

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

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## Venezuela

**Post:** Caracas

### **Decline in Sugar Production In Valle de Turbio**

**Report Categories:**

Sugar

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**Report Highlights:**

Sugar cane farmers affected by expropriations in Valle de Turbio report that levels of productivity have significantly decreased in the last few years. Farmers expect a 15 percent decline in sugar production in the current year. FAS/Caracas provides information summarized from official reports and local media on statements made by FEDECAMARAS, FESOCA and the Vice President's Office.

**General Information:**

According to forecasts made by Venezuelan sugar cane growers, the gradual reduction in sugar cane availability in the domestic industry will affect both private and state sugar mills.

During the 2009-2010 harvest, producers expect that the 15 sugar mills operating in Venezuela will process 6.7 million tons of sugar cane, to produce about 536,000 of refined sugar. Of these 15 sugar mills, six are under the control of the government since the sugar cane harvest started in December 2009.

According to statistics from Valle de Turbio farmers, the 2004-2005 Lara State harvest contributed 230,524 tons of sugarcane production, but the first harvest in 2009-2010 after expropriations only provided 88,812 tons

The Vice President, Elias Jaua, said that Valle de Turbio area is producing cane sugar without trouble. During a press conference Fhandor Quiroga, President of FEDECAMARAS Yzacuy, said the situation is similar in Yzacuy, and in the last four years 148 farms have been invaded, while 18,000 hectares of sugar cane were destroyed.

SOURCE: Government Statements, Official Reports and Media