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Planting Seeds

Annual

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Report Highlights:
Russian planting seed supply in the year 2002 is expected to be more than adequate for the principle grains as a result of the large harvest in 2001. Additional work is being done on improving the quality of domestic planting seeds. Imports of some planting seeds, particularly corn, may be possible as area planted to that grain is expected to increase over the level of 2001.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
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Executive Summary

Following the second record grain crop in the last 10 years, planting seed availability in Russia for 2002 is expected to be large. Expanded grain output in 2001 was due to some increase in sown area and large increases in yields. Total grain production increased from 2000 to 2001 by 29.7 percent, while area sown to grain was only 3.5 percent larger. Specialists also note that the supply of quality seeds improved. However, most Russian farmers still sow common or saved seed, and in order to compensate for their lower quality, are likely to increase seeding rates in 2002. Thus, total grain seed consumption is forecast to increase in 2002 without any significant improvement in yield. Although Russian seed research and distribution systems have improved, weather will continue to be the key factors for crop production in 2002.

Grain Crop Yields

The table below shows that grain crop yields are determined mostly by weather conditions, and variations in interregional average yields reflects differences in climate and in weather.

Table 1. Grain Crops Yields by Major Grain Producing Regions

	1991-1995	1996-2000	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (prelim.)
Russia, total	1.48	1.32	1.65	0.94	1.17	1.56	1.93
Central Federal District	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	1.65	2.07
- Voronezh oblast	1.90	1.53	2.02	1.32	1.22	1.64	2.28
Southern Federal District	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	2.19	2.69
- Krasnodar Kray	3.51	2.99	3.08	2.41	3.38	3.49	3.90
- Stavropol Kray	2.61	2.00	2.01	1.92	1.88	2.24	2.68
- Rostov oblast	2.25	1.43	1.54	1.21	1.43	1.73	2.50
- Volgograd oblast	1.57	0.92	1.42	0.45	0.66	1.22	1.69
Privolzhskiy Federal District	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	1.33	1.72
- Bashkortostan republic	1.37	1.41	1.99	0.66	1.32	1.30	1.89
- Tatarstan republic	1.46	2.35	3.51	1.15	1.62	2.85	3.63
- Orenburg oblast	1.13	0.84	1.37	0.15	0.99	1.02	1.01
- Samara oblast	1.44	1.15	1.86	0.45	1.11	1.26	1.63
- Saratov oblast	1.14	1.04	1.85	0.39	0.86	1.13	1.47
Siberian Federal District	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	N.A..	1.50	1.64

- Altay Kray	1.22	0.85	0.57	0.89	0.72	1.38	1.34
- Krasnoyarsk Kray	1.45	1.50	1.80	1.40	1.23	1.86	1.91
- Novosibirsk oblast	1.24	1.17	1.26	0.95	0.99	1.70	1.91
- Omsk oblast	1.18	1.13	1.18	0.76	0.91	1.53	2.03

Data for CY 1991-2001 in metric tons per hectare
Note: Due to restructuring of administrative regions in 2000, data for the new federal districts are not available for the years prior to CY 2000.

Seeds Supply and Production by Commodity

There are no official statistical data on planting seed production, availability and distribution. Using various data sources deemed most reliable, Post estimates that seed supply has improved for most commodities. Further, with increasing investments being made by industrial companies in agriculture, the forecast for planting seed supply in 2002 is good. After several attempts to purchase expensive seeds that were not suitable for local conditions, these industrial investors have started to work more closely with the local Russian seed research institutes to improve seed characteristics.

Supply of Specific Grains

Grain seeds make up an estimated 60-70 percent of the planting seed market in Russia by value. Total grain seeds requirements are estimated by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture at 8.2-8.5 million metric tons, an amount domestic suppliers will easily provide in 2002. Given that the quality of grain seeds in general is not high, seed consumption in 2002 may be larger than required under more favorable circumstances as farmers sow more intensively. The record grain crop in 2001 allowed farmers to increase their own seed stocks, and thus increase application rates, as well as re-sow any new crop areas affected by winter kill. Higher income and profitability in 2001 allowed them to increase purchases of registered and certified seeds from selection stations, thus improving overall quality. However, seed quality differs greatly from region to region and between different farms. All grain seeds are in adequate supply in practically all regions.

