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~~PRESS RELEASE~~ NOTE D'INFORMATION

The Statistical Office of the European Communities has just published balance-sheets showing availability and consumption of oils and fats within the Community for the marketing years from June/July 1955/56 to 1962/63 in No. 2/1965 of the Agricultural Statistics series.

This is the first time that detailed figures on all vegetable and animal oils and fats have been produced for the countries of the Community. Separate balance-sheets are given for oil-seeds and oleaginous fruit, crude oils, rendered slaughter fats, and the manufactured products, margarine and edible fat.

These statistics give a picture of current trends and the pattern of fat consumption in the various countries of the Community. The average total supply of crude vegetable oils in the Community in the years 1962/63 was made up as follows: home-grown oil-seeds and oleaginous fruit - 17%; imported seeds - 50%; imported crude oils - 33%. Trends vary widely from country to country:

	Germany	France	Italy	Nether-lands	B.L.E.U.	EEC
Production of oil-seeds	5	7	48	2	3	17
Imports of oil-seeds	54	63	26	65	57	50
Imports of oils	41	30	26	33	40	33

Domestic production of oil-seeds and oleaginous fruit is negligible in all countries except Italy, where, however, more olive oil is produced than all other imported oil-seeds and oleaginous fruit together. In 1962/63 olive-oil production in Italy accounted for about 68% of total EEC production. In the other countries crude oil is produced mainly from imported seeds, and only a small percentage of crude oil is directly imported as such.

The average per capita consumption of edible oils and fats in the Community is 18 kg (excluding butter), of which about 12 kg consists of vegetable oils and fats, 5 kg of slaughter fat, and 1 kg of fats and oils from fish and marine mammals. Consumption of butter entails the consumption of a further 5 kg of pure fat per head of the population. Roughly the same amount of pure fat per person is now consumed in the form of margarine.