

SUNFLOWER PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

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Overproduction of farm crops is still observed in Thailand. New crop is being sought to replace those problem farm crops. Sunflower is one crop with high marketing potential and high production potential, qualitatively and quantitatively. Priority has been given for planting sunflower in the late rainy season in the northeast region of Thailand due to rainfall pattern, soil type and topography. Expectation is that sunflower be planted after kenaf, one of the existing main crops in the northeast region. Previous work has show that Hysun 33 hybrid outyielded other hybrids. Its average yield was 2,100 kg/ha when planted in .75 x .30 m. with the population of 40,000 to 50,000 plants/ha. Rate and form of fertilizers and methods of fertilizer application are being investigated. Study on row and plant spacings are repeated for confirmation. Other advantages of sunflower are less chemical spraying, providing organic matter and yielding high quality oil as compared with other crops.