

OILCROPS

As the 2018/19 season gradually unfolds, preliminary forecasts of ample crops across the oilseed complex point to a comfortable world supply and demand situation for oilseeds and their by-products.

After stagnating in 2017/18, global oilseed production is forecast to climb to a new record this season, led by an anticipated rebound in soybean and, to a lesser extent, sunflower seed, which would more than compensate for reductions in other oilcrops. Soybean production is expected to increase vigorously, mostly driven by a recovery of production in Argentina and further yield improvements in the United States, as well as by area expansions in Brazil, China and India. Among the other main oilcrops, global palm oil production is forecast to continue growing at a moderate rate, whereas global rapeseed production could contract, impaired by unfavourable weather conditions in the EU and Australia.

In 2018/19, growth in world meals/cakes utilization is forecast to slow down, tied to subdued feed demand in China, whereas growth in oils/fats consumption will most likely be supported by continuing economic growth in major consuming regions and sustained demand from the biodiesel sector. Based on FAO's current buoyant production forecasts, the output of oilcrop products is anticipated to exceed global consumption of oils and meals in 2018/19. As a result, world inventories at the close of the seasons are forecast to rise, particularly in the soybean complex, with major exporters' stock-to-disappearance ratios possibly reaching historical highs.

International trade in vegetable oils in 2018/19 is expected to recover from last season's passive performance. Trade in oilseeds and oilmeals is also forecast to expand, but at a slower pace, mainly reflecting uncertainties about the US-China trade relations and related slowdowns in import demand. These uncertainties, together with currently positive global production outlooks, have kept international soybean prices under strong downward pressure in recent months. International prices of oils and meals also remained on a falling trend.

In the coming months, factors affecting soybean crop prospects in South America and palm oil production in Southeast Asia will play a key role in determining price movements in the oilseed complex. Developments regarding the US-China trade relations will also be critical.

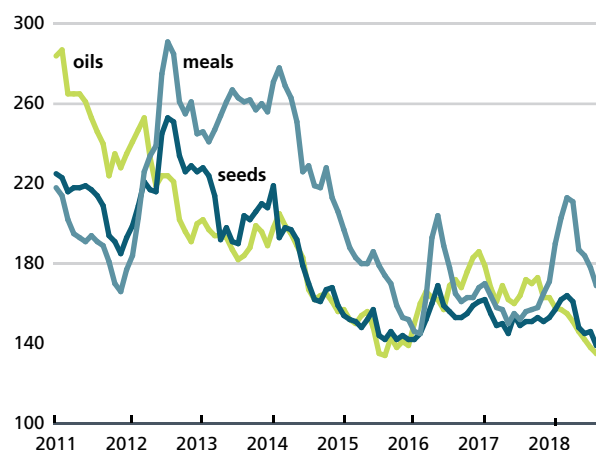
For additional analyses and updates, see:

Oilcrops Monthly Price and Policy Update at <http://www.fao.org/economic/est/publications/oilcrops-publications/monthly-price-and-policy-update/>
AMIS Market Monitor at <http://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-monitoring>

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FAO MONTHLY INTERNATIONAL PRICE INDICES FOR OILSEEDS, VEGETABLE OILS AND MEALS/CAKES (2002-2004=100)



