Mechanized Canola Production Training and Resource Manual for Farmers and Extension Workers in East Afric

Abstract:

Canola (Brassica napus) is a specific type of rapeseed plant associated with high-quality oil and meal. Canola/Rapeseed was the third-leading source of vegetable oil in the world in 2000, after soybean and palm oil. It is the world’s second-leading source of protein meal after soybean. Many oil seed crops (for example sunflower, soybeans, rapeseed, sesame, ground nuts) are grown in East Africa. But Canola is preferred in Kenya because it is very high yielding (1.5 – 4 tons/ha) with an oil content of 42-46%. The co-product (meal) is high in protein (48%) and very useful in livestock feed formulation. Canola oil can also be used for manufacturing biodiesel. As a rotation crop, it has numerous benefits for the soil and the farmers. Canola can either be sold to processors or growers who can set up light industries locally for processing the oil. The market for the oil is readily available due to its high quality. Canola has huge potential as an income generator in the region as an oil crop and livestock feed.