

3. Fertilizer Situation

Fertilizer utilization in thousands of tonnes of fertilizing units per crop

	<u>1981/82</u>	<u>1982/83</u> (thousands of tonnes)	<u>Difference</u>
N	2,157	2,196	+1.8%
P205	1,673	1,630	-2.5%
K20	<u>1,646</u>	<u>1,744</u>	<u>+5.9%</u>
	5,476	5,570	+1.7%
Tonnage of quantities Used:	14,717	14,762	

4. Import Mechanism

All grain imports to France are handled by the private sector. The ONIC applies European regulations in France (levies/refunds/assistance) and coordinates certain international tenders and adjudication procedures.

5. Grain Industry Infrastructure

As at January 1, 1984, the storage capacity of grain handlers in France totalled 24 million tonnes, including 72% for cooperatives, 23% for jobbers, 4.5% for jointly constructed warehouses and 0.26% for other grain handlers. The total capacity shows an increase of 423,485 tonnes since January 1, 1983 or 1.8% in one year.

As at January 1, 1984, the secondary storage (transit and carry-in) totalled 4.8 million tonnes, compared to 4.5 million tonnes for the preceding year.

Farm storage capacity was estimated at 17.4 million tonnes as at January 1, 1984.

6. Government Policies Affecting Grain and Agriculture

In this area, France applies the decisions of the community but continues to insist that the Board negotiate limitations on the import of substitutional goods within GATT. France also opposes the idea that community domestic prices should be brought into line with world prices. Finally, France does not wish to see the distribution of the world market fixed permanently.

Grain imported from Canada has qualities (soft wheat and durum) not available in France.

7. Canadian Grain Marketing Prospects

Locally obtainable projections to 1985 or 1990 of national grain imports: The level of imports each year depends on the quality of the French crop.

The difficulties experienced by French millers a few years ago in obtaining high-protein Canadian wheat seem to have been resolved.