

6. Government Policies Affecting Grain and Agriculture cont'd

The Minister of Agriculture Mr. Felipe Gomez Alvarez, recently expressed the Venezuelan Government's preoccupation regarding a series of negative factors which will induce Venezuela to import 2,719,688 tonnes of cereal and pulses as well as 90% of its requirements in vegetable oils again this year. He stated that Venezuela will be importing 95,000 tonnes of powered milk, 62,000 tonnes of beans, 42,000 tonnes of other pulses, 1,600,000 tonnes of corn and sorghum which could be produced in Venezuela. They will import 920,000 tonnes of wheat and 688,000 tonnes of soya. All of which means that nearly one million hectares of land are cultivated abroad to meet Venezuelan demand. In consequence the government wants to stimulate local production to limit imports.

7. Canadian Grain Marketing Prospects

The past COPEI government recently published a long term Agricultural Development Plan which takes into consideration present production levels, prospective population growth and prospective food needs to year 2010. The objective is to increase local production in order to be less dependent on imports.

Wheat and several pulses cannot be produced here, in consequence Venezuela will have to keep importing these staples. Canada should approach local importers and flour millers who have traditionally imported wheat, corn, oats, soya, sorghum, pulses and oilseeds mainly from U.S. suppliers.

There are marketing opportunities for special crops because except for some beans, special crops are not produced in Venezuela.

8. Processing Facilities

Year: 1984

thousands of tonnes

	<u>Number of Companies</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Annual Capacity</u>	<u>Actual Output</u>
Flour (and durum) Mills	10	12	900	
Compound Feed Mills	30	33	1,150	
Malt Houses	0	0		
Oilseed Crushers	10	10	370	168

9. Storage and Throughput Capacity

Grain Import Capacity by Port

Year:1982

- - thousands of tonnes - -

<u>Name of Port</u>	<u>Grain Storage Capacity</u>	<u>Annual Throughput Capacity</u>
Puerto Cabello		2,334
La Guaira		398
Maracaibo		439
Guanta		110
Sucre		36
Total Capacity		3,308