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4) **TRADE POLICIES**

a) **Imports**

Oilseeds for crushing and refining and crude and refined oil are imported directly by the user i.e. the oilseed processing firm or the vegetable oil refiner/packer.

Although oilseeds and products were removed from the exclusive import control of Conasupo in the early 1980s, importers continue to require phytosanitary "authorization" for imports from the Ministry of Agriculture (SARH). The rationale for the requirement is to protect the domestic soybean producer.

The Mexican government has for the last two years raised the customs duty from zero to 15% (10% in 1990) for the period August 1st to Jan 31st to facilitate the marketing of the Mexican soybean crop at a more remunerative price return for the soybean producer.

The NAFTA when implemented will presumably eliminate this informal seasonal tariff mechanism and replace it with a tariff rate quota.

There are no known other non-tariff barriers.

See attached tariff schedules

The main companies involved in oilseeds and oilseed products trading in Mexico, specifically with respect to importations are listed on the attached page.

Vegetable oil crushers/refiners generally produce in retail pack and sell directly to end users such as food processors and retail outlet chains or through distributors for resale to retail outlets. Oilseed meal is sold directly to the compound feed manufacturers or the larger integrated commercial livestock operations and regional livestock producer unions or associations.