

THE PULSE

pod

POD I - GRAIN 5 - DECEMBER 2012



YIELD AND QUALITY DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY FOR ALL PULSE CROPS IN ARGENTINA

Source: Report from Ms Shakun Dalal



NEW PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF METHYL BROMIDE FOR QUARANTINE USE

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Rome.



“MARKET DESIGN - THE FORGOTTEN KEY”

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AGRICULTURAL POLICY MONITORING & EVALUATION 2012

Source: OECD - Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development

CHANA Daily Chart

December 2012

FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK



Dear Colleagues,

Greetings. It is my pleasure to place in your mailbox the December 2012 issue of The Pulse Pod. I am confident you will find articles on an array of topics including use of methyl bromide, market intermediation experience in India, some market reports and updates, chana tech analysis and so on of great interest.

As we race towards 2013, our Golden Jubilee year, there is excitement in the air. We need to celebrate the milestone in a fitting and memorable manner. Let me assure you, the Singapore Convention will be among the largest in our history. I welcome you to be a part of it. Please feel free to contact the CICILS office for anything that will facilitate your participation at the Singapore Convention.

As always, your active engagement with CICILS is a great source of strength. I encourage you to share your views, suggestions and comments with us on issues that may arise within your sphere of operation at any time and with which we may be able to assist in finding a resolution.

Also starting from next month the CICILS IPTIC e-magazine committee has agreed to make some limited and inexpensive advertising opportunities available for "The Pulse Pod". This is an exciting opportunity for members to expose their products and activities to the whole Pulse Industry value chain. Advertisements will be accepted by the committee on a first come first served basis commencing with the January 2013 issue. Please get in touch with the CICILS office for further details.

Let me sign off with warmest best wishes for your good health, happiness and prosperity for the coming New Year.

Hakan Bahceci
PRESIDENT

Readers are welcome to send their views, comments and suggestions.



Please email to:
thepulsepodmagazine@gmail.com

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AGRICULTURAL POLICIES: THE EUROPEAN UNION DROPS OUT

...As revealed by results from the SGPA (Global Support to Agricultural Production) indicator for the world's four major agricultural powerhouses (Brazil, China, United States and European Union)*

PARIS, November 19, 2012

Between 2005 and 2010, the per capita global support to agricultural production (SGPA)[1] has significantly increased in China, Brazil and the United States--by 130, 60 and 40 percent respectively--while it barely maintained its 2005[2] level in the European Union. In spite of statements on maintaining the current CAP budget, these

to support competitiveness and domestic demand stimulus:

- In Brazil, direct market interventions, reserve policies and incentives to develop biofuels (42 percent of the Brazilian SGPA);
- In the United States, direct payments, countercyclical payments supplemented by insurance mechanisms and a sizeable system of domestic food aid.



results thus are showing that Europe has, since 2005, been taking a direction that is in conflict with that taken by other world's major powers, which invest massively to safeguard the food security of their people.

In absolute terms, the 2010 SGPA indicator ranks the United States first with \$163 billion, followed by China with \$154 billion, the European Union with \$101 billion and Brazil with \$38 billion. Expressed as a percentage of the agricultural production value, the United States again ranked first, with agricultural support representing 48 percent, against 24 percent for the European Union and for Brazil, and 20 percent for China.

But numbers aside, a policy analysis indicates similarities between Brazil and the United States, which implement policies

As far as China is concerned, the government is conducting a policy of interventionism and safeguarding agricultural production that includes guaranteed minimal prices (\$258/ton for wheat and \$291/ton for rice in 2010), direct income support, social protection programs as well as tax relief...

Conversely, only the European Union turns its support system decoupled from production, in addition to greening criteria, into the cornerstone of its agricultural policy.

The verdict is final: Both the lower support and its unsuitability are causing the European Union to drop out, a situation all the more troubling that it would be worsened by the planned CAP reform.

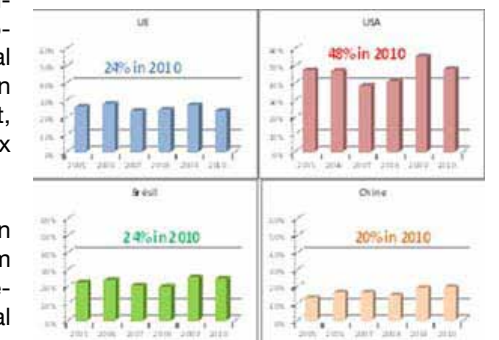
Chart 1: Per capita SGPA comparison: UE, USA, Brazil, China, 2005-2010, in national currencies.



