

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Required Report - public distribution

Date: 2/28/2011

GAIN Report Number:

Argentina

Oilseeds and Products Update

February Lock-up Report

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Report Highlights:

It's all about the weather and even though rainfall during January and February has helped the soybean crop recuperate, it does not change the story entirely. Several areas are still dry with underdeveloped crops and Post maintains soybean production at 49 MMT for the marketing year 2010/11, down 500,000 tons from the official USDA estimate. Soybean exports are also reduced by 500,000 to 13,750,000 metric tons for the 2009/10 marketing year.

Post:

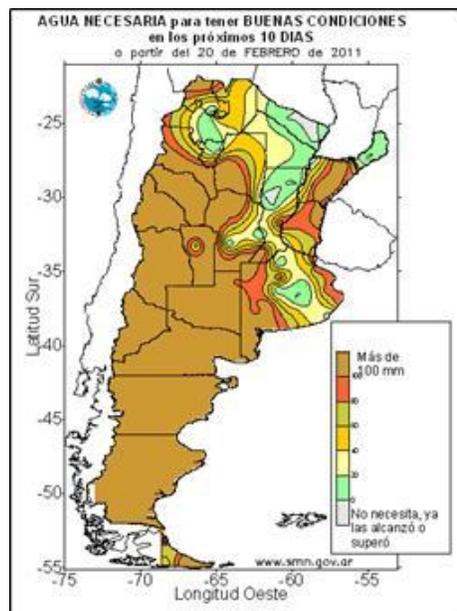
Buenos Aires

Author Defined:

FAS Buenos Aires estimates soybean production at 49 million metric tons (MMT) for the 2010/11 marketing year (500,000 MT below the current USDA estimate of 49.5MMT). Despite having a very dry November and December, thunderstorms in the last two weeks of January and first two weeks of February provided relief for some of the driest regions. Some areas in Buenos Aires and the worst hit parts of the northern provinces of Santa Fe and Córdoba received more rainfall during January than they had during the previous year and even more than the 5 year average. FAS Buenos Aires staff traveled to these areas during the week of February 14th and the crop was in good condition with tall, green plants and lots of pods.

However, the scattered rains did not benefit all areas, especially the Southeastern area of Córdoba, Southern Santa Fe and Northeastern Buenos Aires. These areas were not so lucky with regards to rainfall. The delegations of Laboulaye, Villa Maria, Cañada de Gomez, Casilda and Venado Tuerto, which combined make up 20 percent of the planted area, all received much less rain than during the previous year. Crop conditions remain varied with dry patches in fields, short, stunted plants and wilted plants.

According to the National Institute of Agricultural Technology’s Weather and Water Center (INTA), more than 100 mm of rains are needed in these delegations during the next ten days in order for conditions to return to normal. Likewise, by comparing this chart to last months, it is easy to see that most of the northern areas of the provinces of Córdoba and Santa Fe recovered from the previous moisture deficit.



Source: Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, INTA

Planting progress is one hundred percent complete with a total area of 18,650,605 hectares according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Soybean exports for MY2009/10 are lowered to 13.75 MMT (a drop in 525,000 MT from the USDA estimate). Official Global Trade Atlas (GTA) data shows 13.59 MMT exported through November of 2010. Ministry of Agriculture shipments data, which traditionally tracks very closely with GTA, shows only 89,000 MT shipped from December through mid-February with no shipments expected the final two weeks of February. Post contacts also indicate that it is unlikely that 575,000 MT will be shipped during March to meet the current estimate of 13.75 MMT. March is still considered the low end of the export season and the most ever shipped out in the last ten years has been 400,000 MT but the average is less than 100,000 MT.

No changes are made for soybean oil and soybean meal.

Sunflowerseed

Post maintains USDA official numbers for the 2010/11 area planted for sunflowers at 1.65 million hectares and production at 2.8 MMT. The majority of the crop is in good condition and the harvest is 24 percent complete according to the Ministry of Agriculture (see chart below). Some of the crop in the provinces of Chaco and Entre Ríos has damage due to doves but overall yields between 1.5 kilos/ha and 2.0 kilos/ha are expected throughout the country.

Harvest Progress, February 24, 2011						
Sunflower						
Province	Local Marketing Year				Area Harvested From:	
	09/10	10/11	09/10	10/11	2/17/11	2/24/11
	Percentage		Hectares		Percentage	
Buenos Aires	7	0	59,304	4,400	0	0
Córdoba	6	11	2,877	4,660	5	11
Entre Ríos	61	39	7,370	4,910	21	39
La Pampa	2	11	6,352	33,640	0	11
Santa Fe	100	98	173,535	166,520	91	98
Other	58	86	52,589	188,880	83	86
Total	20%	24%	302,027	403,010	21%	24%
Source: MAGyP, Weekly Report, 2/24/2011						

Peanuts

After the adjustment the previous month, Post maintains USDA official numbers for the 2010/11 area planted for peanuts at 270,000 hectares and production at 850,000 tons. Crop condition is good although more rain is needed and at this point in time, yields are expected to be lower than last year.

Oilseed, Soybean (Local) Argentina	2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011	
	Market Year Begin: Apr 2009		Market Year Begin: Apr 2010		Market Year Begin: Apr 2011	
	New Post	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	17,200	17,200	18,800	18,800	18,600	18,600
Area Harvested	16,000	16,000	18,600	18,600	18,600	18,600
Beginning Stocks	5,764	5,764	4,298	4,298	4,300	4,825
Production	32,000	32,000	54,500	54,500	49,500	49,000
MY Imports	157	157	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from EU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	37,921	37,921	58,798	58,798	53,800	53,825
MY Exports	3,486	3,486	14,275	13,750	11,500	11,500
MY Exp. to EU	100	100	150	100	100	100
Crush	28,552	28,552	38,623	38,623	38,875	38,875
Food Use Dom. Cons.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Cons.	1,585	1,585	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650
Total Dom. Cons.	30,137	30,137	40,223	40,223	40,525	40,525
Ending Stocks	4,298	4,298	4,300	4,825	1,775	1,800
Total Distribution	37,921	37,921	58,798	58,798	53,800	53,825
1000 HA, 1000 MT						