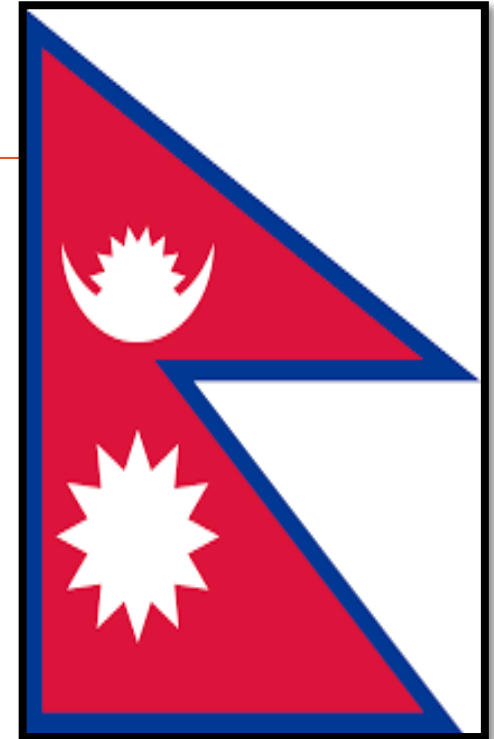


RUTABAGA SEEDS AS A POTENTIAL EXPORT TO NEPAL

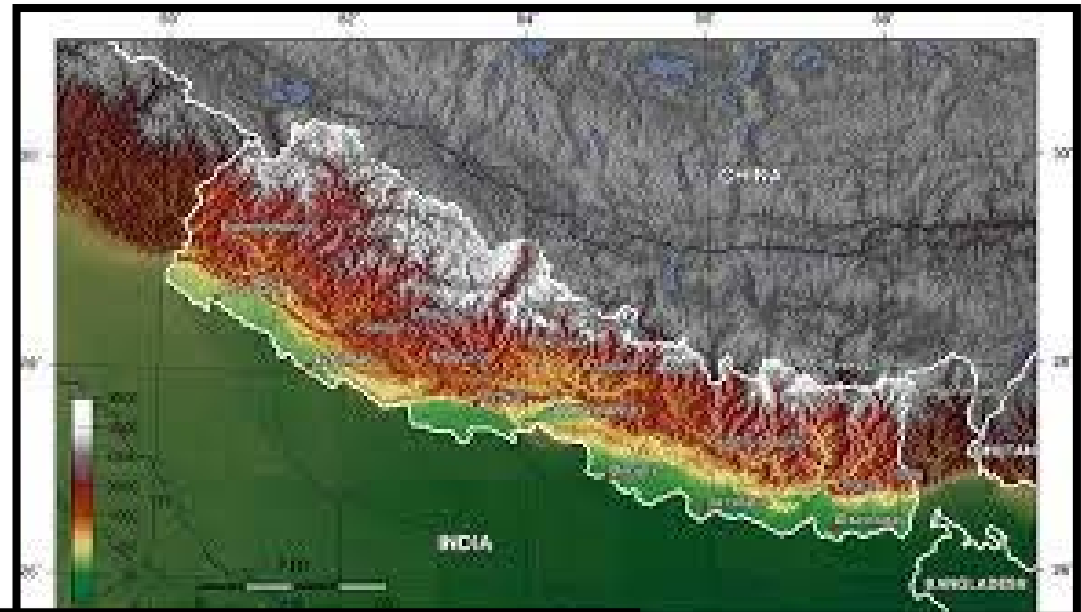


Shauna Chesney
University of Guelph



Nepal

- Nepal is a land locked country found between China and India
- Population: 27 million
 - 80% involved in agriculture
- It has three geological regions
 - Terai region
 - Hills region
 - Mountain region



Common Crops Found in Nepal

- The most common crops are..
 - Corn
 - Wheat
 - Rice
- Farmers have limited choice in crop variety



RUTABAGAS



What are Rutabagas?

- Scientific name
 - *Brassica napus var. napobrassica*
- A cross between a cabbage and a turnip
- Many different varieties including Thompson Laurentian variety
- Can be used for both human and animal consumption



Nutrition

- Rutabagas are an excellent source of
 - Vitamin C
 - Helps prevent survey
 - Fiber
 - Potassium
 - Vitamin A
 - Deficiency causes blindness
- It is important to provide a food source that is nutritious to help prevent malnutrition



Where in Nepal will rutabagas grow?

