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# Agriculture Minister Reports On 1990 Performance

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## **Agriculture Minister Reports On 1990 Performance**

*by Steven Ranieri*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Feb. 14, Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Carlos Hank Gonzalez told reporters that agricultural production was up 5.2% in 1990. Last year's bean crop, he said, will permit national self-sufficiency in 1991, while the increased corn output permits up to a 70% reduction in imports this year. In 1990, agricultural output expansion surpassed the GDP growth rate (estimated at 3.5%) by 1.7%, and was almost double the demographic growth rate. Production volume of Mexico's 10 principal crops was 27.744 million metric tons, a 20% increase over 1989. Market value of the 10 crops was up 23% compared to 1989. According to the minister, the agricultural trade deficit was down to \$57 million by November, compared to \$317 million in November 1989. Corn output reached 14.639 million MT in 1990, and bean production, 1.247 million MT, up 34% and 112%, respectively, over the previous year. Sorghum output was up 26%; safflower, 13%; cotton, 12%; and, sesame, 124%. The rice harvest declined by 43%; wheat, 11%; and, soybeans, 48%. (Source: La Jornada, 02/15/91)

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