In 2002, area sown to grains and legumes is expected to keep at about last year's level. Winter grain area has increased by 10 percent to 16.1 million hectares, has been sown with good quality seeds, and according to estimates, Russian farmers will have enough seeds to sow up to 32 million hectares with spring grains.

Wheat and barley are the most important crops for Russian grain production by volume. Planting seeds for both these crops are in adequate supply for 2002. Available financial resources for seed breeding and multiplication are also concentrated on these two types of seeds. Resistance to changes in climate, drought, adaptability to different types of soil, and ability to produce stable yields in variable weather conditions are the key tasks in planting seed research. Research in increasing gluten content or protein content are not priorities. Some grain economists consider that the future of Russian wheat production is expanding output at the expense of improving the baking characteristics of wheat, and in production of specialized additives or wheat types which can improve these characteristics. In barley seed research, researchers concentrate on improving the characteristics of malting barley. As for other grains, including millet, buckwheat, and oats, production is still based mostly on common and registered seeds. In 2001, corn experienced its lowest output volume in the last ten years. As this grain is becoming more important as a feed component for the growing poultry industry, Post

forecasts an increase in corn seed imports in 2002 and an increased emphasis on improvements through research, including mutual research with foreign seed companies. It is expected that Russia will use recombinant gene technology to meet its future seed breeding challenges.

Sunflowerseed

Sunflowerseed production fell in 2001 to less than 2.7 million tons compared with 3.9 million tons in 2001. Yields decreased from the average 0.9 tons per hectare to less than 0.8 tons. Following this smaller 2001 crop, domestic supply of planting seeds in 2002 will be short. Post forecasts that area sown to sunflowerseeds will increase slightly to 4 million hectares due to present high sunflowerseed and sunflowerseed oil prices, but most of the area will be sown with low quality seeds, and the average yields will not reach 1.0 tons per hectare. However, in the southern parts of Russia, where sunflowerseed yields on some farms reach 1.5-2.0 tons per hectare due to warm weather and good soil, both private oil crushing companies and regional authorities will increase investments in quality seed production.

Vegetable Seeds

Demand for staple vegetables like carrots, red beets, cabbage, onions, cucumbers and tomatoes remains strong with no shortage of seed expected in 2002. Most seeds for these staple vegetables are supplied to the big industrial farms (former state farms) by the state Soyuzsemovosh, while private commercial companies supply a wide range of vegetable seeds, including staple vegetables, to the smaller farms and household gardens. Registration requirements for these seeds were softened in 2001.

Seeds of Horticultural Crops

The horticultural crop market has completely recovered after the crisis of 1998. Traders report that supplies of seeds are increasing and diversifying. Lifting of obligatory registration of over 800 different varieties and species of garden vegetables, flowers and horticultural crops eased the procedure of trading them in the domestic market and has allowed the seed trading companies to import a wider range of seeds.

Sugar Beet Seeds

Sugar beet seed supply improved significantly due to vertical integration in sugar production. Thus, the Russian Sugar Company, part of the Razgulyai-UKRROS group, reportedly invested nearly $1 million in 2001 to provide sugar beet farms and sugar plants with high quality seeds, mineral fertilizer, and other inputs.

Potato Seeds

The supply of potato seeds is sufficient to meet present demand. The area sown to potatoes remains stable, and more than 97 percent of production is concentrated on private farms and individual household plots. Responding to the demand for better resistant to pests and disease seeds, and after a long research project, the State Commission of the Russian Federation on Variety Testing and Protection of Breeders Achievements (GOSCOMISSIYA) has registered two GMO varieties of potato (Russel Burbank). Testing took several years and was conducted in coordination with the Inter-Agency Commission on Bio-Engineering of the Russian Federation.

Fodder Grass Seeds

Production of perennial fodder grass seeds continued to increase in 2001. This increase has been driven by strengthening demand for a wider range of feeds. After a 40 percent fall in the production of fodder grass planting seed in the 1990's, production started to recover, as did seed imports. Although total imports of fodder grass seeds in 2001 was reported lower than in 2000, when U.S. humanitarian alfalfa seeds (over 2,000 metric tons) were shipped to Russia, import volume is much higher than in the middle of 1990's. Imports of practically all types of fodder grass seeds (except alfalfa) have increased (see table 3).

