



RAPESEED DIGEST

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PRESIDENT CALLS FOR 150 MILLION BUSHEL BY 1978

In his address to the 7th Annual Meeting in Calgary on February 27, 1974, the President of the Rapeseed Association of Canada, Mr. J. J. Banfield, called on prairie producers to make available "a lot more rapeseed to meet the booming world demand". The current rate of growth, he said, suggests we will be able to use 150 million bushels by 1978 for domestic and foreign buyers. Referring to the domestic rapeseed crushing industry in Canada, Mr. Banfield said that it was one of the fastest growing in the country and had achieved an annual growth rate of 25.2 per cent in each of the last eight years.

NEW VARIETY LICENSED

The first Canadian low erucic, low glucosinolate variety of rapeseed was licensed in February 1974, under the variety name "TOWER". It was developed in Winnipeg at the University of Manitoba, under the leadership of Dr. B. R. Stefansson, one of Canada's outstanding plant breeders. The new variety is quite similar to "TARGET" in appearance and performance. Seed supplies for 1974 are probably sufficient to plant 200,000 acres with the possibility that this variety could occupy most of the acreage seeded to Argentine type (*Brassica napus*) in 1975. The low glucosinolate content of "TOWER" represents a very significant improvement in the quality of rapeseed meal as a feed protein supplement.

YIELD CONTEST 1974

The theme of this year's annual meeting of the Association was "Higher Yields of Rapeseed per Acre" and, in support of this objective, Elanco Products, a Division of Eli Lilly & Co. (Canada) Ltd., are launching a contest this year. They have indicated 30 bushels per acre as a minimum target for contestants on a 40-acre field (or larger), the field to be registered by July 1, 1974. The winning farmer and his wife in each of the three prairie provinces will get an all-expense paid trip to Japan, other Pacific Rim countries, and Hawaii. Elanco are distributors of "Treflan", a herbicide for weed control in rapeseed and other crops.

CANADIAN OILSEED ASSOCIATION

For some time the Rapeseed Association has been considering the possibility of broadening its activities to the promotion of other oilseeds produced in Canada, such as sunflowerseed, mustardseed, soybeans and flaxseed. The Board of Directors has authorized a study of the matter requesting that a plan be presented to the next meeting of the Board in the fall. In the meantime, the staff of the RAC will be in contact with producers of these other oilseeds and will assist them in any way possible.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

More than \$1 million in federal funds has been channelled through the Rapeseed Association of Canada to improve the quality of rapeseed oil and rapeseed meal, and to find other uses for rapeseed. This information was given to the annual meeting of the Association by Dr. J. M. Bell, Head, Animal Science Dept., University of Saskatchewan, at Saskatoon, who directs the research program, assisted by a team of scientists and animal nutritionists.