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Production Of Four Basic Foodstuffs Above Expectations At 23.1 Million Metric Tons In 1992-93
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On Jan. 1, the Agriculture Secretariat (Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos, SARH) reported total production of Mexico’s four basic foodstuffs during 1992-1993 at 23.1 million metric tons, surpassing the 19.7 million MT projected earlier in the season (SourceMex, March 31, 1993).

The total included a record 18 million MT of corn, as well as 1.13 million MT of dry beans, 3.637 million MT of wheat and 254,000 MT of rice. The 1992-93 corn harvest represents an increase of almost 2.5 million MT from the 15.6 million MT produced in 1991-92.

The SARH report said the large harvest ensures an adequate supply of corn and dry beans during 1994 to meet the demands of Mexico’s population. The SARH attributed the relatively high production levels to a larger-than-expected area planted for the four basic foodstuffs, plus six other basic crops.

The total area planted was 12 million hectares for both the autumn-winter and spring-summer cycles, compared with an expected area of 11 million ha. The report noted that wheat produced during 1992-93 is enough to meet about 90% of the needs of Mexico’s wheat milling industry.

However, wheat output was about 300,000 MT short of SARH projections earlier in the 1992-93 season. Combined production of sorghum and barley, mostly used to feed livestock, totaled 3.15 million MT. The SARH also reported relatively high combined production of 617,000 MT for oilseeds such as safflower, sesame, soybeans, and cottonseed. The total included 488,000 MT of soybeans.

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