Chart 2: SGPA comparison: UE, USA, Brazil, China, 2005-2010, in \$billions



Chart 3: SGPA comparison of national agricultural production, UE, USA, Brazil, China, 2005-2010, in %.



References

- In national currencies.
- At constant euros, global support to agricultural production declined by 3 percent in the EU.

“MARKET DESIGN - THE FORGOTTEN KEY”



Article by: R. Ramaseshan



Agricultural policy making, with few exceptions, rarely extends beyond distribution of inputs and crop management. Marketing of the produce has never received the attention that it deserved - maybe years of subsistence agriculture and insufficient production never brought issues in agricultural marketing to the fore. Compulsion to sell only in regulated market yards, limited infrastructure, a market loaded against the producer and a host of other restrictions characterise agricultural markets in India today.

Marketing of agricultural produce has two prerequisites - getting the produce from the farm to the market and participating in the selling process in the market. The producer faces an inherent disadvantage on both these counts. While the former entails initial expenditure compelling a sale on that very day, the latter in an alien setting places him at an inherent disadvantage.

The much maligned buyer in the regulated market has his own set of complaints - uncleaned and non-standard material being brought for sale is the most cited one. And this, from the buyer's viewpoint is the justification for the lower price offered and the discounts in weighing.

A fair market has to address these twin issues to make the process equitable to both participants. And designing such market structure, without alienating any section of participants is critical to any market intervention effort.

Gulbarga - a mid-size town in south India was the experiment ground for a new market structure. The area around the town is the bowl for red-gram, a variety of pulses in India and the regulated market here is the place where the produce is sold traditionally by farmers in the area. What distinguished this location for experimenting a market intervention was the strong pres-

ence of MYRADA, a woman focused voluntary agency, having presence for over three decades.

The experiment two years ago attempted to address the concerns of both the parties to the sale - the farmer and the commission agent or trader - to create a sense of fair play.

Getting the produce from the farm to the market is a cost intensive irreversible activity that invariably ends up in a sale. Avoiding or minimising this movement by storing the produce in warehouses and exposing standard lots to a competitive electronic auction could give an extra return to the farmer. Storing has an inherent weakness - the inability of the farmer to hold on to the produce. There comes a day when his desperation and need overcome the hope of a better price. Funding the produce for an interim period to overcome the immediate need is

critical and banks stepped in to meet this requirement.

Sampling, assaying and grading is sine quo non for such a changed process to be successful. With persuasion, buyers agreed to participate when assured that graded produce would be brought up for auction. And the seller was educated to agree to grading, as that improved the chances of realising a better price. While men-folk remained sceptical of the intervention, the woman of the house persuaded by MYRADA carried the message home and soon, a few early converts wanted to try out the alternate market.

A part of the selling process - albeit an important one - now addressed, the fo-

areas was a quarter of the cost in the traditional areas. And graded lots fetched a better rate in the auction.

A proper weighing system also contributed to a better realisation. All factors added up to an increase in realisation of 4 to 10 per cent over the normal sale process.

The downside of the intervention - two interrelated features - one, the expectation for a better price getting over rationality and a few farmers getting exposed to falling market prices and second the lack of means to protect the producer from the slide in prices. An improved market structure could provide this safety net in a large market setting, but scaling up to reach there is the challenge.

And reaching out to grade the produce is not a difficult task.

Intermediation in any market is critical and cannot be eliminated; the key is to make it efficient. One section need not lose for the other side to gain; what is critical is a market fair to both the parties. If only policy makers can participate in and conceive a proper market design!

(Mr R. Ramaseshan, IAS, is MD & CEO, National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, Mumbai, India. The views are personal)

Editor's note: Unlike large-scale mechanised farming in developed countries, agriculture in India is characterised by small-



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cus shifted to drawing up standards for grading and mounting an intensive education campaign for organising farmers into groups for economic lot creation and gaining the confidence of both sections of participants for the electronic auction process. The impact of the well designed intervention was revealing. The cost of reaching the selling stage in the intervened

And should this remain an experiment, limited to prove a point, only to be discussed in conferences? Here it transcended the experiment phase and led to an improved transparent auction market in the main regulated market yard. Grading was initially not a part in this market setting, but increased transparency through an electronic auction became the norm.

holder cultivation. It is estimated that 80 percent of India's 130 million strong farmers own and cultivate in less than one hectare of land. Growers have to overcome challenges of crop production, crop protection, weather aberrations, and market access and price volatility.



