



BRIEFING

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Millet: Production, Uses, and Exports Kevin McNew and Sam Bixley

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Production:

Millet is primarily used as birdseed for domesticated birds such as parakeets and cockatiels, and for wild birds such as finches and sparrows. Millet is also used in feed mixtures for sheep, poultry, cattle and hogs.

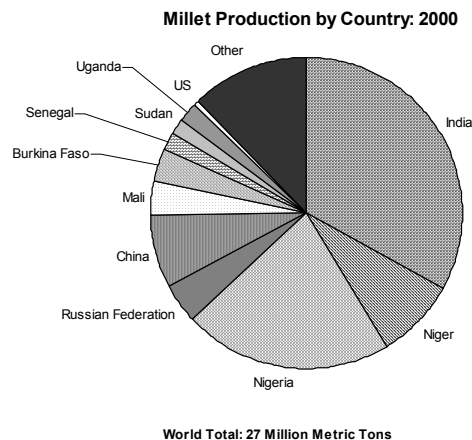
In 2000, 63 percent of the world's millet was grown in India, Nigeria and Niger (Figure 1). World millet production varied from 25 mmt to 30 mmt in the 1990's (Figure 2). The United States produces only 1 percent of world millet production.

In the United States, millet is primarily used as birdseed and animal feed, but a small portion is used for human consumption and is sold in organic and health food stores. It is grown in Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota. U.S. millet production was very stable at approximately 0.20 mmt from 1991 to 1998 (Figure 3). In 1999, production doubled to 0.40 mmt, before declining to 0.15 in 2000.

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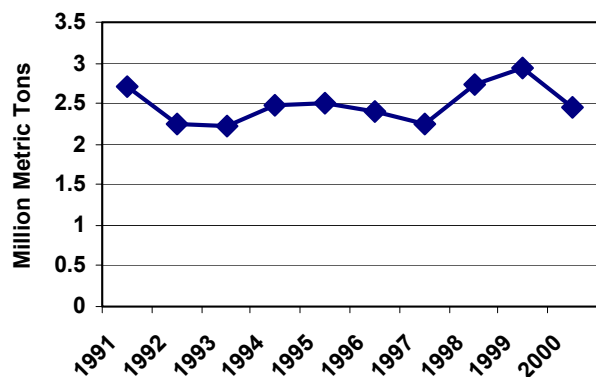
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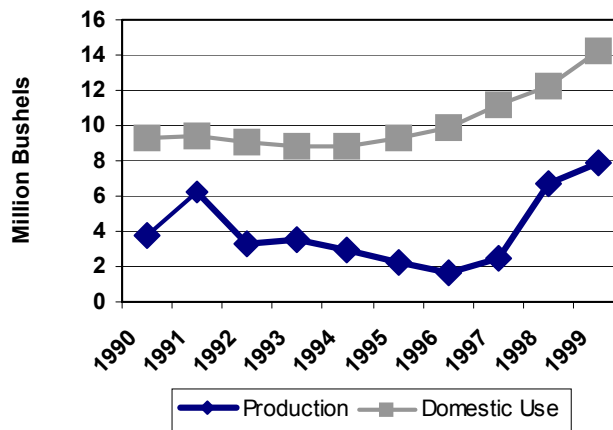


Objective
Analysis
for Informed
Decision Making

**Figure 2: World Flaxseed Production:
1991-2000**



**Figure 3: U.S. Flaxseed Production and
Domestic Use: 1990-1999**



Consumption:

For aesthetic reasons, a premium is paid for brighter colored seeds which are packaged for caged birds. Darker colored seeds are reserved for wild birds and livestock. Typically, millet is ground and fed to livestock as a substitute for sorghum and wheat and has protein values higher than corn. W

Imports and Exports:

Major importers of millet include many western European nations (Table 1). However, the majority of human consumption is found in lesser-developed nations as it can be easily cultivated and is an inexpensive source of protein.

Table 1: World Millet Imports, 2000

Millet Imports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Netherlands	7,948	13.46%
Germany	4,954	8.39%
Belgium-Luxembourg	4,638	7.85%
United States	1,119	1.89%
World Total	59,060	100.00%

Although the United States is a small producer of millet, it had the largest share of world exports (20 percent) in 2000 (Table 2).

Table 2: World Millet Exports, 2000

Millet Exports	Metric Tons	Share of World
United States	10,207	20.13%
Netherlands	7,282	14.36%
Australia	4,996	9.85%
China	4,575	9.02%
World Total	50,699	100.00%

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