Seed Quality

Seed quality in 2002 continues to improve for three reasons; first, the bigger grain crop in 2001, and thus a greater availability of quality seed. Second, increased investment by vertically integrated farms and companies. Third, increased investments in research and distribution of seeds of the most demanded crops: wheat, barley, sugar beet, and potato. Table 2 shows the yields of different crops in 2001 compared to selected previous years.

Table 2. Yields by Selected Crop

Crop	1991-1995 (avg.)	1996-2000 (avg.)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (preliminary)
Wheat	1.61	1.59	1.55	1.84	1.35	1.57	1.61	2.05
Rye	1.56	1.50	1.49	1.92	1.02	1.47	1.58	1.87
Barley	1.55	1.55	1.51	1.76	1.38	1.43	1.67	2.01
Oats	1.24	1.36	1.39	1.61	1.18	1.13	1.47	1.71
Corn	2.52	2.24	2.35	3.13	1.63	1.97	2.12	1.79
Millet	0.19	0.90	0.64	1.27	0.84	0.93	0.82	0.78
Buckwheat	0.45	0.60	0.49	0.68	0.57	0.59	0.69	0.54
Rice	3.49	2.82	2.48	2.34	3.04	2.74	3.49	3.49
Peas and pulses	1.16	1.29	1.36	1.46	1.12	1.07	1.42	1.79
Sunflowers	0.99	0.77	0.71	0.79	0.7	0.74	0.9	0.78
Rapeseed	NA	0.64	0.66	0.62	0.63	0.65	0.66	NA
Sugar beets	17.8	15.82	15.2	14.8	13.4	16.9	18.8	19.9
Potato	8.8	10.5	11.4	11.1	9.7	9.7	10.4	10.8
Vegetables	13.8	14	13.7	14.1	13.4	14.3	14.5	15.3

Data in Metric Tons per Harvested Hectare

Consumption

Planting seed utilization increased in 2001. Better profitability in agriculture allowed farmers to increase seeding rates to counteract the effect of poor weather on crop stands and yields. Moreover, better-off farmers in the wealthy agricultural regions such as Krasnodar increased their purchases of certified and even registered seeds at the seed stations. The status of seed stations has also improved due to better demand and better market for their seeds, and due to increased support of the Federal Government and local authorities. Federal outlays for formation and use of State Seed funds in the Budget were raised from 100 million rubles ($3.6 million) in CY 2000 to 150 million rubles (approximately $4.7 million) in the coming year. Additionally, the Federal Government increased state support for research and production of elite (foundation) seeds.

Trade

According to the State Plant Quarantine Service of the Russian Federation seeds are delivered from 30 different countries. Corn seeds are imported from Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Moldova, Netherlands. Suppliers of sugar beet seeds are France, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Austria. Potato seeds are imported from the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, UK (Scotland), Belarus, Germany, Poland. Seeds of sunflowers are supplied by France, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Moldova, Austria, Ukraine. Rape seeds are imported from France, Hungary, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine. Belgium and the Netherlands supply seeds of flax (for linen). Sources of imports of seeds of different grasses are very diverse and include Hungary, Canada, U.S., Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, etc. Seeds of vegetables are imported from more than 20 countries. Main suppliers of bulbs of flowers are Lithuania, Latvia and the Netherlands.

According to the State Plant Quarantine, over 260 different companies import planting seeds to Russia, including 42 companies that import seeds for variety testing, 162 companies which import seeds for commercial crop production, and 57 companies that import seeds for retail marketing.

The Import Quarantine Permit issued by the Russian State Quarantine service (Rosgosquarantine) is a necessary document for importing planting seeds. In order to get this document the importer shall submit an application to Rosgosquarantine with information about product specie, quantity, exporting country, and intended storage location. In order to avoid delays, Rosgosquarantine recommends that an application be submitted when an agreement with the supplier is discussed. The permit is valid for 3 months, and the period of consideration of application is up to one month (depending on the specie of plant).