WORLD OILCROP AND PRODUCT MARKET AT A GLANCE

	2016/17	2017/18 est.	2018/19 f'cast	Change: 2018/19 over 2017/18
	million tonnes		%	
TOTAL OILCROPS				
Production	586.7	589	616.1	4.6
OILS AND FATS				
Production	226.3	231.4	237.9	2.8
Supply	260.8	267.5	275.2	2.9
Utilization	222.8	228.5	235.2	2.9
Trade	124.0	124.6	129.0	3.6
Global stocks-to-use ratio (%)	16.2	16.3	16.5	
Major exporters stocks-to-disappearance ratio (%)	10.3	11.1	12.3	
MEALS AND CAKES				
Production	152.3	151.2	160.7	6.3
Supply	177.3	178.9	186.4	4.2
Utilization	145.0	151.6	154.7	2.0
Trade	96.2	99.2	101.4	2.3
Global stocks-to-use ratio (%)	18.4	16.9	19.0	
Major exporters stocks-to-disappearance ratio (%)	11.8	10.4	13.8	
FAO PRICE INDICES (2002-2004=100)	2016	2017	2018 Jan-Oct	Change: Jan-Oct 2018 over Jan-Oct 2017 %
Oilseeds	154	152	152	-0.6
Meals/cakes	169	159	187	18.1
Vegetable oils	164	169	148	-12.6

Note: For explanations on definitions and coverage kindly refer to previous issues of Food Outlook.

APPENDIX TABLE 10: TOTAL OILCROPS STATISTICS (million tonnes)

	Production ¹			Imports			Exports		
	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>
ASIA	132.5	141.6	143.7	122.0	134.8	134.4	3.7	4.4	4.2
China	58.4	62.2	62.7	93.0	103.2	100.9	1.1	1.2	0.9
of which Taiwan Prov.	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5	2.6	2.7	-	-	-
India	36.7	39.6	40.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.5	1.4
Indonesia	11.4	12.3	12.7	2.6	2.8	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	0.7	0.9	0.9	2.0	2.7	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
Japan	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.9	6.1	6.1	-	-	-
Korea, Republic of	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.7	1.7	-	-	-
Malaysia	4.9	5.1	5.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.1	0.1	-
Pakistan	4.5	4.4	4.9	2.3	3.8	4.1	-	-	0.1
Thailand	0.9	1.1	1.1	2.7	3.0	3.0	-	-	-
Turkey	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.2	2.7	2.8	0.1	0.2	0.2
AFRICA	20.3	21.0	21.4	4.2	5.4	5.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
Nigeria	4.7	4.6	4.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
CENTRAL AMERICA	2.0	2.0	2.1	6.7	7.4	7.9	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mexico	1.4	1.5	1.5	5.9	6.6	7.1	-	-	-
SOUTH AMERICA	184.9	182.0	201.8	2.9	6.1	7.0	74.8	87.0	91.9
Argentina	62.9	42.8	59.1	0.8	4.1	4.5	10.1	3.0	8.9
Brazil	105.2	123.3	124.6	0.4	0.3	0.6	56.3	75.6	74.5
Paraguay	9.7	10.1	10.7	-	-	-	5.1	6.2	5.2
Uruguay	3.3	2.1	3.5	-	-	-	3.0	2.1	3.1
NORTH AMERICA	146.0	162.1	168.7	2.4	2.5	2.2	71.3	75.6	74.6
Canada	25.8	30.2	29.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	15.3	16.7	17.9
United States of America	120.2	131.9	139.0	1.7	1.6	1.5	56.0	58.9	56.3
EUROPE	68.6	74.5	74.8	22.0	22.7	24.5	6.4	7.8	8.2
European Union	33.6	35.6	32.7	19.3	19.8	21.7	1.1	0.8	0.9
Russian Federation	14.3	16.6	17.8	2.1	2.2	2.0	0.7	1.3	1.7
Ukraine	18.5	19.9	21.8	-	-	-	4.1	5.2	5.0
OCEANIA	5.1	5.7	3.7	-	-	-	3.0	2.9	2.1
Australia	4.6	5.3	3.2	-	-	-	2.9	2.8	2.0
WORLD	559.4	589.0	616.1	160.3	178.9	181.8	160.1	178.8	181.9
Developing countries	339.8	346.7	369.1	129.9	147.6	149.1	79.5	92.6	97.1
Developed countries	219.6	242.2	247.1	30.4	31.3	32.8	80.6	86.3	84.7
LIFDC	62.1	65.0	66.4	4.8	6.4	7.1	2.0	2.5	2.4
LDC	13.5	13.8	13.8	1.4	1.6	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.6

¹ The split years bring together northern hemisphere annual crops harvested in the latter part of the first year shown, with southern hemisphere annual crops harvested in the early part of the second year shown; for tree crops which are produced throughout the year, calendar year production for the second year shown is used.

