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Agriculture Secretariat (sarh) Releases 1993 Production Forecasts For Basic Grains

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On March 22, the Agriculture Secretariat (Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos, SARH) forecast 1993 production of the four basic grains and foodstuffs (corn, dry beans, wheat and rice) at 19.75 million metric tons. Although this amount represents a decline from the previous two years 19.9 million MT in 1992 and 20.7 million MT in 1991 it is still nearly enough to meet domestic demand. According to the SARH, corn production in 1992-93 is expected to reach 14.5 million metric tons, a decline of more than one million MT from 1991-92, but enough for Mexico to maintain self-sufficiency for another year. Corn output of 15.6 million MT in 1991-92 had left a surplus of 1.6 million MT, which the government marketed to food processors. The SARH forecast production of dry beans at 900,000 MT, slightly below the estimated domestic demand of one million MT. However, the government's basic foodstuffs and marketing company (Compania Nacional de Subsistencias Populares, CONASUPO) has stockpiles of 100,000 MT, which would eliminate the need for imports. In contrast, the SARH said some wheat and rice will have to be imported to meet domestic needs. Wheat production is forecast at 3.9 million MT, compared with four million MT needed by millers and other wheat processors. Rice production is projected at about 450,000 MT, also about 100,000 MT short of the country's domestic needs. For other crops, the SARH forecast production of oilseeds (soybeans, sesame, cottonseed, safflower) at 990,000 MT, while sorghum and feed grain output was anticipated at 5.2 million MT. Sugar cane output was projected at 39 million MT. (Source: Notimex, 03/22/93)

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