

Wheat Flour
Kivu Project

Attempts to restore the cultivation of wheat in the Lubero area are continuing successfully. Cultivation is extending farther and farther south in that area, as the farmers in the North are growing for their own consumption only.

The Midema company distributed 14,900 kg of improved seed to 1,200 farmers in 1983, and 21,000 kg to 3,400 farmers in 1985. The final objective of the project is to involve 20,000 small farmers.

The yield of 2 tonnes/hectares, as opposed to 500 kg before the distribution of selected seed, has the farmers to resume cultivation of a crop that was introduced in the Kivu region as early as 1914.

With the 1985 harvest, it should be possible to market 600 tonnes of wheat after the domestic need is met.

There are two crops grown per year, the first in February-March, and the second in August-September.

Northern Shaba Project

A pilot station was installed by Medema at Fungurume in June 1985. This station has an extension in Kolwezi and another near Lubumbashi, under the national corn program. The first objective is to select the variety of seed best suited to the region's climate and soil.

Early in the year, from the International Center for selected wheat seeds of Mexico (CIMITY), Midema acquired two new high performance varieties for its wheat program in Northern Kivu. Their names are "FINK" "S" "POHARI 485" and "KVZ 7C CBS SPRING 130". They were strongly recommended to Midema on account of their yields and toughness. Some 453 kg of seed of these varieties was distributed to the peasants for use in rural areas.

Agris Program, Likasi (ex: CEPSE-GCM): The average annual yield per hectare has always exceeded five tonnes, dropping to 3.5 tonnes/hectares for the 1982-1983 crop year due to adverse weather. The program was originally designed to develop industrial maize growing and in a short time frame to achieve a production figure of 25,000 tonnes per year. The project's success is due to a high-performing maize seed variety (R52) and early planting of seed. Maize production in 1984-1985 was 25,000 tonnes.

7. Market Prospects - Grains and Oilseeds

Zaire will continue to import grain and flour for the foreseeable future since wheat production is still in the experimental stage and bread consumption is rising.

Canadian exporters should contact importers in Zaire, except in the case of Midema, which imports its wheat from the United States.

With regard to Canadian special crops Zaire is familiar only with local grains. Zaire is self-sufficient in navy beans, persimmon and maize.