



European Regional Workshop

Internet-based communication support for ESCORENA
Thematic Knowledge Networks in Agriculture, INF,

10 - 12.04.2008

ESCORENA background, history, and objectives

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FAO/ESCORENA – Coordination Center

EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK ON FLAX AND OTHER BAST PLANTS



The ESCORENA system under the FAO auspices

ESCORENA

European System of Cooperative
Research Networks in
Agriculture

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The History

The Seventh and Eighth FAO Regional Conferences for Europe,

- in Budapest, Hungary, 1971
- in Munich, Germany, 1973

discussed the role of FAO in agricultural research in Europe

and **recommended the establishment of a system of voluntary research cooperation under the auspices of FAO.**



Reason for ESCORENA establishment

In a period of rapid technological and scientific development

- it was difficult for any one institution or country to undertake all necessary scientific research on any given subject matter.



Main objectives of the ESCORENA system

Basic purpose and main objectives of the ESCORENA system, namely to:

- promote voluntary exchange of information and experimental data on selected subject matters;
- support joint applied research



Main objectives of the ESCORENA system

- facilitate voluntary exchange of persons, germplasm and technologies;
- establish close links between European researchers and institutions working on the same subject and to stimulate interaction;
- accelerate the transfer of European technology advances to, and cooperation with, developing countries.



SCORENA supervision

The SCORENA

- supervision conducted by the Regional Representatives for Europe
- served and helped by the SCORENA Secretariat in the past



Role of FAO for ESCORENA

Research networks have been established by FAO:

- following requests made by Member Nations from Europe
- in accordance with FAO policies and objectives.
- **The role of FAO should be catalytic:**
 - to assist countries in establishing research cooperation
 - to develop forms of cooperation that would gradually become self-governing and financially independent entities.
 - Cooperation with FAO would then be regulated through the established forms in accordance with mutual interest and FAO rules.



FAO auspices

ESCORENA system

- ✓ acts under the FAO auspices,

Served:

- ✓ by the Regional Office for Europe in Rome, Italy from 1974 to 2007
- ✓ by the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest, Hungary from end of 2007



ERNAC

ERNAC - *European Research
Network Advisory Committee*
acted from 1974 to 2004 as a
body to control, review and
report on the activities of e.g.
ESCORENA system.



SCORENA management today

SCORENA management from 2008

Information management by

Mr. **Michal Demeš**, Information and Knowledge Management Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REUT), Budapest, Hungary

Scientific management since 1 April 2008

- Mr. **Aleksej Tarasjev** of Institute for Biological Research, University of Belgrade, Serbia, FAO Consultant.



Proposed ESCORENA focal point

Proposed ESCORENA focal point

the Institute of Natural Fibres, Poznan, Poland acting as the Coordination Centre of the European Cooperative Research Network on Flax and other Bast Plants.

Prof. Dr. Ryszard M. Kozlowski to act as Coordinator of a ESCORENA Focal Point at INF



SCORENA website support by FAO and INF

INF has registered an SCORENA website
<http://www.scorena.net>

This website has been created

- on FAO Budapest request
- to improve the worldwide visibility of the SCORENA Networks activities with a help of FAO in Budapest
- now is served and developed by INF, starting from the Workshop website see below:



ESCORENA Network

PARTNERS ▶▶ FAO REU INF Poznan CIHEAM IRTA EPOBIO EUROCROP AgriFoodResearch e-Agriculture GFAR IAALD AGROWEB NETWORK

- ▶ ABOUT ESCORENA
- ▶ EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
- ▶ ESCORENA DIRECTORY
- ▶ ESCORENA NEWS
- ▶ LINKS
- ▶ PHOTOGALLERY
- ▶ CONTACTS
- ▶ HOME

ESCORENA Network on the web is a European initiative to enhance sustainable agricultural development and food security by improving the use of information, communication, and associated technologies. The overall aim is to enable ESCORENA members, its partners and users to exchange opinions, experiences, good practices and resources related to agriculture research, and to ensure that the knowledge created is effectively shared and used in the European region and worldwide.

