

Looking to the future with alternative proteins

The Good Food Institute, a non-profit organisation, has received substantial funding from China to promote the product development of alternative proteins and to scale up the alternative protein industry.

The increased investment in alternative proteins has been compared to the surges in funding in China for solar panel technologies and electric vehicles, prior to market booms in these industries. China appears to be positioning itself to dominate the alternative protein sector in anticipation of a significant growth in global demand for these products.

It is postulated that the constant threat of animal diseases as well as value chain disruptions due to Covid-19, could be some of the reasons for the initiative.

Homing in on consumer needs

In South Africa, the Soya Bean for Human Consumption Symposium held by the Oilseeds Advisory Committee (OAC) late last year, was a step in the right direction to promote and investigate the future of increasing domestic soya bean consumption. In addition, numerous studies have been funded by the OAC to better understand the requirements of the South African consumer with regard to soya-based products.

We are optimistic that this market will grow robustly in South Africa, provided the consumer is offered quality, flavourful products.

Another excellent year of growth

The growth in soya bean plantings from 827 100ha in 2021/22 to 910 000ha in 2022/23 is a positive sign for the industry. The Free State has taken the lead with an expansion of 12%. Unfortunately, it is anticipated that due to new entrants in

the market and excessive wet weather in certain areas, lower yields will result in the harvested crop to be below that of 2021/22.

The increased investment in alternative proteins has been compared to the surges in funding in China for solar panel technologies and electric vehicles prior to market booms in these industries.

The increase in sunflower hectares from 477 800ha to a current estimate of 580 000ha is encouraging and could result in an improved crop size, but is still below the required amount for the country. The cost benefits for producers to grow oilseeds over maize, are currently very clear. Soya beans tend to tolerate excess water better and input costs are lower.

Prices for oilseeds are expected to stay firm in 2022/23 due to global strength in these markets as well as the robust demand in South Africa. The soya oilcake/oil crush volume for the calendar year 2021 was 1,3 million tons – the highest in history.

The canola crop of close on 197 000 tons in the Western/Southern Cape for 2021 is encouraging, albeit mainly at the expense of the barley industry which is going through a challenging period. The expansion of the canola industry has been a very positive contribution to oilcake demand in South Africa.

Enjoy this issue of *Oilseeds Focus*.

Dr Erhard Briedenhann

Send us your contributions and suggestions to make *Oilseeds Focus* an enjoyable and valuable publication for the oilseeds industry. Contact Dr Briedenhann at erhardb@netactive.co.za for more information.

Editor: Dr Erhard Briedenhann
+27 82 551 1634
erhardb@netactive.co.za

Associate editor: Gerhard Keun
+27 11 803 2579
oliesade@opot.co.za

Published by: Plaas Media (Pty) Ltd
217 Clifton Ave, Lyttelton, Centurion, RSA
Private Bag X2010, Lyttelton, 0140, RSA
Tel: +27 12 664 4793 • www.agriorbit.com

Chief editor: Lynette Louw
+27 84 580 5120
lynette@plaasmedia.co.za

Deputy editor: Jayne du Plooy
+27 82 414 0151
jayne@plaasmedia.co.za

Sub-editor: May Nel
+27 67 479 4059 • may@plaasmedia.co.za

News editor: Ursula Human
+27 64 890 6942 • ursula@plaasmedia.co.za

Design & layout: Annemie Visser
+27 72 244 4188 • annemie@plaasmedia.co.za

Advertising:

Karin Changuion-Duffy
+27 82 376 6396 • karin@plaasmedia.co.za

Susan Steyn
+27 82 657 1262 • susan@plaasmedia.co.za

Juan de Villiers
+27 60 508 3188 • juan@plaasmedia.co.za

Rowena Simmons
+27 79 568 6025 • rowena@plaasmedia.co.za

Accounts: Marné Anderson
+27 72 639 1805
marne@plaasmedia.co.za

Subscriptions: Beauty Mthombeni
+27 64 890 6941
beauty@plaasmedia.co.za

Printed and bound by: Typo
+27 11 402 0571

Oilseeds Focus, Plaas Media and its staff and contributors do not necessarily subscribe to the views expressed in this publication.

© Copyright: No portion of this magazine may be reproduced in any form without the written consent of the publishers.

Published on behalf of:
Protein Research Foundation
PO Box 1564, Rivonia, 2128
Tel: 011 803 2579 • Fax 011 803 2287 / 086 634 8067
Enquiries: gkeun@proteinresearch.net