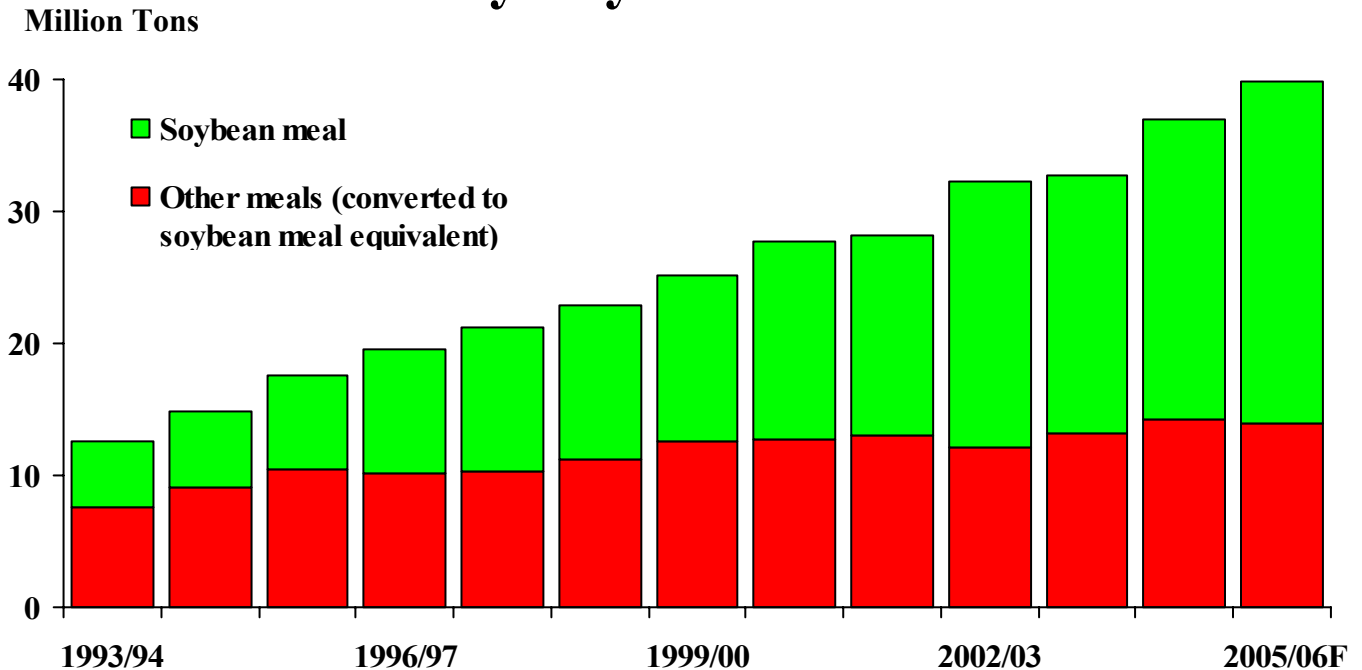




Oilseeds: World Markets and Trade

China's Protein Meal Consumption Rises led by Soybean Meal



China's soybean imports for 2004/05 are revised higher at 24 MMT, up 800,000 tons from the July estimate. For the first 9 months (October-June), China's soybean imports from the world totaled 18.3 MMT, exceeding last year's total annual imports of 16.9 MMT. Strong import demand for soybeans is attributed to rising use of soybean meal as a protein source for swine, poultry, and aquaculture production. Soybean crush is estimated at 29.8 MMT, up 400,000 tons from the July estimate, while stocks are raised to 4.1 MMT. With these changes, China's 2004/05 protein meal consumption (converted to soybean meal equivalent) is estimated at 37 MMT. This reflects an annual growth rate of 13 percent, compared to 11 percent based on the July estimate. Strong protein meal demand is also reflected in China's fish meal imports. For the first 6 months (January-June) China imported 721,353 tons of fish meal, compared to 388,461 tons for the same period last year.

China's 2005/06 protein meal consumption is forecast at 40 MMT, up nearly 8 percent from the 2004/05 estimate as sustained economic growth should generate greater demand for protein meal in animal production. China's 2005/06 soybean imports are forecast at 27 MMT.