ESCORENA NEWS

April 10-11, 2008.
European Regional Workshop "Internet-based communication support for ESCORENA Thematic Knowledge Networks in Agriculture"
 Poznan, Poland
[More information](#)

July 21-23, 2008.
FAO/ESCORENA International Conference on Flax and Other Bast Plants.
 Saskatoon, Canada

The Conference is organized by the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission (SaskFlax), FAO/ESCORENA European Cooperative Research Network on Flax and other Bast Plants.
 Canadian Conference Coordinator Ms. Penny Eaton, e-mail: penny@eatonassociates.ca.
 Contacts: Ms. Linda Braun, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission (SaskFlax), A5A - 116 - 103rd Street East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 1Y7 Telephone: (306) 664-1901; Fax: (306) 664-4404 or email: saskflax@saskflax.com
 and Mr. Alvin Ulrich, Crop Fibers Canada, 161 Jessop Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 1Y3, Telephone: (306) 955-4506, Fax: (306) 668-0131 or email: aulrich@biolin.sk.ca.
[More information](#)

- ▶ Events
 - AW Meetings
 - US/CEE Roundtables
- ▶ Strategic Partners
 - FAO UN
 - GFAR
 - IAALD
 - ICARDA
 - Graphix
 - LEAD
- ▶ Programmes
 - iMARK
 - AGORA
 - WEB AGRIS
 - WFD
- ▶ Services
 - Contacts Database
 - Link Manager
- ▶ Access points paths
 - AgroWeb Network
 - AgroWeb CAC
 - AgroWeb SEE

Gotowe, ale wystąpiły błędy na stronie.

Internet

100%



European Regional Workshop

Internet-based communication support for ESCORENA Thematic Knowledge Networks in Agriculture

ESCORENA Network

- Home
- Registration form
- Practical Information
- Agenda (day 1)
- Agenda (days 2 & 3)
- Registered participants
- Training materials
- Contact
- Results / PPT

ESCORENA Network on the web is a European initiative to enhance sustainable agricultural development and food security by improving the use of information, communication, and associated technologies. The overall aim is to enable ESCORENA members, its partners and users to exchange opinions, experiences, good practices and resources related to agriculture research, and to ensure that the knowledge created is effectively shared and used in the European region and worldwide.



European Regional Workshop "Internet-based communication support for ESCORENA Thematic Knowledge Networks in Agriculture".

During the 33 years of its existence, ESCORENA was a pioneer initiative for networking in the region in terms of the unique ways of knowledge and information exchange. Regular meetings of the experts involved during these years, supported by FAO, strongly contributed to the efficient work and commitment inside the Network.

ESCORENA Network urgently needs to be enhanced with new tools and technologies, in order to overcome problems with access for the community of experts and participating institutions. The introduction of the new tools will also prepare the platform for cooperation with similar initiatives within and outside the region.



The further development of ESCORENA website

The further development of ESCORENA website will include:

- Improvement and development of existing ESCORENA websites
- Creation of the new Networks websites using the new Information Technology tools and unified structure and content
- The creation of up dated directory of Networks members
- Including the history of Networks subject perhaps to be done by the Network of Agricultural Museums



The further development of ESCORENA website

- **Constant development** of the Networks websites incorporating e.g. the news, events, photogallery, reports, future plans
- **The new interactive fora** of on-line discussion, web based.



Active ESCORENA Networks

The 11 ESCORENA Networks, which are still active in 2008:

- **Buffalo Network**- coordinated by Italy – Prof. Antonio Borghese
- Inter-regional on **Cotton Network**- coordinated by Greece – Dr. Urania Kechagia
- **Flax and other Bast Plants Network**- coordinated by Poland- Prof. Ryszard M. Kozlowski



Active ESCORENA Networks

- **Nut Network** - coordinated by Spain- Dr. Merce Rovira
- **Olives Network**- coordinated by Spain- Dr. Rallo Romero (represented by Dr. Juan Caballero)
- **Pastures & Fodders Network**- coordinated by Belgium- Dr. Alain Peeters
- **RAMIRAN Network**- Research Network on Recycling of Agricultural and Industrial Residues in Agriculture-coordinated by United Kingdom- Dr. Tom Misselbrook



Active ESCORENA Networks

- **Sheep and Goats Network**- coordinated by France-Prof. Pierre Morand-Fehr (represented by Dr. Hichem Ben Salem from Tunisia)
- **Sunflower Network**- coordinated by Serbia-Prof. Dragan Skoric
- Inter-regional on **Rice Network**- coordinated by Italy – Dr. Aldo Ferrero (absent)
- **Sustainable Rural Environment and Energy Network (SREN)** – coordinated by Germany- Dr. J.M. Greef



Publications

Publications

- a major vehicle for exchange of scientific information and the dissemination of research results.
ESCORENA networks issue the following publications:
- a scientific refereed journal, *Helia*, published by the Sunflower Network;
- network journals (*Herba* and *Olea*) published by the Pastures and Fodder Crops and Olive Networks respectively;
- newsletters: *Buffalo*, *Euroflax*, *Medoryzae*, *Nucis* and *Sheep and Goat Contact*.



