

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Algeria

Post: Algiers

USDA - Grains and Soy Grades and Standards Workshop

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

September 1 - 3, 2015, OAA Algiers hosted a three-day workshop that focused on USDA's grading standards for corn, soybeans, and wheat. The workshop also provided insight into the mechanics of GAFTA contracts that are commonly used in Algeria.

General Information:

September 1-3, 2015, OAA Algiers hosted a grain and soybean grading workshop to advance knowledge and understanding of the methodology applied by USDA grain and quality assurance inspectors. Two GIPSA experts delivered presentations and answered questions related to grading and quality assurance for corn, soybeans, and wheat. In addition, a U.S. Grains Council consultant provided insight into the most commonly used contract in the Maghreb used to purchase grains. The workshop attracted participants from the Ministry of Commerce, OAIC (grain purchasing agency), ONAB (feed grain purchasing agency), as well as private companies.

Algeria purchases most of its grain, primarily bread wheat from France and has done so for years due to price, proximity, and personal relations. The situation for U.S. corn is equally difficult as Algerian buyers have developed a preference for cheaper “red” corn from Argentina. U.S. soybean exports are less than robust and price competitiveness is amongst the biggest factors steering buyers away from U.S. soy. Even with a 14% increase in its grain harvest compared to last year, Algeria still relies on imported grain to meet domestic demand. As this is the case, outreach activities such as the aforementioned workshop along with cooperator outreach from the U.S. Grains Council are necessary to present a higher quality alternative.

The workshop was widely covered in the Algerian media. There were at least six print articles and the Ag Att gave several TV interviews. OAA Algiers will continue to advance the case for high quality U.S. grains to Algerian buyers through collaborative efforts with cooperator organizations to achieve our mutual goal to increase imports of these commodities to Algeria.

To read more about the workshop in the Algerian press, click the links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEwFDJg0eSo>

<http://www.algerie1.com/actualite/developpement-de-lagriculture-les-usa-proposent-leur-modele/>

<http://www.elmoudjahid.com/fr/actualites/82595>

<http://www.aps.dz/economie/27904-atelier-de-formation-%C3%A0-alger-pour-les-n%C3%A9gociants-alg%C3%A9riens-de-c%C3%A9r%C3%A9ales>

<http://www.liberte-algerie.com/actualite/un-atelier-de-trois-jours-au-profit-des-negociants-algeriens-de-cereales-232051>

<http://www.lesoirdalgerie.com/articles/2015/09/02/article.php?sid=183725&cid=2>