NEW PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF METHYL BROMIDE FOR QUARANTINE USE

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Rome.

Ozone-damaging gas still relied on to stop deadly pests – New MOU will promote use of alternatives, best practices

The FAO-based International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) have agreed to join forces to help countries better manage their handling of the ozone-damaging gas methyl bromide, used to treat plant products and thereby prevent the accidental spread of pests and diseases.

In a new Memorandum of Understanding signed on November 14, 2012, the IPPC and UNEP's Ozone Secretariat commit to working closely together to promote wider implementation of existing recommendations regarding methyl bromide (MeBr) as well as to support efforts to develop alternative phyto-sanitary treatments to replace it, where possible.

For decades MeBr offered a potent tool in combating the trans-boundary spread of plant pests and diseases, which can take a significant toll on food security, the livelihoods of farmers, and trade.

But methyl bromide is extremely damaging to the Earth's protective ozone layer, and in 1991 was added to the list of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement set up to phase out the use of ozone-depleting technologies.

The Protocol discourages the use of MeBr to combat pests and disease for non-quarantine purposes during production, but does make an exception for its utilization as a phyto-sanitary quarantine treatment, given its effectiveness in stopping pests and diseases.

Where alternatives to methyl bromide use during quarantine do not exist or are not feasible, a recommendation by the IPPC's Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) encourages best fumigation practices that can limit unwanted emissions of the

gas and calls for a shift away from MeBr as much as possible through the development of new alternative treatments.

For that to happen, plant protection authorities need information on and access to alternative treatments that are affordable, effective, and appropriate to their specific needs.

The MOU is intended to support these goals by:

- Strengthening information-gathering on how methyl bromide is currently being used for quarantine purposes in order to identify opportunities for shifting to alternative measures
- Improving regional and international coordination regarding MeBr management
- Fostering information exchanges and cooperative research aimed at reducing emissions of the gas and developing alternative phyto-sanitary treatments
- Promoting best fumigation practices in order to minimize MeBr emissions and encourage wider use of methyl bromide recovery and recycling technologies.

Fast facts: Methyl Bromide

A colorless gas at room temperature, methyl bromide both occurs naturally and is manufactured. Marine organisms are estimated to produce 1-2 billion kilograms of it each year; MeBr is also released in small quantities by some terrestrial plants. For agricultural and industrial use, the gas is manufactured by reacting methanol with hydrogen bromide.

MeBr has potent insecticidal, fungicidal and herbicidal properties, and since the 1950s has been widely used around the globe on farm, during crop production, to control a number of pests in a broad range of crops and wood products and is particularly

important for phyto-sanitary purposes as a quarantine treatment. When used as fumigant, methyl bromide is applied in concentrations that are acutely toxic to these pests - as well as to people. Handled properly, human health risks can be managed. It is the gas's role in depleting the ozone layer that has attracted the most concern.

In 1991 methyl bromide was identified by the Montreal Protocol as contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer.

However, the Protocol does allow for MeBr's use as a quarantine treatment. The exemption requires that treatment be either performed or authorized by a national plant, animal, or environmental protection or health authority and target officially recognized

quarantine pests which represent a significant potential threat to the export destination.

These quarantine fumigations can occur on farms, or central processing facilities, in lumber mills, silos or warehouses for products such as farm or construction equipment and machinery, lumber, fresh flowers and bulb, grains and cereals, hay, straw and cotton, perishable fruits, and wood products.

Fumigations performed during production, for non-quarantine pests, are not exempted from phase-out under the Montreal Protocol, and as a result the past decade has seen a steady decline in the use of MeBr.

Agricultural Policy Monitoring & Evaluation 2012

SOURCE: OECD - ORGANISATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2011, Total Support Estimate (TSE) was US\$ 406.7 Billion, up from \$ 383.6 Billion in 2010 and \$ 377.1 Billion in 2009.

