

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 12/16/2011

GAIN Report Number: CI1048

Chile

Post: Santiago

Chile launches satellite to monitor agricultural production

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Approved By:

Rachel Bickford, Agricultural Attache

Prepared By:

Nelson Ramirez, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

General Information:

Chile launches today a satellite that, among other things, will help to monitor natural resources and agriculture.

Contracted under the Bachelet Administration, the third Chilean satellite will be launched today in the French Guyana.

Fasat-Charlie has a telescope that will generate multispectral information, that is to say, it captures all the signals that come from the earth. With this technology, Chile will be able to obtain high-resolution images that could help with crop monitoring, manage water resources, observe glaciers, and find mineral deposits, among other applications. This new technology will help develop a "high precision" agriculture that would effectively monitor the conditions of the crop, irrigation or fertilizer needs, etc.

According to Fundacion Chile, if the technology is applied in a useful manner, new companies will be created to process the images, and the government will implement agreements to develop projects with universities and companies, people developing software. This satellite system could raise the GDP in 1 or 2 points. (Christian Stuardo)

The purpose of this project is not only to have a satellite but to implement a satellite system of terrestrial observation (SSOT) that could have great implications for the country. The main objective is to obtain process and analyze satellite images as an input for the sustainable development of the country. SSOT will benefit the social profitability in areas such as agriculture, forestry, environment, mining, and urbanization along with the mitigation of natural disasters a catastrophes, which are very frequent in this earthquake prone country.