

# The evolution of the Sayga Flour Mills

**Sayga Flour Mills**, Dal Group, Khartoum, Sudan

Sayga Flour Mills, is Sudan's premier flour milling company and one of the country's most prolific and effervescent organisations. From its early beginnings in 1996, the company has been renowned for high quality products and technical innovation. Sayga has continued to play a leading role in the production, processing, packaging, marketing and distribution of various food products in Sudan. The Sayga mills were designed by Buhler; a leading Swiss Milling Technology Company.

## Background

In 1997, construction of the Port Sudan Silos owned by Sayga commenced. DAL Construction erected the project and it became operational in May 1998. At the time, Sayga Silos Port Sudan occupied an area of 4,000m<sup>2</sup> with 4 silos holding a total storage capacity of 20,000MT (Metric Tonnes). It received its first vessel, The J Michel, in May 1998, which held 20,000MT of Australian wheat. A rented ship unloader off-loaded this vessel into Sayga's newly acquired Buhler handling equipment, that comprised of a machinery tower, one truck loading station with a discharge rate of 120MT/hr, and two loading bins with holding capacity of 130MT. At this time, the intake capacity totalled 300MT/hr.

A couple of months later, in July 1998, Sayga Silos Port Sudan discharged its second vessel, the J Soda, holding 22,000MT of wheat, this time utilising its newly acquired ship unloader,

Portalino at a rate of 300MT/hr. Two years later, in May 2000 another ship unloader, supplied by Neupro was added to the assets, with a discharge capacity of 180MT/hr.

In December 2000, two additional silos were erected, reaching a storage capacity of 30,000MT, which paralleled the milling ability and requirement of Mill C. This new addition occupied an area of 2,000m<sup>2</sup>.

In February 2001 Sayga Silos Port Sudan introduced a railway bulk and bag extension facility, with two bulk loading bins of 100MT capacity and two wheat packing lines totalling 120MT/hr. The fleet of 125 bulk carriers had a total holding capacity of 4,375MT.

The following year, in March, saw an addition of 3 silos with an additional capacity of 15,000MT, an increase of occupied area of 2,250m<sup>2</sup>, and another ship unloader, the Portanova, with discharge capacity of 250MT/hr. 2004 saw the railway bulk and bag facility grow with two additional packing lines totalling 120MT/hr, and two bulk outloading bins with a capacity of 100MT. The fourth phase in the history of Sayga PS silos came in 2005, when 25,000MT additional storage (5 additional silos) were added with a holding an area of 11,590m<sup>2</sup>. The intake capacity was increased to 600MT/hr, another truck loading station of 300MT/hr added and four outloading bins with a holding capacity of 200MT. A fourth ship unloader was introduced, the Portalink, with a rate of 600MT/hr.



Figure 1. Portalink 600 ship unloader.



Figure 2. The Portalink 600 has an unloading rate of 600MT/hr.



Figure 3. The erection of an additional 6 silos commenced in August 2006 and is planned to be completed in April 2007.

## Buhler machinery

Sayga flour is produced using Buhler machinery and today consists of 5 mills (Khartoum) with a total wheat grinding capacity of 2,300MT per day plus two toll milling operations totalling 1,000MT per day. These fully automated production lines produce flour, semolina, and bran, packed in different sizes to meet various preferences of retail, industrial and food processes. The erection of an additional 5 wheat storage silos (in Khartoum) commenced in August 2006 and is planned to be completed by March 2007. This phase will bring total storage capacity at the mills up to 30,000MT.

Today, the Port Sudan terminal has 75,000 tonne silo storage capacity and three off-loading mobile units with a capacity of 1,200MT per hour. A rail terminal with 120 tonne per hour capacity, operating 6 locomotives and 130 rail wagons, handles bulk transport between the port terminal and the mills in Khartoum. Sayga is accountable for 70 per cent of the bulk import grain handled at the Port.

## Future expansion

Future expansion planned for Sayga Port Sudan Silos includes a dedicated berth quay, with a sea draft of 16m that will hold up to 70,000MT. It will also include a direct belt conveyor unloading directly into an extended silo facility. The erection of an additional 6 silos (30,000MT) commenced in August 2006 and is planned to be completed by April 2007 (see Figure 3). The truck loading station capacity will increase from 120 to 300MT/hr.

In its eight years of existence, Sayga Silos Port Sudan has witnessed advances in its vessel discharge capacity from 300MT/

hr to 1,200MT/hr, an intake ability of 300MT/hr to 900MT/hr and silo outloading of 120MT/hr to 540MT/hr. Sayga has also taken a quantum leap in terms of vessels type, starting with a Handymax with a 20,000MT capacity and now using the largest vessels passing through the Panama Channel, the Panamax (capacity 70,000MT)

In 1998 Sayga Silos Port Sudan oversaw the total handled quantity of 200,000MT; eight years on, in 2006, this has now reached a quantity of 1,000,000MT. This substantial leap was met with a human resource power initially comprised of 13 people, but which now boasts a staff of 90 employees.

All production is carried out within a Quality System backed up by the prestigious Certificate of Approval by Lloyd's Register of Quality Assurance (ISO9001), awarded in July 2001. Sayga Flour Mills was one of the first food companies in Sudan to achieve this accolade.

Sayga also packs milk powder under Foremost and Capo brands in various SKU's. In addition sugar packing commenced in 2006 under the brand name of Safi. The newest project is a Pasta factory, manufacturing different types of pasta, under the brand name of 'Nobo', for a developing market. The company's rapid success is due to the emphasis it places on maintaining high standards that are achieved through vigorous quality control, consistency of supply, skilled technical support teams, training and social responsibilities. This is supported by a world class bakery school in Khartoum and a mobile bakery school to reach remote locations outside Khartoum.

Strategic suppliers are: Australian Wheat Board, Friesland and Fonterra (Powder Milk), Association of British Foods (Mauripan dry yeast and Ovaltine).

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

DAL Group is one of the largest and most diversified privately owned conglomerates in Sudan, and the name is synonymous with quality international and local brands including Mercedes Benz, Coca Cola, Caterpillar, Mitsubishi, The Australian Wheat Board, Rolls Royce, ABB, Sayga Flour, Capo and the Al Sunut property development.

To date, three of Dal Group companies have earned ISO 9002 certification, the prestigious certificate of approval by Lloyd's register of quality assurance – Sayga Flour Mills, Sudanese Liquid Air, and Blue Nile Dairy Co. Ltd which was the first company in Sudan to achieve certification.

## ENQUIRIES

Website: [www.dalgroup.com](http://www.dalgroup.com)