The 2011 TSE comprised mainly:

- Producer Support Estimate US \$ 252.4 Billion (\$ 241.3 Billion in 2010); and
- General Services Support Estimate \$111.5 Billion (101.8 Billion in 2010)

The report's key highlights from the executive summary are:

- Producer Support in OECD countries continues to decline;
- . . . but in recent years primarily as a result of higher world prices;
- The potentially most distorting support still represents around half of the total;
- . . . although there is a general move away from support directly linked to production;
- Large variations in support levels across OECD countries remain;
- Total support to agriculture relative to national income falling in the OECD area;
- Still relatively little policy effort directly addresses environmental and risk management objectives;
- . . . and more policy attention could be directed at increasing agricultural productivity growth, sustainably;
- No major farm policy changes were introduced in OECD countries in 2011;
- Agriculture policy performance could be improved by targeting current policy objectives;
- . . . in particular, in light of buoyant global markets.

(Source: OECD - Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development with current membership of 34 countries)



The report monitors agricultural policy developments in OECD member countries. The OECD uses a comprehensive system for measuring and classifying support to agriculture – the Producer Support Estimates and the Consumer Support Estimates (PSEs and CSEs) and related indicators. They provide insights into the increasingly complex nature of agricultural policy and serve as a basis for OECD's agricultural policy monitoring and evaluation.

OECD estimate of support to agriculture:

YIELD AND QUALITY DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY FOR ALL PULSE CROPS IN ARGENTINA

Source: Report from Ms Shakun Dalal



ARGENTINA 2012 HARVEST

The talk of the SIAL trade show in Paris this year was the poor harvest in Argentina. Members of the Argentine trade indicated that yields and quality would be down significantly for all pulse crops in Argentina.

Argentina harvests its dry peas, lentils and chickpeas in October/November.

Chickpeas: Argentina has been increasing kabuli chickpea production for the past three years. The Argentine trade was expecting to harvest 150,000 MT of kabuli chickpeas in 2012. Trade estimates at SIAL put the Argentine chickpea crop at less than 85,000 MT with over 90% of the crop coming in at 6 mm to 8 mm. Rain at harvest will have an impact on quality. Very few 9 mm chickpeas will be available from Argentina this year.

Green Peas: Heavy rains at harvest have taken an expected 200,000 MT green pea crop and reduced it to below 170,000 MT according to Argentine traders. They believe that less than 30% of the 2012 crop will be of No. 1 or No. 2 quality. A majority of the crop will be highly bleached (10% and above) and much of the crop could end up as animal feed.

Lentils: Argentine traders estimated that they would have less than 35,000 MT of lentil production this year versus earlier estimates of over 50,000 MT. Lentil quality will be poor due to heavy rains at harvest.

MARKET NEWS USA

Pacific Northwest Grower's Market

Trading activity has been moderate with moderate buyer demand. Green peas, yellow peas, Pardina lentils and Brewer lentils were steady. Chickpeas were mostly steady.

Northern Plains Grower's Market

Trading activity has been moderate with moderate buyer demand.

Green peas, yellow peas, AWP, Pardina lentils and Brewer lentils were steady. Chickpeas were mostly steady.

Pacific Northwest Dealer's Market

Whole green peas, Brewer lentils and Pardina lentils were mostly steady. Green split peas and yellow split peas had no recent comparison. Whole yellow peas and AWP were not established. Chickpeas were mostly steady.

Northern Plains Dealer's Market

Green peas steady on light sales. Yellow peas and Richlea lentils were not established. Chickpeas were not established.

GROWER'S PRICE MARKET CHART (US\$ /CWT ON # 1 GRADE)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST	NOV 4TH, 12	OCT 26TH, 12	CANADA	NOV 4TH, 12	OCT 26TH, 12
Green Peas (Vine)	US\$ 16	US\$ 16	Green Peas	US\$ 19.21	US\$ 19.17
Green Peas (Upright)	US\$ 16	US\$ 16	Yellow Peas	US\$ 14.20	US\$ 14.18
Yellow Peas	US\$ 14.50	US\$ 14.50/15.00	Feed Peas	US\$ 9.45	US\$ 9.50
Lentils (Brewers)	US\$ 27	US\$ 27	Lentils (Laird)	US\$ 21.20	US\$ 21.21
Lentils (Pardina)	US\$ 27	US\$ 27	Lentils (Red)	US\$ 17.92	US\$ 17.88
Kabuli chickpeas	US\$ 42/40	US\$ 42	Lentil (Richley)	US\$ 21.06	US\$ 21.49
			Kabuli chickpeas	US\$ 34.17	US\$ 34.10
			Desi Chickpeas	US\$ 29.53	US\$ 29.47
NORTHERN PLAINS	NOV 4TH, 12	OCT 26TH, 12			
Green Peas	US\$ 16.67/18.75				
Yellow Peas	US\$ 13.75/15				
Lentils (Richley)	US\$ 18/19				

NOTE:

Market prices contained in this newsletter may or may not reflect actual market conditions at the time of sale.

