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Synopsis Of Agricultural Production Decline In 1980s

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According to a recent report by the planning division of the Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Secretariat (SARH), in the 1980s crop and livestock production increased an average 1.3% per year, compared to 3.3% in the 1970s. In the 1980s, public sector participation in agricultural investment dropped from 19% to 5%, while the proportion of bank loans channeled to agriculture dropped from 14% to less than 6%. In 1980, the agriculture ministry accounted for 8.3% of the federal budget, compared to 3% in 1990, its lowest level in the past 20 years. Average annual per capita production of Mexico's principal basic food grains corn, wheat, beans and rice in the past decade was 212 kg., compared to 227 kg. in the 1970s. Per capita output of the four grain crops for 1990 is estimated at 192 kg. According to SARH, this year's combined production of the four crops is 17.114 million metric tons, up 4.8% over the 1989 total. On Nov. 17, Luis Tellez Kuenzler, SARH planning undersecretary, told participants at a conference on agricultural modernization in Mexico City, that investment in agriculture dropped from the equivalent of 25.4% of GDP in 1980 to only 3.2% in 1988. (Sources: Notimex, 11/11/90, 11/17/90; Xinhua, 11/14/90)

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