APPENDIX TABLE 11: TOTAL OILS AND FATS STATISTICS ¹ (million tonnes)

	Imports			Exports			Utilization		
	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>
ASIA	46.7	47.8	50.6	50.8	51.8	54.4	111.3	120.4	125.4
Bangladesh	2.1	2.5	2.6	-	-	-	2.5	2.9	3.1
China	9.7	10.3	11.2	0.6	0.5	0.6	39.3	42.2	43.9
of which Taiwan Prov.	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	0.9	1.0	1.0
India	15.2	14.9	15.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	24.4	25.6	26.0
Indonesia	0.1	0.1	0.1	28.3	29.3	30.9	11.1	13.0	14.7
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1.3	1.1	1.3	0.1	-	-	1.9	2.1	2.1
Japan	1.3	1.4	1.4	-	-	-	3.3	3.4	3.4
Korea, Republic of	1.1	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	1.5	1.7	1.7
Malaysia	1.5	1.3	1.2	18.1	17.7	18.9	4.8	5.2	5.4
Pakistan	3.2	3.3	3.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.0	5.4	5.4
Philippines	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.9	2.1	2.3
Singapore	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Turkey	1.9	1.6	1.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	3.1	3.2	3.1
AFRICA	11.4	11.7	12.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	18.5	19.3	20.0
Algeria	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
Egypt	2.0	2.1	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.4	2.6	2.8
Nigeria	1.5	1.4	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.3	3.3	3.4
South Africa	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.1	-	-	1.4	1.5	1.5
CENTRAL AMERICA	2.6	2.6	2.7	1.3	1.5	1.6	5.2	5.3	5.7
Mexico	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.1	-	-	3.5	3.6	3.9
SOUTH AMERICA	3.2	3.2	3.3	10.4	10.1	10.8	17.8	18.4	19.3
Argentina	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.3	5.8	6.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
Brazil	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.8	1.7	1.3	9.0	9.5	10.3
Paraguay	-	-	-	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
Uruguay	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.2
NORTH AMERICA	5.4	5.8	6.1	6.9	7.3	7.2	20.8	22.7	23.0
Canada	0.5	0.4	0.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	1.6	1.6	1.7
United States of America	4.9	5.4	5.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	19.3	21.1	21.4
EUROPE	14.7	15.5	15.4	11.2	12.7	13.1	39.5	41.1	40.4
European Union	11.9	12.6	12.6	3.3	3.2	3.1	32.6	34.2	33.4
Russian Federation	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.4	3.1	3.3	4.6	4.6	4.7
Ukraine	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.0	5.8	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.9
OCEANIA	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.3
Australia	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
WORLD	84.6	87.3	91.1	84.4	87.3	91.0	214.4	228.5	235.2
Developing countries	62.7	63.9	67.4	65.0	66.1	69.5	149.7	160.2	167.1
Developed countries	21.9	23.4	23.7	19.4	21.2	21.5	64.7	68.3	68.1
LIFDC	28.4	28.7	30.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	45.9	48.2	49.1
LDC	7.7	8.4	8.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	11.3	12.1	12.4

¹ Includes oils and fats of vegetable, marine and animal origin.