Before submission to Rosgosquarantine, the applications shall be coordinated with the local plant quarantine service where the seeds will be stored and sold. Information from the State Register of Selection Achievements shall be attached to the application. The importer shall know that each quarantine commodity (including planting seeds) shall be accompanied by phytosanitary certificate issued by the plant quarantine service of the exporting country and other documents, stipulated in the Import Quarantine Permit (i.e. certificate of origin, document about fumigation, and other information). Sowing of corn and sunflower seeds is allowed only after the local quarantine laboratory approves. Quarantine laboratories also examine all seeds for presence of quarantine weeds seeds. If found, the seeds cannot be used. There are 79 local plant quarantine inspections in the Russian Federation.

Official trade statistical data provide limited information on seeds.

Table 3. Seed Imports

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (prelim.)
Corn seeds (1005.10)*	31,420	8,700	25,256	29,818	7,505
Feed Grass Seeds, total	597	N.A.	706	3,257	2,027
Including:					
- Alfalfa (1209.21)	93	25	27	2,146	77
- Clover (1209.22)	58	N.A.	33	63	114
- Fescue grass (1209.23)	110	N.A.	72	107	146
- Kentucky blue grass (1209.24)	27	N.A.	35	55	77
- Rye grass (1209.25)	66	N.A.	114	303	283
- Timothy grass (1209.26)	8	N.A.	6	14	8
- Seeds of other grass plants (1209.29)	235	N.A.	421	569	1,322
Seeds of herbaceous plants cultivated for flowers (1209.30)	27	N.A.	66	20	26
Seeds of other herbaceous plants and forest trees (1209.99)	281	N.A.	111	335	196
Seeds of vegetables, except red beet and peas (1209.91)	706	800	666	939	404
Red beet seeds (1209.19)	N.A.	N.A.	219	672	253
Seeds of potato (0701.10)**	N.A.	10,287	27,794	119,964	17,240
Sugar beet seeds (1209.11)	1,027	N.A.	419	380	430

Sources: State Statistical Service, Russian Customs Statistics. Data for 1996-2000 in Metric Tons

* Corn planting seed imports dropped from 129,230 metric tons in CY 1994 to 8,700 metric tons in CY 1998. This situation reflected the decline in agricultural production, especially in the animal and poultry industries. The crisis of August 1998 practically discontinued commercial imports of corn seeds, and over 90 percent of corn seeds imports in CY 1999 and 2000 were humanitarian seeds shipments from the U.S. CY 2001 was the first year after the crisis when commercial seeds imports started to recover and reached 7,505 metric tons.

** Until 2001, seed potatoes imports were duty free, while commercial potato imports were subject to 25 percent import

tariff. During years of low domestic production, potatoes destined for food use were sometimes imported as seed potatoes. This is reflected in the inaccuracy and variability of available customs data.

Tariffs

Table 4 provides information on current import and export tariffs for planting seeds. Changes in import tariffs from last year are the following: for potato seeds, a temporary 5 percent import tariff was introduced; for raw rice for sowing, import tariffs were raised form 5 percent to 10 percent; for rape, colza and sunflower planting seeds, a temporary 5 percent import duty was extended for another nine months until June 30, 2002. Before January 2001 all the seeds subject to temporary 5 percent import duties were imported duty free. Export duties for mustard, including seeds, were set at 10 percent but not less than 25 EURO per 1,000 kg by the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation #834 of November 30, 2001.

Trade in seeds within the members of the Customs Union (Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) is duty free.

Table 4. Import and export tariffs for planting seeds

Code	Commodity	Import	Export
0701 10 100 0	Potato seeds	5%*	Free
1001 10 100 0	Durum wheat seeds	5%	17%
1001 90 100 0	Wheat seeds, other	5%	7%
1001 90 910	Soft wheat seeds	5%	7%
1003 00 100 0	Barley seeds	5%	Free
1004	Oat (including seeds)	5%	Free
1005 10	Corn seeds	5%	10%
1006 10 100 0	Raw rice for sowing	10%	Free
1007 00 100 0	Grain sorghum seeds	5%	Free
1008	Buckwheat, millet and canary seed , other cereals (including seeds of these cereals)	5%	
Chapter 12 (Seeds for sowing)	Oilseeds and Oleaginous, Fruits, Miscellaneous Grains, Seeds and Fruit; Industrial Or Medical Plants; Straw and Fodder	5%	Free
	Except:		