CHANA DAILY CHART

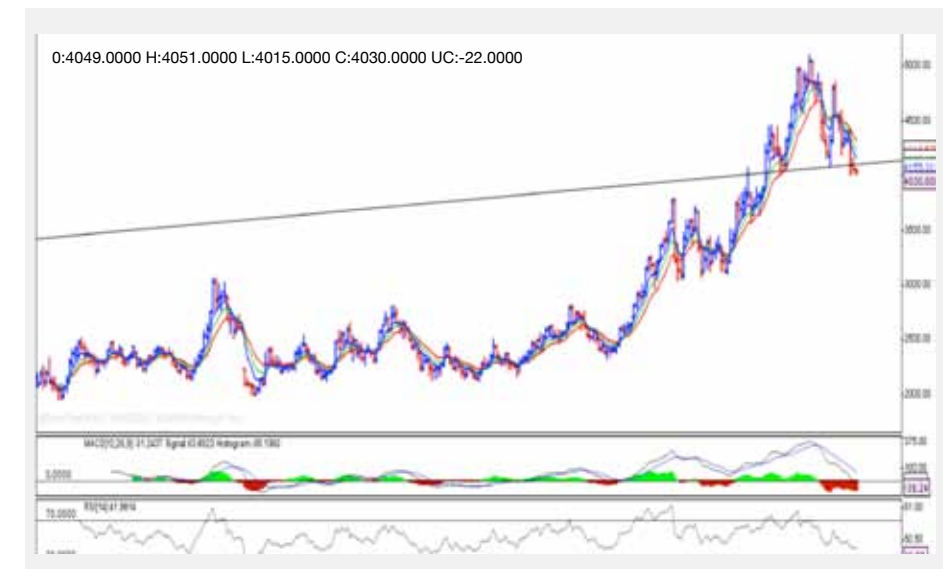
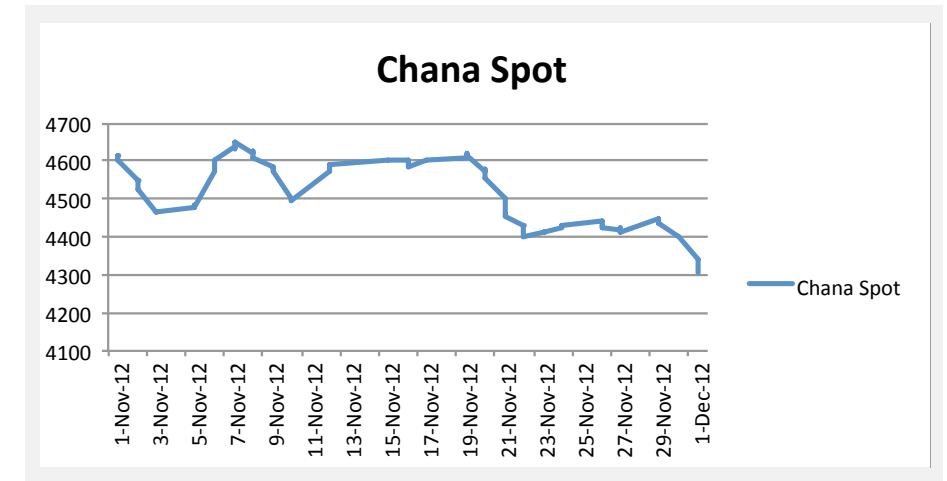
(Price: Indian Rupees per 100 kilograms)

CHANA Futures

Prices have given a break below the rising uptrend line. We can see a bearish head and shoulder top pattern which suggests that the larger uptrend might reverse for Chana. There is a negative divergence on the RSI momentum indicator which further supports the bearish implications on the prices.

Downside target is around 3750/3650 with a resistance of the neckline near 4100. A break below 3980 would give further negative confirmation and prices can drift near pattern target levels. Resistance can be seen near 4100 followed by 4250. For now any rally can be used as a selling opportunity.

