

Imports during 1988 totalled 33,000 tons of yellow corn and 9,539 tons of white corn, all from the U.S. Imports are sporadic and only undertaken when shortages occur. Substantial amounts enter Colombia as contraband from Venezuela. Import duties are the same as for wheat and barley at 33 percent on the CIF value. In 1989, a total of 1.1 million tons were expected to be produced from an area of 760,000 hectares.

SORGHUM - Production is estimated at 700,000 tons for 1988, up only 1.0 percent from 1987. The area planted nevertheless increased by 2.7 percent over the previous year to 260,000 hectares. Higher input costs and marketing problems were faced by producers. Support prices were CDN \$200 per ton in 1988 and CDN \$259 for the second crop of 1989.

Sporadic imports take place if shortages occur, as in 1988 when IDEMA imported 21,245 tons in order to increase buffer stocks. No imports were foreseen in 1989 due to the ample supply of substitutes. Production was forecast at 720,000 tons for 1989.

RICE - Planted in the flatlands, milled rice production in 1988 totalled 1,026,000 tons, 18 percent above 1987, from a planted area of 400,000 hectares. Around 75 percent of the crop is grown under irrigation and using 80 percent certified seed. Nevertheless, excess rains caused low yields in 1988. For 1989, 1.2 million tons are forecast. The support price which is at CDN \$319 per ton, was raised by 46 percent in 1988 and 38 percent for 1989 for dry paddy rice.

Imports totalled 39,960 tons in 1988, from Thailand (17,283 tons), Egypt (10,500 tons), China (10,000 tons) and Ecuador (2,176 tons). No imports were planned in 1989, and in fact, around 30,000 tons was to be exported to a neighboring country in the second semester.

OILSEEDS

Domestic oilseed production comes from African palm (60 percent), soyabeans (20 percent), cottonseed (13 percent), palm kernel, sesame, sunflower and rapeseed (7 percent). A total of 218,000 tons of soyabeans and 65,000 tons of soyabeans oil, fish oil and sunflower oil were imported in 1988 to meet domestic demand. Import quotas are established periodically by the National Oilseed Council for oilseeds, oils, and oilseed meal.