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## Agriculture Secretariat Projects Honey Exports At 60,000 Metric Tons In 1993

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Mexico is expected to earn about US\$50 million in revenues from exports of 60,000 metric tons of honey during 1993. Total production is projected at about 65,000 MT. Salvador Cajero Avelar, director of the beekeeping division at the Agriculture Secretariat (Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos, SARH), said honey exports have averaged 60,000-65,000 MT per year since 1988, allowing Mexico to become the world's fourth largest exporter of honey. Cajero said Mexico's 42,000 honey producers have been able to keep output constant over the past several years because of successful programs to control the "Africanized bees," which arrived in Mexico seven years ago, and the "varroasis" parasite (a form of tick), which was first detected in May of 1992. In fact, Cajero said other traditional honey exporters in Latin America such as Paraguay, Colombia, Venezuela and Belize have been unable to control the "Africanized bees" and have actually become net importers of honey. According to Cajero, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will give Mexico the opportunity to increase honey exports to the US and Canada. Until now, Mexico's major export markets for honey have been England, Germany, and other European countries. (Sources: La Jornada, 05/06/93; Notimex, 05/30/93, 09/26/93; 11/24/93)