APPENDIX TABLE 12: TOTAL MEALS AND CAKES STATISTICS ¹ (million tonnes)

	Imports			Exports			Utilization		
	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>	14/15-16/17 average	2017/18 <i>estim.</i>	2018/19 <i>f'cast</i>
ASIA	36.3	39.5	42.4	13.4	15.0	15.7	161.5	179.8	183.9
China	3.1	4.1	5.9	2.1	2.2	2.0	89.4	101.5	104.3
of which Taiwan Prov.	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	2.5	2.6	2.6
India	0.4	0.6	0.6	2.0	2.9	3.7	14.7	15.8	15.7
Indonesia	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.3
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1.9	1.7	1.8	-	-	-	3.6	4.1	4.3
Japan	2.2	2.2	2.2	-	-	-	6.4	6.5	6.5
Korea, Republic of	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.8	4.8	4.9
Malaysia	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.1	2.3	2.5
Pakistan	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.2	-	-	4.1	5.0	4.9
Philippines	2.7	3.1	3.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	3.3	3.7	3.8
Saudi Arabia	1.2	1.5	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.6	1.9	2.1
Thailand	3.2	3.8	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.0	6.8	7.0
Turkey	2.0	2.4	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.4	5.8	5.8
Viet Nam	5.3	5.6	5.8	0.3	0.2	0.3	6.8	7.4	7.4
AFRICA	5.9	5.6	5.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	14.0	15.2	15.8
Egypt	1.7	1.2	1.1	-	-	-	3.2	3.7	3.8
South Africa	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.0	2.0	2.1
CENTRAL AMERICA	4.3	4.1	4.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	9.8	10.2	10.5
Mexico	2.4	2.2	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	7.2	7.6	7.8
SOUTH AMERICA	5.5	5.4	5.8	51.0	50.2	53.2	29.3	31.8	32.6
Argentina	-	-	-	31.4	27.8	31.5	4.5	5.8	5.8
Bolivia	-	-	-	1.7	1.6	1.7	0.3	0.4	0.4
Brazil	-	-	-	14.3	16.7	15.9	16.9	17.7	18.3
Chile	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.6	1.7
Paraguay	-	-	-	2.5	2.7	2.6	0.4	0.5	0.4
Peru	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.8
Uruguay	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
Venezuela	1.0	0.7	0.7	-	-	-	1.3	0.9	0.9
NORTH AMERICA	5.1	5.1	4.8	16.7	19.5	18.5	38.5	40.1	41.4
Canada	0.9	1.1	1.0	5.1	5.5	5.5	2.3	2.6	2.7
United States of America	4.1	4.0	3.7	11.6	14.0	13.1	36.2	37.5	38.7
EUROPE	30.4	31.5	31.2	8.2	8.9	9.3	68.9	72.7	72.3
European Union	27.7	29.1	28.8	1.4	1.4	1.2	58.1	61.1	60.6
Russian Federation	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.0	2.0	2.3	6.2	6.9	6.9
Ukraine	-	-	-	4.3	5.0	5.3	1.8	1.8	1.8
OCEANIA	3.4	3.9	4.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	4.2	4.9	4.9
Australia	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	2.0	2.0
WORLD	90.8	95.2	98.2	90.9	95.1	98.2	326.2	354.6	361.4
Developing countries	49.7	52.4	55.9	65.8	66.6	70.3	208.3	230.6	236.4
Developed countries	41.0	42.7	42.3	25.0	28.5	27.9	117.9	124.0	125.0
LIFDC	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.2	3.9	4.8	27.6	30.1	30.4
LDC	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.6	5.6	5.8	6.3

¹ Expressed in product weight; includes meals and cakes derived from oilcrops as well as fish meal and other meals from animal origin.

