

Mühlenchemie adds pasta pilot plant to center

AHRENSBURG, GERMANY — Mühlenchemie announced in January that in response to the shortage of quality wheat for pasta production it has expanded its technology center to include a pilot plant for pasta.

“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,” said Managing Director Lennart Kutschinski.

“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 said.

He said 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% of the durum with bread wheat and achieved the same quality and color by using Pastazym,” Kutschinski said. “Support of this kind will become more and more significant in the future.”

According to forecasts, the durum market is facing massive losses in 2015. Jim Peterson from the North Dakota Wheat Commission predicts the smallest harvest of Triticum durum in 13 years. The crop will be unsatisfactory in 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 serious losses. Bruce Burnett, the harvest expert of the Cana-

dian 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 U.S. 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 4%. The estimated loss to the U.S. market as a whole is 8%.

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.



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