- Rutabagas are a cool season crop
- They grow best in temperatures between 15°C and 20°C
- In Nepal the region that is best suited to grow rutabagas is the Hills region
 - Average temperature during the growing season is 13°C to 27° C



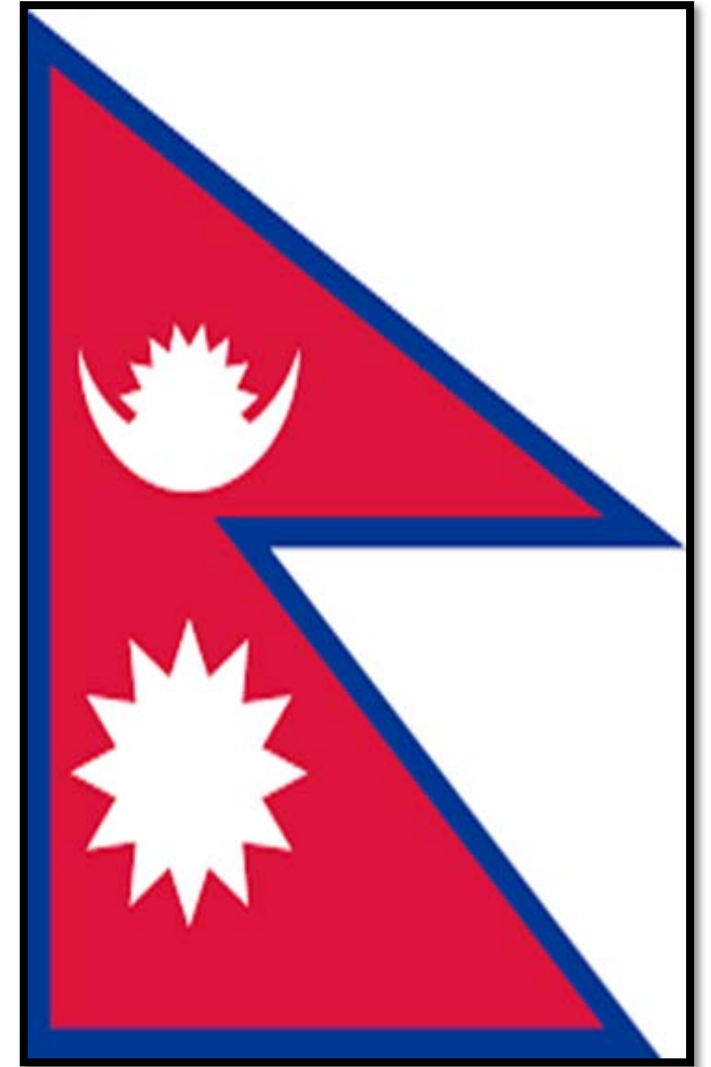
Harvesting

- The Thomson Laurentian variety matures in 85 days
- Usually harvested when 3 inches in diameter
 - Can grow much larger, however
- Harvested by hand
- Once harvested, can store up to 9 months



Benefits to Nepal

- Great source of Vitamin A
 - 19.6 % of women and 32.2% of children in Nepal vitamin A deficient
- Helps provides a stable food source
 - 6.9 million in Nepal are food insecure
- Can be a source of food for animals
- Can be sold for money
- Helps create more diverse options for cultivars
 - Disease helps prevent attacks from pests and disease



Exporting From Canada

- The company involved is NORSECO
- Based in Montreal, Quebec
- Selling Thompson Laurentian variety for \$2.20 CAN per thousand seeds
 - Equals 175.30 rupees



Benefits to Canada

- Rutabagas are biennial
 - Takes two years to produce seed
- Canadian farmers would produce the seeds as the Nepalese would use the rutabagas primarily as a food source
- Farmers would be provided with contracts to provide the seeds
- Processing a large amount of seeds can also provide jobs in the company's warehouse in Laval, Quebec



Conclusion

- Rutabaga seeds would be an good export to Nepal as it would be an excellent food source and provide diversity to the crops grown in that country. It will also provide Canadians with job opportunities.



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