



BRIEFING

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

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Production:

Edible and inedible varieties of rapeseed are produced throughout the world. Rapeseed is a member of the mustard family. Rapeseed production began during World War II and was used as lubricants. In the United States and Canada, edible varieties of rapeseed are known as Canola. Canola is the 5th largest oilseed crop in the world behind soybeans, sunflowers, peanuts, and cottonseed.

Canola production is scattered among 50 countries worldwide with China being the largest producer, harvesting 29 percent of total world production (approximate 11.5 million metric tons [mmt] in 2000. (Figure 1).

World production has increased dramatically during the 1990s (Figure 2). The United States produced an all time high of 917,000 metric tons in 2000 (Figure 3). This is nearly a ten-fold increase since 1991, when U.S. production was only 94,000 metric tons.

Even though United States production has expanded significantly in recent years, the United States accounts for only 2 percent of world production.

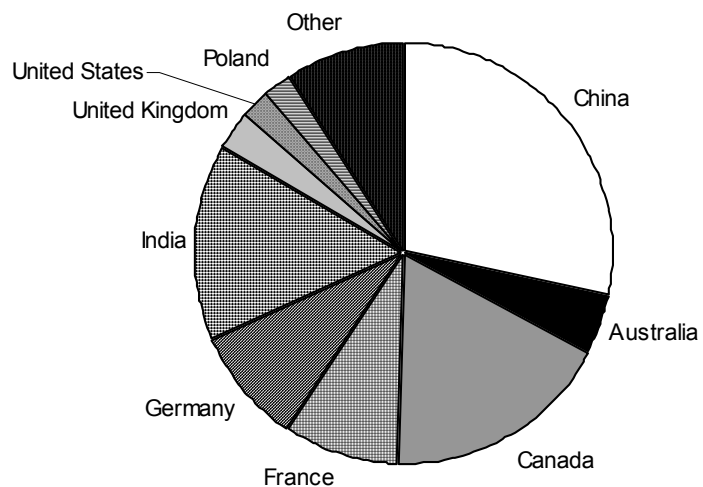
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Objective
for Informed
Decision Making
Analysis

Figure 1: Canola Production by Country: 2000



World Total: 40.2 Million Metric Tons

Figure 2: World Canola Production: 1991-2000

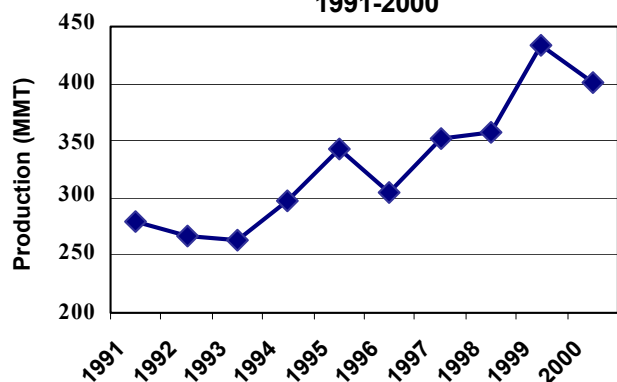
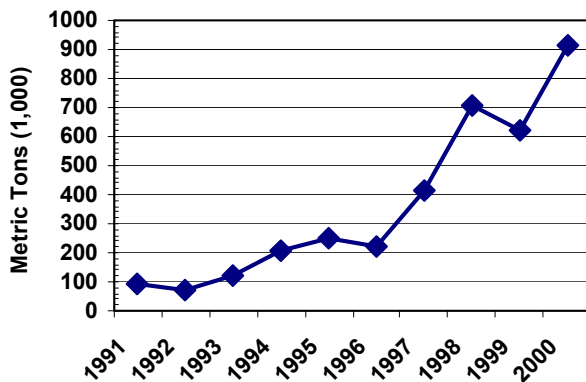


Figure 3: U.S. Canola Production: 1991-2000



Consumption:

Canola contains about 40 percent oil and is primarily used for human consumption as vegetable oil, margarine, and salad oil. It is also used for inedible products such as cosmetics, fungicides, herbicides, pesticides, and suntan oil. After the oil is extracted, a high protein feed concentrate remains which is suitable for livestock consumption and is highly palatable. Historically, canola has also been used as forage, typically for field-raised poultry and swine. One acre can produce 1 to 2 tons of dry matter with a crude protein content ranging from 21-33 percent.

Imports and Exports

China and Japan are the major importers of Canola as they are responsible for 54 percent of all imports (Table 1).

Table 1: World Canola Imports, 2000

Canola Imports	Metric Tons	Share of World
China	628,403	26.71%
Japan	613,223	26.07%
Germany	261,154	11.10%
United States	59,494	2.53%
World	2,352,668	100.00

Canada, France, and Australia export over 85 percent of the canola traded on the world market (Table 2). The United States plays a minor role in both exports and imports accounting for only 2 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

Table 2: World Canola Exports, 2000

Canola Exports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Canada	898,344	37.68%
France	510,657	21.42%
Australia	396,194	16.62%
United States	37,110	1.56%
World Total	2,383,917	100.00%

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