

7. OILSEEDS AND OILSEED PRODUCTS

7.1 Oilseeds

Soybeans, rapeseed, sesame, peanuts, perilla and cottonseeds are the major oilseed crops currently grown in Korea. With the exception of sesame, peanuts and perilla, all other oilseeds are of marginal economic value for Korean farmers. Despite continued government incentive programs to expand acreage, production of soybeans, rapeseed and cottonseed have continued to decrease over the years. In 1986, the total area planted in oilseed crops decreased to 274,000 hectares from 275,000 hectares and total production of oilseeds also decreased to approximately 300,000 tonnes from 320,000 tonnes harvested in 1985. In terms of both acreage and production, soybeans and sesame still represent the two largest oilseed crops grown in Korea, representing 48 per cent and 32 per cent of total oilseed acreage planted and 66 per cent and 16 per cent of total oilseeds produced in 1986.

TABLE 11: OILSEEDS
(tonnes)

Oilseed	1985		1986	
	Production	Imports	Production	Imports
Soybeans	233,863	867,765	198,537	985,681
Sesame	40,811	2,940	48,247	1,099
Rapeseed	6,205	--	6,571	10,891
Peanuts	16,340	6,594	20,174	5,670
Perilla	20,730	--	25,210	--
Cottonseed	1,896 A	900	1,108	--
TOTAL:	319,845		300,000	

A = includes fibre

Source: 1987 Oilseed Report - Canadian Embassy, Seoul Korea