APPENDIX TABLE 24: SELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRICES FOR OILCROP PRODUCTS AND PRICE INDICES

Period	International prices ¹					FAO indices ⁸		
	Soybeans ²	Soybean oil ³	Palm oil ⁴	Soybean cake ⁵	Rapeseed meal ⁶	Oilseeds	Vegetable oils	Oilcakes/meals
 (USD per tonne) (2002-2004=100)		
Annual (Oct/Sept)								
2004/05	275	545	419	212	130	104	103	101
2005/06	259	572	451	202	130	100	107	96
2006/07	335	772	684	264	184	129	150	128
2008/09	422	826	627	385	196	157	146	179
2009/10	429	924	806	388	220	162	177	183
2010/11	549	1308	1147	418	279	214	259	200
2011/12	562	1235	1051	461	295	214	232	219
2012/13	563	1099	835	539	345	213	193	255
2013/14	521	949	867	534	324	194	189	253
2014/15	407	777	658	406	270	155	153	194
2015/16	396	773	655	351	232	151	155	168
2016/17	404	806	729	336	225	154	160	171
2017/18	402	820	648	381	258	153	154	182
Monthly								
2017 - January	425	879	806	355	216	161	186	168
2017 - February	428	838	779	357	241	162	179	170
2017 - March	408	809	735	346	238	155	168	164
2017 - April	389	788	693	331	240	149	161	158
2017 - May	392	827	732	329	239	150	169	157
2017 - June	379	821	681	313	238	144	162	150
2017 - July	409	836	665	326	220	154	160	155
2017 - August	391	854	678	318	216	149	164	152
2017 - September	395	879	729	329	209	151	172	156
2017 - October	397	869	721	331	207	151	170	157
2017 - November	401	885	719	333	204	153	172	158
2017 - December	397	863	666	348	219	151	163	165
2018 - January	404	865	679	361	239	153	163	171
2018 - February	416	846	660	400	265	157	158	190
2018 - March	432	830	684	427	294	162	157	203
2018 - April	441	824	663	447	302	164	155	213
2018 - May	432	787	659	443	282	161	151	211
2018 - June	389	783	631	391	264	148	146	187
2018 - July	378	774	591	382	267	145	142	184
2018 - August	379	763	561	365	282	146	138	178
2018 - September	357	755	545	347	277	139	135	169
2018 - October ⁷	371	764	532	351	271	142	133	169

¹ Spot prices for nearest forward shipment

² Soybeans: US - No.2 yellow - c.i.f. Rotterdam.

³ Soybean oil: Dutch - fob ex-mill.

⁴ Palm oil: Crude - c.i.f. Northwest Europe.

⁵ Soybean cake: Pellets - 44/45 percent - Argentina - c.i.f. Rotterdam.

⁶ Rapeseed meal: 34 percent - Hamburg - f.o.b. ex-mill.

⁷ The international prices shown represent averages for the first three weeks of the month.

⁸ The FAO indices are based on the international prices of five selected seeds - ten selected oils and five selected cakes and meals. The indices are calculated using the Laspeyres formula; the weights used are the export values of each commodity for the 2002-2004 period.

Sources: FAO and Oil World.