JOINT APPLIED RESEARCH OF ESCORENA

- ✓ Several joint projects developed as a result of the Networks meetings.
- ✓ Some of these projects were financed by European programmes.



Results obtained by ESCORENA

Particular results were obtained in:

- the joint research programmes,
- exchange of germplasm,
- collection, conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources,
- sustainable management of natural resources,



Results obtained by ESCORENA

- **diversification of agricultural production** (e.g. use of marginal lands for non-food agricultural production, such as flax and industrial hemp in industrially polluted areas)
- **the development of sustainable production** systems including improvements in quality of typical local products in support of rural employment and improvements in the economic position of rural population.



COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

Cooperation with developing countries was carried out by:

- **direct participation** of Near East countries in interregional networks,
- **attendance** of some representatives from other regions at **network conferences and meetings**,



COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

- **distribution of publications** to institutions and individual researchers from developing countries in Latin America and Asia.
- the **broader involvement of local researchers** in international cooperation, particularly if a selected topic was of relevance to the host country.



Contribution to Latin America

- The Research Network on Flax and other Bast Fibrous Plants, such as industrial hemp, jute, ramie, kenaf, fibrous nettle has helped the Ecuador:
 - to establish and maintain the **Centre of Natural Fibres** in Ibarra, at the Pontifical Catholic University.
 - to help and influence another Latin American countries.



COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Agreement between FAO and CIHEAM** for the joint sponsorship of interregional research networks on Nuts, Pastures and Fodder Crops and Sheep and Goats
- The cooperation between the Olive Network and the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC)



COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- ✓ Cooperation with European and global INGOs active in technical areas covered by ESCORENA, has been maintained and in some cases further improved.
- ✓ A number of events has been jointly organized with relevant INGOs, such as
 - ✓ European Association for Animal Production (EAAP),
 - ✓ European Grassland Federation (EGF),
 - ✓ International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC),
 - ✓ International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR),
 - ✓ International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)
 - ✓ International Sunflower Organization (ISO).

SCORENA Improvement

The Flax and other Bast Plants Network involved in the SCORENA system for almost 20 years

Our interest in SCORENA improvement:

- Already in 2001 - presented to the SCORENA Secretariat at the FAO Regional Office for Europe



