

Production Potential and Markets

Sesame

Sesame is well suited as a dry season crop in irrigated areas, especially in areas where dry season irrigation may be limited. It is also suitable for rainfed areas where it could follow rice or maize provided there is adequate soil moisture remaining after harvesting the main crop. Many varieties of sesame exist so a careful selection is required to select the best possible growing conditions.

Domestically sesame is one possible input to both the oil seed milling and livestock feed industries, but it is likely to remain a minor input unless its price falls relative to its competitors (soybean and groundnuts).

Sunflower

Traditionally sunflower has been difficult to grow in Thailand, however the introduction of hybrid varieties has overcome this problem. If production costs can be kept low, possible markets for sunflower would be oilseed meal for livestock and the edible oil industry.

Groundnuts

Groundnuts are cultivated under both rainfed and irrigated conditions. Presently, most groundnuts produced in Thailand are consumed locally. One fifth of the crop is crushed to produce oil and meal. The meal is in demand as an input for animal feeds for the broiler and livestock industries. However, groundnuts for oil and meal are in competition with soyabeans, sunflower and sesame. Internationally, groundnut exports are highly competitive, and Thai groundnuts generally have not been of high quality.

Soyabeans

Soyabean is one of the commodities promoted by the government, and protected by a specific import substitution policy under which the imports of soyabeans are banned and the imports of soyabean meal and cake are subject to licensing.

There are a number of constraints associated with the production of soyabeans in Thailand. Most production suffers from low yields, arising from poor quality seed and poor cultivation practices.

Source: Office of Agricultural Economics