OILCROPS: MAJOR POLICY DEVELOPMENTS MID-JUNE TO MID-OCTOBER 2018*

COUNTRY	PRODUCT	DATE	POLICY CATEGORY/ INSTRUMENT	DESCRIPTION
Argentina	Soybeans, sunflower seed, groundnut (incl. respective oils/meals)	Sep-18	Export policy	Reduced the export tax on soybeans, soymeal and soyoil to 18 percent, after deciding to suspend its policy of gradually reducing export taxes for soymeal and soyoil for six months in mid-August. On top of that, a new export levy of 12 percent was introduced, with a maximum limit of 4 ARS (11 US cents) for each US dollar export value. While sunflower seed and groundnut also face a 4 ARS export levy, only 3 ARS (8 US cents) are assessed on the respective oils and meals.
	Biodiesel	Sep-18	Biofuel policy	Implemented three successive increases in the price that oil companies are required to pay for biodiesel.
	All crops	Aug-18	Agricultural policy	Announced a number of federal and state level relief packages to assist farmers hit by this year's widespread drought.
Brazil	Biodiesel	Jul-18	Biofuel policy	Raised the allowed voluntary percentage of biodiesel mixture in regular diesel for certain groups of users, in a bid to expand domestic biodiesel consumption.
	Glyphosate	Aug-18	Pesticide regulation	Federal court overruled an injunction suspending the use of products containing glyphosate, a herbicide widely employed for soybeans and other crops, citing potential economic damage at national level.
	Grains, oilseeds	June-18	Transport policy	Implemented temporary reductions in fuel taxes and introduced minimum freight rates to halt a nationwide strike by Brazil's truck drivers.
	Grains, oilseeds	Sep-18	Transport policy	Raised the countrywide minimum truck freight rates by 5 percent, following a rise in the market price of transport diesel.
	Rapeseed	Sep-18	Sector development measures	Granted state funding to the country's Canola Council in a bid to advance growth and profitability in the rapeseed sector, focusing on the development of new and improved products.
Canada/United States/Mexico	Oilcrops	Sep-18	Trade agreement	Agreed to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), under which trade facilitation measures for oilcrops would remain in place.
China (Mainland)/Kazakhstan	Rapeseed, rapeseed meal	Jul-18	Trade arrangement	Agreed to relax sanitary requirements related to agricultural product trade – a development that could boost Kazakhstan's shipments of rapeseed and rapeseed meal to China.
	Soybeans, soyoil rapeseed oil	Jul-18 to Sep-18	Public stockholding	Held public auctions of soybeans, soybean oil and rapeseed oil, with less than one-third of the quantities offered finding a buyer.
China (Mainland)	Soybeans	Sep-18	Agricultural policy	Envisaged a further expansion in domestic soybean plantings over the next five years, hand-in-hand with a reduction in maize sowings.
	Selected oilseeds, oils and meals	Sep-18	Trade dispute	Implemented, effective 24 September 2018, retaliatory tariffs of 10 percent on selected, weakly traded oilseeds, vegetable oils/meals and fish oil/meal imported from the United States, plus rates of 5 percent on a number of other oilseeds, vegetable oils and meals of animal origin. The measure follows the earlier introduction of a 25 percent tariff on soybean imports from the US.
	Rapeseed meal	Oct-18	Import policy	Removed a ban on imports of rapeseed meal from India that was introduced in 2011 over quality concerns.
East African Community	Aflatoxin	Sep-18	Pesticide regulation	Planned to develop a regional policy framework to address human and animal health threats posed by aflatoxin contamination.
Ecuador	Palm oil	Jul-18	Sector development measures	Presented a five-year action plan to make the country's palm oil supply chain more sustainable, including key objective to make RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certification the national norm.