SCORENA Improvement

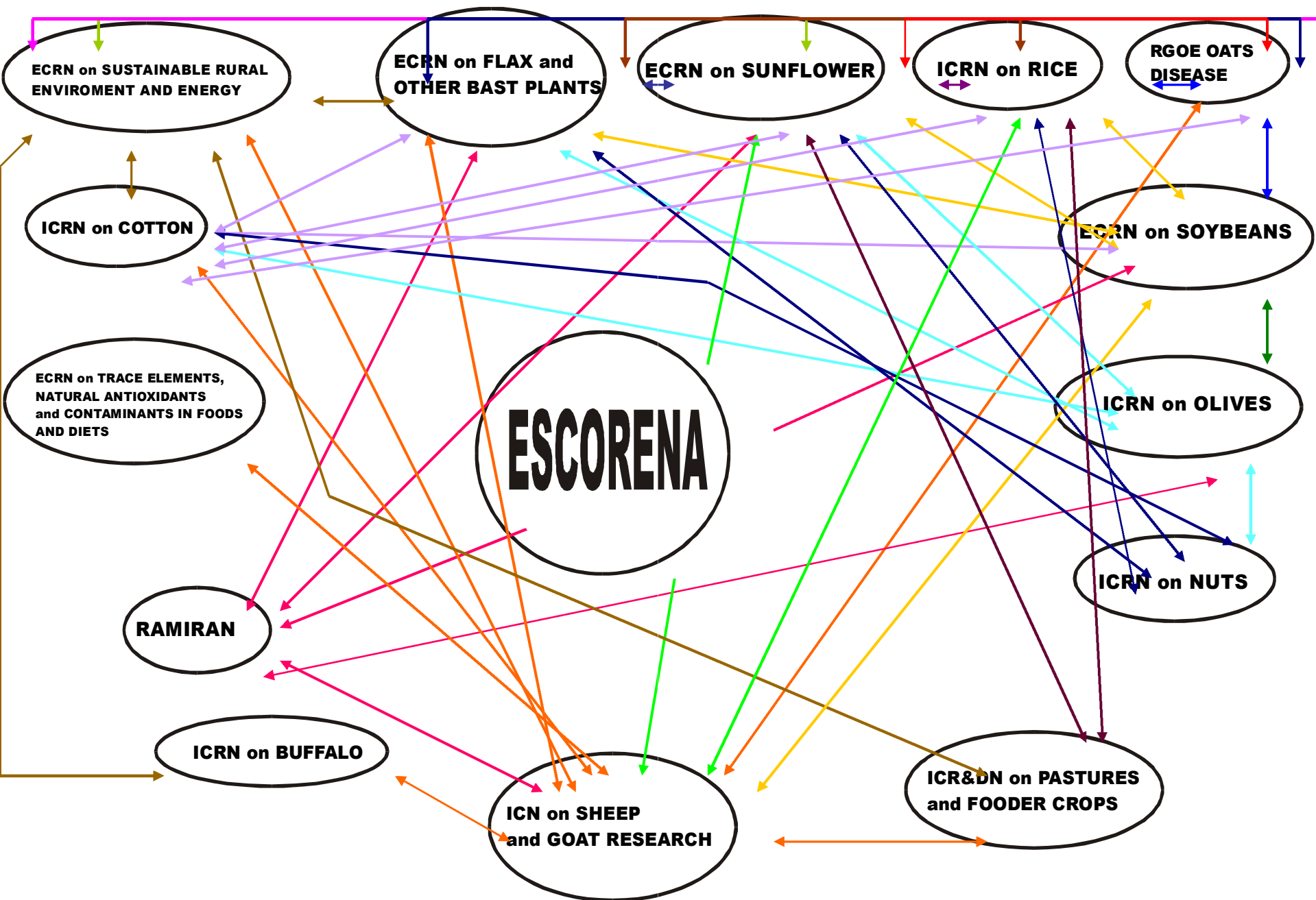
SCORENA IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL

- **Aim:** o make SCORENA more dynamic, visible, attractive and efficient- with description, graphics etc.

Document presented:

- common junctions of interest between all the Networks
- the schema to express those common points of interest.

I have proposed an evaluation and assessment of network efficiency - within network and between networks as well -see in conference materials on website.





The appeal to ESCORENA Coordinators

- the ESCORENA Networks have **so many topics of common interest,**
- that we should point them out and **start working together, cooperate, develop** in spite of often different animal and plant focus.



Some ideas for ESCORENA improvement

- ESCORENA Networks to meet every 3-4 years (our proposal?)

Meeting organised by each Network in circumstances, specific for this Network scope of activities

Goal: to improve activities and cooperation and technology transfer in agriculture area.



Global Plans of the Flax & oBP Network

- To continue the co-operation with the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied fibres served by FAO, Trade and Markets Division (EST), Rome, Italy



International Year of Natural Fibres 2009

- Active involvement in the celebrations of the **International Year of Natural Fibres 2009**, proclaimed by United Nations and FAO, including promotion in the **Journal of Natural Fibers**, edited by us and published in USA by Taylor & Francis
- To contribute together with the Cotton Network.



Transfer of Technology

- The important factor of progress in the Research Networks activities is the transfer of technology, as an effective tool for using applied research.
- Let me present 9 slides which present the various mechanisms for technology transfer system, causes of its weakness, advices how to improve this system.



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Technology transfer as an effective tool for using applied research

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„Growth and development is the fundament of any organization. All organizations and organisms either develop or die!”

The development gives people energy, encourages restructuring, provides means to develop careers, increases incomes and is the driving force to become the Leading Brand in the market.”