1201 00 100 0	Soybean seeds for sowing	5%	10% but not less than 20 ECU per 1,000 kg
1205 00 100 0, 1205 90 000 1	Rape and colza seeds, for sowing	5%*	10% but not less than 20 ECU per 1,000 kg
1206 00 100 0	Sunflowerseeds for sowing	5%*	10% but not less than 15 ECU per 1,000 kg
1207 50	Mustard seeds (including for sowing)	5%	10% but not less than 25 EURO per 1,000 kg

* Temporary import tariff applied until June 30, 2002. These temporary tariffs were first applied on January 1, 2001 for 9 months, and then extended for another 9 months.

Value-Added Tax

Grains, oilseeds and some grass seeds are subject to a 10 percent VAT while seeds for lawn grasses, vegetables and flowers face a 20 percent rate.

Policy

Plant Variety Protection and Seed Certification

Facilitation of registration procedures of selection achievements for the "not widely used" (flowers, decorative plants, greens (potherbs)) was achieved in the course of long negotiations between the independent seed companies and their association with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation and the State Commission of the Russian Federation on Variety Testing and Protection of Breeders Achievements. These seeds (the complete list is over 800 lines and species) are allowed for temporary (12 month) use in the Russian Federation under the condition that the applicant submits financial documents showing that application and registration fees are paid (no actual variety testing). For other seeds certification rules remain unchanged, and in order to be registered, seeds must pass through special testing procedures in the laboratories of the GOSCOMISSIA.

Research

Russian federal budget subsidies for seed selection were slightly restored in 2000, when the government earmarked 250 million rubles ($9.7 million) in subsidies for the development of foundation seeds, and allocated 100 million rubles ($4 million) for the establishment and use of the Federal Seed Fund. In 2001 these allocations increased to 150 million rubles ($5.5 million), and according to draft budgets, will remain at the same level of 150 million rubles in 2002 (given the weaker Ruble, this will equal less than $4.7 million). Financing of research and development in seed breeding increased somewhat using the funds of private industrial companies which started to invest in agricultural production and some local authorities

in important agrarian regions. However, financing of seed breeding is lagging behind the needs of the agricultural sector. Breeders outline several bottlenecks where research and scientific breakthrough is most needed and important. These include weak genetic protection of plants from dangerous diseases, pests and weeds, from drought, low temperatures, and from soil acidity or salinization of soil.

Coordination of research in seed breeding and distribution of information about breeding achievements is conducted by the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, by seed producers and traders associations, (most important are Russian National Seed Association and Association of Independent Russian Seed Companies), and by the newly organized Seed Breeders Association ("Seeds"). The latter also tries to coordinate information among the CIS countries.

Licencing

There have been two types of licencing in the seed industry of Russia, and sometimes misunderstanding the difference between the two causes problems. The first is licencing the use of selection achievements - varieties and hybrids. This licence is based on the agreement between the patent owner (breeder, breeding institution or variety originator) and the person (or agency) to whom this patent owner gives the right to use the selection achievement. This licence is given by the GOSCOMISSIA and protects the patent rights.

The second type of licencing covers production and distribution (realization) of seeds. Until November 2002 licencing of production and distribution of seeds covered both foundation seeds (elite) and registered and certified seeds (reproduction seeds). This licence was given by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation for production and distribution of the foundation, registered and certified seeds on the territory of the Russian Federation, and by the executive authorities of oblasts, krays and republics of the Russian Federation for production and distribution of registered and certified seeds within these territories.

