

5th International Conference "Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture"

Soybean demonstration platforms: the bond between breeding, technology and farming in Central and Eastern Europe

Dragos Costin DIMA*

Donau Soja Association, Wiesingerstrasse 6/9, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Abstract

Europe's annual soy and soy derivatives consumption is rather high – around 40 million tons grain equivalent – and the European soybeans field production is very low – up to 0.5% of worldwide production.

In Europe, particularly in the European Union, soybean crop was neglected and forgotten; neglected by the policy makers and forgotten by farmers. Neglected and forgotten from both economic and agronomic perspectives.

Over the years, this situation deepened and deepened, today Europe is facing an enormous trade deficit in terms of soy grains, soya-meal and soya oil.

In the past three years we may observe the beginning of a changing paradigm for soybean cultivation. The soybean acreage is increasing, the farmers are reassessing more and more the soybeans in the field crops rotation and the governments started to introduce additional incentives to stimulate the development of soybean crop. This trend is noticeable particularly in Central and Eastern Europe/Danube Region, the most favorable area for soybeans in Europe.

Under these circumstances, the farmers' need for information and know-how transfer become a critical factor for success.

One of the powerful tools for farmer information is the demonstration platform. The demo platform is the place where farmers can visit and discuss about various soybeans technological plots and different soybeans varieties and where the breeders can display their newly and old but improved genotypes. Definitely, the demo platform is the bond between breeding, technology and farming.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest

Keywords: soybeans; demonstration platform; experimental plots; soybeans technology; soybeans breeding; farming.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +4 0744-355-787; Fax: +431-290-1429.

E-mail address: ddima@msat.ro

1. Introduction

Europe’s annual soy and soy derivates consumption is rather high – around 40 million tons grain equivalent – and the soybeans field production is very low – up to 0.5% of worldwide production.

In Europe, particularly in the European Union, soybean crop was neglected and forgotten; neglected by the policy makers and forgotten by farmers. Neglected and forgotten from both economic and agronomic perspectives.

Over the years, this situation deepened and deepened, today Europe is facing an enormous trade deficit in terms of soy grains, soya-meal and soya oil (Figure 1).

As example, the 28 countries of the European Union imported in 2013 large quantities of soya grains (13.5 million tons), soya-meal (19.6 million tons) and soya oil (0.3 million tons) from only overseas countries.

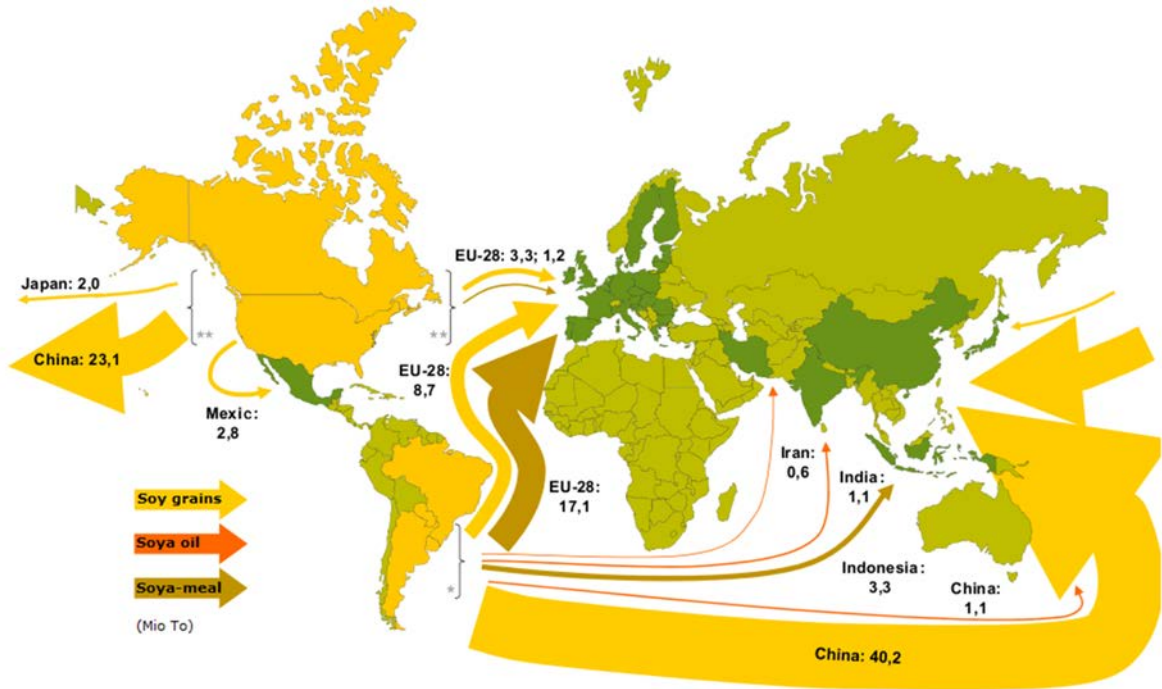


Fig. 1. 2013 EU-28 inflow of soy grains, soya oil and soya-meal.

Ranking according to the volumes exported, these countries are Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, United States and Canada.

In total, 95% of Europe’s annual consumption is based on imports. Serbia is the only country in Europe able to supply the annual soybean consumption from its local field production.

Nevertheless, Europe can and should rebalance its sources of soybeans supply. The most favorable area for cropping soybeans is the Danube Region, the Eastern and Central part of Europe (Krön et al., 2015).

In the past three years we may observe the beginning of a changing paradigm for soybean cultivation. The soybean acreage is increasing, the farmers are reassessing more and more the soybeans in the field crops rotation and the governments started to introduce additional incentives to stimulate the development of soybean crop.

From 2013 to 2015, Romania increased the soybean area from 67,400 Ha to 185,000 Ha.

Bulgaria faced even a more dynamic increase of the soybeans acreage, from 600 Ha in 2013 to 29,500 Ha in 2015 (Figure 2).

In 2015 soybean area in Europe expanded to 3.2 million hectares, from 2.6 million hectares in 2014 and 2 million hectares in 2013.

Due to the increasing interest of the farmers in the reassessing the soybeans from both agronomic and

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4492132>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4492132>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)