



Jan 2003

Sunflowers 2002/03

The sunflower industry is still waiting on rain across Central Queensland to secure the industry's forecast plantings. There have been small areas of late planted sunflowers on the Liverpool Plains and Darling Downs, however, Central Queensland continues to be the critical factor. Virtually all plantings to date have been monounsaturated sunflowers.

	Est. Area (hectares)	Est. Production (tonnes)	
		Planted	Intended
Monounsaturated sunflower			
Queensland	10,600	3,100	
NSW	12,700	11,700	
Polyunsaturated sunflower			
Queensland	23,000	-	23,000
NSW	5,500	-	5,500
Total	51,800	14,800	38,000

Source: *Industry Estimates, 10/1/03*

Soybeans 2002/03

It is likely that Australia will see one of its smallest soybean crops on record, with the continuing dry conditions severely restricting plantings. Queensland continues to be very dry and plantings are less than one quarter of what they were last year, which was also down due to below average conditions.

The north coast of NSW is one of the better areas although rain has only really fallen on the coastal area and thus, not all intended plantings have been realised. The planting window is rapidly closing and will require rain in the next week to secure further plantings. Plantings in the northern slopes and tablelands region are also down, but will account for half of NSW's crop this year. Reduced access to irrigation water in the Riverina and northern Victoria has seen a dramatic drop in plantings in this region.

Overall, early estimates are for a total production of less than 15,000 tonnes.

Estimated	Area Planted (ha's)	Production (Tonnes)
QLD	2,100	3,630
NSW	5,540	9,655
VIC	50	125
Total	7,690	13,410

Source: *Industry Estimates, 14/1/03*

Market Comment

The USDA December stocks prompted a sell off with soybeans bearing the brunt. Soybean stocks in December were estimated at 2.114 billion bushels, which was above the average analysts estimates of 2.078 billion bushel.

Weather reports in South America remain favourable for soybean production in this region and this was reflected in the USDA's January estimate, with the combined Brazil and Argentina production now estimated at 82.5 million tonnes.

Domestic canola values have eased this week. With little domestic consumption, trends on the international market continue to provide the market with its impetus. The harvest has nearly come to a completion, with the choice for many growers being whether to warehouse stock or

sell all of their seed. With EU new crop supply likely to become a factor influencing prices by July, growers will need to judge whether they can take advantage of the talked about upside in prices before contract decisions need to be made. In the interim domestic growers will be looking to pick up export demand from the sub-continent.

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

- Cargill Oilseeds Australia
- Unilever Foods
- Riverland Oilseed Processors
- Barter Enterprises
- Meadow Lea Foods
- Peerless Holdings
- Ridley Agriproducts

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

- 5&6 March 12th Australian Soybean Conference Toowoomba. For further information contact Peter Brodie on 07 4630 1944
- 24-26 June 2002 Australian Sunflower Association Conference, Radisson Palm Meadows, Gold Coast. For further information contact Your Registration Desk on 07 3878 9242 or yrd@tpg.com.au
- 8th September 2003, ARAB 13 conference Tamworth

Research Released into Environmental Impact of GM Canola

AOF released a report in December that compiles research from Australia and overseas into the agronomic and environmental impact of GM canola and will assist the canola industry to make informed decisions about GM canola. The report was written by Dr Phil Salisbury and studies pollen flow between GM and non GM canola and weed species, as well as the incidence and survival of canola volunteers. The aim of the report was to bring together the best scientific data from around the world to allow the Australian canola industry to assess the benefits and risks of its adoption in a fully informed way.

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling AOF on 03 9533 2623.

Canola Industry Stewardship Protocols

The Gene Technology Grains Committee has released a comprehensive set of protocols to manage the co-existence of GM and non GM canola production in Australia for industry comment and endorsement. The *Canola Industry Stewardship Protocols* define the processes that will enable the Canola Industry to establish parallel production systems and supply chains for GM and non-GM canola. The Protocols have been developed following extensive consultation within the grains industry and draw on best practice scientific research and Australian and overseas supply chain experience.

The *Canola Industry Stewardship Protocols* set out procedures and responsibilities designed to ensure final product integrity, ensure full traceability of grain through the supply chain and establish appropriate sampling and testing procedures.

The Protocols cover the entire supply chain: pre-farm, on-farm and post-farm elements and the links between. Copies of the plan are available from the AOF (contact 03 9533 2623 or email aof@optusnet.com.au). Feedback is requested by 16 February 2003.