For this second license, the authorities require that the applicant have all necessary means for seed production, including seed production professionals, equipment, machines, etc. This type of licencing procedure is very complicated; too many officials are involved in this process without clear responsibilities for the final quality of seeds. However, due to the efforts of seed producers and traders, licencing of production and distribution of lower-than-Foundation seeds was excluded from the list of activities subject for licencing (Federal Law "On Licencing of Different Types of Activities" of August 8, 2001). However, starting January 1, 2002 all retailers (including seed retailers) need to be certified for retail operations. This certification is conducted by the Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Russian Federation. Along with restoration of federal subsidies for seed breeding and seed supply to the farmers, government and quasi government structures are active in the state support of seed breeding, seed production and seed distribution: State Seed Inspectorate of the Russian Federation (GOSSEMINSPECTSIYA), State Commission of the Russian Federation on Variety Testing and Protection of Breeders Achievements (GOSCOMISSIYA), and "Sortsemovosh". These federal agencies have their regional and field services. Along with these institutions, which have always regulated the seed market, a number of new enterprises, state organizations authorized to conduct commercial activity, were created recently at the federal and regional levels. These are Government enterprises for grain seeds, oilseeds seeds, fodder crops seeds and grasses. Additionally, the enterprise "Plodopitomnik for orchards plants" was restored. One of the recent developments is the creation of an information-analytical system for the management of seed industry (IASMC).

GOSSEMINSPECTSIYA has 1770 regional and local offices, and controls the work of seed inspectors, quality of seeds and the conformity of seeds with the registered varieties and types, and the state standards. At the federal level this

inspection tries to coordinate its activity with the International Association for Seed Control.

GOSCOMISSIA has its offices in all the 12 climactic zones of the Russian Federation, where they test plant varieties, species and hybrids and, starting not long ago, animal breeds. After testing at the regional level (which may take up to 3 years), the results of testing are submitted for the consideration and approval of the State Commission, which has 5 expert groups. If the Commission approves the variety, it is included in the State Register. According to Russian Law, seeds not included in the State Register are not allowed to be used for commercial production and distribution on the territory of the Russian Federation. GOSCOMISSIA also issues patents for new varieties and species of plants. According to a statement by the Head of the GOSCOMISSIA, the legislative basis and procedures for variety testing and registration concur with European legislation.

Marketing

Market Opportunities:

Russian importers are most interested in varieties that are tolerant of cold conditions, produce high yields and can mature quickly in Russia's short growing season. Varieties that can mature in 80-90 days are prized. Importers state that the best opportunities are for US exports of sunflower and corn seed with short vegetation periods, some vegetable seed, and seeds of feed grasses such as alfalfa.. However, selling U.S. corn varieties is currently complicated because of limitations on imports of GMOs. For vegetable, flower, ornamental plant seeds, good opportunities exists for U.S. seeds, although total quantities are limited by buyers' finances.

The Russian seed market remains difficult for commercial foreign seed exporters because of restrictive import and variety registration regulations. The most important non-regulatory limits on the commercial purchase of seeds are the relatively high prices of imported seeds and the need of farmers to buy other complimentary inputs. Further, some imported varieties are not well suited to Russia's short growing season. However, the increasing tendency to concentrate production at the big vertically integrated farms may open new opportunities for commercial imports of hybrid seeds.

Marketing Channels and Facilities

Rossiyskiye Semena (Russian Seed company) remains the biggest seller of packet and grain seeds in Russia and the largest seed importer. The company sells feed, fodder, vegetables and flower seeds. Russian Seeds often serves as an official agent for the Russian Ministry of Agriculture and has distributed seeds in poorer regions in the North and Siberia with sales guaranteed by the Russian Agriculture Ministry.

Private seed companies have increased imports of vegetable, flower and decorative plants seeds. Some petroleum companies have increased their activities in the agricultural sector by providing seeds, as well as other inputs, to farmers in exchange for grain. This kind of barter system, where farmers pay seed companies for seeds provided in spring with grain and other harvested products, helped both farmers and some seed suppliers to survive. Fortunately, the role of barter in the seed business is decreasing and is being replaced either by cash sales, particularly to independent farmers.

Sunflowerseed

Importers are interested in quickly maturing sunflowerseeds that can grow north of traditional production areas in European Russia. Access to these would greatly enhance oilseed supplies. Most imported sunflowerseeds come from Hungary and France.

Corn seed

Because of Russia's short growing season, it is difficult to grow corn for grain outside of the North Caucasus and Volga regions. Other regions grow it for silage and for green chop. Consequently, Russia is interested in varieties with an FAO rating of less than 300 which will have time to mature.

Vegetable seed

Demand for vegetable seeds is expected to remain strong for the foreseeable future. Demand is strongest for peas for industrial processing and canning.

Other seeds

Trade sources also expressed interest in malting barley, flower, fast growing soybeans, and grass seeds, especially alfalfa.