(The author Mr T.Gnanasekar, Director, CommTrendz Research in Mumbai, India, is a well-known technical analyst. This analysis is based on historical price movements. There is risk of loss in trading. The author can be contacted at: Gnanasekar_thiagarajan@yahoo.com)





BACKGROUND

Summary of approved AIP projects:

Project 1: Identifying the key components in beans responsible for cholesterol-lowering effects

Primary Investigator: Dr. Peter Jones, Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

Project 2: Identifying the component(s) in lentils responsible for lowering postprandial glycemic response using different lentil varieties.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Dan Ramdath, University of Guelph

Project 3: Comparing the impact of different lentil fractions on blood glucose attenuation.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Harvey Anderson, University of Toronto

Under Projects 2 & 3, data that establishes the specific components in lentils responsible for their effects on short term blood sugar control will help the pulse/lentil industry to advance related health claim submissions in various jurisdictions.

Project 4: Determining the physiological efficacy of pea fractions in relation to cholesterol and lipid lowering and Activity

Principal Investigator: Dr. Peter Jones, Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

Project 5: Determining the physiological efficacy of pea fractions in relation to blood glucose attenuation and satiety.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Harvey Anderson, University of Toronto. Results from Projects 4 & 5 will elucidate potential health claims for each individual pea fraction and will be critical to defining future research, regulatory and marketing directions for the industry.

Project 6: Determining the digestibility and nutritional quality of food products containing pulse ingredients.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joyce Boye, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Dr. Linda Malcolmson, Canadian International Grains Institute. For the proposed study, pulse ingredients to be tested are limited to yellow pea flour and large green lentil flour as well as pea fibre.

Project 7: Characterizing the specific fibre components in pulses.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Susan Tosh, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Results from this activity will provide the industry with much needed information on what specific components comprise the soluble versus insoluble fibre fractions of each pulse type.

Identifying the specific components within these fibre fractions will elucidate their potential functional and health benefits. This data will be used to define future research directions.

NEW FUNDS TO PROPEL CANADA'S PULSE INDUSTRY

WINNIPEG (November 13, 2012) – Canada's pulse industry will receive \$617,023 through the Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP) to research the health and nutrition benefits of pulses. Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz made the announcement earlier today from the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals.

"The AIP funding is directly supporting the industry's long term strategy to leverage the health and nutrition attributes of pulses" says Pulse Canada CEO Gordon Bacon. Research conducted under this program will advance knowledge of the role pulses can play in preventing diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and will assist the Canadian pulse industry in its efforts toward securing health claims.

As one the recipients of AIP funding, Dr. Peter Jones, Director of the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals is thrilled with the news. "This funding will be used to identify the components in beans and peas responsible for reducing cholesterol levels, an important factor in fighting heart disease" says Jones.

In total, seven pulse research projects were approved for funding under this program. The federal funds reinforce the government's commitment to enhance the competitiveness and growth of Canadian agriculture. Three provincial grower associations including the Alberta Pulse Growers, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, and Manitoba Pulse Growers Association also made substantial investments to support the partnership with AAFC.

In addition to AIP funding, Pulse Canada and the Canadian Special Crops Association will receive up to \$195,000 through the AgriMarketing program to introduce, grow and maintain the presence of Canadian pulses in existing international markets and increase the volume of exports. Both funding announcements come on the heels of the release of Pulse Canada's five-year strategic plan.

"The plan will enable the Canadian pulse industry to deliver innovative, healthy and sustainable foods consistently and reliably to markets around the world" says Bacon. Pulse Canada's strategic plan can be viewed in video form at www.pulsecanada.com/strategy.

For more information: Shelley Jesseau, Manager of Marketing & Communications, (204) 925-4451, sjesseau@pulsecanada.com

CICILS 2013 SINGAPORE CONVENTION

Available SPONSORSHIPS

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS	COST	AVAILABILITY
Main - Conference Title	\$50,000	1
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Gold - Luncheons	\$15,000	1
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Bronze - Individual Sessions / Round Table	\$5,000	1
Copper - Corporate Brochure Inserts	\$2,500	10

