

Mühlenchemie responds to the durum shortage

Mühlenchemie has enlarged its Technology Centre to include a pilot plant for pasta; this is currently being used to seek economical solutions in response to the shortage of quality wheat for pasta production

According to forecasts, the international wheat market will move in two opposite directions in 2015. Whereas an excellent harvest is expected for bread wheat / soft wheat, the durum market faces massive losses. The industry analyst Jim Peterson from the North Dakota Wheat Commission predicts the smallest harvest of Triticum durum in 13 years. The crop will be unsatisfactory in respect of both quantity and quality.

This negative trend is to be seen in all the important producing countries. Italy, Greece, Spain and even Canada, the biggest exporter of durum, are expecting for serious losses. Bruce Burnett, the harvest expert of the Canadian Wheat Board, estimates that less than a quarter of the Western Canadian durum will achieve the top two quality categories.

Another severely affected area is North Dakota, where about half of all the US durum wheat is grown. Unusually high rainfalls in the spring and autumn have done serious damage to the harvest. This state is expecting a fall in quantity of over four percent. The estimated loss to the US market as a whole is eight percent.

In view of such bad news, insiders predict that financial pressure on the processing industry will increase massively in 2015. Many pasta manufacturers will have to make do with weaker durum qualities or resort to mixtures of pasta and bread flour. But such compromises generally result

in loss of quality. Bite, colour, cooking properties – all these factors depend to a large extent on the quality of the flour.

Mühlenchemie, one of the world's best-known enterprises in the field of flour treatment, is familiar with these complex interactions; for years it has developed customized enzyme systems that ensure efficient performance in spite of inferior flour quality. "To complement our years of expertise in raw materials, we have now invested in a pasta laboratory of our own which will enable us to meet our customers' requirements even more specifically", says Managing Director Lennart Kutschinski of Mühlenchemie's latest service offer to pasta manufacturers.

"On our Pavan pilot plant we can simulate practically any industrial process. For example, at the customer's request we can test the effects of different enzyme systems and adjust the recipes accordingly. Is a compound from our Pastazym series the most suitable for treating this particular flour, or one from the EMCEdur series? How do they affect the taste, mouth feel and stability after cooking? On our pilot plant we find answers to all these questions on our customers' behalf", Kutschinski explains.

Mühlenchemie's Managing Director is convinced that the new all-round service meets a very real demand. "Our applications technology enables us to find practical solutions for the pasta industry that reconcile quality and economy even in difficult times. In recent projects, for example, we have replaced 75 percent of the durum with bread wheat and achieved the same quality and colour by using Pastazym. Support of this kind will become more and more significant in future."



Local & Global

Tom Blacker
International Milling Directory



It has been a busy time here at the International Milling Directory (IMD). The team headed over to IPPE in Atlanta USA, taking with us, several hundred copies of the Directory.

Copies were distributed to visitors of our stand, and I am pleased to report that we got some very positive feed back about our latest print edition - as well as some great ideas from readers, that we hope can be incorporated into our next edition and website over the coming months. It was great to talk to you!

It always brings home the global scale of this industry when travelling to events such as IPPE - but something that we consistently hear from you is, dealing with local companies is just as important in your day to day operations. This is a point that we have addressed in the new version of the IMD website.

If you have visited www.internationalmilling.com recently, you will have noticed that we have a world map right there on our home page, complete with icons to show company locations (as well as a search tool). This allows our users to find suppliers in a specific country, and then see exactly where there business is located.

We hope that this will be a great addition to the site, not only for companies trying to find a local supplier, but also for companies that operate on an international basis, and want to find suppliers in a specific country.

Later this month (21-24 Feb) we are looking forward to our visit to GEAPS Exchange, where we will taking copies of the IMD to distribute to the industry. If you are planning to attend the event why not come along to our stand and meet the team.

On the subject of events - if you are from a company that is attending GEAPS (or any other event) - did you know that you can now enter this information onto the IMD website to let your customers know that you are attending?

Tom Blacker
Directory coordinator

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