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Kenya

Oilseeds and Products

Kenyan Soybean Production and Processing

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Report Highlights:

Kenya depends on oilseed imports to meet demand. Soybean production and processing remain constant but demand for soybean, oil and meal should continue.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Nairobi [KE1]
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Soybean Production

Soybeans were first grown in Kenya in the early 1990's. Research undertaken by Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) identified two preferred varieties (Black hawk and Duiker) for production. Soybeans are grown in Western, Central, Eastern and Nyanza provinces mainly.

There have been efforts by both the government and private sector to promote soybean production in Kenya. Between 1993–1998 the Food and Agriculture Organization and GTZ funded various activities in the districts of Bungoma, Kakamega and Busia. However, area and production of soybeans remain constant.

SOYA BEANS: AREA & PRODUCTION

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	HA	TONS	HA	TONS	HA	TONS	HA	TONS
Rift Valley	64	48	122	72	214	112	186	191
Western	964	490	939	545	683	435	814	474
Central	360	108	210	76	260	80	300	98
Eastern	113	137	48	38	40	40	86	53
Nyanza	-	-	-	-	-	-	271	119
TOTAL	1,501	783	1,319	731	1,197	667	1,657	935

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Provincial Annual Reports

Kenya imports large quantities of vegetable oil, despite the potential to grow many oil producing crops. The vegetable oil industry is fraught with problems ranging from unreliable raw material supplies to competition from imports.

Soybean and Products Opportunities

Opportunities exist for soybean imports to be used as a full fat food ingredient, crushing for vegetable oil and meal, manufacture of animal feed and utilization as a meat extender. Other food processing companies have also shown interest in utilizing soybean meal as a protein source in various foods.

Soybean Meal for Human Consumption

Kenya Meat processors (Farmers Choice, Delemere, Alpha Fine Foods etc) have an interest in reducing costs and increasing nutritional value of their meat products by using soy isolates. These include emulsified products (sausages), chopped meats (pizza toppings, burgers), whole meat products (roast beef) and poultry products among others.

Soybean meal is used to make soy flour, milk and as Textured Soya Protein. The millers make flour for baking, porridge (for the aged, weaning children and for HIV/AIDS patients among others). Exploration of non-meat foods from soy protein to simulate various kinds of meat is underway. The flavors include pork, beef, poultry and sausages.

Soybean meal in the manufacture of animal feed

The animal feed manufacturers (i.e Unga and Sigma Feed) buy soybeans mainly from Uganda, Brazil, South Africa and Argentina. These countries are more price competitive than the U.S. due to high freight costs associated with shipping from the States.

Food Aid

U.S. soybean meal exports to Kenya are in the form of direct feed or monetization programs under Food For Progress, P.L. 480 Title II and/or Section 416(b).