tour - Canada

The Northern Australian Soybean Industry Association is organising a tour of the Canadian soybean industry for September 2004. The tour will include visits to soybean processing companies for feed and food purposes, commercial and research farms, the University of Guelph, Canadian Grain Commission, Chatham and Ontario Soybean Growers Association. **Anyone wishing to participate in tour, should contact Catherine Brodie on 07 4630 1944 for details.**

Industry News

Pakistan expected to see larger imports of canola

Pakistan is increasing in importance as a destination for Australian canola and with a return to more normal production in 2002/03, it is expected to be a key export destination.

Pakistan oilseed imports are rising strongly as domestic crushing capacity is expanding and domestic oilseed production is insufficient to meet the country's needs. Based on population growth and unchanged per capita consumption, Pakistani usage of oils and fats is forecast to rise by about 80,000 tons in 2003/04.

Rapeseed/canola imports are forecast by Oil World to reach 710,000 tons this season, up from 546,000 last year. While no soybean imports have occurred so far this season, Oil World estimates that around 90,000 tons will be imported in 2003/04 (down from 175,000 tons the previous year). Total imports of the three major oilseeds (soybeans, canola and sunflower) are forecast to reach a record 1.02 million tons, up by 26% from one year and by 57% from two years earlier.

Healthier soybeans on the way

USDA scientists have developed a new germplasm that could produce soy oils with higher levels of monounsaturated fats. The new germplasm was developed through traditional breeding methods and has the potential to produce mid-oleic soybean varieties. The oil would be suitable for use in salad dressings or frying oils without undergoing hydrogenation.

Australian Oilseed News is provided free due to the support of the Oilseed Development Fund (ODF).

Cargill Oilseeds Australia	Meadow Lea Foods
Unilever Australasia	Peerless Holdings
Riverland Oilseed Processors	Ridley Agriproducts Barter
Enterprises	Grain Pool WA
MarketLink	Louis Dreyfus
Noble Grain	Graincorp
Elders	Toeffer