

CIDE China - Presentation of the German Association with Its Plants

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The German drying association was founded in 1958.

In the early days of drying plants they were mainly located in the north of our country. Within the 60s and 70s also many plants have been established in the South.

In the early days many plants handled mainly root crops, such as potatoes or different kind of beets.

Many of the northern plants were located close to a harbor. Due to this, they competed to protein feed with low prices. Another problem was the rise in energy costs. So the northern plants could no longer operate economically.

At the beginning of the 80s there was a government funding to produce safe quality and farm-grown food. The meantime, all the aid have been abolished.

Currently there are 38 plants in Germany. Most plants are owned by farmers. The mainly used company form is a cooperative. All companies have a total of 20,000 members.

Total production amounts to 250,000 tons of dried fodder. The speciality in Germany is the high amount of dried fodder out of grassland with 180 thousand tonnes. The alfalfa-production is 70,000 tonnes. 16% of the total is produced in bales, the rest as cobs (pellets).

The use of biomass in heat generation amounts to more than 20%. Woodchips are the mainly used biomass. The other plants are using mainly gas for heat generation, some plants use hard coal and one plant uses coal dust.

The last years have been characterized by investments in productivity and in the air pollution control. Germany has the cleanest plants.

The German consumers expect from his producer traceability of the fodder from producers through production to the consumer. He increasingly calls for a GMO-free production of feed.

Great efforts are made by governments to reduce the dependence on imported soybeans. The cultivation of domestic, non genetically modified plants, such as alfalfa and red clover to produce protein shall reduce the dependence on imports.

In order to ensure the greatest quality in the production we use quality systems such as ISO 9001 and QS.

For years, we recognize a strong tendency towards regional circuits. From the region, for the region: the value chain remains in the region and secure jobs, especially in rural areas.

Most of our production goes directly back to the farmer. Only 30% are produced for the market. Our business partners are on the one hand in our regions, on the other hand they are in neighboring countries.