COUNTRY	PRODUCT	DATE	POLICY CATEGORY/ INSTRUMENT	DESCRIPTION
Eurasian Economic Union	Trans-fatty acid	Jan-18	Food standards	Set the maximum permitted percentage of trans fats in food products at 2 percent of total fat content.
	Gene-edited crops	Jul-18	GMO policy	Ruled that crops and other organisms obtained through innovative genome editing techniques fall under EU laws regulating the use of GMOs, and are therefore subject to lengthy approval processes and stringent traceability, labelling and monitoring requirements.
	Olive tree	Jul-18	Disease control	Developed a remote, airborne imaging method capable of scanning orchards and detecting olive trees infected by the <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> bacterium before visible symptoms appear.
European Union	All crops, livestock products	Aug-18	Agricultural policy	Announced a set of support measures for European farmers affected by the current season's extreme drought, including allowing farmers to receive their direct and rural development payments earlier than scheduled, and to use fallow land with more flexibility. Member states are also allowed to provide compensation for damage without notifying the Commission.
	Biodiesel	Sep-18	Trade dispute	Decided to postpone the introduction of provisional countervailing duties on biodiesel imported from Argentina.
France	Soybeans, palm oil	Jul-18	Climate policy	Launched a public consultation on its draft National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation (SNDI), aimed at ending the import of forestry and agricultural products, including soybeans and palm oil.
	Biodiesel	Jun-18	Biofuel policy	Released its National Policy on Biofuels, which includes indicative mandatory blending targets for biodiesel by 2030 and emphasizes the reliance on biofuels produced from domestic raw materials.
	Coconut oil	Jun-18	Food standards	Banned the manufacture, storage, sale and distribution of 45 brands of coconut oil in Kerala State, after detecting samples that were adulterated and unsafe for human consumption.
	Oilseeds	Jun-18	Public procurement	Procured a record amount of oilseeds from farmers at minimum support prices in the 2017/18 season.
	Grains, oilseeds	Jul-18	Agricultural policy	Significantly raised minimum support prices for the major 2018/19 Kharif crops.
	Food product labels	Jul-18	Food standards	Proposed to require oil manufacturers to disclose the exact composition of blended oils on product labels, to enable consumers to make informed choices.
	Biodiesel	Jul-18	Biofuel policy	Launched discussions on setting up a system for the collection of used cooking oil and its conversion into biodiesel.
	Palm oil	Jul-18	Sector development measures	Encouraged farmers in Telangana State to embark on oil palm cultivation, in a bid to reduce India's dependence on imported vegetable oils.
	Soybean oil, palm olein, wheat	Jul-18	Trade dispute	Filed a WTO notification listing US products – including wheat, crude soybean oil and refined palm olein – that could be subject to retaliatory import duties, thereby responding to the United States' higher duties on imports of steel and aluminium from India.
	Oilcrops	Sep-18	Sector development measures	Presented new strategies to raise domestic oilcrop production over the next four years, with a view to helping to reduce the country's dependence on edible oil imports.
Oilcrops	Oilcrops	Sep-18	Public procurement	Reformed its procurement policy for agricultural crops with a focus on those where domestic demand exceeds local supplies, including a couple of oilseed specific schemes, with a view to helping to raise farmers' incomes by covering gaps in existing public procurement and compensation mechanisms.
	Grains, oilcrops	Oct-18	Agricultural policy	Raised the minimum support prices for the major 2018/19 Rabi crops.

COUNTRY	PRODUCT	DATE	POLICY CATEGORY/ INSTRUMENT	DESCRIPTION
Indonesia	Palm oil	Jul-18 to Oct-18	Export policy	Kept the country's sliding tax on crude palm oil exports at zero, marking 18 months in succession with no export tax.
	Biodiesel	Aug-18, Sep-18	Biofuel policy	Required, starting 1 September 2018, all diesel fuel sold in the country to contain biodiesel, and widened the ability of the country's Oil Palm Estate Fund to subsidize the price gap between conventional diesel and biodiesel, reflecting increased efforts to raise domestic palm oil uptake.
	Oil palm	Sep-18	Environmental policy	Signed a three-year nationwide moratorium on new oil palm plantation licences, supplementing an existing ban on primary forest and peat land clearing.
	Primary products	Sep-18	Export policy	Laid out new rules requiring commodity exporters to guarantee funding for shipments exclusively through local banks, as part of policies to address ongoing currency and current account problems.
	Palm oil	Sep-18	Foreign agricultural investment	Supported initiatives to establish overseas palm oil processing facilities that would source crude palm oil primarily from Indonesia, complementing past efforts to raise demand for locally produced palm oil.
	Rapeseed, rapeseed meal	Jul-18	Trade arrangement	Agreed to relax sanitary requirements related to agricultural product trade – a measure that could boost Kazakhstan's shipments of rapeseed and rapeseed meal to China.
Kazakhstan/China (Mainland)	Palm oil	Sep-18 to Oct-18	Export policy	Suspended the country's export tax on crude palm oil for the months of September and October.
	Plantation crops	Sep-18	Labour policy	Announced a new minimum wage that will take effect nationwide on 1 January 2019.
Malaysia	Coconut	Sep-18	Sector development measures	Planned to set up a special body to manage and regulate the country's coconut industry.
	Palm oil	Sep-18	Market regulation	Sought the assistance of the Government of Sabah State to ensure that local smallholders achieve Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification, instead of pursuing a separate state specific certification scheme.
Malaysia/Switzerland	Palm oil, rapeseed	Sep-18	Bilateral cooperation	Decided to set up an expert committee to explore opportunities for sustainable production, bilateral trade, exchange of relevant technologies and possible collaboration in downstream palm oil industry applications, with a view to securing Malaysia's palm oil exports to Switzerland without harming Swiss rapeseed producers.
	Oilcrops	Sep-18	Trade agreement	Agreed to replace North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), under which trade facilitation measures for oilcrops would remain in place.
Pakistan	Soybean oil	Apr-18	Import policy	Raised the import custom duty on crude soybean oil, with the aim of protecting local soft oil production.
Philippines	Coconut	Sep-18	Sector development measures	Approved a bill creating a trust fund to be used over the next 25 years for the benefit of the country's coconut farmers.
Switzerland/Malaysia	Palm oil, rapeseed	Sep-18	Bilateral cooperation	Decided to set up an expert committee to explore opportunities for sustainable production, bilateral trade, exchange of relevant technologies and possible collaboration in downstream palm oil industry applications, with a view to protecting the interests of Swiss rapeseed producers, while Malaysia raises its palm oil exports to Switzerland.
Tanzania	Oilcrops	Sep-18	Sector development measures	Pursued plans to modernize domestic production of oil palm, sunflower seed, groundnut, sesame, coconut palm and coconut, with a view to reducing the country's dependence on edible oil imports and improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers.
Thailand	Trans-fatty acid	Jul-18	Health policy	Banned, effective 13 July 2018, the production, import and sale of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) and foods containing the same, allowing for a 180-day grace period.

