

By Gerhard JH Scholtemeijer

# LOOKING TO THE past AND THE future

The establishment of *Oilseeds Focus* magazine is in many respects the realisation of an ideal that has also been a plea of the industry's many role-players over many years. Scientific writings, popular articles, the introduction of new developments – whether it entailed seed, chemistry, tools, implements, a new plant or publicity – all had to follow a different route in order to finally come to the attention of the role-players in the oilseed value chain. It is especially the sunflower and peanut industries that have experienced a long-desired need for this platform.

## Background

In the early 2000s the Protein Research Foundation (PRF) considered establishing its own soya bean magazine to create a home for the growing giant residing under the oilseeds umbrella. The project

was, however, put on hold. The PRF did create a quarterly magazine for the recently established canola industry, called *Canola Fokus*, but it has a limited scope and circulation.

The four oilseeds differ greatly from each other, which therefore presents us with a lot of room for contributions by all role-players in the various value chains. In doing so, we are now able to emphasise their respective positions and also promote, explain and highlight issues to the benefit of each industry.

## Sunflower industry

Although the sunflower industry is probably the oldest and most established of the oilseed industries, many changes have taken place internationally. These changes have only been partly, if at all, experienced in South Africa.

At the same time, developing agriculturalists are entering the sunflower industry in increasing numbers, while there are virtually no commercial producers left who can be described as sunflower farmers. All this is taking place while both sunflower oil and sunflower cake are still greatly undersupplied in South Africa, and are imported annually with large amounts of currency leaving our country in the process.

## Canola industry

The canola industry is increasingly outgrowing its infancy with an almost unlimited demand for canola oil and canola oilcake, both in the Western Cape and nationally. All aspects of the canola industry have undergone a learning curve as opposed to the established sunflower industry, which fulfils a

completely different role in agronomy. In short, the canola industry has a great need for inputs from all role-players, also to the advantage of the role-players themselves.

## Peanut industry

The South African peanut industry was once a mighty, lucrative, international role-player with products that testified of quality. There is currently a major effort underway to restore its significant role, which will place high demands on the industry. It is probably the most lucrative of all the oilseeds and other grain industries.

## Soya industry

The star among the grain and oilseed industries, however, is undoubtedly the soya industry. It plays a major role in all the links of the value chain, especially with regard to animal consumption (protein), but even more so in human nutrition.

The proposed development area of more than one million hectares earmarked for the production of 2,5 million tons of soya bean by 2020 – thus doubling the current position within the next six years – demands the input of all stakeholders in order to realise its goals. This magazine will be one of the most significant vehicles that can be applied to this end.

I would like to express my confidence that this magazine will fill a great gap, granting a wide variety of readers the opportunity to find what they are searching for in a more concentrated format. The latest industry information will be shared and the publication will give goods and services suppliers in the oilseed industry access to a very specific readership.

I hope that everyone will enjoy this reading experience.

*Gerhard Scholtemeijer*

Chairman: Protein Research Foundation



## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Introducing an INDUSTRY FIRST

**T**he oilseed industry in South Africa, based on sunflower seed, soy bean, canola, peanut and cottonseed, was in its infant stages before the 1970s. In this time the population consumed mainly animal fats in their diet. All other lipids for medicinal, cosmetic and industrial purposes, were imported.

The rapid and progressive change in the population's eating habits to consume vegetable oils, together with a booming requirement for vegetable protein for animal feeds, has stimulated the development of a vegetable-oil crushing industry.

### Statistics

Over the past five years the growth of soya bean production in South Africa has been exponential, stimulated by the expansion of the soya bean crushing capacity from 600 000 in 2011 to in excess of 2 200 000 tons in 2015. Soya bean meal is the protein ingredient of choice of the animal feed industry due to its low-fibre and high-quality content. South Africa is expected to produce a record 1 148 950 tons of oilseed meal in 2014/15.

Imported soya bean oilcake volumes reduced from 922 499 in 2012 to 610 022 tons in 2014 due to the growth in domestic production. For the first time in history, South Africa has produced more oilcake in 2014/15 than was imported over the same period. South Africa could very well approach protein self-sufficiency by the year 2025.

### Technology

In order to continue to grow in oilseed production, we need to make optimum use of progress in agronomic practices and exploit the genetic potential of new seed. Oilseeds need to be processed by making use of modern technology, in order to produce a quality source of protein that can be readily accepted by the animal feed and human food industries.

The implementation of technology will have a significant impact on the success of the oilseed industry. We trust that *Oilseeds Focus* magazine will play a vital role in this regard.

*Dr Erhard Briedenhan*

Please feel free to send us your contributions and suggestions to make *Oilseeds Focus* an enjoyable and worthwhile publication for the oilseeds industry. Contact Dr Erhard Briedenhan on 082 551 1634 or email [erhardb@netactive.co.za](mailto:erhardb@netactive.co.za).

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

**Editor:** Dr Erhard Briedenhan  
082 551 1634 • [erhardb@netactive.co.za](mailto:erhardb@netactive.co.za)

### Committee members

Gerhard Scholtemeijer • 011 803 2579  
Gerhard Keun • 011 803 2579  
De Wet Boshoff • 082 301 1035  
Richardt Venter • 083 590 3014

### Panel of experts

Dr Jos de Kock  
Prof André Agenbag  
Mr Chris Cumming  
Mr Adam Mostert  
Mrs Hettie Schönfeldt  
Dr Dirk Strydom  
Dr Ferdi Meyer

**Published by:** Plaas Publishing (Pty) Ltd  
217 Clifton Ave, Lyttelton, Centurion, RSA  
Private Bag X2010, Lyttelton, 0140, RSA  
Tel: +27 12 664 4793 • [www.veeplaas.co.za](http://www.veeplaas.co.za)

**Chief editor:** Lynette Louw  
+27 84 580 5120 • [lynette@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:lynette@veeplaas.co.za)

**Sub-editor:** Gerry van Niekerk  
+27 12 664 4793 • [gerry@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:gerry@veeplaas.co.za)

**Design & layout:** Karien van Wyk  
+27 12 664 4793 • [karien@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:karien@veeplaas.co.za)

### Advertising

• Richardt Venter  
+27 83 590 3014 • [richardt@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:richardt@veeplaas.co.za)  
• Karin Changuion-Duffy  
+27 82 376 6396 • [karin@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:karin@veeplaas.co.za)  
• Susan Steyn  
+27 82 657 1262 • [susan@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:susan@veeplaas.co.za)  
• Meshack Leshabane  
+27 79 575 2977 • [meshack@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:meshack@veeplaas.co.za)

**Accounts:** Marné Anderson  
+27 72 639 1805 • [marne@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:marne@veeplaas.co.za)

**Subscriptions:** Rochelle Mabebe  
+27 74 153 8380 • [rochelle@veeplaas.co.za](mailto:rochelle@veeplaas.co.za)

**Printed and bound by:** United Litho • 011 402 0571

*Oilseeds Focus*, Plaas Publishing and its staff and contributors do not necessarily subscribe to the views expressed in this publication.

© Copyright: No portion of this magazine may be reproduced in any form without the written consent of the publishers.

Published on behalf of:  
Protein Research Foundation  
PO Box 1564, Rivonia 2128  
Tel: 011 803 2579 • Fax 011 803 2287 / 086 634 8067  
Enquiries: [gkeun@proteinresearch.net](mailto:gkeun@proteinresearch.net)