Source: R. Charan i N.M. Tichy, *Every Bussines Is a Growth Bussines*



FOUR COMMANDMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ No organization is too large to develop.
- ✓ No organization is 100% mature; there will always be markets not fully explored yet and new horizons for development.
- ✓ There are no safe markets as there will always be someone who will define them again and take them over.
- ✓ No organization is too perfect to go bankrupt.



Various mechanisms for technology transfer:

- ✓ co-operation in research,
- ✓ agreements for cooperation in R & D,
- ✓ licenses and rights,
- ✓ science and technical conferences,
- ✓ trade fairs,
- ✓ dissemination of information, etc.
- ✓ theft of R&D results



Causes of weakness of technology transfer system

- A large gap in the way of thinking between scientists and people from industry.
- The lack of efficient information flow from universities and R&D centers to the industry and vice versa.
- Frequent wrong attitude of the industry people who are concerned about the problems or hazards associated with the field of their activities.



Causes of weakness of technology transfer system

- The lack of suitable links capable of transforming research results into the form acceptable to industry.
- R&D organization not sufficiently support technology transfer.
- Low expenditures for R&D, especially in developing countries.



Causes of weakness of technology transfer system

- Non-complementarity of R&D units and universities which frequently believe that published (or just written) research data are sufficient, without their verification in a pilot plant scale and without consultations with collaborating units as well as with those providing equipment and installations.
- Bureaucratisation of the system which distribute research funds by government agencies and other institutions. It causes that researchers avoid difficult projects, capable of ensuring adequate progress and instead, work on small projects of little importance which do not result in progress in technological development.
- Ineffective system of research projects acceptance, which often caused approval of non-important projects to the development of a given branch of economy.



How to improve the system?

- Attempts at obligating universities and R&D units to **create maximal links** between their activities and industry by:
 - ❑ direct research orders from industry
 - ❑ fighting bureaucracy in government agencies evaluating reports on economic development.
 - ❑ establishing specialistic centers of technology transfer.
- Reorganization of the system of activities of universities and R&D centers in such a way that the **service to the development** of new technologies will become **their all-important task**.
- Appropriate **policy concerning patents, licences, and royalty distribution**, which should give preference to the units showing the highest activity and being the most useful.



How to improve the system?

- Further **globalization** in the field of international collaboration between scientists and industry as well as government agencies and research centres.
- Create the opportunity to employ by particular R&D centres **high-ranking specialists** from all over the world.
- Improve **reliability of scientific** research results.
- Possibility of creating **new, independent self-supporting, non-profit institutions**, which would act as a missing link between R&D centres and the industry. It would help to transfer research results into practical form, which would be acceptable to the industry. With heavy emphasis on **INTERNET** and practical approach, this kind of institutions would greatly improve technology transfer worldwide and regionally.



Some examples of applied research of Flax Network

You are welcome to visit our Institute Departments and study the website:

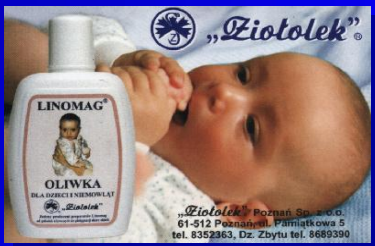
<http://www.inf.poznan.pl>

<http://shop.inf.poznan.pl>



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A Range of Products Made of Flaxseed



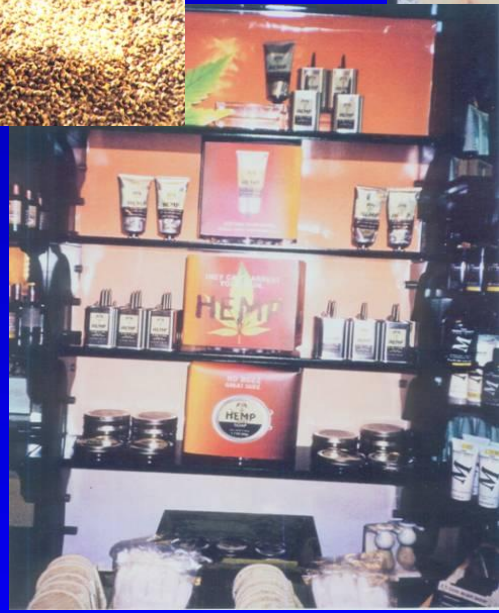
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**Thank you for your
renewable attention!!**

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