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Turkey	Sunflower seed, oil and meal	Jun-18	Import policy	Decided to leave the import tariffs on sunflower seed, oil and meal at their reduced levels, to ensure that domestic demand for edible oils was met.
Ukraine	Soybeans, rapeseed	Jul-18	Export policy	Postponed the abolition of a VAT refund on exports of soybeans and rapeseed until 31 December 2021, but only for farmers and companies exporting their own crops.
United States	GM crops	May-18	GMO policy	Called for public comments on a legislative framework for the labelling of GMOs, notably on detailed standards for the disclosure of food ingredients, with a view to assisting consumers in making informed choices.
	Biodiesel	Jun-18	Biofuel policy	Proposed the blending mandates for renewable fuels in 2019 and 2020, entailing i) increases in 'cellulosic biofuel' and 'advanced biofuel' volumes in 2019; ii) unchanged levels of 'conventional' biofuels in 2019; and iii) a moderate increase for 'biomass-based diesel' targets in 2020.
	Trans-fatty acid	Jun-18	Health policy	Decided, with regard to the nationwide ban on food products containing partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs), to extend the compliance date for certain specified applications of PHOs to 1 June 2019. Also allowed all food products containing PHOs produced prior to 18 June 2018 to be distributed until 1 January 2020.
	Glyphosate	Jul-18	Pesticide regulation	Federal courts are considering cases linking the use of glyphosate, a herbicide widely employed for soybeans and other crops, to human health issues.
	Crops, livestock products	Aug-18	Agricultural policy	Announced details of public assistance to be provided to farmers impacted by China's introduction of retaliatory tariffs, including direct payments, Government procurement of affected commodities for distribution to public nutrition programmes, and trade promotion programmes to assist in developing new export markets.
	Oilcrops	Sep-18	Trade agreement	Agreed to replace North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), under which trade facilitation measures for oilcrops would remain in place.
Viet Nam	Soybeans, wheat	Sep-18	Import policy	Sent non-compliance notifications to the United States regarding wheat and soybean consignments contaminated with seeds of perennial weed <i>Cirsium arvense</i> .
Zimbabwe	Soybeans	Jul-18	Sector development measures	Raised the price of soybeans delivered to the state-run Grain Marketing Board in a bid to stimulate domestic soybean production.

* A collection of major policy developments starting in January 2011 is available at: <http://www.fao.org/economic/est-commodities/commodity-policy-archive/en/?groupANDcommodity=Oilseeds.%20oils%20and%20meals>