TAKEN SPONSORSHIPS	COST	COMPANY NAME
Platinum - Welcome Reception	\$25,000	Esarco, India
Titanium - Badge Holder	\$20,000	Mellow Trading, UAE
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Silver - Refreshments & Power Breaks	\$10,000	Arvee Intl, Singapore
Silver - Delegate Bags + cost of bags	\$5,000	Blue Ribbon, Australia
Silver - USB Flash Drive + cost of USB drive	\$5,000	Emco, UAE
Silver - Delegate Gifts + cost of gifts	\$5,000	Tiryaki Agro Gida, Turkiye
Bronze - Internet Cafe	\$5,000	Allianz, India
Bronze - Individual Sessions	\$5,000	Societa Cofica- Australia, Victoria Pulse- Canada, ACE- Audit Control- Switzerland, Laoting Best Fortune- China, Teekay & Danny- Egypt, Simpson Seed- Canada, Tiryaki Agro Gida- Turkey, Pulse Splitting- Sri Lanka
Bronze- Writing Materials + cost of pad and pen	\$3,500	Shreemahalakshmi Traders, India
Copper - Pocket Program & Appointment Leaflet	\$3,500	Agrozan, UAE
Copper - Contribution towards momentos/gift sponsors	\$3,000	Fertinvest- UAE, Arab Traders for Trading- Egypt, Pulse Splitting- Sri Lanka
Quiz Sponsor	\$5,000	Armada Foods- Turkey, USADPLC & USDBC- USA, Globeways- Canada, Mega Grain- India, Arvee International-Singapore, Fertinvest- UAE, Intertek- Australia, Buhler- India, Eco Turka- Turkey, Snack Crops- Argentina, Acos- Italy, Argensun- Argentina, CSCA- Canada
Exhibitors	\$5,000	CFT- Canada, Agromin- Australia, Intertek- Australia, Armada Foods- Turkey, Dolphins&Doves- Singapore, UniGlocal- UAE, Daanvir- Thailand
Full Page Adverts	\$1,000	Viterra- Canada, Agrissem- Australia, United Brokers- China, Iberica Corretora De Mercadorias- Brazil, Sanchez De Lozada Y Asociados- Chile, Cogeser- France, Cogeser- Australia
Half Page Adverts	\$500	

**“Eat more pulses,
help fight hunger,
save the world”**



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KEY GROWING AREAS IN INDIA ARE MOISTURE STARVED

Indian market update: G. Chandrashekhar

The big news from India is that planting of various pulse crops during the Rabi season (early-winter planting and spring harvest) 2012-13 has been lagging. Given that normal planted area for the Rabi season is about 13 million hectares, as of mid-November, only 6.4 million hectares had been planted as compared with 7.6 million hectares same time last year.

Chana (gram) the dominant Rabi season pulse crop in India has been planted to 4.7 million hectares (5.4 million hectares this time

The Indian Agriculture Ministry has set the target for pulses production for Rabi 2012-13 at 10.5 million tons comprising in the main 8.0 million tons of chana (gram). Madhya Pradesh, the main chana growing State, is currently facing 18 percent lower precipitation.

It is pertinent to note that the 2012-13 kharif season harvest of pulses was 5.3 million tons versus the target of 7.0 million tons.



last year) as compared with the normal 8.0 million hectares for the season.

Of course, planting is going on and acreage report from various States will be collated and updated from time to time. So, it is too early to pass a judgment about the size of the crop.

However, what is worrying is the position that cumulative post-monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole during the period October 1 to November 14, 2012 (latest figure available) is 12 percent less than the long period average. Some of the key growing areas are moisture starved.

Contrary to earlier expectation, pulses imports into India have not accelerated. In the first seven months of the current financial year beginning April 2012, total imports were an estimated 1.4 million tons. This comprised mainly 850,000 tons of yellow peas, the lowest priced pulse in the global market, about 100,000 tons of chickpeas and the rest urad, tur and masoor.

Given the pace of imports, on current reckoning, India's aggregate pulse import during fiscal 2012-13 is unlikely to breach the 3.0 million ton mark; and may actually be about 10 percent lower than that.



REGISTRATION FOR CICILS 2013 WORLD PULSES CONVENTION MARKING ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN SINGAPORE IS NOW OPEN !

Early bird rate: USD 950 from Nov 1st 2012 to Jan 5th 2013
USD 1050 from Jan 6th 2013 to April 8th 2013
USD 1150 from April 9th to Onsite (April 16th)

Become a member and take advantage of the **Early Bird Registration rate of USD 950 (valid only until January 5th 2013)** and book your room at the Marina Bay Sands at special rates,

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