

4.0 SOYA BEANS

Soya beans are not being cultivated on a commercial basis in Malaysia. Currently, local demands are met by import, the bulk of which comes from China, America, Vietnam and Argentina.

Recently, Nestle (Malaysia) launched 'Twin', a milk powder combining dairy and soyabean protein. Currently the Twin powder is imported from the Philippines before packing locally. To reduce this dependence on imported product Nestle's Agronomy Division has set up a pilot farm in Kedah where different varieties of soyabeans have been cultivated over the last nine months. The final objective is to develop a suitable strain for commercial cultivation which will eventually meet the soya requirements for the manufacturing of Twin. Nestle itself will not be growing soyabeans but will be providing technical and other assistance to the farmers who will be cultivating soyabeans on a commercial basis.

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF SOYA BEANS

(M\$ '000 CIF)

Country	1987	1988
Argentina	-	54592
Brazil	13148	-
Canada	14808	16869
China	109185	113394
Kampuchea	-	4854
US	9271	41662
Vietnam	10284	33159
Other	1159	2984
TOTAL	157855	267514

Source: Ibid